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OASPA Webinar: "The Impact of Plan S: A Discussion on Findings so far"
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Plan S
Making full & immediate Open Access a reality

A study to assess the impact of Plan S on the global scholarly communication ecosystem

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The scidecode team for assessing the impact of Plan S

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Rationale for a mixed-methods approach to impact assessment

- A mixed-methods approach is applied to get the quantitative (CIE – to be presented by WB Schmal next) and the qualitative assessment
- Qualitative assessment involves 1-hr interviews w/ various relevant stakeholders (institutional OA experts, consortia, researchers, publishers and funders) plus in-depth conversations w/ cOAlition S-member funders
- *Caveat:* the study will assess the impact of Plan S in the period 2018-2023 based on policy strategies available in those five years
- *Caveat:* it may well be too early to assess the impact of some of such policy instruments on a quantitative basis alone

Work Packages
WP1. Literature study
WP2. CIE study
WP3. Qualitative analysis of the impact of Plan S
WP 3.1. Interviews with stakeholders
WP 3.2. Direct engagement w/ cOAlition S funders
WP 3.3. Internal workshop
WP4. Writing of the report
WP5. Project coordination

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A few early findings and recommendations

- Different perceptions by stakeholder on what the main impact of Plan S has actually been
  - Institutions: Plan S has put the topic of Open Access firmly on the radar
  - Consortia: Plan S has brought publishers to the negotiating table
  - Publishers: Plan S has meant a much welcome cross-funder Open Access policy harmonisation
- Fragmentation in business models for Read & Publish agreement implementation across countries: cOAlition S-member funders are often funding these *but not always* – meaning the ceasing of economic support will not stop them
  - *Recommendation [institutions]: develop coordinated frameworks for assessing the value of TAs*
- The way ahead will inevitably involve a mix of coexisting models: APC, TAs, Diamond OA, S2O, rights retention, preprints
  - *Recommendation [institutions]: diversify funding workflows and highlight best practices*
  - *Recommendation [funders]: coordinate international implementation of rights retention*
  - *Recommendation [publishers]: keep a business model observatory/meeting track*
- Increasing complexity risks 'losing' researchers
  - *Recommendation [all]: get researchers involved, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPgfbX-35e4*

A striking similarity

European Parliament

Improving access to medicines and promoting pharmaceutical innovation

STUDY

Panel for the Future of Science and Technology

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA)

PE 753.166 – October 2023

EN

European Parliament

Health is a fundamental human right, and achieving equal access to medicines is crucial to ensuring public health. The current system of pharmaceutical innovation relies strongly on the private sector, and remuneration of innovation is mainly based on exclusivities. This system presents several challenges, such as innovation being driven by market size, the partial misalignment between industry research and development priorities and public health goals, market access constraints, and the prevalence of incremental over disruptive innovation. In this context, this study analyses the impact of different research and development incentive mechanisms and alternative frameworks for pharmaceutical innovation and public health. It places specific emphasis on their effects on innovation and patient access to medicines, in terms both of affordability and of availability.

Based on an extensive review of the literature combined with interviews with expert stakeholders, the study offers a range of policy options.

Panel for the Future of Science and Technology

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Based on an extensive review of the literature combined with interviews with expert stakeholders, the study offers a range of policy options. These seek to ensure the development of accessible drugs in all clinical areas, improve availability, price and research and development cost transparency, and ensure preparedness in the event of emergencies. Policy options suggested include strengthening EU coordination on intellectual property rights and medicine procurement, reducing the length of exclusivities, and introducing specific incentives (subscription models) de-linked from market size for specific unmet medical needs (antimicrobials and rare diseases with extremely low prevalence). A further suggestion is the creation of a public infrastructure active throughout the whole drug research and development process. A combination of policies would exceed the sum of its components, by generating additional synergies.

STUDY

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- *Recommendation [all]: try and find ways to work together going forward (for the sake of research and researchers)*