

# Open access to research results within the **Italian National Health Service** institutions: still or troubled waters?



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15th EAHIL Conference, June 6-11, 2016  
Seville (Spain)

# Main aspects of this presentation

1

- Exploring the **priorities of Open Access** for the progress of science

2

- Reporting the results of a **survey on Open Access** strategies within the **Italian National Health Service**

# Transition to financial support to OA paradigm

Increasing openness attitude

- More and more funding organisations mandate for free access to scientific output, e.g :

European Union

- OA pilot initiatives:
  - [FP7 post-grant OA publishing funds pilot](#)
  - [Open Research Data Pilot](#) (Horizon 2020)

Dutch National Research Funder (NWO)

- [Immediate access](#) for all publications for projects funded after December 2015

Amsterdam call to action

- To make [all new papers published in the EU](#) freely available by 2020

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# New imperative of **Open Science**: fostering investments in digital research infrastructures

***“Christmas is over.  
Researcher funding should go to research,  
not to publishers!”***



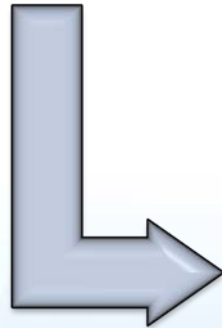
Moving Forwards on Open Access  
[LERU Statement for the 2016 Dutch EU Presidency](#)

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# Increasing **financial support** leads gradually to...

Adoption of OA policies  
requiring protocols and  
digital infrastructures

- **European Open Science Policy Platform**  
to advise the EC to implement  
open science policies  
in the Member States



Need to measure impact  
of OA strategies among  
scientists

- **Surveys** in  
domain-specific  
communities\*

\* Spires-Jones T L, Poirazi P, Grubb M S. [Opening up: open access publishing, data sharing, and how they can influence your neuroscience career](#) *European journal of neuroscience* 2016.

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Open access  
practices

# Pushing for open access

## Open Access Policy Alignment Strategies for European Union Research

[Pasteur4OA](#)



A supporting tool

- to ensure OA to outputs of public-funded research
- to verify the **alignment of OA policies** with EC recommendations (H2020) and international good practices

**In Italy**, within Pasteur4 OA:

- 14 universities' policies investigated
- **no study on biomedical research institutions' policies**

**ACTION NEEDED:** exploration at national level (single EU member state) in the public health area

# A paradigm shift expected in Italy

Italian law 112/2013  
not yet aligned to  
European  
recommendations



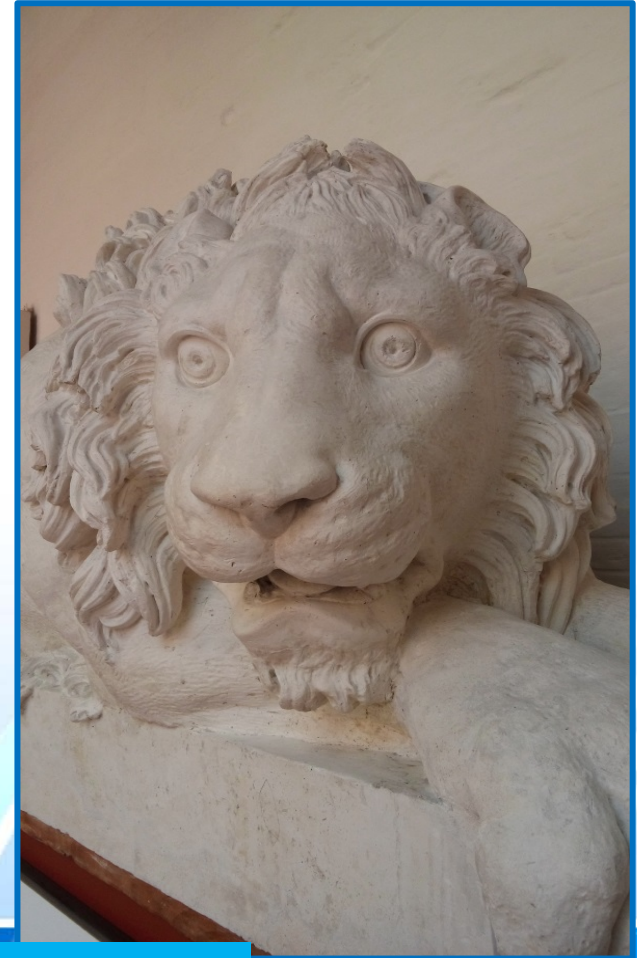
Scientific publications derived from studies which are at least 50% financed by the public must become open access within 18 months from the publication date.

# Which **attitude** for the future...

Resigned?



Hopeful?



Antonio Canova. Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice (Italy)



# Survey on **openness** within the **Italian National Health Service (NHS)**

Why a survey?

- Because no data on OA strategies available until now

Which is the targeted audience?

- The 60 research institutions of the Italian NHS

Why a survey addressed to this audience?

- The institutions surveyed are the strongest producers of scientific literature within NHS

How to reach this audience?

- Through **Bibliosan, the network of the Italian research institution libraries** within NHS

Tool for conducting the survey

- Survey-monkey online questionnaire (open from 29 Feb to 4 Apr 2016)

# Survey: **topics** covered

Establishment of an OA policy

Publication of a peer-reviewed official journal

Articles published in 2014 in OA journals with IF

Articles published in 2014 in hybrid journals with IF

Availability and access to published articles

# Survey: respondents

32 institutions out of 60

**26 out of 46** IRCCS (Scientific Institutes for Research, Hospitalization and Health Care)

**4 out of 10** IZS (Veterinary Epidemiology Research Institutes)

**2 out of 4** *other* bodies: Italian National Institute (ISS) and INAIL (National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work)

# Survey: OA policy

OA policy set up

- Only 2 institutions out of 32 declared that they issue their own policy (only 1 reported the URL to visualize the document)

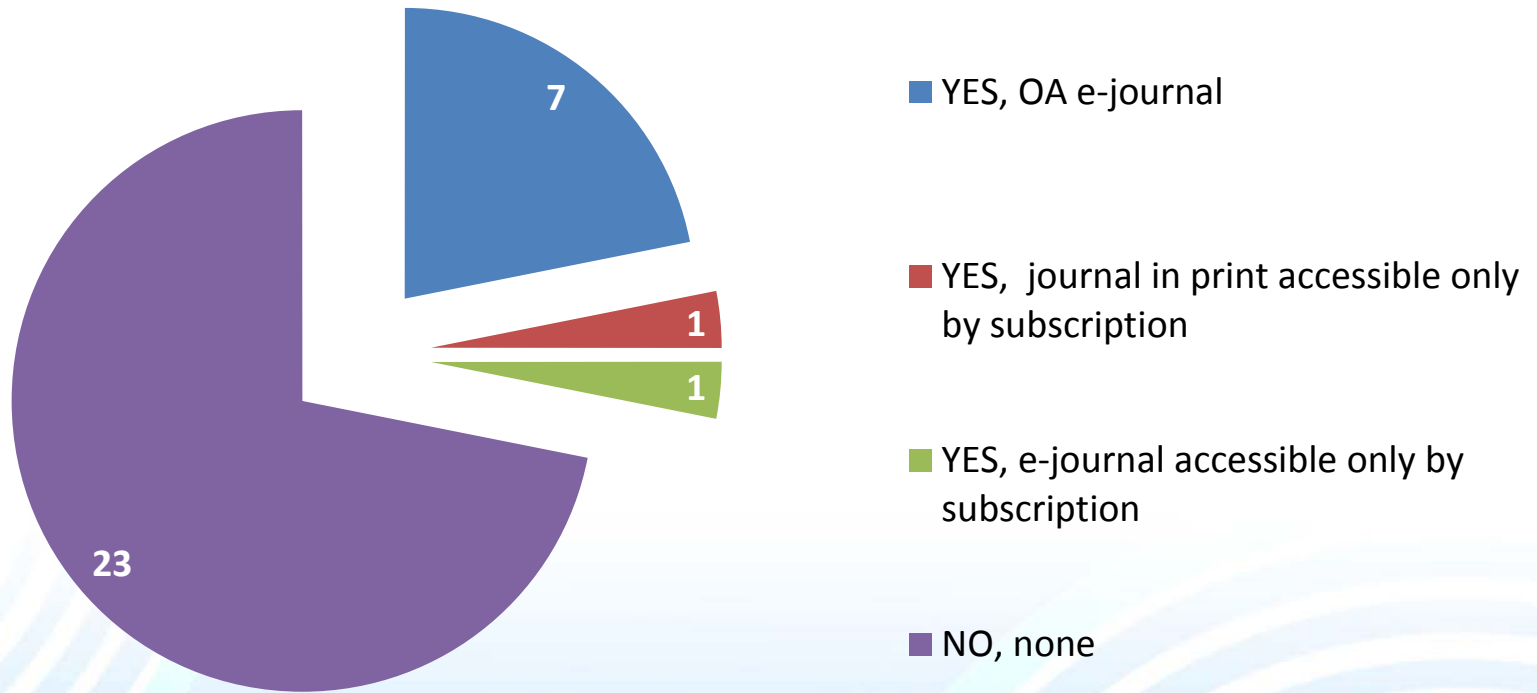
OA policy in progress

- 1 institution declared that it is going to implement an OA policy

OA policy against predatory publishers

- 1 institution specified that it has only a policy to prevent malpractice (against predatory publishers)

# Survey: Publication of a peer-reviewed official journal

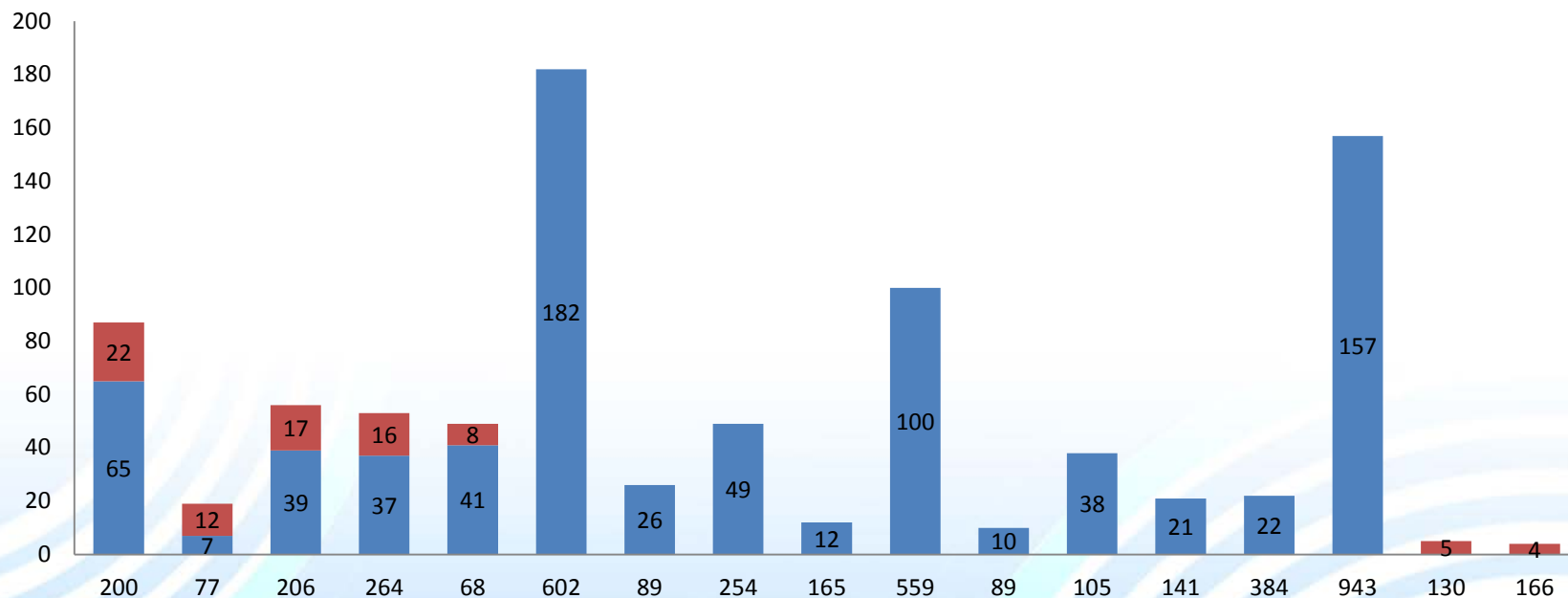


# 2014: OA articles by the institutions in journals with IF

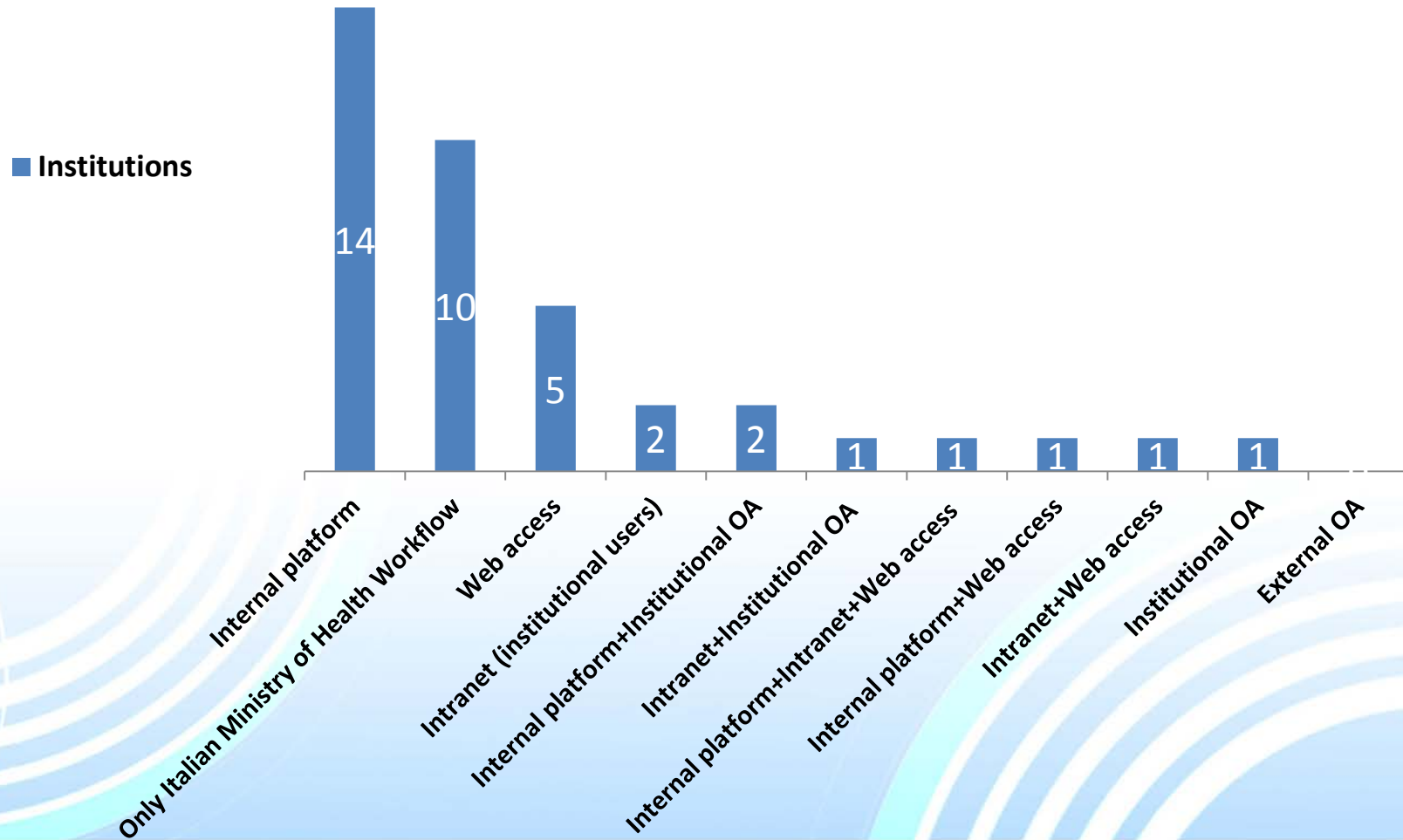
OA articles *versus* total published articles: 27%

- 19,4% articles in OA journals (15 respondents) +
- 7,6 OA articles in hybrid journals (7 respondents)

■ OA articles in hybrid Journals with IF   ■ Articles in OA Journals in relation to total published in 2014 with IF



# Survey: availability and access to published articles

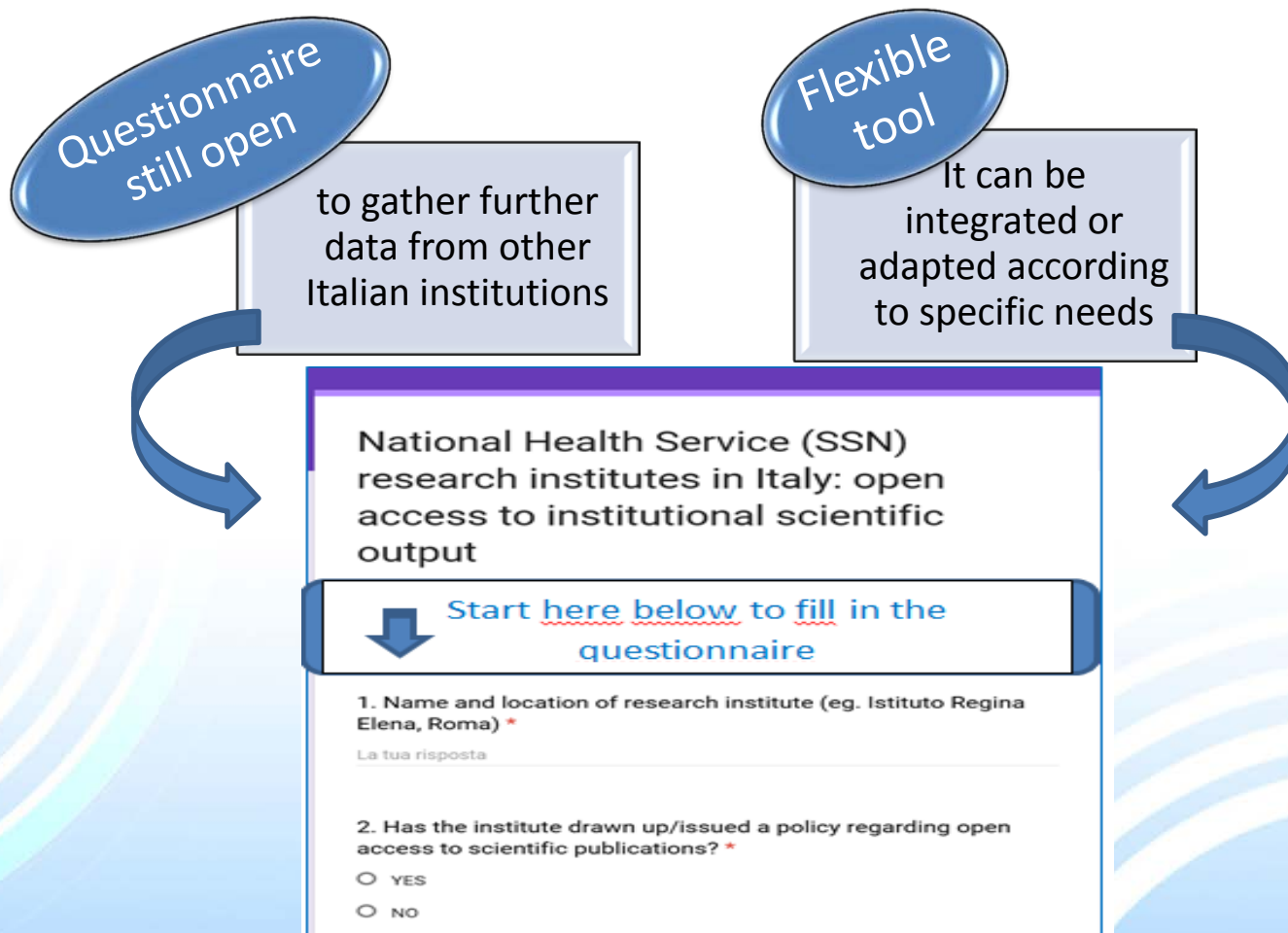


# Survey: conclusions

- The **survey as a valuable tool for not only collecting data, but also to advocating open access** among institutional decision makers
- **Still poor awareness** among Italian research biomedical institutions **of the importance of open access** to scientific research results
- Need to **promote the ethical imperative to open science** in the health field



# Join the initiative! Spread your own survey online !



# Acknowledgments

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