



Highlights



MEDOANET: Co-ordinating Open Access Policies across Mediterranean Countries

EKT is the co-ordinator of a new European project which aims to record, promote and coordinate open access policies at the level of Mediterranean countries and at a national level. The project was launched in December 2011 and will extend over the next two years. Activities in MEDOANET will contribute to the shaping of successful open access policies by national agents, research institutions and funding bodies.

In recent years, EKT has had a leading role in supporting open access policies and in this regard it implements a wide array of developmental activities for the promotion of open access. MEDOANET will focus on the national and regional coordination of Open Access strategies, policies and structures in six Mediterranean countries: Greece, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Turkey.

The project will identify and map existing strategies, structures and policies of the six countries into an online Mediterranean Open Access Tracker, and, most significantly, it will identify and systematically engage significant policy makers and other stakeholders who are in a position to affect changes in policy, in a top-down approach. This will increase awareness of key issues at policy level, fostering the conditions for coordinated policies at national and institutional levels that are currently largely lacking in these Mediterranean countries.

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<http://www.medoanet.eu>

Four more e-journals from the National Documentation Centre now online

The National Documentation Centre (EKT) announced the online edition of four e-journals as a result of its e-Publishing activities. "Deltion of the Christian Archaeological Society", "The Gleaner", "Mnimon" and "Makedonika" are peer-reviewed scientific journals with a long history in the Greek scientific realm and significant international impact. With their decision to publish part of their valuable scientific material online, they enrich digital content available in the Greek language in both qualitative and quantitative terms.

The current research environment is being decisively shaped by developments in scholarly communication, new processes and practices in academic editing and distribution of research results. EKT participates actively in shaping academic activity and scholarly communication in Greece by developing e-infrastructures and providing publishing services which promote the online distribution of digital content and its preservation while enhancing open access in scientific production.

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Deltion of the Christian Archaeological Society
<http://www.deltionchae.org/>

The Gleaner
<http://www.eranistes.org/>

Mnimon
<http://www.mnimon.gr/>

Makedonika
<http://www.makedonikajournal.org/>

Greek Scientific Publications 1996 - 2010: A bibliometric analysis of Greek publications in international scientific journals

"Greek Scientific Publications 1996-2010: A bibliometric analysis of Greek publications in international scientific journals" is the second part of a series of studies by the National Documentation Centre (EKT), aimed at investigating the Greek publication activity in the international scientific landscape. The present study focuses on analyzing developments in the Greek research system in terms of the number of articles published, the citations and scientific fields of those articles, the institutions involved etc., and using bibliometric indicators to evaluate the patterns and trends in the current Greek publication activity and its position in the European and world scientific stage.

Bibliometric indicators, acting as impartial "observers" of science, provide objective data on several key features of research capabilities, collaboration, outputs and impacts, which can be used, along with other research evaluation methodologies, for describing, monitoring and comparing the scientific performance of national research and innovation systems.

According to the analysis, Greece had one of the highest growth rates in terms of published scientific activity among EU member states and OECD countries up to 2008. However, this rate slowed down in 2009. The rate of change in Greek publications was zero and fell behind the average rate of change in the EU and OECD countries. In 2010, the decline in the number of publications in Greece was higher than that of the EU and OECD countries.

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<http://metrics.ekt.gr/en/report02/index>

Greek researchers reveal a novel mechanism underlying necrotic neurodegeneration

A novel molecular mechanism required for the degeneration of nerve cells was revealed by research carried out at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. The results of the researchers Kostoula Troullinaki and Nektarios Tavernarakis, which are published in the international scientific EMBO Journal, can contribute to the development of novel intervention approaches for the prevention, delay or treatment of neurodegenerative pathologies.

Neurodegenerative disorders, such as Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases are among the most devastating human pathologies, which significantly affect life quality and expectancy. A main hallmark of these pathologies is the gradual loss of neuronal cells in the brain and spinal cord, through necrotic processes. As a consequence of neuron death, patients develop physical and mental impairments. By using the simple nematode worm *Caenorhabditis elegans*, the IMBB researchers revealed that two essential cell processes, endocytosis and intracellular trafficking, also contribute to necrotic cell death.

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<http://www.tavernarakislab.gr/>