

To whom it may concern,

In view of the hearing on Plan S carried out last week by several funding granting agencies, Junior Faculty conducted an anonymous survey to obtain insight into awareness and support of Plan S among junior researchers. The survey was sent out to everyone on the Junior Faculty mailing list of Uppsala University and was conducted January 18-23, 2019.

The survey consisted of a single question (participants were also able to add a free-text comment):

1. What is your opinion on Plan S?
 - a. I do not know what it is (51.1%)
 - b. I support it (in its current form) (18.3%)
 - c. I do not support it (in its current form) (16.2%)
 - d. I know what it is but have not formed an opinion (14.4%)

We had a 23% response rate (464 of approximately 2000). The main conclusion is that more than half of the respondents are not aware of Plan S. Of those who were aware of it, only a third supports it in its current form. Many respondents expressed support for Open Access, but were concerned about the implementation of Plan S.

A total of 87 respondents (18.8%) left a comment. A large number of respondents expressed support for the idea of Open Access, but many of them have concerns about the implementation of Plan S. The complete list of comments can be found in the attached survey.

In summary, the main concerns are:

- Many of the most prestigious journals will be excluded from the list of acceptable journals (e.g. Nature, Science, Cell, Lancet)
- Plan S will hit early career researchers who do not yet have tenure the hardest
- Plan S may weaken European competition relative to countries that do not implement Plan S, because Plan S disables European researchers from publishing in the most visible journals
- Plan S may have negative consequences for international collaborations – researchers outside Europe might choose to avoid collaborating with people who are not allowed to publish in prestigious journals
- Plan S is problematic for researchers with tight funding, it is unclear how publication fees will be covered
- Plan S may stimulate OA journals to increase their fees
- Plan S may lead to more predatory journals as there will be no incitement for the journals to assess research quality
- Plan S will make Europe less attractive to PhD students and postdocs
- The idea of Plan S is sound, but the implementation is too rushed
- Many would like to get more information on what Plan S is.

Based on the results of this survey, we believe that Plan S needs to be further explained to researchers at all levels, from PhD students to Professors, in order that we all know what Plan S is, what the likely consequences are, and how researchers will be supported in the implementation of Plan S.

Sincerely,

Steering group of *Junior Faculty of Uppsala University*