Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Digital Affairs
Denmark

Denmark's National Strategy for Open Access (revised 2026)

Open Access is about maximising the impact of research through free accessibility to research publications. For society as a whole, this free accessibility, or Open Access, promotes more effective knowledge sharing, enhances transparency in research and ensures that everyone can benefit. Open Access makes research findings available not only to the research community, but also to business and industry and to the general public.

Companies, whatever their size, can make free use of insights from research findings and stakeholders in their innovation processes.

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For researchers, Open Access means greater visibility and more rapid dissemination of findings, which can boost collaboration across disciplines and national borders. Open Access also improves academic inclusion by affording researchers from low- and middle-income countries greater opportunities to be part of and contribute to the global research community, which they currently often cannot access for financial reasons.

There is a strong drive internationally to promote Open Access. The European Commission is just one of several stakeholders that have made Open Access a requirement for research funding through the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe. Denmark has endorsed several European Council conclusions aimed at promoting Open Access and with this strategy is supporting development towards increased Open Access to research findings.

The strategy is as follows:

Vision
To create free access for all citizens, researchers and companies to all research publications from Danish research institutions.

Achieving this vision relies on the continued dedicated efforts of Danish researchers and their institutions, who are called upon to continue their work with the institution-specific recommendations from the evaluation published in 2024 (in Danish only) that they consider relevant. It also depends on the national negotiations with international publishers that are being coordinated by Royal Danish Library. Another additional aspect is the monitoring and dissemination of findings by the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science via the Danish Open Access Indicator.

It is important to continue to promote Open Access with a maximum delay of 12 months, at a cost that is financially sustainable overall, while also respecting researchers' freedom to publish.

The strategy builds on the efforts and collaboration initiated in 2014 in connection with the first national strategy for Open Access, which have resulted in a rise in Open Access to Danish research from 17 percent in 2015 to 7 percent in 2025. This is a remarkable increase, albeit with discrepancies between individual institutions and disciplines and somewhat short of the previous target of 100 percent by 2025, which was deemed unrealistic in the 2024 evaluation partly because some academic publishers do not permit Open Access.

Continued efforts, monitoring and dissemination are expected to make it possible to achieve a result well above 78 percent, which is why the target indicated below will apply to future Danish endeavours to promote Open Access.

Target
To increase Open Access to Danish research publications from the present level of 78 percent to at least 90 percent by 2035.

Scope
The metric covers scientific articles and conference papers published in journals and proceedings with an ISSN, and which have one or more authors from a Danish university.

The following prerequisites must be met in order to meet the target:

Prerequisites
That Royal Danish Library, research libraries and research institutions negotiate with academic publishers to reach agreements allowing Open Access to all publications with a maximum delay of 12 months and at a financially sustainable cost.

That researchers and research institutions make continuous, full use of their negotiated rights to implement Open Access.

That research institutions, research foundations and the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science continuously monitor, disseminate and promote efforts to realise this strategy.