I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

On February 2007, the Commission adopted a Communication on scientific information in the digital age: access, dissemination and preservation (COM(2007)56). This document pursues the objective of signalling the importance of and launching a policy process on these issues at European level. On the basis of this Communication, on 22-23 November 2007, the 2832nd Competitiveness Council adopted Conclusions on scientific information in the digital age: access, dissemination and preservation (14865/07). The importance of the dissemination of knowledge created with public funds was also stressed by the Commission Recommendation on the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities and Code of Practice for universities and other public research organisations (COM(2008)1329) adopted in April 2008 as a follow-up initiative to the European Research Area Green Paper (COM(2007)161).

These November 2007 Council Conclusions invited the Member States to take a series of actions, from 2007 onwards, to reinforce and coordinate relevant national strategies. They also invited the Commission to monitor good practices and support Member State policy coordination. The present questionnaire aims to take stock of the current status of implementation of these Council Conclusions with a view to designing future activities supporting the coordination of Member State activities.

The knowledge gained from responses to the questionnaire will serve as valuable input for the development of Commission policy on access and dissemination in the 8th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The responses to this questionnaire will be presented to CREST on 11-12 June 2009 in Prague (tentatively).

II. TIMETABLE

Member States are kindly asked to reply to this questionnaire in two steps:

- Provide names of contact persons responsible for answering the questionnaire by 15 January 2009 (question 1).
- Provide filled in questionnaires by 1 April 2009.

The following table provides a summary of the planned timetable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 December 2008</td>
<td>Presentation of questionnaire to CREST, Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 January 2009</td>
<td>Member States to provide names of contact points (question 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As of 2 March 2009</td>
<td>Follow-up with Member States on responses to questionnaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2009</td>
<td>Member States to send in filled in questionnaires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 or 12 June 2009</td>
<td>Presentation of responses to questionnaires, Prague (tentatively)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
III. QUESTIONNAIRE

A. Respondent(s) (Please reply to this question by 15 January 2009)

1. Please provide the contact information of the respondent(s) to this questionnaire.

B. National strategies for access to and dissemination of scientific information (see annex A.1 of Council Conclusions 14865/07)

2. Please describe the policies in place for dissemination of and access to scientific information in your Member State, including information on how these policies are financed.

3. Please describe the policies and arrangements in place in your Member State aiming to provide open access (free internet access for readers) to peer-reviewed scientific journal articles resulting from public research funding.

4. Please describe the policies and arrangements in place in your Member State aiming to provide open access to other publicly funded scientific research results (e.g. research data).

5. Please assess the situation in your Member State regarding:

   - the way in which researchers exercise their copyrights on scientific articles;

   - the level of investments in the dissemination of scientific information as compared to total investments in research;

   - the use of financial mechanisms to improve access (e.g. refunding VAT for digital journal subscriptions to libraries).

6. Please describe the policies and activities in your Member States with regard to "repositories" ("open archives") of scientific information (including repository sustainability and interoperability).

7. Please describe any activities in your Member States bringing together main stakeholders in the debate on scientific information (e.g. scientists, funding bodies, libraries, scientific publishers).
C. Coordination between Member States on access and dissemination policies and practices (see annex A.2 of Council Conclusions 14865/07)

8. How has your Member State been involved in exploring possibilities for Member State coordination regarding access and dissemination questions? Please comment on each of the following areas of potential cooperation, and list others if appropriate.

- defining common national funding bodies principles on open access;
- improving transparency of the contractual terms of 'big deals' financed with public money and assessing the possibilities to achieve economies of scale by demand aggregation;
- working towards the interoperability of repositories of scientific information in Member States;
- other: …………………………………………………………………….

D. Long term preservation of scientific information (publications and data) (see annex A.3 of Council Conclusions 14865/07)

9. Please describe whether and how your Member State has defined a structured approach to the long term preservation of scientific information and incorporated this approach in national plans for digital preservation (in line with Commission Recommendation of 24 August 2006 and Council Conclusions of 13 November 2006 on online accessibility to cultural material and digital preservation).

10. Please describe whether and how the specific characteristics of scientific information have been taken into account when setting up the legislative framework (including legal deposit) or practical set-up for digital preservation.

E. Role of the European Commission/European Union

11. Please describe the role that you see for the European Commission/European Union in terms of policies on access to, and dissemination and preservation of scientific information in the digital age.

F. Further information

12. Please provide relevant internet links to pages containing Member State policies and other useful information.

13. Please provide contact information for individuals working in the areas covered by this questionnaire in your Member State.