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DG Research and Innovation

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European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)

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Object: publication and archiving of EU-funded project outcomes

Dear Ms Di Bucci, dear Mr Ouaki,

It is a repeated frustration for our organisation that the outcomes (published deliverables) of finished EU-funded RTD projects “disappear” and become difficult to obtain. This is often the consequence of these outcomes being published on the project website, which is closed some time after the end of the project budget.

It would be desirable that all non-confidential project outcomes be archived on a common permanent EU website, ensuring their ongoing availability and being easy to find for all the interested stakeholders. The current situation means that EU-funded knowledge is lost, or at least becomes highly inaccessible.

To cite a current example:

We are currently gathering data and evidence to support assessment for possible authorisation under the EU Fertilising Products Regulation of end-of-life fire extinguisher powder. This would make a significant contribution to the nutrient circular economy. Because fire extinguishers must be emptied and refilled every three years to ensure that they function effectively when needed, tens of thousands of tonnes of end-of-life fire extinguisher powder are generated each year in Europe. These consist mainly of ammonium phosphates and ammonium sulphates, but are today treated as waste. The Horizon2020 project PHOSave pilot tested purification of spent extinguisher powder and tested the recovered product for phytotoxicity and agronomic value. The phytotoxicity trial results are available (by chance?) here <https://www.fabiadisconzi.com/open-h2020/projects/204572/deliverables.html> This first report indicates that results of field trials to assess agronomic fertiliser value would be published on the project website – but the project website no longer exists and we have not been able to date to identify contacts in the relevant university nor in the concerned company (ProPhos, now Incendin). There is nothing on Cordis.

We would suggest that:

- DG RTD could systematically publish and archive all project outcomes on a single, shared, permanent EU website (non-confidential deliverable reports, papers, slide sets, project Newsletters),
- EU-funded RTD projects should include in the contract an obligation that the project coordination should themselves put these documents online on this website,
- this should cover all Horizon, InterReg, LIFE and Agri-Research projects.

It seems that the European Commission is aware of and is looking to address this problem, and that for more recent Horizon projects, the EC is putting some outcomes on Cordis. However, we are not clear whether this is systematic, nor whether it concerns all EU-funded projects or only RTD-led projects ?

We hope that you can clarify the actions already taken by the Commission in this respect, and remain at your disposition for any further input we may be able to provide.

Yours faithfully, Robert Van Spingelen, President

