

## **BONUS EEIG DATA POLICY STATEMENT**

### **General Principles**

The research implemented within the BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme is funded by public resources provided by the national research funding institutions of the participating EU members States and the Russian Federation and by the European Commission. BONUS EEIG Data Policy is founded on the principles of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as described in the report 'Promoting Access to Public Research Data for Scientific, Economic and Social Development'<sup>1</sup> as well as on the EC Directive on public access to environmental information<sup>2</sup>. The central principles are that the publicly funded research data

- are a public good, produced in the public interest
- should be openly available to the maximum extent possible

BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme fund research in many disciplines, which generate various kinds of data ranging from e.g. basic oceanographic field data and models to data originating from sophisticated experimentation as well as data gathered through questionnaires, media & archive surveys and interviews.

For part of the data to be generated in the context of BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme, such as basic oceanographic and monitoring data gathered by governmental institutes, availability of the data for scientific research has already been regulated by individual institutes' data policies. Furthermore, some of the data may be funded by a private sector – in these cases the current data policy should be applied under fair and reasonable conditions. This data policy statement concerns all data generated within the projects funded by the BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme. The aim is to define the terms under which the data will be available for the 1) global science community and 2) within the BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme.

### **Principles of global sharing of the data generated in BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme funded projects**

#### **BONUS EEIG**

- requests that data arising from BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169-funded research will be made available to the scientific community with as few restrictions as possible. All project applications applying funding from BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 should include the plan for submitting data to some common database. The data should be retained for a period of ten years after completion of a research project;
- emphasizes the quality aspect of data storage. The data must be shared in a timely and responsible manner. Existing standards for data collection and management should be used and the data should be made available through existing community resources or databases where possible;
- recognizes the importance of data quality and provenance. All data collected within the projects funded by BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 should be accompanied by contextual information or

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<sup>1</sup> Arzberger et al. 2004: Promoting Access to Public Research Data for Scientific, Economic and Social Development. Data Science Journal (3) 2004: 135-152.

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/index.htm>)

documentation (metadata) to provide a secondary user with any necessary detail on the origin or manipulation of the data in order to prevent any misuse, misinterpretation or confusion;

- collects and maintains metadata information on all data collected within projects funded by BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme. BONUS EEIG will provide formats for submission of metadata. The metadata should be submitted to the BONUS EEIG as an obligatory part of the projects' annual scientific reporting. The metadata will be open on the public BONUS portal site immediately after the delivery;
- considers data sharing to be an important activity, but also recognizes the need for safeguarding Intellectual Property and protecting opportunities for commercialization of research outputs. This should not, however, unduly delay or prevent the data sharing. A limited, defined period of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable, according to the nature and value of the data and the way they are generated and used. The timescale for data release should not generally be longer than the release through publication of the main findings and should not exceed three years from the generation of the data; and
- expects that the data sharers should receive full and appropriate recognition by funders, their academic institutions and new users for promoting secondary research.

### **Principles of data sharing within the BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme**

#### **BONUS EEIG**

- considers data sharing as one of the key activities which create the programme's added value instead of implementation a number of individual separate, uncoordinated research projects. This cannot be achieved without much higher level of openness, transparency of access and interoperability in the data sharing within the BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 programme than with the outside world. Direct and open communication about the data between the researchers already during the data collection phase may lead to new innovative uses of the data, and thus benefit the data creator, the new user of the data and the BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme as a whole;
- requires that all project applications applying or receiving funding from BONUS-169 Programme should include a statement on data sharing. This should include concise plans for data management and sharing as part of the proposal or provide explicit reasons why data sharing is not possible or appropriate. The statement and plan are evaluated as part of the overall research plan;
- requests that principles of data sharing and Intellectual Property Rights within the projects funded by BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 are agreed and regulated in the Consortium Agreement;
- recognizes that the ownership of the data generated from research funded by BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme resides with the investigators and institutions;
- requests that the data is available free of charge for new users within the BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme. If the data are shared directly between the originator and the new user, depending on the level of usage and collaboration the rule is either to enter into a joint authorship or to include an acknowledgement to the data originator wherever the data is used;
- obliges the researchers to produce metadata information about all data they generate with BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 Programme funding and submit this information in the requested format to the BONUS EEIG without delay and at least annually;
- considers the refusal by researchers of following the principles of sharing data generated by projects funded by BONUS+ Call and BONUS-169 seriously. In cases of dispute, the BONUS EEIG

may assist the counterparts in negotiations towards an acceptable solution. If such a solution cannot be reached through negotiation, BONUS EEIG Steering Committee may, after a thorough consideration of all aspects involved, make a decision about the matter. A case of refusal to follow this decision may lead to termination of funding of the ongoing project and rejection of new funding applications from the principal scientist in question.