

The BONUS EEIG data policy statement

General principles

The research implemented within the joint Baltic Sea research and development programme BONUS is funded by public resources provided by the national research funding institutions of the participating EU member states and by the European Commission. The 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'¹ as well as on the EC directive on public access to environmental information². Also, the aim is to ensure that the results and data follow the standards of the emerging European Marine Observation and Data Network³.

The aim is to define the terms under which the data will be available for the global science community and within the BONUS programme. The central principles are that the publicly funded basic precompetitive research data

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

BONUS funds research in many disciplines that generate various kinds of data. The data range from basic oceanographic field data and models to data originating from sophisticated experimentation as well as data gathered through questionnaires, media & archive surveys and interviews.

This data policy statement is an integral part of the BONUS intellectual property rights (IPR) regime which consists of three sets of rules: the statement, articles 24-32 of the Grant Agreement and possible stipulations in the Consortium Agreement. To become legally binding, the statement shall be annexed to the Grant Agreement.

The statement complements and specifies the intellectual property rights rules of the Grant Agreement. Therefore, in case of controversy between the three sets of rules, the prevailing order shall be:

1. Data policy statement
2. Articles 24-32 of the Grant Agreement, and
3. Stipulations in the Consortium Agreement.

Obligations of global sharing of the data generated in BONUS programme funded projects

- Data arising from BONUS funded research shall be made available to the scientific community with as few restrictions as possible. This includes storing the original data in common data bases and publishing the research results as far as possible in 'open access' literature. All project applications applying funding from BONUS shall include the plan for submitting data to some common database, such as SeaDataNet, Pangea, ICES

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

² 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://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32003L0004:EN:HTML>

³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52010DC0461:EN:NOT>

- The data shall be shared in a timely and responsible manner as indicated in the Consortium Agreement. Existing standards for data collection and management shall be used and the data shall be, where possible, made available through existing community resources or databases no later than one year after the completion of the project
- All data collected within the projects funded by BONUS shall be accompanied by contextual information or 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. The BONUS Secretariat collects and maintains metadata information on all data collected within projects. The metadata shall be submitted to the BONUS Secretariat as an obligatory part of the projects' annual scientific reporting. The metadata will be made available on the BONUS website immediately after the delivery

Principles of data sharing within the BONUS programme

- Data and information sharing is one of the key activities which create the BONUS programme's added value (i.e. this as opposed to 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 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 programme as a whole
- It is recommended that the data is available for participants within the BONUS programme between projects
- BONUS considers the refusal by researchers to follow the principles of sharing data generated by projects funded by BONUS seriously. In cases of dispute, the BONUS Secretariat may assist the counterparts in negotiations towards an acceptable solution. If such a solution cannot be reached through negotiation, the BONUS Steering Committee may, after a thorough consideration of all aspects involved, make a recommendation on the matter. A case of refusal to follow this recommendation may lead to termination of funding of the ongoing project and rejection of new funding applications