

# PALOMERA Interview

Date: 18.09.2023

## General information

**Gender:** Male

**Stakeholder type (multiple choice, delete irrelevant):**

- Research Performing Organization
- Policy Maker

Country the interview is focused on: Italy

Language of the interview conducted: English

**[00:00:01.040] - Speaker 1**

Yeah.

**[00:00:01.940] - Speaker 2**

Exactly.

**[00:00:03.040] - Speaker 1**

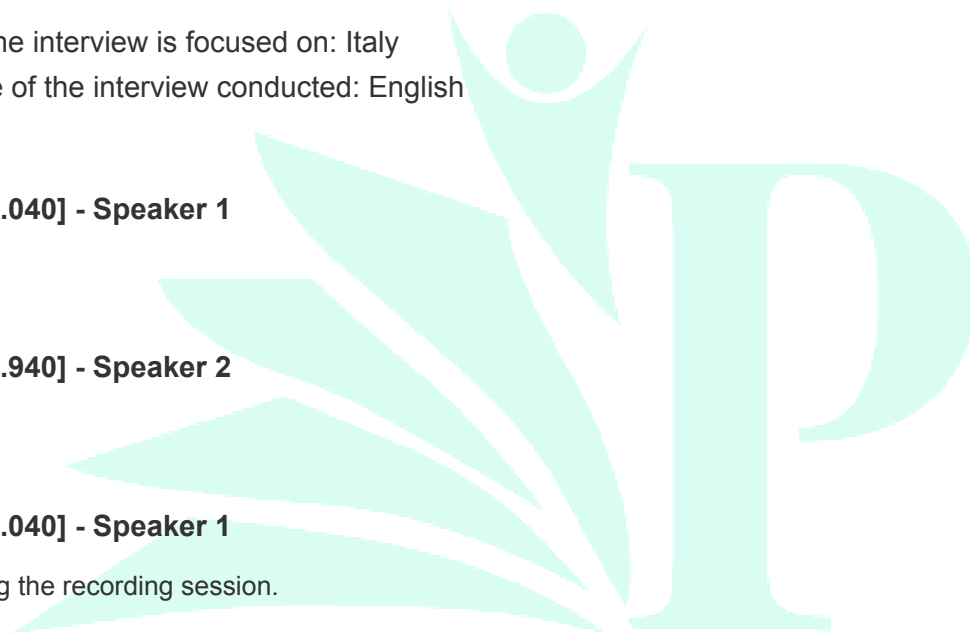
I am setting the recording session.

**[00:00:08.810] - Speaker 2**

Thank you, [INTERVIEWEE], once again for agreeing to participate in this interview. From now on, we are recording the session, so we have your consent to go on. This interview is conducted as a part of the PALOMERA Project and focuses on policies regarding open access to academic books. In the interview, we will have eight sessions, and we will try to assess different aspect of the issue: political, economic, social, technological, legal, and environmental. But first of all, could you please briefly introduce yourself and tell me how your professional experience relates to the issue of open access books?

**[00:00:58.990] - Speaker 1**

Thank you so much, [INTERVIEWER], for this opportunity to explain my point of view on open access to academic books. I am a professor of intellectual property and, more in general, comparative private property at [UNIVERSITY 1], Faculty of Law. I am also President of Italian [ORGANISATION], born eight



years ago, and acting in the field of open science in Italy, but also at the international level. My interest on open access and open science regards also the transition, the intersection, the interplay between open science and intellectual property. I think the best contribute I can do in this field is from a legal point of view, but also from a policy point of view, in particular, because the current landscape in the field of intellectual property, or at least from my point of view, is against open science and open access. So part of my work is about the idea to reform intellectual property law in order to achieve open science and open access, also in the field of academic books.

**[00:02:58.850] - Speaker 2**

Perfect. I'm sure that's why I suggested your name as a person to be interviewed, because I know you have great expertise and you have been working on these topics for many years now. That's why you are really an expert. Now, our first section would be on the national policies in our country, which of course, is in Italy. First of all, the definition of academic book in PALOMERA is, scholarly, peer-reviewed books, including monograph, book chapters, edited collection, critical edition, and other long-form, scholarly works. Does this definition differ from how the academic books are defined in your country, in your institutional context, or in your discipline?

**[00:03:51.340] - Speaker 1**

I think this is a very good definition. You know there isn't a precise definition in the legislation, also because the legislation in the field of open science is spread in different sectors. We have some regulations about the research assessment, and the definition of book can be different in different research assessment exercise. But at the general level, my impression is that this definition is a good definition.

**[00:04:42.100] - Speaker 2**

Okay. For instance, you mentioned the research assessment. In Italy, do books need to be peer reviewed to be considered academic in our country?

**[00:04:56.690] - Speaker 1**

Yes.

**[00:04:57.460] - Speaker 2**

Okay, so they do.

**[00:04:58.280] - Speaker 1**

Yes, of course. Also because we have a very detailed regulation about some research assessments. For example, the research assessment about the academic career of scholars, the ability to scientific national

and national scientific abilities, or the other important research assessment exercise, the assessment of the research of departments at the university and the National Research Center, Public Research centers. And in this exercise, the definition of scientific product is strictly related to the peer review.

**[00:06:01.840] - Speaker 2**

Okay, perfect. You mentioned something of a national, let's say, framework. Can you tell me if there is a national or regional policy concerning open access books in Italy, specifically for books?

**[00:06:22.680] - Speaker 1**

I don't know if there is a local policy- Yeah, there is a national policy. But at the national level, there is only, in my opinion, there is only the National Open Science Plan of the Ministry of the University. You know very well this plan, but we don't have a definition at the regional, regional inside Italy.

**[00:06:59.110] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, no, I think no.

**[00:07:01.060] - Speaker 1**

I think no.

**[00:07:02.300] - Speaker 2**

Yeah. Maybe you can mention the national law, which does not include the open access book that might be interesting for the interview, right?

**[00:07:14.380] - Speaker 1**

Yeah, there is a national legislation about the so-called Green Open Access. But this legislation, as you said, doesn't regard books, but only periodic publications such as scientific articles.

**[00:07:40.380] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, journal articles. Basically, there is no national policy.

**[00:07:46.080] - Speaker 1**

No.

**[00:07:49.970] - Speaker 2**

As far as you know, are there incentives to publish open access at national or regional? But regional, we already said we don't have. So is there any incentive for open access publishing at the national level?

**[00:08:08.150] - Speaker 1**

I think, no, there isn't specific incentives, but there is in the last research assessment exercises at the national level, there are references to open site, generic references to open science, and specific references to some obligations about, for example, the national project, such as PRIN. As you know, there is a specific clause about the obligation to publish in open access, but is a general obligation without an enforcement mechanism, and is related to all the scientific products. So isn't specific for academic books.

**[00:09:20.580] - Speaker 2**

Yeah. So after this, let's say, general framework, now we are shifting to another topic, which is your institutional context. You were also, I remember, the chief of.

**[00:09:41.860] - Speaker 1**

A working group. I was the President of the Local Commission of the University of Trento, Open Science Commission. I am now currently I am only a member of the commission.

**[00:09:56.390] - Speaker 2**

Okay, perfect. Now let's shift to the political environment, the process of policy implementation, including agenda setting. I know that you presented a proposal to the Parliament, but anyway. Are there any form of support for policy creation or implementation from the institutions or from the ministry like recommendations, workshops, grants, or so on? Some support for policy creation or implementation?

**[00:10:36.240] - Speaker 1**

In the field of books or in general?

**[00:10:39.610] - Speaker 2**

Books. Books.

**[00:10:41.710] - Speaker 1**

For books, we don't have a specific initiative at the national level, in my knowledge. But at the local level, we are investing, as University of Trent, a lot of energies in order to create a new publishing platforms. And we have... Because we have... We have some book collections. For example, in my faculty of law, we have two series of books in open access. And the monograph and other books has proceedings and

so on. So we have this policy and at the university level, we are trying to extend this policy and to regulate the academic university publishing in a general framework, in a general regulation, in order to achieve more coordination from different departments, and also in order to achieve more effective results, also in the field of books.

**[00:12:20.940] - Speaker 2**

Okay, because this is a general policy at the University of Trenton regarding open access, isn't it?

**[00:12:26.370] - Speaker 1**

Yeah, and also open science.

**[00:12:28.890] - Speaker 2**

Open access and open science. Okay, so now we are interested in if you can describe step by step, how this policy was conceived, drafted, agreed upon, and implemented.

**[00:12:44.120] - Speaker 1**

Okay, we launched the first policy 10 years ago, and very recently we have reformed the policy, so we have a new policy. We have a new policy with some relevant new regulations. In particular, we shifted to another institutional governance because now we have a university commission with representatives from each departments, so each internal structures. And this is the general idea beyond these policies is to have more collaboration from the structures of the university body, because one of the most important problem is the coordination from the... And also the communication inside the university. So with this new governance system, the hope is to achieve more coordination and more effective results, also in the field of academic publishing and also in the field of books.

**[00:14:19.380] - Speaker 2**

Okay, can you tell me something about the process of drafting? So who was involved and who choose those involved in the drafting of the policy? If there were consultations, debates, workshops or whatever.

**[00:14:38.800] - Speaker 1**

Okay, thanks. We have a delegate of director, and this colleague is a professor, coordinated with the collaboration of the administrative staff. The delegate with the administrative staff produced a draft of the policy, and the policy was sent to each departments and was discussed for a period of time. And then we produced after this debate, we produced the final version, and the final version was published, and now is available also in open access.

**[00:15:37.830] - Speaker 2**

Perfect. I see that it was a very, I would say, co-creative process because it was discussed, participated among all the - Participated, yeah. Participated, yeah, among all the stakeholders. Who is responsible for the implementation of the policy?

**[00:15:56.790] - Speaker 1**

The Commission, the University Commission on open science. But remember that the commission doesn't have a decision of power, a pure decision of power. I would say the university commission on open science has a consulting role, because the real power is in the hands of director, of the director, general director, and the Senate and the board of administration and so on. The role of the University Commission on open science is to suggest to the other bodies, in particular, the the more important administrative bodies of the University of Trento to produce regulations, to produce processes and so on, in order to implement the policy.

**[00:17:14.590] - Speaker 2**

Okay. Of course, sorry, I forgot to mention at the beginning, or you mentioned books are included, right? Because it's both on open access and open data and so on. What were the main difficulties to create and implement the policy?

**[00:17:29.060] - Speaker 1**

I think the most important difficulties is the historical approach of the scientific communities to research assessment and to the publisher's reputation, because there is an idea, especially in some scientific sectors, that the prestige is only in the hands of commercial publishers. So it's very difficult to shift to a new model of publishing because there is a path dependency, because in the past, the reference was only the commercial publishers' worth. And it's very difficult, especially in some scientific sectors, to shift to the academic university, open access books, because the idea is if I ask a researcher, if I publish in the university academic publisher, for example, University of Trento publisher, I can't gain academic reputation because I have to publish in Springer or Art.

**[00:19:24.790] - Speaker 2**

Or- Oxford University.

**[00:19:26.530] - Speaker 1**

Press or something like that. -Edward, Elgar, and so on.

**[00:19:29.260] - Speaker 2**

-yeah. -yeah. You already mentioned that the policy was recently updated, right? Yeah. After 10 years, okay. Now, something about the economic component. The economic dimension of open access book publishing relating to the funding instruments and models. Is there, in your institution, a difference in funding opportunities for open access and non-open access books?

**[00:20:08.280] - Speaker 1**

I don't know. I don't know if there is a difference. I know for sure that the European research project funding is based on the idea of open access, and you can use the grant also for publishing in open access also books. I think the economic aspect of the problem is not the most important aspect in terms of specific funding. I think the most important problem is to organise an alternative academic publishing system, because the most important cost, in my opinion, is about the administrative management of the academic publishing platform and so on. In other terms, we need the competencies and the specific admin... -administrative?

**[00:21:37.390] - Speaker 2**

-administrative.

**[00:21:39.200] - Speaker 1**

Staff in order to have a structure to support the publishing system. This is the most important cost. Because I can, as a researcher, I can give some funding for paying, for example, in a publisher, but it's more difficult to organise an academic publishing system.

**[00:22:19.420] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, internally. Basically, you are saying that your institutional policy does not mention any specific funding for open access work. Exactly. Okay. Is there any support for alternative business model like Diamond, what you were saying? An internal publishing service, open access service at the University, or is not again funded by the policy?

**[00:22:51.860] - Speaker 1**

It's not the policy in itself, which can be is the source of funding, because there isn't a regulation, a specific regulation about the funding. So the policy of funding is always in the hands of the most important internal bodies of the university, board of a administration, Senate, and the rector. By the way, we are facing a very difficult moment at the University of Trento because in these years, we are facing some serious financial problems. Because we have We have a specific funding system based on the regional system, because we depend on the province of Trento and the basic funding for the university comes from a province of Trento, and this funding is still the same in the last 10 years. But the University of Trent is bigger than in the past. The cost of professor and the admit, and the staff is growing up, and this is a very big problem. We don't have a specific regulation about funding in the open science policy.

**[00:25:01.630] - Speaker 2**

Okay. At national level, are you aware about the sources of funding for open access books? Are there any or not?

**[00:25:13.900] - Speaker 1**

I have no experience with the funding. My knowledge, my experience, the only funding are... The only source of funding is the the normal source of funding like National Research Project or European Research Project.

**[00:25:38.910] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, but there is no specific funds for open access books. That's the problem.

**[00:25:44.680] - Speaker 1**

I think there isn't.

**[00:25:46.580] - Speaker 2**

Yeah. There is also any incentive to publish in open access books that you are aware of?

**[00:25:57.440] - Speaker 1**

No, I don't know, especially the specific incentives to the books.

**[00:26:03.090] - Speaker 2**

Yeah. Let's shift to the social component. You already mentioned this idea of prestige linked to research assessment. Maybe this is a crucial point to be tackled in a few moment. But first of all, I would like to know what's the role of academic books in the national research assessment system. Are open access books taken into consideration in the research performance assessment?

**[00:26:43.600] - Speaker 1**

Yes, this is good news. At the moment, there isn't a difference between closed access books and open access books, because from a legal point of view, there is a regulation. So if the book received a peer review and other formal requirements with international book series numbers, you can present the book to the research assessment. From a formal point of view, prestige a part, there isn't a difference between closed access book and open access book.



**[00:27:42.870] - Speaker 2**

Okay. Are there any difference in how much credit is given between different types of academic books? For instance, edited volumes, monographs, scholarly editions, handbooks, and so on.

**[00:27:59.060] - Speaker 1**

This is a problem, an issue which depends on the research assessment, the scientific community. For example, in my scientific sector, in general, in the legal sector area, the monograph is still very important. Despite the fact, journal articles are receiving more attention in the research assessment exercises. -yeah. -but in general, monograph is still important.

**[00:28:44.880] - Speaker 2**

But.

**[00:28:45.590] - Speaker 1**

It depends on the research assessment and the.

**[00:28:49.140] - Speaker 2**

- And the.

**[00:28:49.670] - Speaker 1**

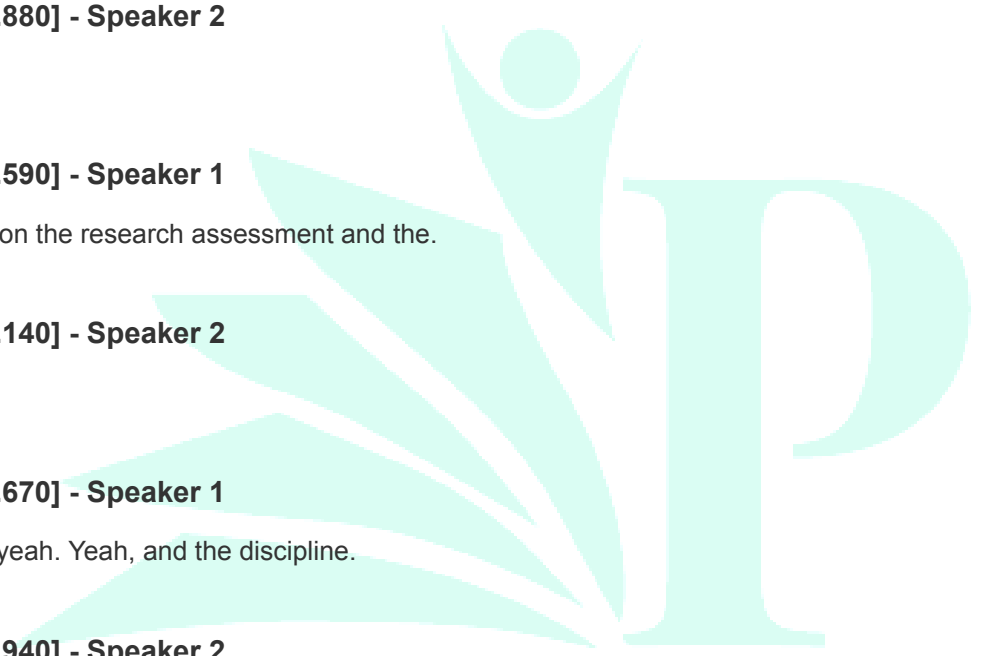
Discipline, yeah. Yeah, and the discipline.

**[00:28:51.940] - Speaker 2**

Is there any incentive to publish in national languages or in English?

**[00:28:58.750] - Speaker 1**

What is... Informal. I think there are some informal incentives, because, for example, in some legal scientific sectors, it is important still to publish in Italian, because the most important legal reference is represented by a Italian legal system. But for example, in my scientific sector, I am a comparative lawyer, it is important also to publish in other languages, in particular in English, because the English is the language of the science and of the comparison at the international level. So it depends again on the discipline, but I think in ain some scientific area, there are some informal incentives, because the researcher know that if they want to achieve a good reputation in the community, they have to publish also in Italian or especially in Italian.



**[00:30:25.830] - Speaker 2**

Yeah. So again, it depends on the discipline. And you mentioned prestige before. In your opinion, is there a relationship between open access and the perceived prestige of the publication? Meaning that maybe open access books are considered less prestigious or more prestigious? Again, it depends on the- I.

**[00:30:48.710] - Speaker 1**

Think there is the same level of prestige in general. It depends on the publisher, not on the fact, not on the format and the rights associated to the book. I think there is a difference in terms of prestige in general. This is general impression, obviously.

**[00:31:24.860] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, but maybe that could be because publisher consider prestigious in Italy, they offer open access options, right?

**[00:31:32.830] - Speaker 1**

Do they? Yeah.

**[00:31:34.380] - Speaker 2**

Okay.

**[00:31:35.670] - Speaker 1**

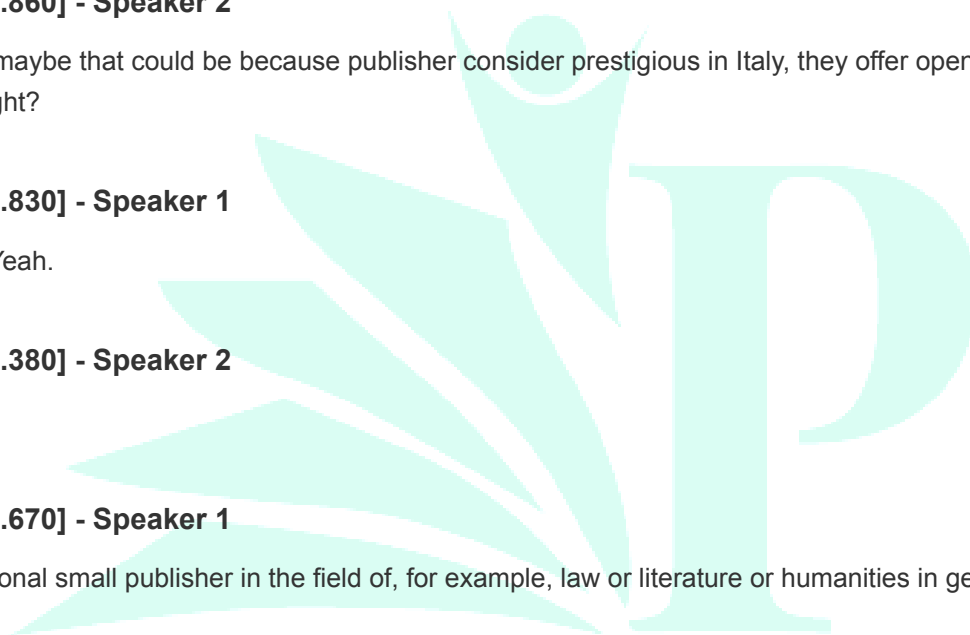
Also traditional small publisher in the field of, for example, law or literature or humanities in general.

**[00:31:52.460] - Speaker 2**

In your opinion, what are the key arguments used in the debates around open access to academics, to the public books in Italy?

**[00:32:03.910] - Speaker 1**

It's difficult to intercept the main arguments about the open access book. I think one of the most important aspect of the issue is about the impact of open access books in terms of education. In other terms, I think one of the most important engine to develop open access books is also the open educational resources. I am also director of a new collection about open access handbooks in the field of legal sciences, and I think it is probably the first one series only about law. It is an experiment. It is only the beginning of history, and it's very difficult to carry on the collection. But I think this is an important leverage to develop



open access book, the impact of open access books on education at the university level, but not only at the university level, also at the school level.

**[00:33:49.020] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, and I remember many years ago, one of your books was one of the first, which you negotiated with the commercial publisher to be put in open access. Then you got 2,000 downloads compared to a few maybe copies sold in the bookstore. It was a very good example of this impact when you put your work in open access.

**[00:34:17.870] - Speaker 1**

It was also the result of a specific agreement between my department and the publisher, because the agreement, the contract included a clause about the right to republish without the consent of the publisher, because in that case, the publisher received the money from the legal department of the University of Trento in order to publish a fixed numbers of copies, number of copies. After this first edition, the authors of the publication, the authors, the department, have the right to republish the book. I used this specific contractual clause to republish it in open access. This is a case study about the relevance, the importance of secondary publication right in the field of books.

**[00:35:42.190] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, which I think we can discuss in the legal section of this interview in a few moment. Now, let's go to the technological component. Is there any underlying technical infrastructure that might support the policy locally, I mean, in your university? Or do you have a publishing portal? But you already mentioned something about it before.

**[00:36:16.040] - Speaker 1**

We are working about a unique platform, open access platform, including both scientific journals, books, and other kinds of publications. We are working to develop some standard also in terms of technological infrastructure, our format, and so on. But we are at the beginning of the story, and it's difficult to forecast development because it depends on the investment of the universities of the Trento in the platform and also in the person, people involved in the platform itself.

**[00:37:12.470] - Speaker 2**

Yeah. Will it be a formally recognized university press or simply an institutional publishing platform?

**[00:37:21.330] - Speaker 1**

We are discussing to shift to... We have a university press, but in an informal way, in a few words, because we are discussing to have a specific regulation about academic publishing and the university

press, University of Trento Press. But we are at the beginning of the discussion. I can't know what is the future in this specific field.

**[00:38:01.450] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, and you mentioned something about the technology, the platform, but are you referring only to, let's say, traditional PDF, HTML format, or even something more innovative, like digital scholarly edition, extended monograph, linking publication and data. Are you going.

**[00:38:21.220] - Speaker 1**

Towards this part or not? Yeah, we are discussing. But at the moment, we are publishing in a very traditional way with simple PDF files. But we are discussing about the opportunity to implement new technologies in order to improve our system.

**[00:38:50.820] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, and maybe something also about open peer review also for books? Or have you never discussed it?

**[00:38:57.680] - Speaker 1**

I am not in the specific group of university press publishing. But as I said, we are at the beginning of the discussion, and I think and I hope we can open to other new forms of peer review, our books. But also in this field, it depends on the investment of the University of Trento in terms of money, in terms of organization, and in terms also of the -advocacy? -yes. Advocacy for the young researchers, because unfortunately, in Italy, and this is a specific element of Italian context, there is a very strong trend to the publish or perish system based on the National Research Assessment System, centered on the role of Italian National Agency for the evaluation of research at the US.

**[00:40:23.190] - Speaker 2**

Now we are at the legal section, which is your field—I see you smiling—first of all, something again about your institutional policy. How the policy is monitored? Because we know that it's important to have a policy, a plan, but also a monitoring system. By whom is it monitored? Is there any consequence for non-compliance? Or it's just that the policy is a recommendation, so there is no enforcement, no consequences for non-compliance?

**[00:41:08.730] - Speaker 1**

The first point is there is a requirement in terms of a local research assessment exercise. You have to fulfill the local archive for the research IRIS system, so that at least you have... You have to fulfill all the fields of IRIS IRIS system in terms of metadata, and also there is an obligation about the upload of a PDF

or another format about the publication, but this is only about the upload in the closed system. If you have right to republishing Open Access, you can add another file with an open licenses like Creative Commons licenses, and this is an obligation. But in terms of obligation to open access, we have only a recommendation. Okay. We don't have a mandatory, a strict mandatory system, but we have a recommendation. The monitoring of the percentage of open access publishing is in the hands of Open Science Commission, and we publish in Open Access the annual report about the open science in general and also about the open access to the data of the University of the triangle. There is a news about this system. Now we publish the reports in the ZENODO archive, so you can access our reports from ZENODO.

**[00:43:37.670] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, so it's publicly available. Just for the sake of clarity, [INTERVIEWEE] mentioned IRIS, which is an acronym and refers to the CRIS, to the current research information system. Iris is simply the acronym of the Italian most used system to run and to power a CRIS, so a current research information system. That was just for the clarity of the... Sorry. You mentioned also licenses. Is there a required license for open access books or all sorts are free? No.

**[00:44:16.860] - Speaker 1**

The researcher is free to choose what license you want.

**[00:44:25.900] - Speaker 2**

Yeah. You mentioned, and I think that now it's the time to elaborate a bit because you mentioned if the author has the right to republish. This is really crucial. I know that you fought many battles on that. Maybe if you can elaborate about the importance, because you also presented a proposal to the Italian Parliament to reform the copyright system. Maybe we can spend a few minutes on your proposal and why is it so important to reform the copyright system?

**[00:45:06.960] - Speaker 1**

Yes, thanks. This is not my proposal, a personal proposal, but a proposal of ISA, of the Italian Association for the Promotion of Open Science. And this proposal follows some legal models, other legislation implemented in other member states of the European Union, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, France, and Belgium. And the idea is to use the copyright to empower the scientific authors with some rights to republish in open access what she published in a closed publishing venue. The idea is apparently very simple, very easy to realize, but we encounter the resistance of Italian academic publishers represented by the Italian Association of publisher, I, who did very strong lobbying pressure to Italian Parliament in order to block the bill about the secondary publication right in Italy. In the lobbying of the Association Italiana Editori was a success because the proposal of the past legislature was blocked. Now we hope to be in the role of European Union because at the European Union, we are discussing the introduction at

the European Union level of secondary publication. I am involved in a European Union project about the reform of copyright. The name is Recreating Europe. This project was closed some months ago, but we have other projects about the European Union harmonization in the field of copyright.

**[00:47:53.970] - Speaker 1**

I'm working also on these projects.

**[00:47:58.050] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, perfect. Because it's also one of the ERA action plan. Yeah, so about the reform of copyright, because at the moment it seems that copyright is more against openness that's favouring it. So maybe you want to elaborate also on this?

**[00:48:20.950] - Speaker 1**

Yeah. At the moment that the copyright is against open access and open science in general, not only in the field of scientific publication in a strict sense, but also, for example, the idea of sharing data and open access on or open access data, open research data, because we have at the European Union level also some piece of legislation against the data sharing, in particular the Sui Generis database right was one of the most controversial piece of legislation in the field of copyright and related rights. We are trying to imagine how improve this legislation at and at the same time to counteract the monopoly power of the big tech, because the problem is at the moment also the role of the big tech in the field of science and also in the field of scientific publishing, including book publishing.

**[00:49:49.390] - Speaker 2**

Perfect. We reached the last section, which is the environmental component. Is something about the environmental dimension of open access book publishing understood narrowly as research environment and broadly as a physical environment. How do you assess the progress of the transition to open access books, and what needs to be done to make this progress better and maybe faster?

**[00:50:27.480] - Speaker 1**

I think the most important aspects of the problem is about the research assessment. We are trying to change the research assessment system, and there is a big discussion at the European level with the COARA. We are trying to change the system and to have more emphasis on qualitative assessment. But at the same time, there is a problem about the role of legislation, because each member state has a specific legislation, legislation in a strict sense, because there is an important role of the law in this field. There is a difference, for example, between a member state with a national agency with very strong power like Italy, like the Spanish system, also the French system, where there is similar national agencies. Other member states have different legal landscapes, with the different governance of research assessment. And one of the most important work we have to do is to conduct a research, a comparative

research about the role of the legislation, of the law in the field of research assessment in order to understand what is the difference in terms of governance, because our freedom to shift to, in Italy, to shift to another system is compressed by a governance system, very hierarchical with the ministry and the agency on the top of the system with very strong power to guide the research and the practice of the research in certain directions.

**[00:53:15.520] - Speaker 1**

In other countries, the situation is very different. So the first point is to understand, better understand the legal landscape of a research assessment. The other challenge is about the mentality of young researchers, because we are educating these new generations of researchers with the mentality of the publish or perish and other quantitative research assessment systems. So we have to invest a lot of energy to change the mentality of young researchers in order to achieve more academic freedom and autonomy in a very distorted system based on metrics, on competitive incentives, and so on. It's very difficult to have an impact in the environment, scientific environment, if we don't change our mentality. Not only the law, but also the mentality and the social norms, informal norms about science.

**[00:54:58.530] - Speaker 2**

In your opinion, how an institution, for instance, your institution, can be more supportive with general condition or enabling also this idea of open access books. Do you have any idea, any suggestion?

**[00:55:19.360] - Speaker 1**

I think we can start with more discussion about the scientific publishing system, because this is the traditionally this is not part of our program at student, undergraduate level, but also at the PhD level. We we organize some courses, very short courses about open science, open access in some departments, sometimes at the university level. But this is... This is not sufficient to open the minds of our researcher, because there is more influence by the traditional system based on the matrix publisher, system, a competitive view on the pure competitive view of science enterprise and so on.

**[00:56:47.660] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, so you mentioned more discussion, maybe also more training, more advocacy for young researchers. Would it also be helpful?

**[00:56:59.380] - Speaker 1**

Yeah. But also from a critical point of view. We have to stimulate a discussion with different point of view, different perspectives, public discussion. We have to involve the students, because, for example, open access and book are very important from a student perspective. And we have to involve probably the young researcher like PhD students and PhD researchers in the process of publishing, because this is

and this is very, very important. If you let to do the senior researchers, the entire process, we can change because the innovation, natural come from the next generation.

**[00:58:03.620] - Speaker 2**

I was just wondering if this digital and print, is it still an issue perceived when you deal with open access books? Meaning what's the role of a printed book which is also available in open access?

**[00:58:25.050] - Speaker 1**

I think the legal science is a field of very specific, because at least in Italy, the printed book still have a role in terms of prestige. There is still a trend to use the totem of a printed book like a proxy of the prestige. There is also a utility of the... I use still the printed book. Sometimes I prefer to read on the printed book, but there is also an environmental, in a strict sense, problem, because we can't print everything, because this system has an impact, an environmental impact, a very huge impact. For example, the graduation thesis. The graduation thesis, I had to destroy a number of graduation thesis because I don't have space to put the thesis in a library.

**[00:59:56.390] - Speaker 2**

Yeah. There is also the issue of the paper, which you use to produce all these books. So maybe this was the last question. So if you use these environmental arguments to promote online open access books, that would be another argument, as you mentioned.

**[01:00:18.240] - Speaker 1**

Yeah. With the careful attention to the other phase of the coin, because internet has an impact in terms of environment because the digital technologies aren't without an environmental impact. We have to achieve more knowledge about the environmental impact of our scientific system in general. There is a discussion about this.

**[01:00:59.640] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, also I know about the data centers, so how much energy and so on. Just to wrapping up, is there anything that you would like to add to the issue of open access books, policies in your institution or country, which we have not touched upon, but in your opinion is important?

**[01:01:24.140] - Speaker 1**

I think it is important to insist in from a legal point of view to insert a new secondary publication right regarding also books. This is very important because the limitation to the journal articles is very counter effective in the field of open access. We need a general secondary publication. We need also, not from a legal point of view, but we need to educate our researcher to practice open access also in the field of



books, not only for... Again, in terms of prestige, reputation at personal level, but for the advantages for the scientific community and in particular for the next, the younger generation, because this is, in my opinion, a crucial point of the story.

**[01:02:49.110] - Speaker 2**

Yeah. I would say that's it. Thank you very much indeed for your time and for your, I think, very useful insights on this issue of open access books. Really thank you,

**[01:03:05.610] - Speaker 1**

Thank you. Thanks to all of you.

