POSITION PAPER

COUNTRY: GERMANY

COMMITTEE: UNITED NATION EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURE ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

TOPIC: PROMOTING OPEN ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

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The Federal Republic of Germany is located in the heart of Europe. The nation-state now known as Germany was first unified in 1871 as a modern federal state, the German Empire. **Germany is the EU's largest economy. With a gross domestic product (GDP) of 3.73 trillion USD and lies fourth place in the world behind the US, China and Japan.**

Germany is the seventh-largest **country** in Europe. Covering an area of 137,847 square miles, of which 34,836 square miles is covered by land and 3,011 square miles contains water. Berlin has the largest train station in Europe. **Germany** is the EU's largest economy. Germany was the first country in the world to adopt Daylight saving time – DST, also known as summer time. This occurred in 1916, in the midst of WWI. German remains the language with the most native speakers in Europe Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein have German as the official language.

The end of the Cold War affected Germany and wrought dramatic change. Alter 40 years of territorial and ideological division, reunification was the central event and the starting point of a new era. No part of German society, its economy or culture has been left untouched; an entire nation is today reorganizing itself anew. For Germany, science, technology, and government after the Cold War means one thing: establishing inner unity in all aspects of life, including science and technology.

Germany has a strong OA awareness. Research players as well as the Federal Government and the Lander have initiated different activities to improve Open Access. In recent years, German universities and research organisations have developed a growing need to improve knowledge about their research outputs and impact. This stems from the German Excellence Initiative, institutional and funders' open access policies, international rankings of universities and, last but not least, from building up publication funds to support open access publishing.