



# The European COVID-19 Data Platform: A success story

*Riding the next wave of research data*

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**Kostas Glinos**

Head of Unit Open Science

Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

European Commission

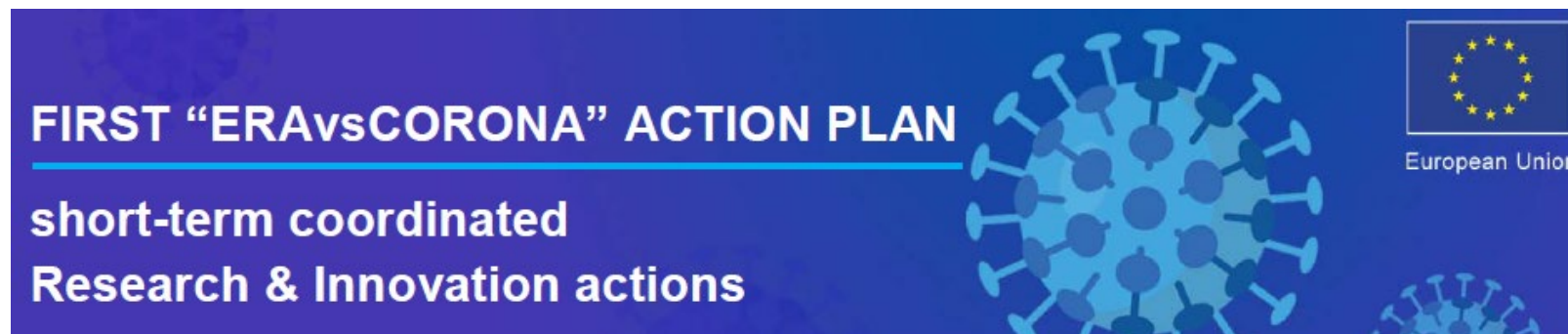
# Global problems require global solutions

- The **pandemic** has put tremendous pressure on governments, industry and the research community
- The **global and coordinated R&I response** has been key in, e.g. deepening the understanding of the virus, developing vaccines & therapeutics, in record time.
- **Openness, transparency and agile collaboration within and across disciplines** speed up discovery, and improve the quality, efficiency and impact of research
- **Digital research and open science** have been game changers



# FAIR & open data sharing against the Sars-CoV-2

- The Commission reacted quickly, by April 7 2020, through its [ERAvsCORONA action plan](#) (approved by the R&I ministers of all Member States) containing **10 key areas for coordinated R&I actions**
- **One priority:** to set up a research data sharing platform with the objective of **speeding up** and improving the **open and FAIR sharing** of data and metadata on the SARS-CoV-2 and the related COVID-19 disease, as well as to **promote its re-use, to facilitate its processing, and to widen its access.**



# FAIR data sharing in action: The European COVID-19 Data Platform



20 April 2020, launch of the  
European COVID-19 Platform

*“The platform is an important  
part in the building of the  
EOSC”.*

President U. von der Leyen

- Launched on 20 April 2020
- Pilot implementation of the **European Open Science Cloud** for establishing a “Web of FAIR data and services”
  - Role of EOSC Governing Board in setting up national coordination teams
- Data from different domains: omics, clinical, epidemiology, social sciences, ...
- Nucleus of a European Health Data Space
- International engagement (US, Japan, Canada Argentina, S. Africa,...)

Press release:

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_680](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_680)

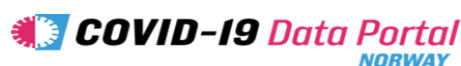
Video: <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/topnews/M-004711>

European COVID-19 Data Platform: <https://www.covid19dataportal.org/>

# National Coordination Teams



- The main means to interact between EMBL-EBI, ELIXIR and MS/AC, and to raise awareness of the Platform nationally
- First coordination meeting in May 2020 with mapping of national efforts; 9 further meetings since
- Role:
  - Update participants on the Platform's development and new features
  - Highlight relevant national initiatives, share best practices, lessons learnt and identify bottlenecks
  - Identify priority areas and main obstacles



# Open Science: Is COVID-19 accelerating a long-term shift?

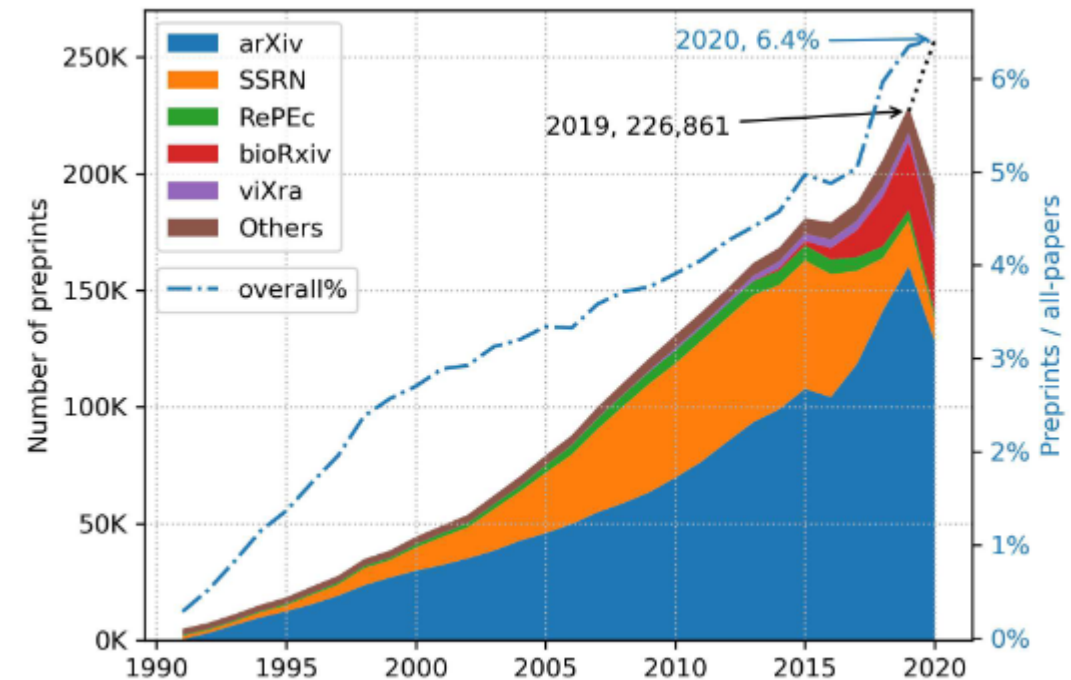
## Some positive trends:

- Early and fast share of results through increased use of preprints
- Publishers temporarily opening up some of their publications (although not permanently)

## But challenges remain, such as:

- Most open access papers (even COVID-19 ones) do not make their underlying data available without restrictions
- Research data are not fully interoperable and reusable

Annual number of preprints/all-papers rate growth



Source: [arXiv:2102.09066v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.09066v1)