1. Preamble

A cultural shift has occurred within politics, education, society and academia in recent years, one which is closely linked with the omnipresent opportunities for utilising the internet and the concomitant process of digitalisation. One effect of this change is the increased expectations in terms of transparency and accessibility of research results. Due to this change in expectations, but also as a result of the many advantages provided to researchers’ own work, academia has developed new forms of academic conduct and publishing. This includes the Open Access paradigm, which is particularly suited to combining tried-and-tested aspects of good scientific practice with the opportunities which digitalisation affords academia. Alongside other elements of Open Science (such as Open Data, Open Educational Resources and Open Source Software), open access to quality-assured academic publications in line with the Open Access philosophy represents an important component in creating a culture of academic transparency. The great importance of Open Access is reflected in numerous framework-creating viewpoints on the topic published recently by the German federal government and federal states.

The Leibniz Association was an early proponent of the Open Access philosophy. It is one of the first signatories of the Berlin Declaration; it already adopted its own Open Access Guidelines in 2007; and together with other academic organisations, it has committed itself to transforming the academic publishing market in line with Open Access. The Leibniz Association helps shape important aspects of academic policy, such as with the "Open Science Policy Platform" founded by the European Commission, and related expert groups.

The increasing dynamism of the topic of Open Access is reflected in this, the Open Access policy of the Leibniz Association. With this Open Access policy, the Association remains in step with current and future developments, thereby helping to contribute to the success of an Open-Access-friendly academic culture.

2. Framework conditions

This Open Access policy pays particular attention to the following aspects, which are of great importance to the Leibniz Association:

- Academic freedom;
- The Leibniz Association's evaluation criteria;
- The independence of the Leibniz institutes;
- The discipline-specific differences in publication activity;
- The different career stages of the respective researchers; and
3. Aims

As a publicly funded research organisation, the Leibniz Association believes it has a particular responsibility to society, and is committed to academia as a public resource. Leibniz institutes make their results accessible to the public – including by advising policy-makers, the commercial sector and the public sector. The combination of excellent, thematically broad research and outstanding research infrastructures enables the institutes of the Leibniz Association to use academic insights and developments to directly influence society. Freely accessible publications offer a special opportunity to make research-based knowledge available to a wide audience. To achieve this, the Leibniz Association pursues the following aims:

- **Comprehensive accessibility of quality-assured research results:**
  Quality-approved research results published in Open Access format are made comprehensively and more easily accessible via the internet.

- **Verifiability of research results:**
  Open access to specialist publications ensures that results are verifiable in line with a transparent academic system.

- **Acceleration of research innovations:**
  Open access to publications increases the visibility of research results, especially in the interdisciplinary and international context. This contributes to a speedier reception of results and shorter innovation cycles.

- **Adding value through improved accessibility:**
  Freely available Open Access publications are open to innovative evaluation procedures. Through the integrated and digitalised subsequent use of academic insights, the Leibniz Association fosters new research approaches and innovations.

- **Cost transparency:**
  Together with other academic organisations, the Leibniz Association is committed to transforming the publishing market from a subscription-dominated model to an Open-Access-based model. This offers the opportunity of an optimised cost structure for the individual publishing services, as well as increasing cost transparency.

4. Measures

This Open Access policy determines the following specific focal points for the Leibniz Association:

- a) Provision of incentives
- b) Advising and informing
- c) Active implementation
- d) Continuous development
Whereas the provision of incentives and continuous development are primarily driven by the Leibniz Association, the responsibility for active implementation and for advising and informing lies predominantly with the Leibniz institutes and their researchers.

a. **Provision of incentives**

   - The Leibniz Association develops proposals for improving the standards of the evaluation procedure with regard to the appraisal of Open Access.
   - An Open Access mandate is already in place for funding activities as part of the Leibniz Competition. The Leibniz Association continuously evaluates and develops this mandate.
   - The Leibniz institutes adopt their own Open Access policies which reflect the respective characteristics of the institute and the aims of this policy. To this end, the Leibniz Association provides formulation templates.
   - The Leibniz institutes offer institutional incentives for Open Access publishing.

b. **Advising and informing**

   - The Leibniz Association and its member institutes provide tools for informing and training their researchers with regard to Open Access.
   - The Leibniz Association and its member institutes individually advise their researchers with regard to exercising their secondary publication rights, the use of open licences and the acquisition of publication fees as part of third-party funding applications.
   - The Leibniz Association and its member institutes set up Open Access information desks.

c. **Active implementation**

   - The researchers of the Leibniz Association increasingly publish their research results in Open Access format.
   - The researchers of the Leibniz Association exercise their secondary publication rights for previously published contributions.
   - The researchers of the Leibniz Association make use of opportunities to acquire publication fees as part of third-party funding applications.
   - The researchers of the Leibniz Association are actively involved in Open Access journals and series, e.g. as editors or reviewers.
   - The Leibniz institutes and their researchers use standardised open licences for their Open Access publications.
   - The Leibniz institutes use the leeway afforded them for more Open Access in their self-published publications (journals, book series, conference volumes, etc.).
   - The Leibniz institutes participate in LeibnizOpen.

d. **Continuous development**

   - Through its involvement in research-policy-related associations, the Leibniz Association is committed to the continuous development of Open Access at the national and international level.
   - The Leibniz Association is actively involved in negotiating contracts with academic publishers and in the development of new business models for improving its
researchers’ Open Access opportunities and fostering the transformation from the subscription-based model to the Open Access model.

- The Leibniz Association is involved in initiatives for the disclosure of payments made for Open Access publications, with the aim of increasing cost transparency within academic publishing.
- The Leibniz Association is developing a sustainable solution for financially supporting Open Access publications originating from within the Leibniz institutes.
- The Leibniz Association is developing an overarching position with regard to Open Science, for which this Open Access policy represents a first pillar.

The Leibniz Association will ensure that the implementation of this Open Access policy is regularly evaluated and continuously developed in line with innovations from the Leibniz institutes and the academic system.