Stockholm 6 March 2019

In October 2018, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond joined Coalition S. The Riksbankens Jubileumsfond is one of Sweden’s largest private research funders and has for more than a decade worked to support and promote Open Science. Our Board of Directors has unanimously supported the idea of Open Science and Open Access, as demonstrated in our guidelines for OA publishing, adopted in 2010.

In November 2018, Plan S was announced as the Coalition’s shared plan for moving further towards the aim of making science open and accessible. Since then, a number of open consultations both internationally and nationally have taken place. As a consequence of observations made in these consultations, the Board of RJ has on 28 February 2019 decided the following:

**RJ remains in the Coalition S, but cannot support Plan S in its current form.** The observations made in the open consultations as well as comments and analyses so far in Sweden and abroad demonstrate that Plan S needs to be made more flexible and discussed more openly with the research community in order to gain support. To a large extent Plan S has been launched without dialogue with those who are most affected by the Plan. Through this modus operandi Plan S has succeeded to turn researchers who have been in favour of Open Science and Robert Merton’s CUDOS principles against these positions. This is an unfortunate development. The time-frame for implementation of Plan S is generally, among affected researchers, found to be unrealistic, and there are a number of conditions in Plan S which need further clarification or added flexibility. Plan S, as it is now presented, risks affecting the quality of scientific publishing, including having a negative impact on the career paths of younger scholars.

In order to continue its support of Coalition S, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond requests a rewording on the Coalition’s website to reflect the fact that commitment to the Coalition does not automatically mean commitment to Plan S, in its current form. On the contrary, we would prefer the website to clearly state that Coalition S is a network of research funding organizations with a commitment to Open Science. Plan S is one attempt at achieving this goal, but for Riksbankens Jubileumsfond the currently chosen path is not realistic and sustainable. Riksbankens Jubileumsfond continues to support the ideals of Open Science and Open Access, as identified in our current Guidelines on OA publishing.

Looking forward to hearing back from you, as soon as possible, on these matters.

Kind regards,

Marika Hedin  
CEO, 2019 -

Göran Blomqvist  
CEO, 2007-2019