

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003337/21  
to the Commission  
Patrick Breyer (Verts/ALE)  
(28 June 2021)**

*Subject:* Continued accessibility and security of websites on completed EU-funded research and development projects

Recently, it was reported that the hyperlinks originally linking to the domains of the EU-funded projects 'Open Mashup Enterprise service platform for LinkedIn data in The Telcodomain' <sup>(1)</sup> (OMELETTE) and 'Microscale Chemically Reactive Electronic Agents' <sup>(2)</sup> are now linking to pornography websites, while other hyperlinks formally providing information on EU-funded projects lead to abandoned websites and error messages.

The two projects abovementioned were publicly funded under the Seventh Framework Programme — Specific Programme 'Cooperation': Information and communication technologies (FP7-ICT) <sup>(3)</sup>, and were completed by 2013 and 2016 respectively. However, the domain names are no longer maintained, even though the links are still publicly listed on the Commission's website CORDIS.

What actions does the Commission intend to take to ensure the continued accessibility and security of websites and domain names used by EU-funded research and development projects?

**Answer given by Ms Gabriel on behalf of the European Commission  
(1 September 2021)**

CORDIS <sup>(4)</sup> displays data and information on the projects funded by the framework Programmes <sup>(5)</sup> and provides links to the project's website. The websites, including their security, and domain names used by EU-funded research and development projects remain under the ownership of the beneficiaries.

After the end of a project, it is up to the project's beneficiaries to keep the content of their website up to date. If they relinquish the domain name, it can be legally acquired by another party for a different use. The websites linked to the projects do not belong to the European Commission.

The link to the project website of project MICREAGENTS <sup>(6)</sup> has been changed to redirect to the archived version of their website <sup>(7)</sup>.

The link to the project website of project OMELETTE <sup>(8)</sup> has been removed. It has been replaced with the link to the archived website <sup>(9)</sup>.

CORDIS removes immediately any links that are reported to no longer be valid, to be abused, or to redirect to other websites.

The Publications Office operates a web archiving service capturing the entirety of the europa.eu through regular crawls. A first test capture was run as a proof of concept for Horizon 2020 projects <sup>(10)</sup> to see how EU-funded research might also be included in this service.

The proposed extension would aim to run crawls at pre-defined intervals, providing at least one record of each site to which redirections could be established at the end of each project's lifespan.

This proposal still needs to be formally evaluated and the implications for both financial and human resources assessed before a decision is taken to roll it out across all EU-funded research.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/257635>

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/318671>

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://cordis.europa.eu/programme/id/FP7-ICT>

<sup>(4)</sup> The Community Research and Development Information Service — <https://cordis.europa.eu/>  
<sup>(5)</sup> Seventh Research Framework programme & Horizon 2020.

<sup>(6)</sup> <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/318671>

<sup>(7)</sup> <https://arquivo.pt/wayback/20160314105901/http://www.micreagents.eu//index.html>

<sup>(8)</sup> <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/257635>

<sup>(9)</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20131221015354/http://www.ict-omelette.eu/home>

<sup>(10)</sup> <https://archive-it.org/collections/14355>