



Plan S

Making full & immediate
Open Access a reality

Annual Review 2022

**ACCELERATING
OPEN ACCESS**

cOAlition S

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Annual Report 2022: introduction

Plan S is an initiative for Open Access (OA) publishing, which requires that from 2021 scientific publications that result from research funded by public grants must be published in compliant Open Access journals or platforms.

At cOAlition S, we are committed to accelerating the transition to open access. As an international consortium of research funding and performing organisations, along with the European Commission, we have been rolling out policies and tools since 2018 to achieve the goal of Plan S.

In this annual report, we are presenting an overview of our activities in 2022, as well as the latest news on our policies, tools, and services. We also outline our support for various publishing models and highlight specific initiatives of cOAlition S funders. In the last section, we give a preview of our plans for 2023 as we look towards the future of scholarly communication.

About

Plan S: 2022 Annual Review

February 2023

Available at <https://www.coalition-s.org/resources/plan-s>

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Design: Maria Karatzia

Image credits: Mark Cruzat (p.20) on Pexels, Jonas Jacobsson (p.26), Mathew Schwartz (p.28), Shubham Dhage (p.33), Petr Magera (p.34-35), Milad Fakurian (p.38-39), Pete Godfrey (p.40) on Unsplash

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FOREWORD

I am delighted to present the Annual Report of cOAlition S activities for 2022. Over the past year, we have remained attentive to the changing landscape of Open Access publishing, which is rapidly shifting towards greater consideration for authors' rights, global equity, and greater attention to the advantages and potential of community-led non-profit initiatives known as Diamond Open Access. As a result, we have made it our priority to explore and support alternative scholar-driven publishing models that are more equitable for readers and authors.

One of the significant achievements in 2022 was the broad adoption of the Rights Retention Strategy (RRS), which strengthens authors' rights in the face of publisher policies. Initially developed by Wellcome on the basis of the original Harvard policy, the RRS was taken up progressively as an institutional policy by many universities in the UK and Norway and was also recommended by the CNRS in France. The European University Association expressed its support for the RRS in the EUA Open Science Agenda 2025. Furthermore, in June, the EU Research Ministers stated that they considered rights retention key for ensuring open access.

To provide more transparency to publisher fees, we launched the Journal Comparison Service, enabling libraries, library consortia, and funders to better understand if the prices they pay are commensurate with the publication services delivered. The Journal Checker Tool was further updated to better help researchers to comply with their funder's policy. Key developments included a French language interface for the francophone communities, and an integration with the Journal Comparison Service to indicate whether a journal provided their price and services data.

We also collaborated with publisher associations and a broad community of users to publish a toolkit aimed at fostering Open Access agreements with smaller and independent publishers, contributing to a more level playing field for smaller publishers. In July, we published a statement considering peer reviewed preprints to be of equivalent merit and status as peer-reviewed publications in a journal.

Pursuing a greater understanding of the global inequities in Open Access publishing and potential solutions, we partnered with UNESCO, the International Science Council, the Open Access 2020 Initiative, the Electronic Information for Libraries, the Association of African Universities, and Science Europe to organise a Workshop series on Global equity in Open Access publishing. This crucial issue will certainly be a focus of activity in 2023, particularly in the context of our work in Diamond Open Access publishing. cOAlition S joined two dozen European organisations in three major

Attentive to the changing landscape of Open Access publishing, we have made it our priority to explore and support alternative scholar-driven publishing models that are more equitable for readers and authors.

Johan Rooryck
Executive
Director

Horizon Europe funded projects (DIAMAS, CRAFT-OA, and PALOMERA), totaling €10m, on Diamond Open Access publishing and book publishing to strengthen the ecosystem and provide an alternative to commercial publishers. Furthermore, with ANR, Science Europe, and OPERAS, we launched the Action Plan for Diamond Open Access to foster a community of organisations that supports the consolidation of Diamond Open Access publishing globally.

cOAlition S principles and goals continue to convince funders of their validity and contribute to shaping Open Access policies globally. We were pleased to welcome two new funders to the cOAlition, the Swiss funder SNSF and the Australian NHMRC, increasing our ranks to 28 funders worldwide. We were also delighted to see the United States government calling on the federal agencies to adopt equitable access policies and remove all embargoes from federally funded research; indeed, the publication of the White House's "Nelson" memo suggests that the ambition to make all research Open Access is both global and unstoppable.

Finally, in December, cOAlition S joined the European Union's global initiative to improve research assessment – an issue intrinsically linked to Open Access. Our work in the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) will focus on the role of scholarly publishing in the reform of research assessment, in line with Principle 10 of Plan S.

In 2023, we will continue to engage in these exciting projects. We will also prepare for a collaborative evaluation of cOAlition S activities in the past five years and design a plan for the future of cOAlition S beyond 2024.

In conclusion, we are proud of the work we have done in advancing open access. This would not have been possible without the dedication of all cOAlition S funders, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to them. We are also grateful to our partners and stakeholders for their support and collaboration, and we look forward to continuing to work together to further our mission in the coming year.

Thank you!

Johan Rooryck
Executive Director, cOAlition S



**FROM PRINCIPLES TO
IMPLEMENTATION**

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

As a benchmark for the level of Open Access (OA) among cOAlition S funders, we are using the [Dimensions database](#). This database was selected as it has a cOAlition S filter readily available and assigns a route to OA (gold, hybrid, green, and bronze) for every OA article.

OPEN ACCESS
ARTICLES
IN 2022
132 064

79%
OF ALL PUBLISHED
ARTICLES

Determining accurate levels of OA compliance across cOAlition S is challenging and, at times, akin to hitting a moving target due to the dynamic nature of publishing. For example, last year's annual report indicated that 73% of articles published in 2021 and attributed to cOAlition S funders were published OA. Running that exact same search for the same period (i.e. the year 2021) twelve months later (in December 2022), the percentage of OA articles has increased to 83%; similarly, the total number of articles attributed to cOAlition S funders also increased from 155 000 to almost 203 000. This suggests that over time, articles which may have been previously closed are made free to read.

Additionally, the growth of cOAlition S, with new members such as the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council joining in the past year, makes it even more challenging to establish accurate OA figures. It should also be noted that articles designated as OA by the Dimensions database may not fully meet the open licencing and zero embargo requirements set by Plan S.

Ahead of next year's Annual Report, we will explore whether more accurate levels of Plan S compliance can be determined. In the meantime, the data presented below provides a good sense of the trend of OA amongst cOAlition S members and, more generally.

Note: All searches were run on the Dimensions database on the 12th of December 2022.

cOAlition S funded research	2022	2021	2020
1. Total number of Open Access articles	132 064 [79%]	167 914 [83%]	161 592 [82%]
2. Total number of closed articles	36 136 [21%]	34 935 [17%]	35 287 [18%]
3. Total number of articles	168 200 [100%]	202 849 [100%]	196 879 [100%]

Table 1: cOAlition S funded research: Open Access versus closed access

STRONG COMMITMENT TO OPEN ACCESS

Table 1 presents the total number of articles published by cOAlition S funders and the percentage of those available as Open Access (OA). The data consistently shows that over the past three years, four out of five articles attributed to cOAlition S funders are available as Open Access. This highlights the strong commitment to OA among cOAlition S members towards achieving widespread OA in research.

Although the 2022 data suggests a slight decrease in OA levels compared to the previous year, it is likely to be an artefact of the data, as explained above.

To put these numbers into context, the global level of OA, as reported by the Dimensions database, is approximately 60% (Table 2).

Global Open Access articles	2022	2021	2020
1. Total number of Open Access articles	2 569 615 [56%]	3 042 332 [59%]	2 843 159 [59%]
2. Total number of closed articles	2 035 522 [44%]	2 095 951 [41%]	2 007 201 [41%]
3. Total number of articles	4 605 137 [100%]	5 138 282 [100%]	4 850 360 [100%]

Table 2: Global Open Access articles in 2022 versus 2020-2021

To further understand how OA is achieved among cOAlition S members, the Dimensions database allocates one of four statuses to each OA article, as shown below.

01 Gold

Publication is published in a fully open access journal (this includes all publications with a Gold OA status in Unpaywall and those on Dimensions own fully OA list of journals)

02 Hybrid

Publication is freely available under an open licence in a paid-access journal (Unpaywall OA status = Hybrid)

03 Green

Publication is freely available in an OA repository (Unpaywall OA status = Green, or publication type in Dimensions = Preprint)

04 Bronze

Publication is freely available on the publisher's website but without an open licence (Unpaywall OA status = Bronze)

Definitions of OA labels used by Dimensions

The "Gold" route remains the most widely used method for delivering OA, amongst cOAlition S-funded researchers, with almost 40% of all articles published OA in 2022 made available this way, as shown in Figure 1.

In contrast, and despite the significant attention that has been afforded to [Rights Retention](#), the number of articles made available via the repository route (a.k.a. "Green") has fallen from 22% in 2020 to 14% in 2022. This decline may be due to the fact that the dataset was generated in December 2022, and more articles may be recategorised as "Green" once publisher-defined embargoes expire. The figures also reaffirm the stance that cOAlition S has always adopted; that when a publisher provides a Plan S-compliant option for making the version of record OA, most researchers prefer to use this option instead of exercising their right to share their accepted manuscript versions.

The number of articles made available via the "Hybrid" route has increased, likely due to the transformative arrangements, such as Read and Publish agreements and transformative journals. This increase is in line with data from the [ESAC Market Watch report](#), which shows how these arrangements have delivered OA at scale.

Open Access type as a proportion of all cOAlition S funded articles

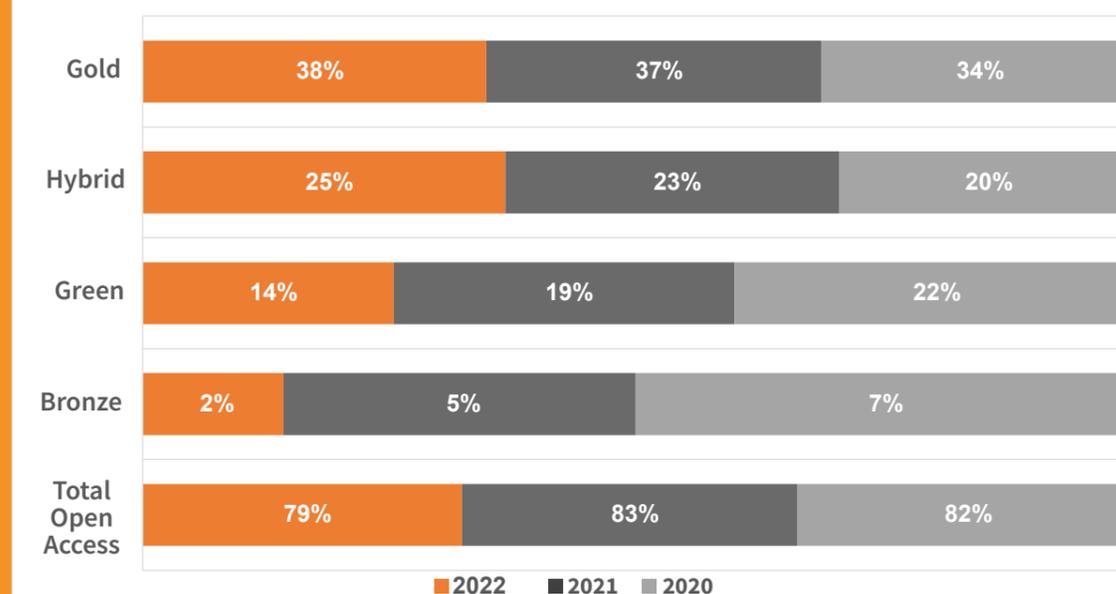


Figure 1: Open Access type as a proportion of all cOAlition S funded articles (Data sourced from Dimensions on December 2022. Numbers rounded to the nearest whole number).



Gold

63 879

Open Access articles

Representing 38% of all cOAlition S funded articles in 2022



Hybrid

41 835

Open Access articles

Representing 25% of all cOAlition S funded articles in 2022



Green

22 837

Open Access articles

Representing 14% of all cOAlition S funded articles in 2022

A GROWING COALITION

In 2022 we welcomed two new members to cOAlition S, further increasing our international footprint: the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and Australia’s National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

SNSF, one of the European leaders supporting Open Access, funds excellent research at universities, from physics to medicine to sociology. In 2021, SNSF invested 882 million francs in research (approx. 860 million euros), supporting around 1 800 new research projects. At the end of 2021, 5 700 SNSF-funded projects were underway, involving 20 000 researchers and leading to over 13 000 scholarly publications.

“
Research thrives on collaboration. And by joining forces, we research funders can also best achieve our shared goals, including open access to scholarly articles. cOAlition S has shown that it can drive this structural change”.
 Matthias Egger, President
 National Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

NHMRC is the largest public funder of Australian health and medical research, investing approximately 900 million Australian dollars (600 million euros) per year in new grants to Australian health and medical researchers. It also oversees the development of national guidelines on research ethics and integrity. NHMRC is the first Australian funding agency to introduce the requirement that scholarly publications arising from the research it funds must be made immediately freely available and accessible.

“
Making publicly-funded research available as soon as possible supports knowledge sharing and rapid innovation. It also advances human health in Australia and globally, as witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 Professor Anne Kelso AO
 CEO, Australia’s National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

ORGANISATIONS ENDORSING PLAN S AND WORKING JOINTLY ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Supported by



National funders



Charitable and international funders & research organisations

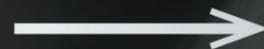
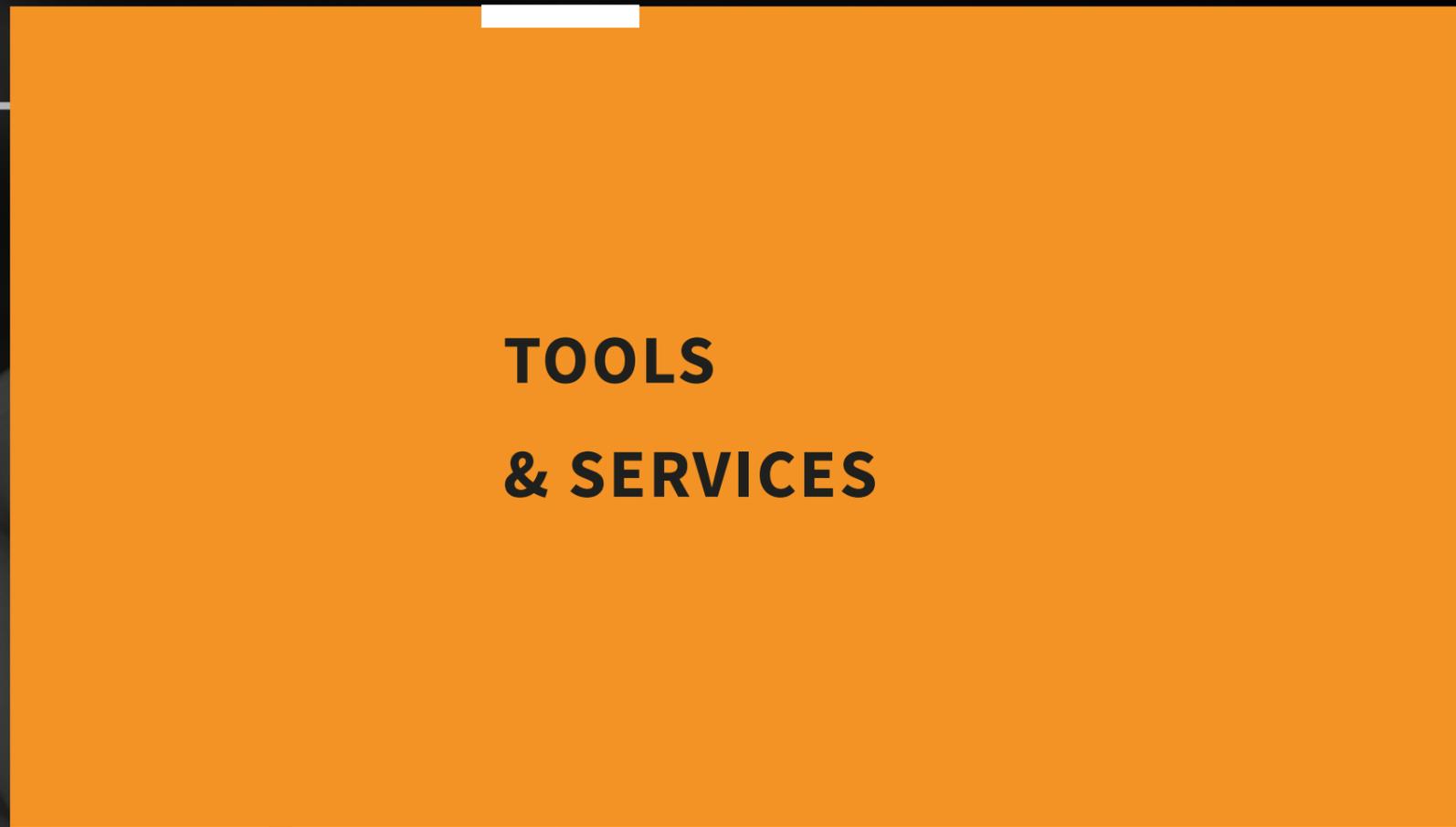
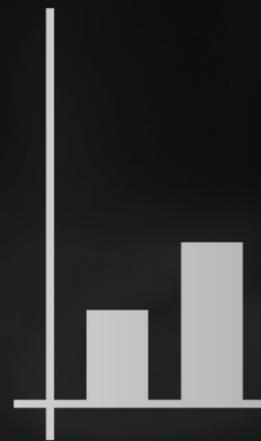


European funders



The cOAlition S Office is hosted by the European Science Foundation





JOURNAL CHECKER TOOL

The Journal Checker Tool (JCT) helps authors to identify how they can comply with their funder OA mandate when seeking to publish in any academic journal. To do this, the JCT uses a database of more than 50 000 journal titles and an algorithm that makes use of data held in DOAJ, Crossref, Research Organisation Registry (ROR), the ESAC Registry and OA.Works, as well as bespoke registries, such as the list of Transformative Journals.

Two years since its launch, JCT is an established tool, trusted by 3 000 new users monthly, who have performed almost 600 000 searches in total.

Primary access is from the United Kingdom, the United States, and France, with growing demand from Europe.

- » In the past year further developments were implemented to allow the display of funder specific results, notably to provide custom guidance for grantees of UKRI and of the European Commission.
- » In addition, a French language translation of the primary interface and result cards has been developed, which makes the JCT more accessible to francophone Plan S funded researchers in Québec and France.
- » Since November 2022 the JCT also shows if the selected journal has provided price data to the Journal Comparison Service, and thus helps the author decide whether they wish to publish in that journal.
- » There are a small number of journals that publish research articles in full OA, but which do not meet the criteria for inclusion into the DOAJ. An Open Access Exceptions Registry was developed to reflect that those journals offer compliance with most Plan S funders' OA policy.

JOURNAL CHECKER TOOL

Which publishing options are supported by your funder's OA policy?

JOURNAL + MY FUNDER + MY INSTITUTION

By ISSN or title + By funder name + By ROR or name =

 **3 000** unique users monthly

 **600 000** searches performed since autumn 2020

50 000 journals

 <https://journalcheckertool.org>

JOURNAL COMPARISON SERVICE

A unique initiative to help create visibility of publishing services and prices and support libraries' investment decisions



With more than 2 100 journals, 28 publishers have embraced the Journal Comparison Service (JCS) and shared their service and price data, responding to calls from the research community for transparent pricing of publishing services.

Successfully launched in the summer of 2022, this free, secure online platform enables the publishers' clients – primarily libraries and library consortia who procure publishing services on behalf of the research community – to better understand how journals and publishers compare on a range of key indicators. This information can be used to help them determine whether the prices charged are commensurate with the services provided.

Providing information via the JCS is an opportunity for publishers to demonstrate their commitment to open business models and cultures, create better awareness of their services and value, and build understanding and trust with the academic community.

cOAlition S wishes to thank the participating publishers for incorporating the values of openness and price transparency into their processes, in line with Plan S principles.

A complete list of publishers (and journals) participating in the JCS can be found at the following URL <https://journalcheckertool.org/jcs>



<https://journalcomparisonservice.org>



<https://www.coalition-s.org/journal-comparison-service>

“Wiley is committed to exploring new ways to provide greater visibility of the services our journals provide. We are participating in the JCS because we believe it is important to engage with a range of stakeholders to increase transparency in research publishing. We look forward to learning lessons from this first year in the JCS and evolving our approach to transparency for the future”.

Kathryn Sharples

Vice President, Open Research Wiley

“The data supplied via the JCS is a key step in fostering a shared understanding of publisher services. It will enable us and our members to transparently assess value derived and support decision making about the future investment of institutional and public funds”.

Caren Milloy, Director of Licensing, Jisc



**SUPPORTING NEW
PUBLISHING MODELS**

RIGHTS RETENTION

Publish with Power: Protect your rights



Plan S
Making full & immediate
Open Access a reality

The peer-reviewed Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) is your intellectual creation, your valuable asset. Don't give it away.

**Publish with Power.
Protect your Rights.**



#RetainYourRights

By exercising your rights, you share your knowledge as you wish and allow everyone to benefit from your research.

2022 signalled the roll-out of the Rights Retention campaign with key message: “**Open Access benefits everyone. Retain your rights. It's good for you, for science, and for society**”. In simple words, the Rights Retention Strategy enables authors to exercise the rights they have on their manuscripts to deposit a copy of the Author Accepted Manuscript in a repository on publication and provide open access to it.

With the motto “Publish with Power: Protect your rights”, the campaign aimed to encourage researchers to retain their intellectual property rights, explain the steps they need to take and highlight the benefits for them and also for science and society. For this, we developed a suite of [online resources](#) to help the research community to familiarise with the rights retention concept, such as an explainer video, a quiz on the author's rights, message cards, templates and guides.

Pleased by the growing number of European institutions that have adopted rights retention-type policies in 2022, we also initiated a series of interviews on our [sOApbox blog page](#), highlighting their experiences in an attempt to enable more institutions to follow their paradigm.

“ *There are two reasons for us adopting an institutional rights retention policy: one regarding Academic Freedom and the other related to budgetary constraints.*

 [UiT The Arctic University of Norway](#)

With an institutional policy offering a route to immediate open access through self-archiving, the authors are not acting as individuals, but have the weight of their institution behind them which empowers them to act.

 [University of Edinburgh](#)

Researchers are in a stronger position than they realise; if publishers want to continue getting this free content from our researchers, they will need to develop publishing routes that meet the needs of their academic communities.

 [University of Cambridge](#) ”

TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNALS



The Transformative Journal (TJ) model is one of the transitional strategies cOAlition S endorses to help subscription publishers move to full and immediate Open Access (OA).

18 PUBLISHERS, 2 500 JOURNALS ENROLLED IN THE TJ MODEL

Currently, some 18 publishers – large and small, for-profit, not-for-profit, society publishers and university presses – totalling over 2 500 journals, have enrolled in this programme.

To be awarded the Transformative Journal status, a journal must publicly commit to transitioning to fully Open Access, and agree to work to increase the share of Open Access content, year on year, in line with publicly agreed targets.

In June 2022 we published a [report analysing the TJ data](#) supplied by publishers. This showed that, on average, Open Access content is downloaded about three times more often than subscription content in the same journal.

We also considered to what extent TJ titles were meeting their publicly agreed targets. Though there were some promising signs – at least 13 journals enjoyed an OA penetration rate that exceeded 75%, and were thus in a position to flip to fully Open Access – the most striking finding was that 56% of TJ titles failed to meet their Year 1 targets. Titles which do not hit their Year 2 targets will be removed from the programme.

In line with previous statements, support for the Transformative Journal initiative will cease at the end of 2024, and in anticipation of this no new applications to this programme will be considered beyond 30 June 2023.

SUPPORTING SMALL SOCIETY PUBLISHERS



Toolkit to foster Open Access agreements

By the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) & cOAlition S

cOAlition S has always encouraged smaller publishers to embrace Open Access and align with Plan S principles. Based on recommendations of previous report (“[How to enable Smaller Independent Publishers to participate in Open Access agreements](#)”), cOAlition S and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) published [a set of tools](#) to support small independent publishers overcoming practical challenges and successfully participate in Open Access agreements with libraries and library consortia.

The toolkit contains shared principles, example licences, and a data template which enables smaller independent publishers to reach open access agreements with library consortia and libraries more easily. Recognising that securing an agreement entails a complex set of functions, the toolkit also includes a detailed workflow that describes the entire process, from contract

Full report

Data template

Shared principles

Example licences

Detailed workflow

negotiation to achieving compliance with funder policies and reporting to libraries.

The toolkit was developed by Information Power, working together with librarians, publishers and library consortia in the framework of the third phase of the Society Publishers Accelerating Open Access (SPA OPS 3.0) project.

DIAMOND PUBLISHING



Diamond Open Access is a scholarly publication model in which journals and platforms are free for authors and readers. In 2022, cOAlition S joined 22 other organisations in the EU-funded 3 million euros DIAMAS project (2022-2025).

DIAMAS has 3 goals:

- I. Map the current landscape of Diamond OA Institutional Publishing Service Providers (IPSPs) in the ERA, yielding a taxonomy of IPSPs.
- II. Coordinate and improve the efficiency and quality of IPSPs by developing a European Quality Standard for Institutional Publishing (EQSIP). This quality seal will professionalize, strengthen and reduce the fragmentation of institutional publishing in Europe. EQSIP will serve as a benchmark to create an IPSP registry that will provide publishing guidelines, training materials, self-assessment tools, financial models, and shared cost frameworks.
- III. Formulate actionable recommendations and strategies for institutions, funders, and policymakers in the ERA.



cOAlition S, Science Europe, OPERAS, and the French National Research Agency (ANR) also launched an [Action Plan for Diamond Open Access](#) to further develop and expand a sustainable, community-driven Diamond OA scholarly communication ecosystem. The Action Plan intends to create an inclusive worldwide community that has the tools to strengthen existing Diamond OA journals and platforms and increase their visibility. The Action Plan has been endorsed by over 160 organisations.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS



Scientific publishing is evolving rapidly. A number of initiatives have moved away from the notion that peer-reviewed articles must be published in traditional Open Access journals or platforms. They provide peer review services that are entirely independent of such journals or platforms. These include Peer Community in (PCI), Sciety, Next Generation Repositories, Notify Project, PREReview, and Review Commons, to name a few. These initiatives give the author the freedom to decide how and when to disseminate their peer-reviewed article. In light of the accelerating development of these journal-independent peer-review services, cOAlition S explicitly stated that ‘peer reviewed publications’ – defined here as scholarly papers that have been subject to a journal-independent standard peer review process with an implicit or

explicit validation – are considered by most cOAlition S organisations to be of equivalent merit and status as peer-reviewed publications that are published in a recognised journal or on a platform.

These innovative developments turn attention away from the prestige of the journal or platform to focus on the intrinsic value of the peer-reviewed article itself, in line with Plan S Principle 10. High-quality peer review services that are separate and distinct from publication services provide independence from the traditional journal format. They allow for more equitable access to research results by offering a solution to openness for all researchers. cOAlition S therefore, explicitly endorses such innovations.



**FUNDERS'
HIGHLIGHTS**

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: COALITION S FUNDERS' ACTIVITIES

cOAlition S funders are committed to accelerating progress in making full and immediate Open Access a reality, and their activities in 2022 have been aligned with this goal. From advocating for open access policies to developing new tools, they have been at the forefront of enabling their researchers to share their work and ensure that the benefits of their research are accessible to all. In this section, we take a closer look at a number of initiatives that cOAlition S funders undertook in line with the Plan S principles.

Open Research Europe offered by the European Commission

[Open Research Europe](#) (ORE) is the open access peer-reviewed publishing platform offered by the European Commission as an optional service to Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe grantees at no cost to them. The platform follows an innovative open access publishing model for articles, which is based on open peer-review after publication (the so-called post-publication peer-review). ORE launched in March 2021 and published approximately 300 articles until the end of 2022. It features robust scientific policies and publishing guidelines for authors to follow, and is supported by an international scientific advisory board.

The Commission's vision is that as of 2026, ORE will be transformed into a non-profit service collectively supported by the Commission and national funders and based on an open source infrastructure. A consultation, initially with funders, began in mid-2022 to decide on shared principles for ORE and how to operationalise it as a collectively funded publishing venue. Several cOAlition S funders participate in these discussions, also facilitated by Science Europe, of which they are members. Preparatory activities for the 2026 transition should take place between 2024 and 2026.

Implementing the rights retention strategy on scientific publications: a guide for researchers in France

The French Committee for Open Science published a guide to help researchers apply the rights retention strategy (RRS). This guidance was initiated by the French Publications College, in which ANR, a member of cOAlition S, participates.

It is an excellent example of Plan S policies translated into national contexts. By retaining sufficient rights on their scientific articles, researchers can make them available in immediate open access, regardless of the distribution model of the journal in which they are published.

The rights retention strategy is part of France's Second National Plan for Open Science. In France, several performing

organisations recommend that their researchers use the RRS, including the CNRS, France Université and the IRD.

The guide explains the rights retention strategy, its benefits for the researcher and the operational details of its application. It also provides FAQs about licenses, the options available at the various stages of publication, and how to manage relationships with publishers.

It is [available online](#) in French "Mettre en œuvre la stratégie de non-cession des droits sur les publications scientifiques" and in English "Implementing the rights retention strategy on scientific publications" under Creative Commons CC-BY 4.0 licence.

RCN has adopted new guidelines for open access to academic books

The Norwegian Research Council (RCN) has adopted new guidelines for open access to academic books which apply to calls for proposals from 2023 onwards. In this context, academic books are defined as long-form publications, including monographs, book chapters and edited collections, that have a title and an ISBN and that are the product of research financed by the RCN. The guidelines apply also to academic monographs and articles in anthologies. The Research Council of Norway's guidelines for open access to academic books complies with the principles of cOAlition S and is adapted to national conditions in dialogue with the academic communities.

More information: [The Research Council of Norway - Open access to publications](#)

Open Science Initiative by NWO

In a bid to make open science the norm, the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has asked the Dutch Research Council (NWO) to set up the "National Initiative (Regieorgaan) Open Science" in September 2022. The new initiative is part of the Dutch Government's vision to boost the transition to open science.

NWO is leading the efforts, setting up a task force with broad-based governance to manage an additional 20 million euros in investment each year over the next

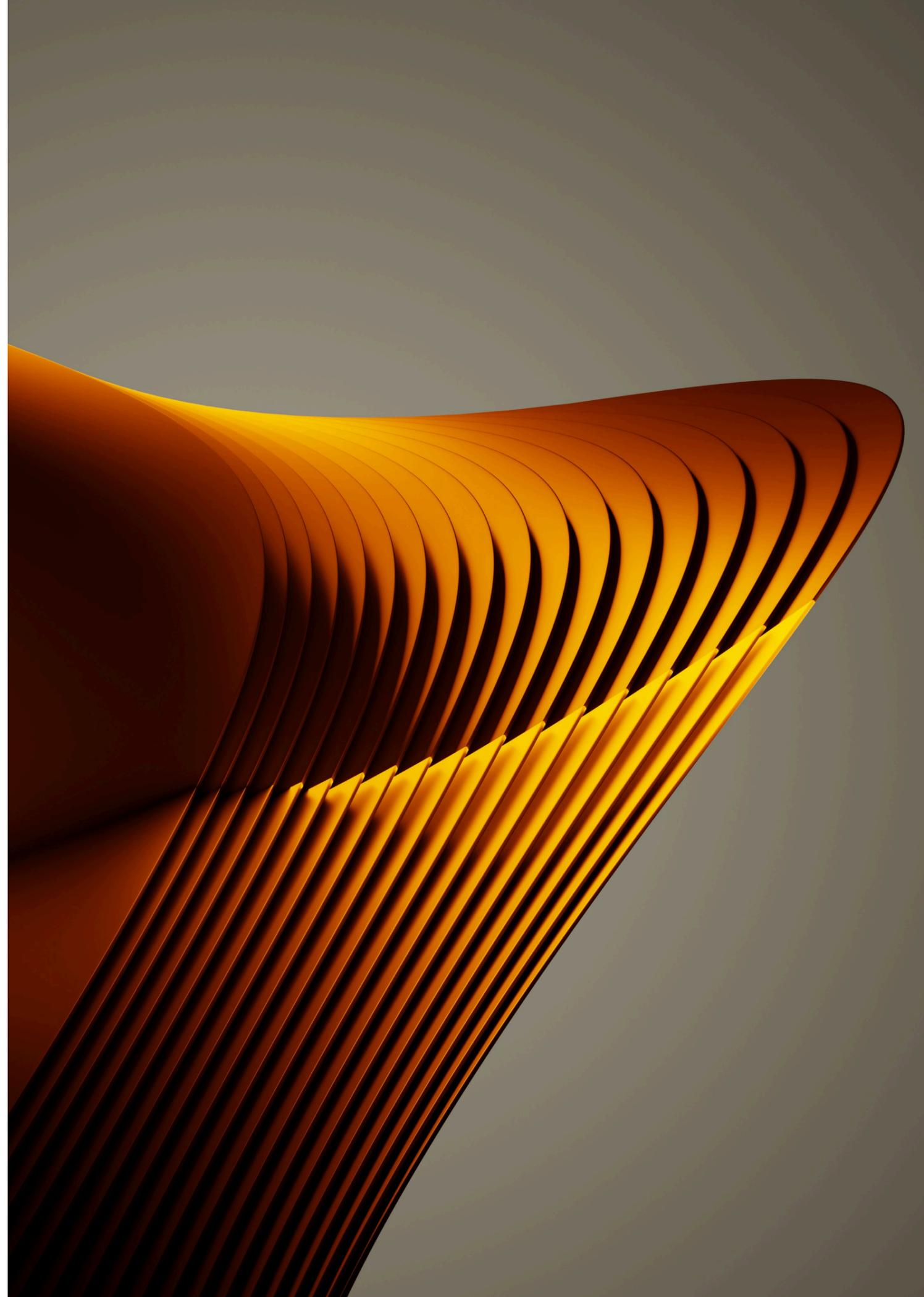
decade. One of the first steps of the initiative is to increase the number of data stewards and enhance the research software engineering capacity within universities.

As one of the most prominent science funding bodies in the Netherlands, NWO was among the first national funders to join cOAlition S. The organization invests almost 1 billion euros each year in curiosity-driven research, research related to societal challenges, and research infrastructure.

New Open Access policy by UKRI

UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) new [open access policy](#) took effect in April 2022. Immediate open access is now required for all new peer-reviewed articles from UKRI-funded research. This includes reviews and conference papers accepted for final publication in a journal, conference proceeding or publishing platform. Thus, the policy ensures that findings from research funded by the public through UKRI can be freely accessed, used and built on. It also signals UKRI's work to support an inclusive, open and trusted research and innovation culture and environment.

Researchers are advised to make their article immediately open access either via a journal/publishing platform (Route 1) or a repository (Route 2), ensuring the open access version is published with a CC BY licence or other permitted licence.



A modern conference room with a white table, grey chairs, and a large screen on the wall. The room has a grid-patterned wall and recessed ceiling lights. An orange overlay covers the right side of the image, containing the text.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW & GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

cOAlition S is an informal alliance of organisations and institutions that fund and/or perform research activities, and that have publicly expressed their intention to work together towards the implementation of the principles of Plan S. cOAlition S does not have any autonomous legal capacity. The individual organisations remain fully responsible for implementing their Plan S-aligned Open Access policies, as stated in the cOAlition S Terms of Reference.

The cOAlition S Office was set up in January 2020 and is hosted by the European Science Foundation (ESF) in Strasbourg, to support the work of cOAlition S.

The cOAlition S Office staff and activities are funded by cOAlition S funders' contributions and grants. Human resources represented 3.5 FTE in 2022, including staff and consultancy. Software development mainly covered the costs of developing the Journal Checker Tool and the Journal Comparison Service. The commissioned studies in 2020-2022 covered the Open Access Diamond Journals Study (OADJS) and several reports related to Small independent publishers (SPA OPS).

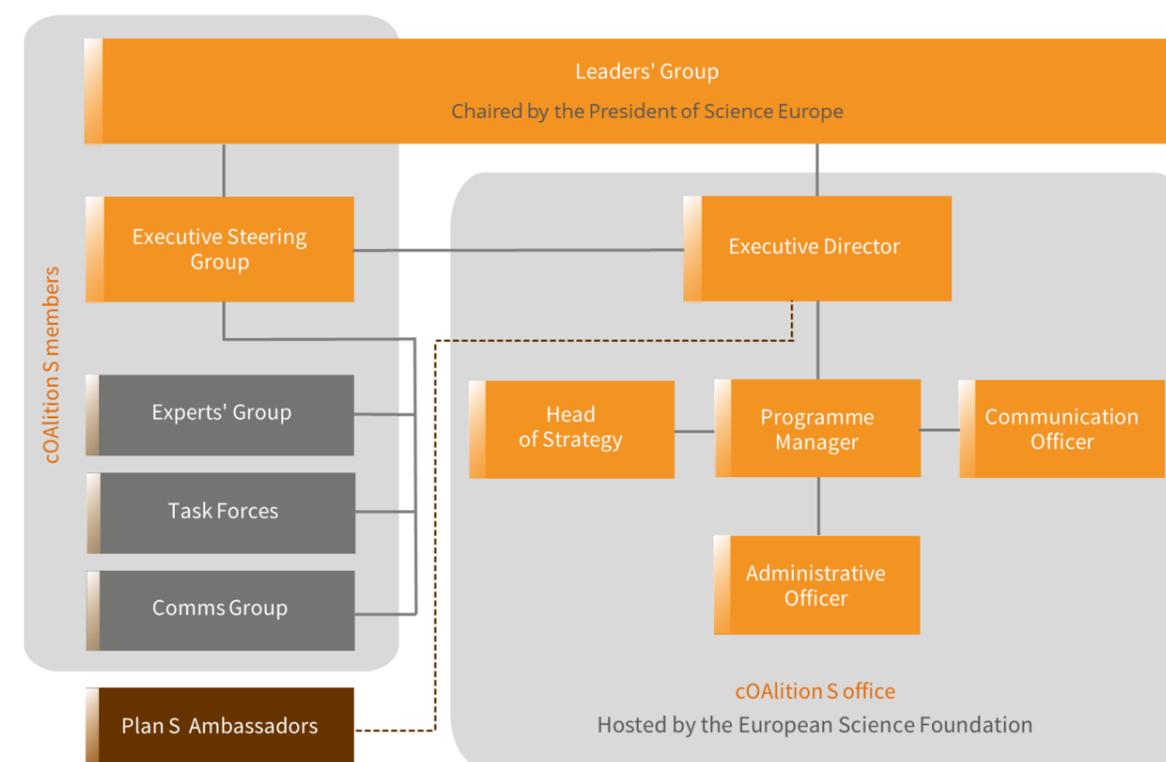
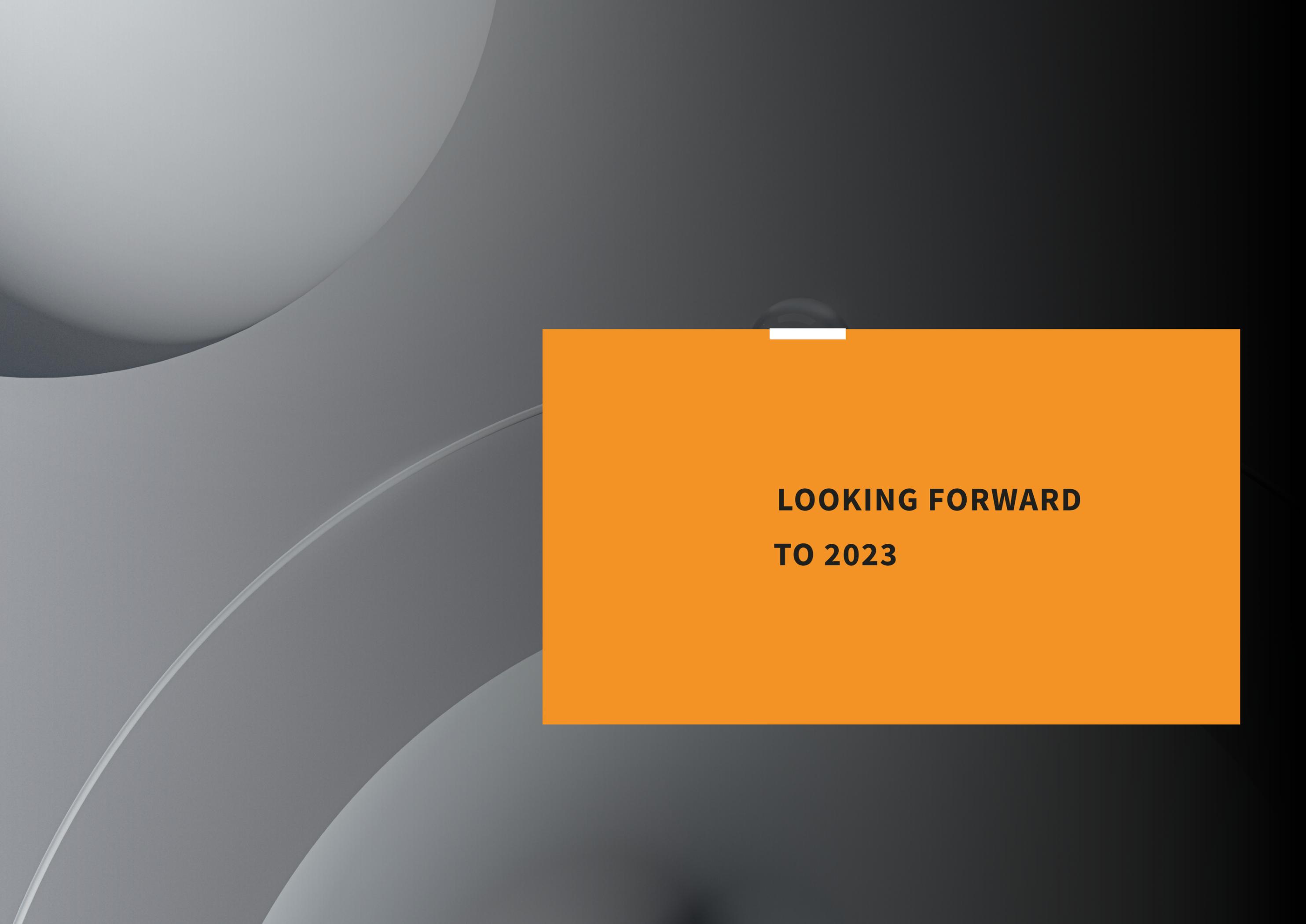


Figure 2: cOAlition S: Governance & Organisational Structure

ACTIVITY / SPENDING (EUR)	2022
Human resources & related	505 674
Software development	439 378
Communication	15 000
Commissioned studies	56 393
Legal & administrative	93 750
Travel	12 500
Total	1 122 695

Table 4: Budget for supporting the cOAlition S Office

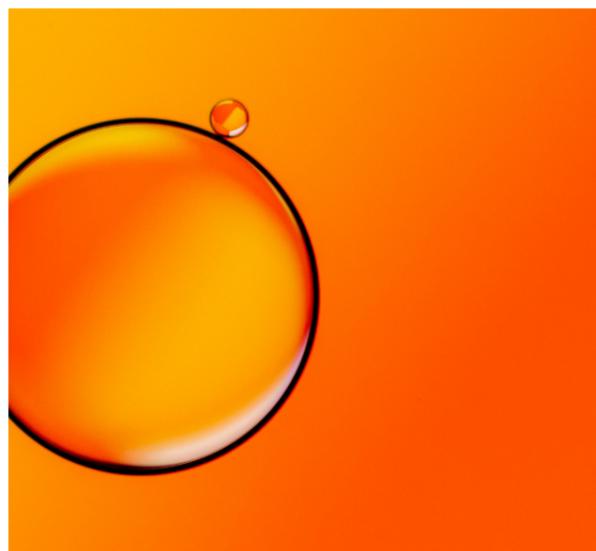


**LOOKING FORWARD
TO 2023**

THE FUTURE

cOAlition S was established in the autumn of 2018 to deliver full and immediate Open Access by the end of 2024. The 12 founding members are now 28 and the Plan S Principles have been turned into action.

The scholarly communication ecosystem of the future



In the five years since, the scholarly publishing landscape has continued to evolve. More research than ever before is published Open Access: data from [Dimensions](#) suggests that over 50% of research is published OA at the time of publication. Still, we are a long way from a world where all research is free to read and reuse.

At the same time, we are witnessing the development of new, scholar-driven models, such as [Diamond OA](#) and [peer reviewed preprints](#). These initiatives suggest that a more equitable and inclusive model of scholarly communication, not reliant upon high APCs, may be within our grasp.

Moreover, in light of [ending support for transformative arrangements post 2024](#), we think the time is right to consider what kind of future scholarly communication ecosystem do we want and what role funders can play in its implementation. Taking this work forward, in partnership with other stakeholders, will be one of our strategic objectives over the next months. In addition, we will examine the effects and impact of Plan S through an external review, starting in the summer of 2023. We envisage this work will conclude in the spring of 2024.

These two pieces of work will ultimately help to inform what role a coalition of research funders and other stakeholders could play in helping to shape the future of scholarly communication post 2024.

Global equity in Open Access publishing

The notion of equitable access gains more and more ground in scholarly communication debates. It figures prominently in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's (OSTP) 'Nelson memo' of 25 August 2022, and will undoubtedly receive more attention in the years to come.

cOAlition S, together with OA2020, the Association of African Universities, Science Europe, the Electronic Information for Libraries, the International Science Council, and UNESCO, organised a workshop on '[Global Equity in Open Access Publishing](#)', which was held on 21-22 November 2022.

Participants formulated a variety of proposals to address inequities in fee-based open access publishing and advance non-fee-based open access publishing, such as reforming research

assessment, making sure that authors are evaluated for the intrinsic merit of their publications rather than for the journal name, and calling for publishers to adopt more equitable practices, including transparent pricing of open access publishing services.

In an opinion article on ResearchProfessional titled "A fair pricing model for open access", Faranah Osman of the South African National Research Foundation and Johan Rooryck of cOAlition S proposed a global tiered pricing framework with charges based on countries' and institutions' capacity to pay, and the pricing tiers calculated as a function of purchasing-power parity.

In the forthcoming months cOAlition S intends to sponsor a study evaluating the feasibility of such a framework.

Responsible Research Assessment

At the end of 2022, cOAlition S joined the [Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment](#) (CoARA). This is in line with the Plan S Principle 10 commitment to value the intrinsic merit of research when assessing research outputs. In CoARA, cOAlition S will focus on the role of full and immediate Open Access scholarly publishing in research assessment reform.

We will work with all stakeholders to develop alternative criteria, tools, and processes to

measure the intrinsic merit of research outputs. We will also strive to ensure that all scholarly contributions to the publication process – including editorial services, assessments, and peer review reports – are given proper and equal credit, irrespective of whether they are formally published in a journal. cOAlition S will also discuss more equitable, scholar-driven, and scholar-owned solutions to academic publishing, as well as innovative publishing models like peer-reviewed preprints.



Plan S

Making full & immediate
Open Access a reality

cOAlition S

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