



POLICY BRIEF COMMON TEMPLATE

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

INTRODUCTION: PROJECT TITLE AND PROJECT OBJECTIVES

CALL: HORIZON-INFRA-2021-DEV-02

(Developing and consolidating the European research infrastructures landscape, maintaining global leadership (2021))

TOPIC: **Diamond Open Access**

PROJECT: On the road to sustainability: paving the way for OPERAS as an efficient open Social Sciences and Humanities scholarly communication Research Infrastructure (OPERAS-PLUS)

<https://operas-eu.org>

PROJECT: objectives

The general objective of the OPERAS-PLUS project is to provide the necessary support OPERAS needs to complete its preparatory phase and to transition its status into an ERIC.

This general objective is divided in several specific objectives (SOs), defined by the topic description, the recommendations provided by the ESFRI report and the issues raised by the OPERAS General Assembly in 2021:

(SO1) To develop and strengthen OPERAS governance structure, esp. financial, legal, and human resource management aspects of the infrastructure central hub in a sustainable way, compliant with RI management best practices.

(SO2) To support the establishment and development of OPERAS national nodes, set up and manage their relations with the central hub.

(SO3) To develop OPERAS portfolio of services by providing both required technology and a monitoring system for services development.

(SO4) To maximise OPERAS' impact in the ERA and at international level by extending it beyond its current scope and onboarding new members and countries in the infrastructure.

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POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As an equitable publishing model, Diamond OA ensures that research is freely accessible to everyone and that authors can publish their work without any incurring costs, while simultaneously promoting a diverse publishing culture. More than that, by emphasising public benefit over profit, Diamond OA offers a model for scholarly publishing that is in dire need: Owned and controlled by the scholarly communities, Diamond OA is a model representing a scholarly communication ecosystem that gains resilience from relying on a diversity of actors instead of mono-dependency on individual funding streams and/or proprietary technologies.

In recent years, the discussion about Diamond OA in the ERA has gained traction. The OA Diamond Journals Study from 2021 highlighted the need for further standardisation, more efficient collaboration among Diamond OA stakeholders and the necessity of coordinated capacity-building for Diamond OA.¹ Indeed, the landscape of scholarly publishing in the ERA is currently moving towards adopting Diamond OA on a broader scale: The EU Council conclusions on high-quality, transparent, open, trustworthy and equitable scholarly publishing from May 2023,² emerging initiatives for Diamond OA capacity centres for Diamond OA throughout Europe (e.g. [Nordic](#)

¹ Bosman u. a., „OA Diamond Journals Study. Part 1“.

² <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9616-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

[Countries, Germany, Netherlands](#)), the [launch of the European Diamond Capacity Hub](#) (EDCH) and the [Global Diamond Open Access Alliance](#) bear witness to the current momentum for equitable, open scholarly publishing.

By actively driving the advancement of Diamond Open Access (OA), OPERAS follows its mission to support open scholarly communication in the European Research Area. OPERAS, a supporting partner of the [OA Diamond Journals Study](#), participates in Horizon Europe projects dedicated to Diamond OA: CRAFT-OA, DIAMAS, and ALMASI. These initiatives are specifically designed to address the lack of European-wide standards and coordination within the Diamond OA landscape. Through this involvement, OPERAS plays a key role in building a more coordinated and sustainable infrastructure for Diamond OA across Europe. The aforementioned efforts have majorly contributed to the establishment of the [EDCH](#), which is fiscally hosted by OPERAS. Additionally, OPERAS leads the [Community Task Force of the EDCH](#). Through its commitment to Diamond OA in particular as the most equitable and resilient model of scholarly communication, OPERAS helps foster a more inclusive and community-driven publishing ecosystem.

Contribution to other research areas and to broader EU priorities. OPERAS actively contributes to Priority 1 of the ERA Policy Agenda (2025–2027): deepening a truly functioning internal market for knowledge. By endorsing and strengthening Diamond Open Access (OA) as a cornerstone of open science, OPERAS supports the development of a more equitable and resilient scholarly publishing system. A key achievement in this area is the launch of the European Diamond Capacity Hub, which helps reinforce and build the infrastructure needed to sustain, coordinate and scale Diamond OA across Europe. Through its commitment, OPERAS helps ensure that knowledge remains a shared public good, supporting a FAIR, inclusive, and well-functioning European research ecosystem.

Key recommendation

Strengthen Diamond Open Access (OA) through advocacy, policy development, and financial support: To enhance the coordination and sustainability of the Diamond OA ecosystem, it is essential to promote stronger connections among initiatives at regional, national, and European levels. Improved coordination across these levels will contribute to a more integrated and efficient Diamond OA landscape. The development of targeted policies focused on Diamond OA will support the prioritisation of this model within broader Open Science strategies. Combined with dedicated financial support, these efforts will help secure the long-term viability of Diamond OA as a cornerstone of equitable, open scholarly communication that aligns with European values and research priorities.

Level of connection of your RI to EOSC.

OPERAS' Diamond OA activities are directly engaged in the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) through its co-coordination of Opportunity Area (OA) 6, which focuses on advancing open scholarly communication, with a priority on Diamond OA. In addition, OPERAS is currently preparing the development of an Open Scholarly Communication Node within the EOSC Federation. This initiative presents a strategic opportunity to position Diamond OA as a central model for open scholarly communication in Europe, reinforcing its role in building a more equitable, community-driven, and sustainable research ecosystem within EOSC.

Key recommendation

Further enhance open scholarly communication within EOSC by advocating for Diamond OA. This can be achieved by embedding it within key elements of infrastructure, governance, and strategic developments, e.g. through leveraging existing infrastructures such as the EDCH to inform the development of the planned Open Scholarly Communication Node.

Employment and skills in research infrastructures.

Building capacity for Diamond Open Access (OA) is a core component of OPERAS's mission. Through the Community Task Force of the EDCH OPERAS contributes to this goal by strengthening coordination across the Diamond OA landscape, notably through its coordinative support for National Capacity Centres. These centres serve as focal points for consolidating expertise, resources, and strategic efforts at the national level.

This capacity-building approach is also embedded in the EDCH's services, such as the Training Platform, which is designed to improve both the skills of professionals involved in scholarly publishing. By promoting collaboration, resource sharing, and strategic alignment, the EDCH helps minimise duplication of efforts and fragmentation across the ecosystem.

Key recommendation

Provide strategic and sustained funding to support the long-term sustainability of Diamond OA infrastructure, with particular emphasis on capacity- and skill-building services and coordinated, interoperable platforms. Ensuring stable funding lines will strengthen the operational resilience of community-led publishing and reduce fragmentation across the European scholarly communication landscape.
