

# ***Why do research infrastructures matter?***

*Answering to the Open Access week theme: Who owns our knowledge?*

Open Access Week, 20 October 2025

University of Coimbra, Portugal

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# Who am I and how did I become an Open Science advocate?

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PhD in History

MA in Ethnology and Cultural  
Anthropology

- ▶ 2011 MA in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology
- ▶ 2018 PhD in history
- ▶ 2021 OPERAS
- ▶ 2023 Open Humanities Section
- ▶ 2023 OPERAS Innovation Lab

# Theme for Open Access Week 2025 asks "Who Owns Our Knowledge?"

 International  
Open Access Week

October 20-26, 2025  
#OAWeek

Who owns our knowledge? لمن تُنسب معارفنا ومفاتيحها؟  
हमारे ज्ञान का स्वामित्व कसिका है? Кому належать наші знання?  
Qui contrôle nos connaissances? 我々の知識は誰のものなのか?  
¿A quien le pertenece nuestro conocimiento?



SCIROS

 CENTRUM  
HUMANISTYKI  
CYFROWEJ

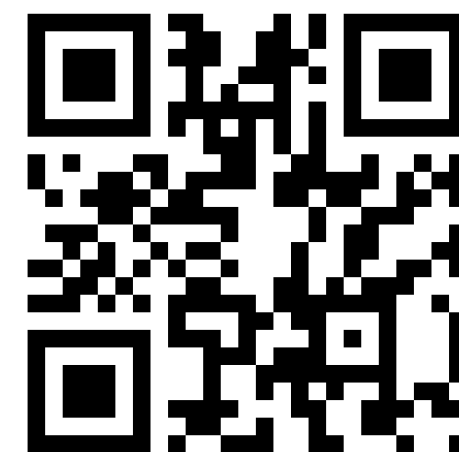
OPERAS<sup>PL</sup>





# OPERAS

to make Open Science a reality for research in the SSH and achieve a scholarly communication system where knowledge produced in the SSH benefits researchers, academics, students and more generally the whole society across Europe and worldwide, without barriers.





**Who owns our  
knowledge?**

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROVIDERS**





**What is infrastructure and what are research infrastructures?**

**Why does Open Access always need infrastructure?**

**What is OPERAS Research Infrastructure?**

**How does OPERAS operate locally?**









# Infrastructure

- *infrastructure* means something “beneath the structure” and implies the existence of a superstructure
- a collective term that though singular, denotes a plurality of elements
- it was used in 19th-century French road engineering terminology and was widely adopted after World War II to describe military actions
- from 1980s it has been mobilised to describe computer systems, and later applied to digital resources and practices
- it refers to a **vast, complex and evolving systems that support modern societies and economies**
- it is everything that makes it possible to work

Carse Ashley. Keyword: Infrastructure – How a Humble French Engineering Term Shaped the Modern World. in *Infrastructures and Social Complexity: A Routledge Companion*, 2017

Mounier, Pierre, and Simon Dumas Primbault. ‘Sustaining Knowledge and Governing Its Infrastructure in the Digital Age: An Integrated View’. November 2023. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10036401>.

Maryl, Maciej. Wszechobecna infrastruktura. O transformacji cyfrowej badań literackich, 2025, in print.





# DARIAH-EU

Digital Research Infrastructure  
for the Arts and Humanities

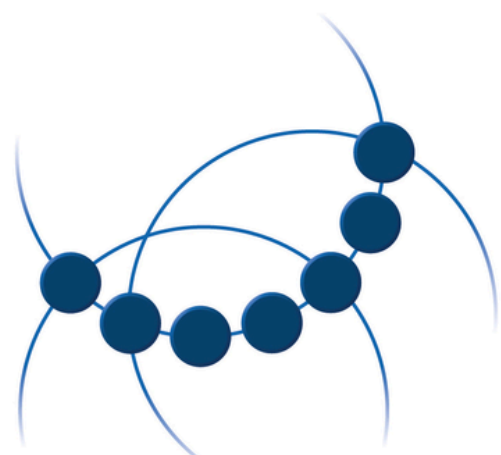


## E-RIHS

EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE  
FOR HERITAGE SCIENCE



## cessda



## CLARIN ERIC

Common Language Resources and  
Technology Infrastructure

# OPERAS

open scholarly communication in the european  
research area for social sciences and humanities

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# Knowledge (research) infrastructures

A vast complex and evolving system that supports research and knowledge development, sharing, dissemination and preservation.

## Physical

- laboratories
- observatories
- satellites
- libraries
- supercomputers and servers
- archives

## Digital

- softwares
- databases and discovery services
- digital repositories
- e-libraries
- clouds
- digital archives

# Research infrastructures in social sciences and humanities

- ▶ Libraries and archives
- ▶ Discovery platforms: EBSCO, Scopus, OpenAlex, GoTriple
- ▶ Open Access platforms: Open Edition, Biblioteka Nauki
- ▶ Digital corpora: DraCor
- ▶ Analytical tools: CLARIN





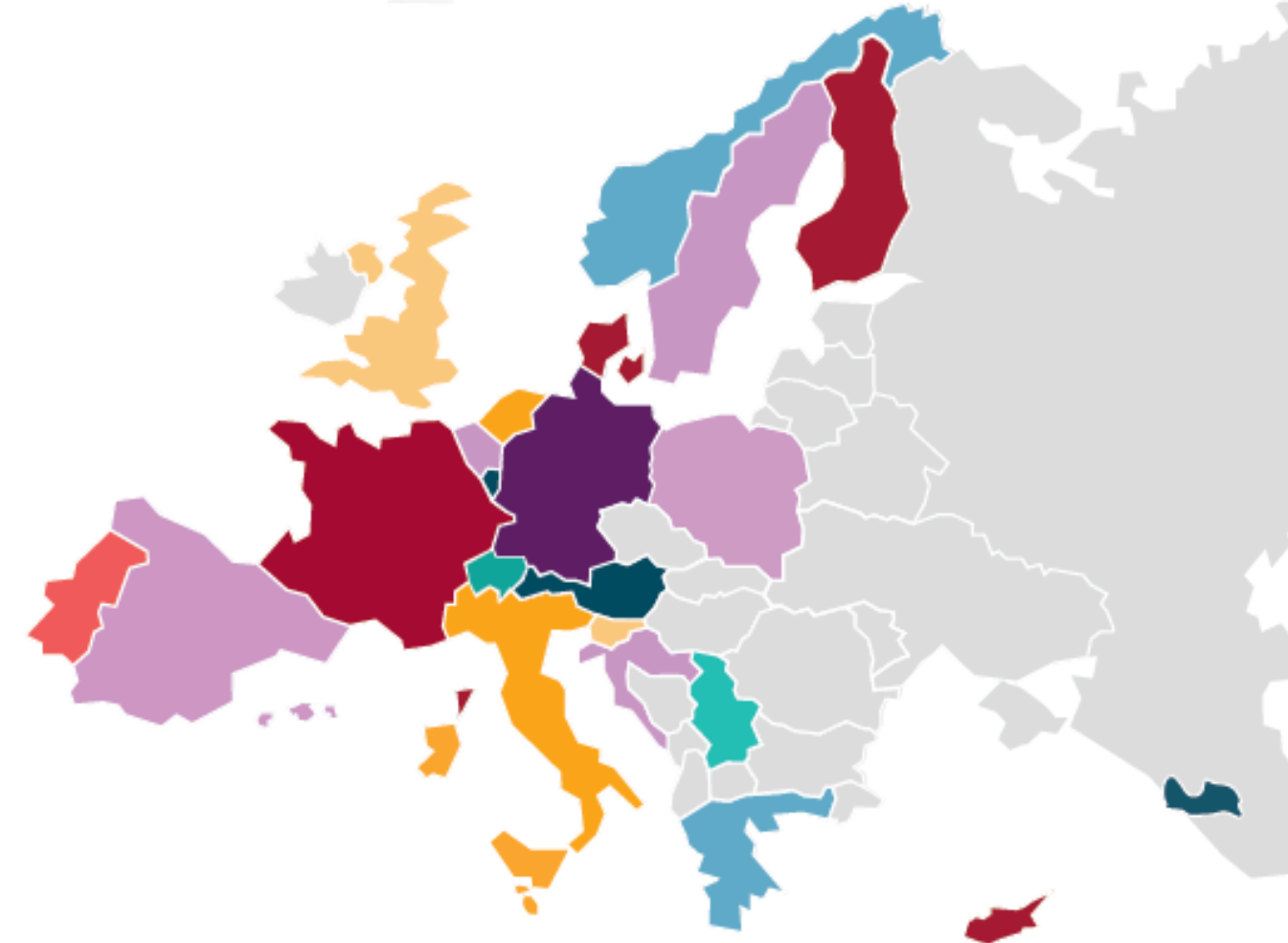
# Research Infrastructures as knowledge keepers

- some are public, some are also open, and some are proprietary
- proprietary infrastructures impose specific conditions for access to knowledge they store
- all public and private can and often implement different Open Access models





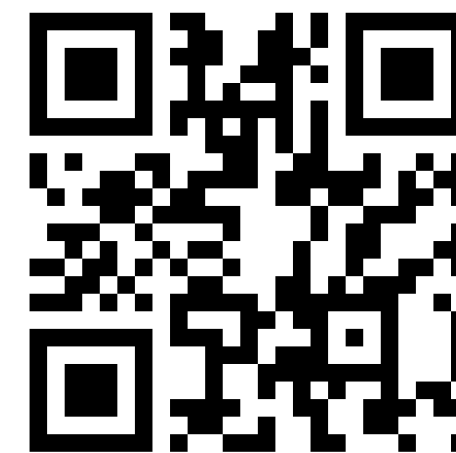
# OPERAS



OPERAS is the Research Infrastructure supporting open scholarly communication in the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in the European Research Area. Its mission is to coordinate and federate resources in Europe to efficiently address the scholarly communication needs of European researchers in the field of SSH.

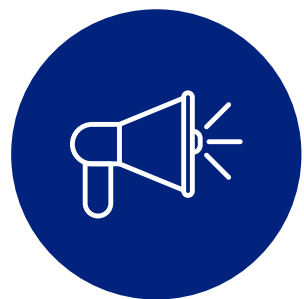
OPERAS has a portfolio of external and internal services, such as:

- GoTriple platform,
- Pathfinder,
- Vera,
- OPERAS Innovation Lab.





# How does OPERAS operate locally?



National Nodes to understand and strengthen local communities



OPERAS Innovation Lab for supporting novel ideas and creating community services



Open Access to services without barriers (GoTriple as an example)



## National Nodes of OPERAS aim to:

- Increase awareness of OPERAS nationally
- Build strong networks among relevant stakeholders
- Understand the specific needs of potential partners
- Tailor the dissemination of OPERAS services to meet those needs



# National Nodes for OPERAS

## Strengthen collaboration on the local level

The rapid establishment of OPERAS-IT (Italy) within 12 months initiated strong national engagement and led to the formation of H2IOSC, a collaborative cluster of humanities-focused infrastructures including CLARIN-IT, DARIAH-IT, E-RIHS.it, and OPERAS-IT.

## Trigger national discussions

OPERAS-PL (Poland), led by IBL-PAN, developed the 'Manifesto of Open Humanities', stimulating national debate on integrating open science into research assessment and policy.

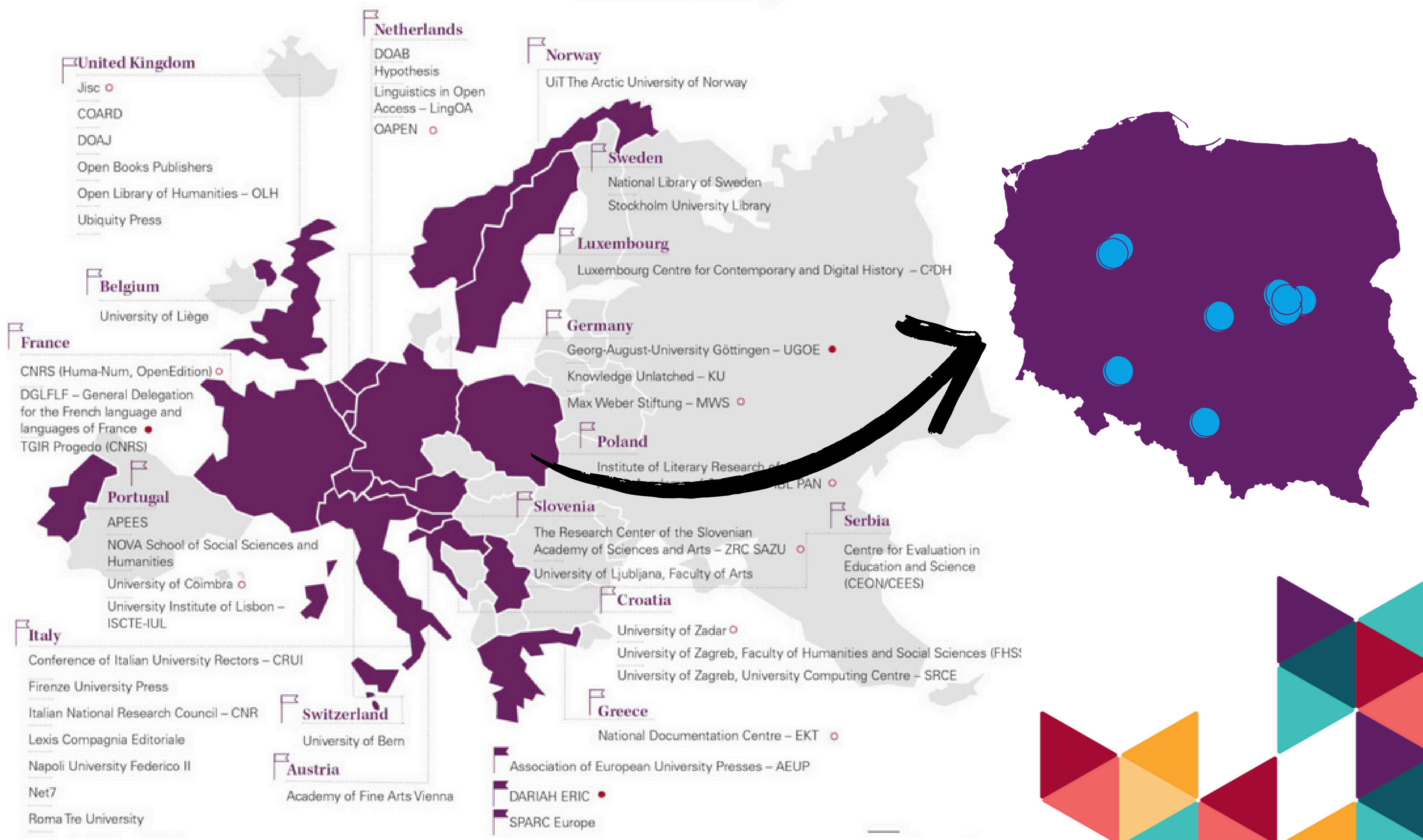
## Innovate and build new services

OPERAS-PT (Portugal), led by the University of Coimbra, contributes expertise on multilingualism and launched Mondaecus, a translation service supporting high-quality, collaborative scholarly translations.

## Promote Open Science

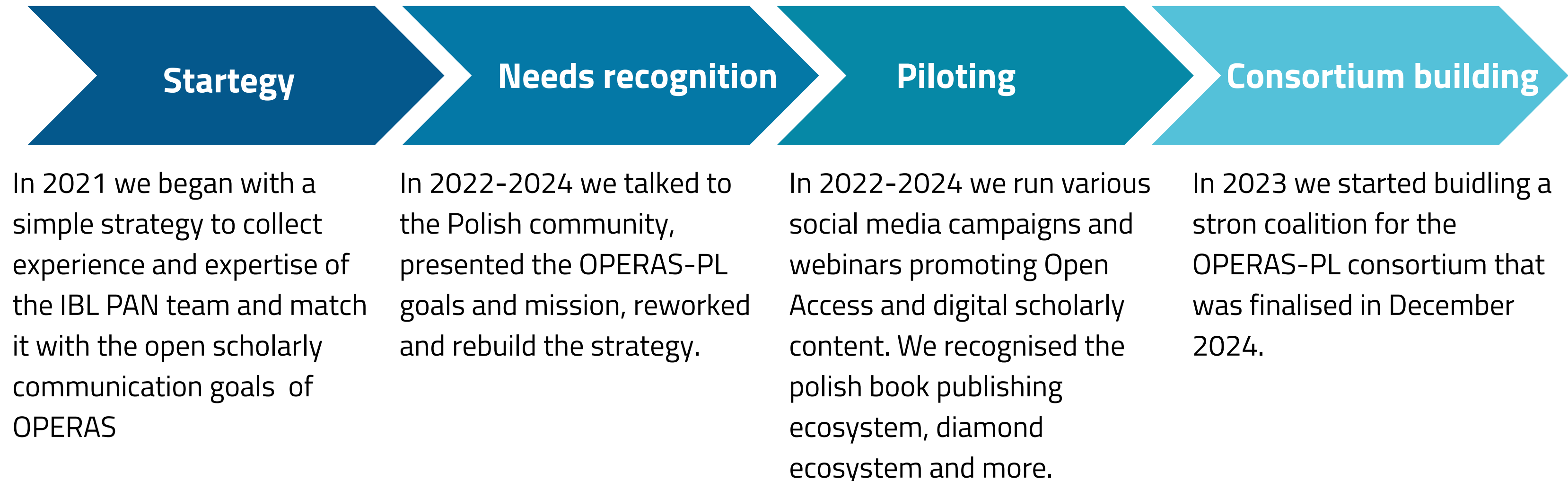
OPERAS-HR (Croatia), led by the University of Zadar, is aligning national standards with European developments by implementing services like PRISM and promoting initiatives locally, such as the Barcelona Declaration.







# Strategy first, needs recognition and piloting second, formal recognition third





# Open Humanities Manifesto

- The Manifesto text was published online in September 2024.
- By the end of 2024, it gathered over 250 institutional and individual signatures
- Institutional endorsements included various university departments, Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) institutes, foundations, research centers, and associations.

The evaluation system should include and support OS practices.

Evaluation should consider diverse outputs specific to the humanities

Need for support for publishers implementing open publishing models

Strengthening the national open science infrastructure



# Manifesto as a tool for rallying up the community



The Manifesto of Open Humanities served as a tool for integrating and mobilizing the humanities community.



It provides a roadmap for research programs and practical implementation



**Can we envision a global or European-scale manifesto, or should the focus remain more local, within individual countries to address specific issues?**

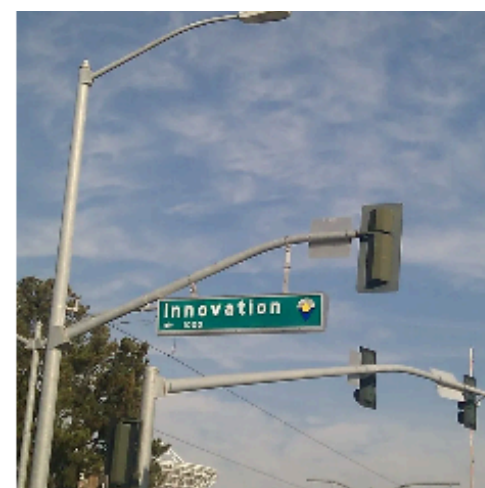
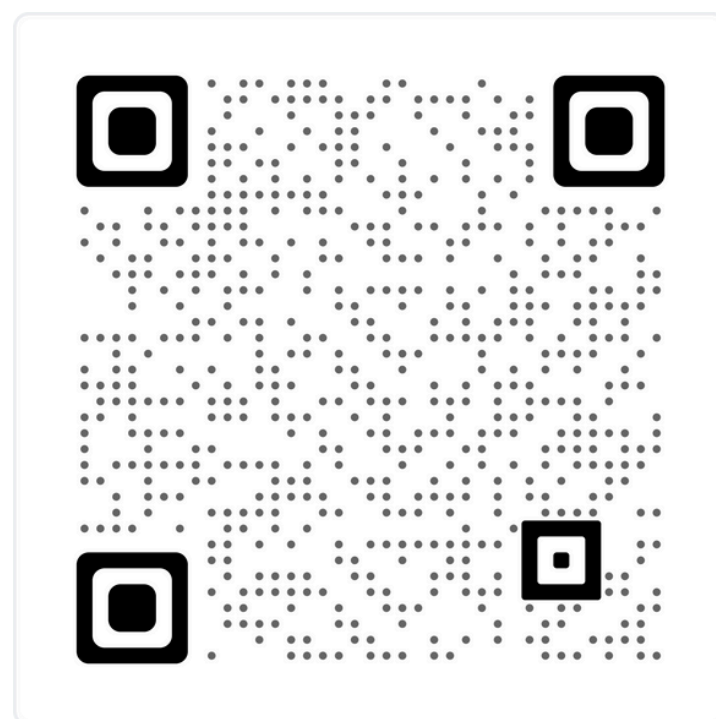






is a collaborative initiative dedicated to supporting and advancing innovative services and solutions for scholarly communication in the social sciences and humanities.

- The mission of the OPERAS Innovation Lab is to drive innovation in scholarly communication within SSH.
- Innovation Lab is for scaling up the OPERAS Research Infrastructure with the community.



### **Showcase your project on Observatory**

Share your idea for a blogpost to be published on the OPERAS Innovation Lab Observatory blog.



### **Develop your idea with Accelerator**

Pitch your idea for an innovative project to the Lab's Accelerator and get involved in our programme for pilots!



### **Explore current trends with our team**

Collaborate with Innovation Lab Observatory on research concerning innovation in SSH.



# How have we kept the community: researchers, librarians, publishers and editors involved?

## Needs recognition and codesign

- 4 case studies
- validation workshop (April 2024)

## Inviting for contribution to the Observatory

- Anyone can their idea for a blogpost to be published on the OPERAS Innovation Lab Observatory blog
- 7 guest posts published so far

## Support for community-driven and community led applications, solutions, tools

- Via the Lab's Accelerator we want to support promising ideas for advancing scholarly communication: innovative journals, new business models or IT solutions.



### Our idea Accelerator

• idea for  
ive project  
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ed in our  
amme for  
pilots!



### Explore current trends with our team

Collaborate with  
Innovation Lab  
Observatory on  
research concerning  
innovation in SSH.





## **Key takeaways**

**Research Infrastructures are knowledge keepers, but also enablers, and some of them are community-oriented scholarly led endeavours.**

**Open Access and Open Science depend on infrastructures - without them we lose our knowledge to access-restricted proprietary platforms.**

**Research infrastructures often operate locally as federated network.**



**Let's recognize the power of infrastructures  
and participate in shaping them**

# Contact us

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#OpenHumanities #OPERAS-PL

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# Thank you!

