



The holy grail of sustainability

Sustaining OpenAIRE:
Europe's Open Scholarly Communication
Infrastructure in a Global Context

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Who is OpenAIRE

- Non-profit organisation, established **Oct 2018**
- **European Scholarly Communication e-Infrastructure**
- **Federated.** Bringing together **human capital** and advanced **ICT services**
- A **network of experts** from major national organisations (National Open Access Desks) in operation since 2009

55
members

36
countries



Global Collaborations: Latin America, Canada, Japan, Korea, China,...

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European footprint. Global outreach.



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Open Scholarly Communication Infrastructure

Co-shaping & implementing Open Science. In Europe and beyond.



Network

Connecting people



Services

Implementing



Training

Building Capacities

OpenAIRE is an ecosystem of infrastructure, community, & policy

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Understanding costs

Key cost drivers

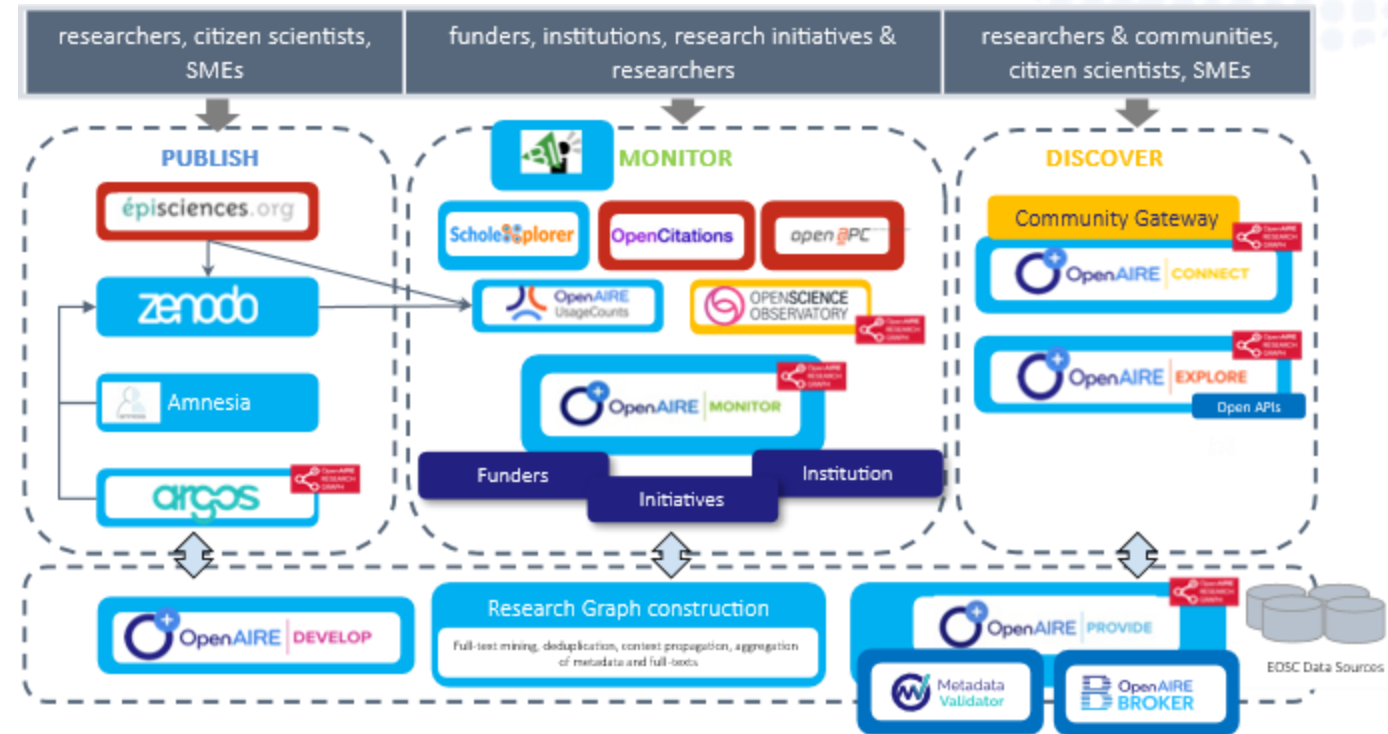
- Service operation & maintenance
- Service evolution
- Standards
- Community feedback loops
- Community training
- EOSC
- Global partnerships

Understanding costs

Additional costs to embed in community, interconnected solutions with other open infrastructure services

Key cost drivers

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Example costs: OpenAIRE Graph

The OpenAIRE Graph – core cost driver

- Aggregation, curation, deduplication, enrichment
- Ensuring quality, provenance, and AI-readiness
- **Openness, transparency, accessibility costs**

Standards & Interoperability

- OpenAIRE Guidelines as global baseline
- Continuous updates for new formats and practices

Community Approach

- Repositories, CRIS systems, and funding databases feeding content
- NOAD network coordinating national ecosystems
- **Shared responsibility reduces duplication and increases trust**

Infrastructure (Computing & Storage)

- Scaling pipelines for billions of records
- Secure, GDPR-compliant storage and services
- Growing need for **AI-ready infrastructure and GPUs** to process, enrich, and serve the Graph

Maintenance vs. Evolution

- **Maintenance:** keep pipelines, services, and QA running
- **Evolution:** expand from publications → datasets → software → workflows → ... reflecting research needs

Our cost recovery model

Funding sources

- EU projects, NOAD fees

Cost recovery strategies

- Tiered subscriptions for selected services, national deployments, SLA support, training services

Partnerships

- EOSC EU Node, Data Spaces, ministries, Research Infrastructures

Current mix: ~50–60% EU projects, balance from fees & subscriptions.

Challenges

Funding/project cycles

- Unstable – cannot plan
- Demand is growing (AI, EOSC, global)

Service subscription

- Perception of open is free or open is cheap
- SLAs are demanding, with before, after “sales” support

Europe

No long-term procurement model, weak ERA/EOSC governance anchoring, limited cost/impact benchmarks

Global

Fragmented funding, no joint sustainability mechanisms

What meaningful support looks like - abstractly

- **Europe:** secure baseline EU funding, national commitments, procurement frameworks
- **Community:** incentives for institutions/funders to invest in open infrastructures
- **Global:** shared investments in standards, corpora, services to counterbalance commercial silos

What meaningful support looks like - **concretely**

Stable European baseline funding for core infrastructure (computing, storage, Graph, AI-ready GPUs)

National co-financing via subscriptions and tailored service agreements for maintenance costs of services

Support for standards & community networks (repositories, CRIS, funders, NOADs)

Evolution of services via competitive funding

Back Europe's global role in shaping the open knowledge commons

FACT

OpenAIRE delivers European sovereignty
at a fraction of commercial cost.

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THANK YOU