



OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING IN AUSTRIA

SLOVAK OPEN SCIENCE FORUM, NOVEMBER 14TH, 2024

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Key players in Austria



Austrian Academic Library Consortium

- ✓ Since 2005
- ✓ **60+** institutions: HEIs, research institutions..
- ✓ Coordination of licensing & acquisition
- ✓ **No central funding** for agreements, all **opt-in**
- ✓ **2014**: first **Open Access** publishing agreement



FWF Austrian Science Fund

- ✓ Funding body for basic science
- ✓ **Supporter of OA** and Open Science: mandates
- ✓ Founding member of **cOAlition S**
- ✓ Up until 2023: KEMÖ member
- ✓ Since 2024: **block grant for OA publishing**



Austrian Transition to Open Access

- ✓ Collaborative project of 24 institutions
- ✓ 2017-2020, 2021-2024
- ✓ Support for transformative agreements

Transformative agreements – our goals

- ✓ **Transform** Austria's scholarly publications from closed **to open access**, one agreement at a time
- ✓ **Cost-neutral conversion** of read-only agreements to transformative deals
- ✓ Authors' **compliance with funder policies**: FWF, EU etc.
- ✓ Reduce administrative burden on authors and institutions

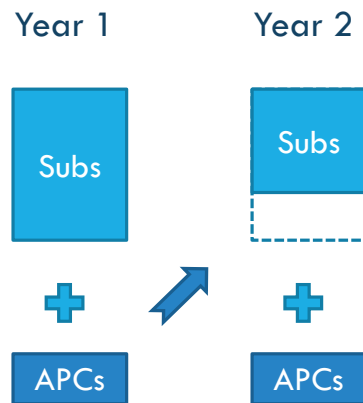
Transformative agreements – some of the shared features

- ✓ **Open to all institutions in the consortium**
- ✓ **Corresponding Authors** from participating institutions can publish at no additional costs **in journals** covered by the agreements

First agreements: Offsetting deals

IOP Publishing
(2014-2022)

 Taylor & Francis Group
an informa business
(2014-2023)



Achievements:

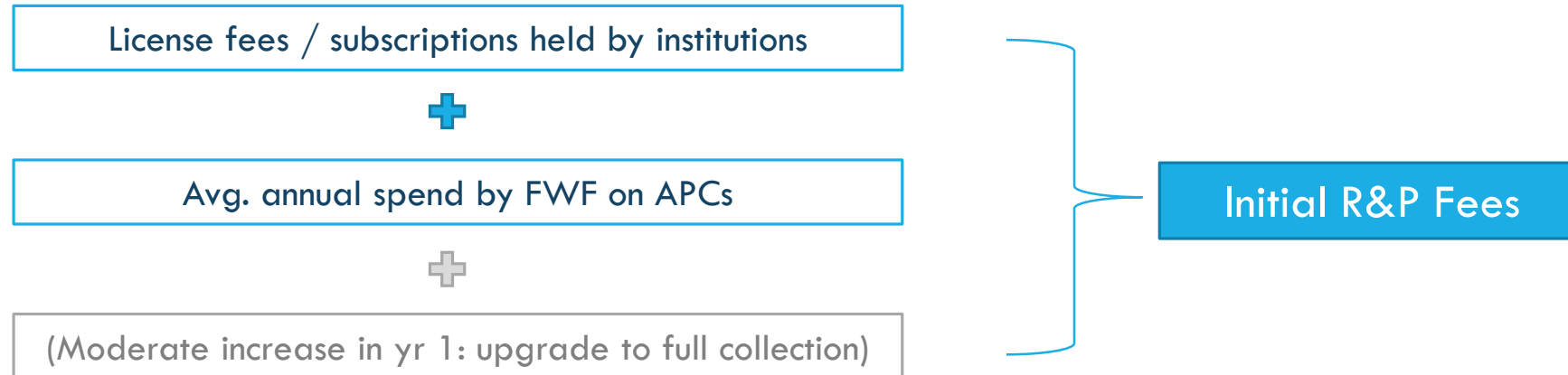
- OA publishing
- No double-dipping

Challenges:

- Labour intensive both for publishers and libraries
- Still closely tied to historic spend

Read and Publish agreements since 2016

- Usually 3 years + optional 2 years
- Annual lump sum negotiated: covers reading and publishing



R&P agreements cont'd – what is included?

READING

- ✓ Usually full collection
- ✓ Archival rights

OA PUBLISHING

- ✓ **Hybrid** and wherever possible: in **fully OA journals**
- ✓ First come first served across the consortium



- ✓ Either **unlimited number of articles** can be published
OA or, **if capped: allocation exceeding our needs** – if this
is not the case, very problematic

Read and Publish agreements since 2016

Consortium agreements



+ 1 new publisher from 2025



Institutional agreements
ex.: Uni. Vienna



Subscribe to Open (S2O)

- ✓ publishers **convert journals from subscriptions to OA, one year at a time.**
- ✓ a journal's current subscribers invited to **continue with their subscription.**
- ✓ **If all current subscribers participate:** the **publisher opens the content** covered by that year's subscription.
- ✓ **If participation not sufficient:** that year's **content remains behind a paywall.**

The offer is repeated every year, with the opening of each year's content contingent on sufficient participation. In some cases, access to backfile content may be used to enhance the offer.

Subscribe to Open (S2O)- KEMÖ agreements



- Started out as a R&P agreement in 2019
- Converted to S2O.
- We get extra perks:
 - ✓ Archival rights
 - ✓ Publishing in fully OA journals at no extra costs
 - ✓ If global threshold not reached: KEMÖ authors can still publish OA in hybrid and fully OA journals without any additional costs
 - ✓ All consortium members are covered



- Potentially from 2025 (currently: read-only agreement)
- ASM proposes to introduce S2O from 2025
- KEMÖ currently reviewing proposed terms:
 - ✓ Subscribers continue to pay subscription fees
 - ✓ Publishing: **page charges** introduced for ALL, albeit at a somewhat discounted rate for subscribers



DE GRUYTER



Taylor & Francis Group
an informa business



Also experimenting with S2O models. De Gruyter with 50+ titles for 2025

Fully Open Access Publishing – APC-based

- Consortium Agreement with MDPI:

- Discount on APCs
- streamlined invoicing,
- but no annual prepaid flat fee

- Institutions - local agreements

i.e.: University of Vienna: Frontiers, BMC/Springer Open:

- discounted APC & streamlined invoicing, but no annual prepaid fee

Support for diamond initiatives

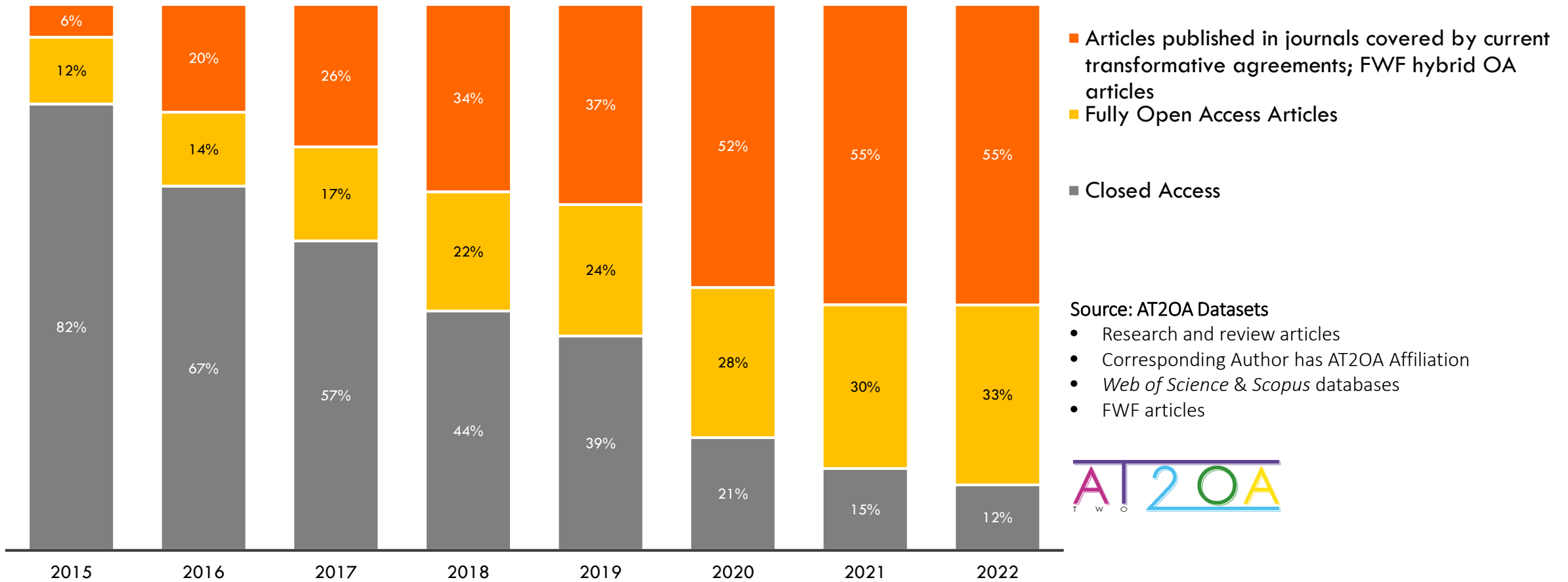
Mainly funded and supported via **institutional channels** (rather than consortial agreements)

Ex.: **University of Vienna Open Access Office:**

- **Publishing:** Open Journals System (OJS)
 - ✓ Joint service provided by the Library and IT Center
 - ✓ Currently 27 journals (Humanities, Social Sciences, and Law)
 - ✓ Advisory role
 - ✓ Strengthening Diamond OA planned (e.g., a new position for OJS starting in 2024)
- **Support for Diamond & alternative publishing initiatives:**
Open Library of Humanities, SciPost, Knowledge Unlatched, SCOAP3 (coordinated by OBVSG), etc.
- **Support for OA infrastructure, ex.: DOAJ**



Where are we now? Open Access coverage



FWF (Austrian Science Fund) – block grant

FWF Austrian Science Fund - Block grant since 2024

Purpose: support the funding of OA publications resulting entirely or in part from FWF-funded projects.

BEFORE

Funding of OA publications:

- FWF: consortium member up until 2023
- Participated in some of the consortium agreements: Wiley, Springer Compact, etc.
- Bilateral contracts with some fully OA publishers
- FWF was also directly dealing with researchers on refunding APCs

FWF Austrian Science Fund - block grant from 2024

AFTER - from January 1st 2024

- block grant to research performing institutions (such as the University of Vienna) once a year
- institutions manage locally the costs of OA publishing on behalf of FWF authors
- the funding can also be used for transformative agreements BUT:
 - ✓ must be negotiated before the end of 2024
 - ✓ only until December 31, 2027.

FWF Österreichischer Wissenschaftsfonds - block grant from 2024

How is it going?

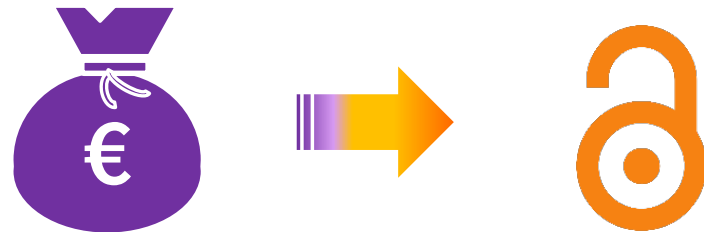
University of Vienna experience, with a lot of FWF grants:

- so far so good
- clear benefits of integrated, centralised workflows at researcher's „home“ institution
- communication with researchers key

New consortial cost-sharing model

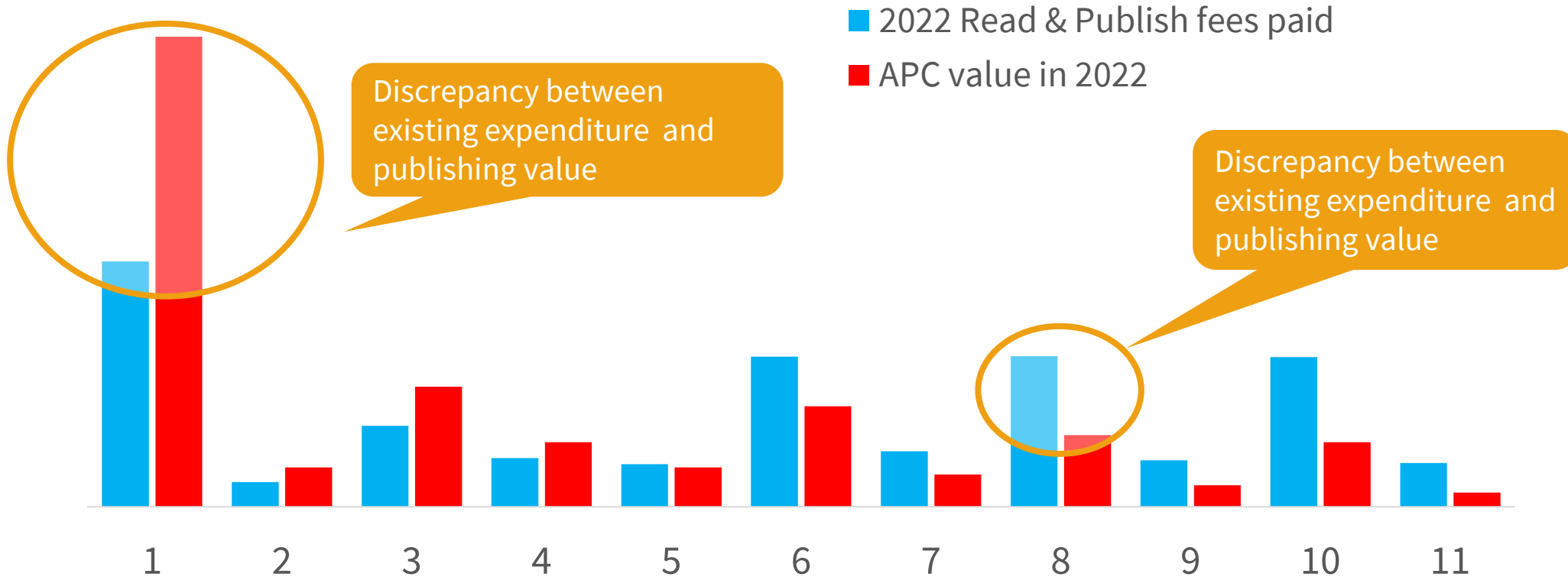
New cost sharing model: member pricing until 2019

- **Cost-neutral** conversion of read-only agreements to...
- mostly **Read & Publish** Agreements
- **Lump sum** to publisher
- Based on **legacy spend**
- **No** internal **cost-sharing mechanism**



Why a cost-sharing model?

Example: Read and Publish agreement with Publisher X, Institutions 1-11



Consortium-wide consultation & review

Making this financial move **in one go: too challenging** for institutions.

2019: first transformative cost-sharing model: „Tiering Model“

2022: further consultation and review

MODEL REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ a **gradual shift** towards publishing-based costs
- ✓ while **preserving a „reading“ element**
- ✓ has to be relatively **simple** and
- ✓ **transparent**
- ✓ **rational**

New model - parameters

based on Dr Nina Schönfelder's smooth transition model*



of publications by the institution



Publisher's OA share within its hybrid portfolio



Article Processing Charges



Existing (subscription) spend with publisher

1

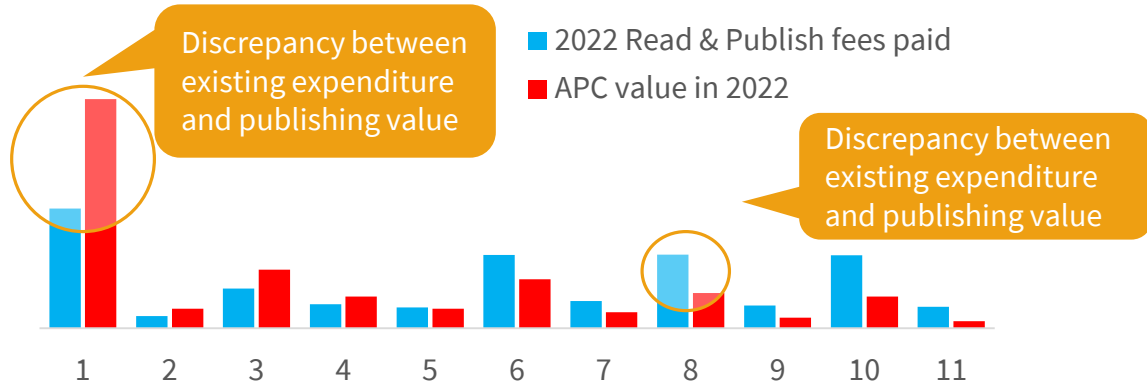
Starting point: institution's existing spend

2

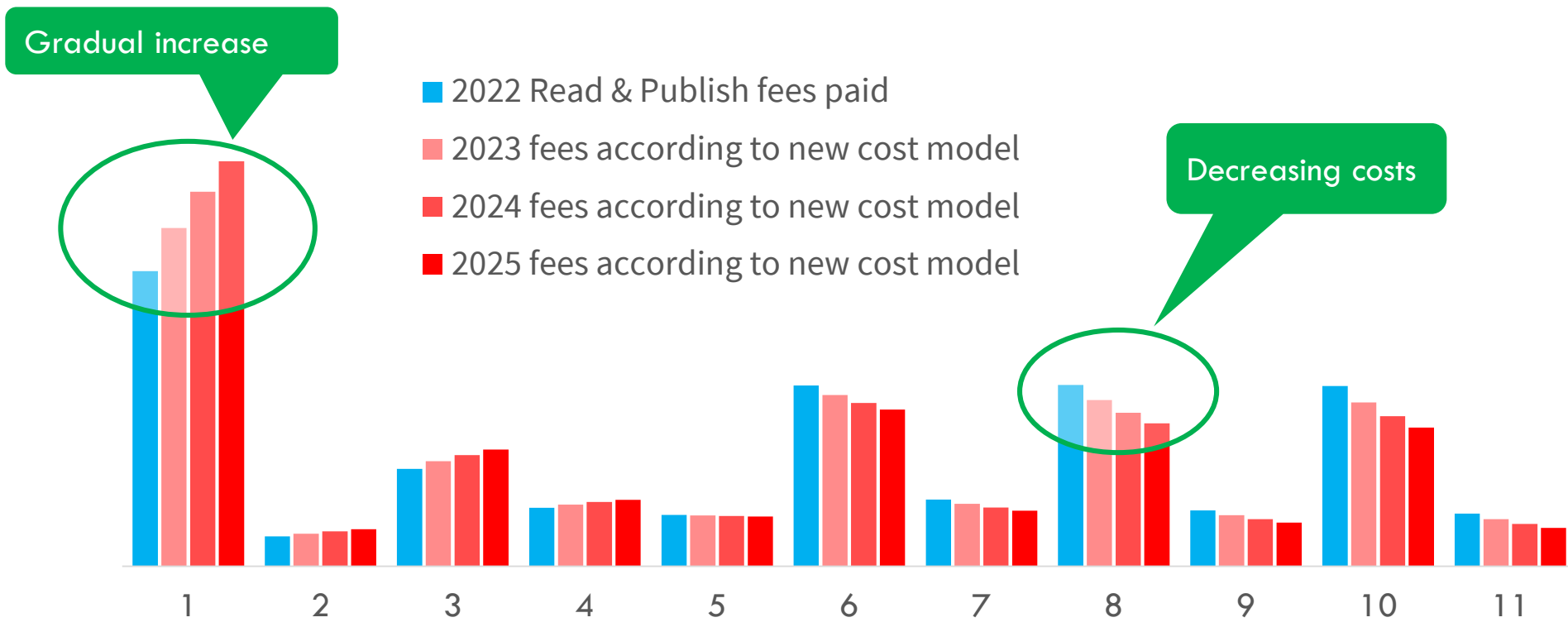
As publisher's OA-share grows, the publishing component of the fee becomes more prominent

BEFORE

Example: Read & Publish agreement with Publisher X, Institutions 1-11



AFTER

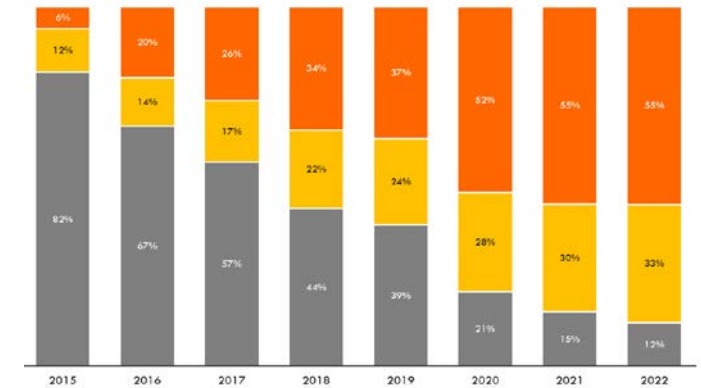


- ✓ Still an annual **lump sum**
- ✓ **Predictable:** we set the fees for the duration of the agreement
- ✓ **Prepares institutions** for an article-based economy
- ✓ **Individual pricing** for each institution

Reflections on our OA journey so far

We have come a long way:

- through our agreements, we have successfully opened up our publishing output one publisher at a time
- process of reallocation of funding within consortium started successfully



Challenges ahead:

- hard to break away from historic spend, questions of sustainability remain
- global level:
 - question of equity
 - Transition to OA appears to have slowed down

Thank you!



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