

# DIAMOND OPEN ACCESS

## Strengthening the ecosystem

Dr Bregt Saenen

Senior Policy Officer, Science Europe



# DEFINING 'DIAMOND' OA

'Diamond' OA refers to a scholarly publication model in which journals and platforms **do not charge fees to either authors or readers**. They:

- ◆ represent **community-driven, academic-led and -owned** publishing initiatives,
- ◆ serve a fine-grained variety of **generally small-scale, multilingual, and multicultural scholarly communities**, these journals and platforms embody the concept of bibliodiversity, and
- ◆ are **equitable by nature and design**.



# OA DIAMOND JOURNALS STUDY

## ◆ Findings

- ◆ A survey of 1619 journals, and focus group interviews.
- ◆ An archipelago of 17k - 29k journals (11.5k in DOAJ)
- ◆ 60.6% in SSH, 17.1% in medicine, 22.2% in science
- ◆ 44% of OA journal publishing, and 8-9% of total publishing volume (compare 10-11% for APC Gold)

## ◆ Main challenges identified

- ◆ Technical capacity, management, visibility, and sustainability

## ◆ Main recommendation

- ◆ More dialogue and commitment are needed between researchers, Research Funding Organisations (RFOs), Research Performing Organisations (RPOs), university libraries, university presses & departments, scholarly societies, and ministries



Findings

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4558704>



Recommendations

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4562790>

SCIENCE  
EUROPE  
Shaping the future of research

Plan S  
Making full & immediate  
Open Access a reality

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

anr®

# ACTION PLAN FOR DIAMOND OA

- ◆ The '[Action Plan for Diamond OA](#)' aims to **substantially increase the capacity of Diamond journals to provide innovative, valid, reliable, and accessible publishing services**. It is the next step in the collective process to strengthen Diamond OA.
- ◆ The Action Plan was prepared by Science Europe, cOAlition S, OPERAS, and the French National Research Agency (ANR). It was discussed and reviewed by their member organisations and international experts at a [workshop held online on 2 February 2022](#), sponsored by the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.
- ◆ Interested organisations and individuals are welcome to join the Diamond OA community by endorsing the Action Plan via <https://scieur.org/diamond-endorsement>



# CENTRAL ELEMENTS

- ◆ Priority objectives are to further improve the efficiency, quality standards, capacity building, and sustainability of Diamond OA.
- ◆ Focus on alignment and building common resources for Diamond OA journals, platforms, and the whole ecosystem.
- ◆ Respect for the cultural, multilingual, and disciplinary diversity that constitutes the strength of Diamond OA.



# EFFICIENCY

Diamond Open Access currently represents an archipelago of relatively isolated journals and platforms. They would benefit from sharing common resources. The action plan proposes to undertake the following actions to increase efficiency and economies of scale:

- ◆ Align quality, create sustainability, and build trust for all stakeholders via shared infrastructures, standards, policies, practices, and funding streams.
- ◆ Make technical services and operations more accessible, interoperable, and streamlined.
- ◆ Build synergies between Diamond journals in the same discipline, geographical location, or language via a network of existing organisations, groups, and societies.



# QUALITY STANDARDS

Diamond Open Access journals and platforms have different practices to ensure quality standards rooted in historical, cultural, and disciplinary diversity. To raise and flexibly align the quality profile of the ecosystem, the action plan proposes to undertake the following actions:

- ◆ Flexibly align existing standards and best practises for OA publishing in co-creation with Diamond journal communities.
- ◆ Specify quality standards for core components of scholarly publishing and explore their alignment across the Diamond Open Access ecosystem.
- ◆ Develop a self-assessment tool to assess the quality standards for Diamond journals and platforms to assist progress towards meeting the international framework for Diamond publishing.





# CAPACITY BUILDING

Diamond Open Access journals and platforms differ in terms of editorial and management skills. To build capacity, the action plan proposes to consecutively undertake the following actions:

- ◆ Build capacity through the creation of tools for Diamond academic publishing. Training materials for institutional editors and service providers, quality standards for journals, author and reviewer policies and guidelines that will be made available in a Common Access Point.
- ◆ Engage researchers, RFOs, RPOs, university libraries, university presses, faculties, departments, research institutes, scholarly societies, ministries to make them aware of their roles in Diamond Open Access.
- ◆ Reach out to scholars with a targeted communication strategy about Diamond Open Access publishing.
- ◆ Create a dedicated nonprofit Capacity Center for Diamond Publishing that provides technical, financial, and training services to Diamond journals and platforms, governed by the Diamond community.





# SUSTAINABILITY

Although Diamond Open Access journals and platforms are scholar-owned and -led, their legal status and governance is often unspecified. Moreover, their revenue streams often depend on a patchwork of in-kind contributions, funding by various types of institutions, and temporary grant money. The action plan proposes to undertake the following actions:

- ◆ Develop a framework to ensure that the ownership and governance of Diamond Open Access journal titles and platforms is legally recognised and protected.
- ◆ Seek an understanding of the costs of Diamond Open Access and promote transparent financial administrative good practices to inform all stakeholders.
- ◆ Promote a more balanced distribution of financial support between different forms of Open Access scholarly publishing.
- ◆ Strive to ensure that the full range of operational costs of Diamond publishing is carried by a network of institutions.
- ◆ Develop a coordinated financial mechanism that will deliver these various sources of funding to Diamond Open Access journals, infrastructures, and the *Capacity Centre for Diamond Publishing*.



# THE PROCESS CONTINUES...

- ◆ The Action Plan will initially be taken forward under the umbrella of the Horizon Europe project 'Developing Institutional Open Access Publishing Models to Advance Scholarly Communication' (DIAMAS; 2022–2025) with the ultimate aim of the Diamond Open Access community taking over its long-term implementation.
- ◆ Interested organisations and individuals are welcome to join the Diamond OA community by endorsing the Action Plan via <https://scieur.org/diamond-endorsement>
  - ◇ Endorsement does not entail any financial commitment
  - ◇ Endorsement makes the signatory part of the Diamond OA community and engages them in the creation of conditions that will strengthen the Diamond sector as outlined in the Action Plan
  - ◇ An overview of endorsing persons and organisations is publicly available at <https://scieur.org/diamond-actionplan>



The background features decorative geometric patterns in the corners. The top-left and bottom-left corners have a green pattern of nested squares and diamonds. The top-right and bottom-right corners have a blue pattern of nested squares and diamonds. The central area is white.

# QUESTIONS?

Contact: [bregt.saenen@scienceeurope.org](mailto:bregt.saenen@scienceeurope.org)

<https://sci eur.org/diamond-endorsement>