



Outcomes and Recommendations

Maximising Equity in Open and Responsible Research

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Outcomes: Four Areas of Concern



Co-Creating Recommendations



Funders



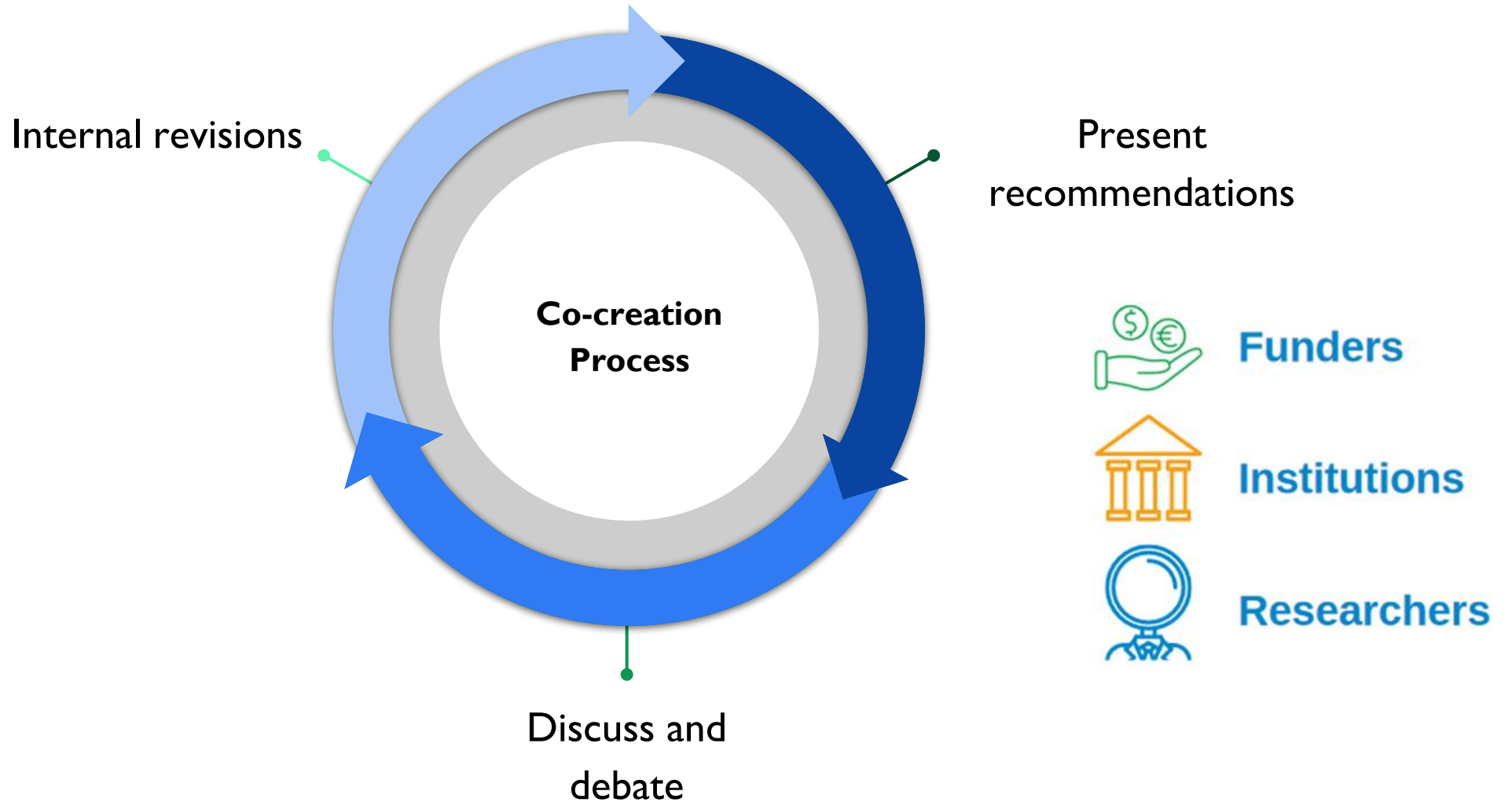
Institutions



Researchers



Co-Creating Recommendations





Global Thinking

ON-MERRIT recommendations
for maximising equity in open
and responsible research



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Researchers

Find it on our website <https://on-merrit.eu/> under Results, listed as D6.4,
and at this link <https://zenodo.org/record/6276753#.Yi8GlzUo98I>



The Problem of Resource-Intensity

We found that (Correia et al. 2021a):

- There is a disconnect between awareness of the importance of OR and RRI and uptake
- Training for OR practices is low and there is low integration of OR topics in formal curricula
- Institutions lack (enough) qualified research support staff to train on OR





Recommendations

Areas of focus include: training, institutional requirements and support, sharing of knowledge and resources, transparency of costs, and monitoring.



1. Funders, institutions and researchers should encourage and support the use of sustainable, shared Open Research tools, training materials, and infrastructure, to foster inclusivity, reduce costs and promote open standards.



Good services require human and financial resources. More equitable distribution of access to such services would be helped through greater emphasis on sharing of infrastructure and materials.

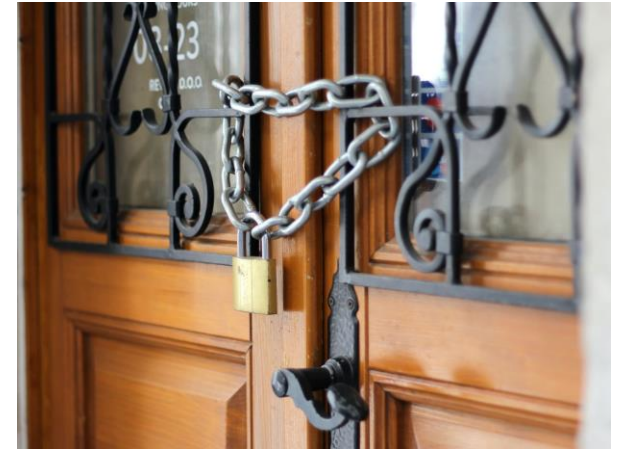




The Problem of APCs and Stratification

We found that (Pride et al. 2021):

- Well-resourced actors are more likely to publish OA and in journals with high APCs
- Well-resourced institutions are best able to adopt, adapt to and benefit from OA publishing





Recommendations

Areas of focus include: cost transparency, support for open repositories and author self-archiving, alternative publishing models and open infrastructure.



- 2. Funders, institutions and researchers should support alternative publishing models where those show potential to be more inclusive, including consortial funding models for open publishing infrastructures which support Open Access publishing with no author-facing charges.**

Alternative models to support Open Access journals which include no author-facing charges, including consortial-funding models or “Diamond Open Access”, should be strongly supported to spread costs amongst institutions and funders.





The Problem of Societal Inclusion

We found that (Cole et al. 2021; Rodrigues et al. 2021):

- Uptake hinges on relationships and upstream engagement
- The pool of researchers who has access to the science-policy interface is small and the world's poorest and most vulnerable remain excluded from open research and policy-making





Societal Inclusion in Research and Policy-Making

Areas of focus include: best practices in socially-inclusive research, funding and support for societal and policy engagement, broadening inclusion and diversity, and open sharing of understandable outputs



1. Funders, institutions and researchers should support mutual understanding between all stakeholders (including funders, institutions, researchers and wider societal actors) regarding good practices and key challenges and opportunities in socially-inclusive research.

Socially-inclusive research is currently not well supported by funders and research institutions, despite existing investments in Open Research and RRI. Those who conduct it (or wish to) often face hurdles and biases when applying for and using funding, and at the institutional and departmental level, where participatory research is considered 'soft' science and/or 'care work' by some. It is therefore critical that funders, institutions and researchers build upon existing frameworks and principles to develop a shared understanding of what socially-inclusive research is, why it is important, and how it can be supported and fostered.





The Problem of Reward & Recognition

We found that (Pontika et al. 2021):

- Criteria related to open and responsible research are rare within the policies of research-performing institutions
- Researchers value qualitative factors like collaboration, collegiality, mentoring and quality in the research process





Recommendations

Areas of focus include: changing assessment culture and practices, flexible assessment, collaborative multi-stakeholder redefinition of assessment, sharing of best practices, sustainable career pathways.



1. Funders and institutions should support a change in assessment culture, moving beyond narrow quantitative indicators (e.g., of publication and funding acquisition) to value quality, openness (where appropriate), collaboration and responsibility in research, and recognise the full range of academic tasks.

Reform of research assessment to value open practices must come as part of a broader conversation about cultures of assessment, including a shift of focus from research outputs (i.e., publications) to broader research behaviours. The aim should not be to perform open practices per se, but to institutionalise these as part of standard research practice where appropriate. In addition, research as a collaborative activity could be better recognised if rewards were focused less on the performance of individuals and more on research teams.





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<https://zenodo.org/record/6276753#.YjCHITUo98I>

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References

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