

## Advancing a publicly owned and not-for-profit scholarly communication ecosystem based on the principles of open science

23 May 2023

**Joint response by the European University Association (EUA), Science Europe, Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER), European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA), Association of ERC Grantees (AERG), Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA), European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers (Eurodoc), cOAlition S, OPERAS, and French National Research Agency (ANR).**

We welcome the adoption by the Council of the European Union (EU) of the [conclusions on high-quality, transparent, open, trustworthy, and equitable scholarly publishing](#). As key public research and innovation actors in Europe, we are committed to supporting the development of a publicly owned, not-for-profit scholarly communication ecosystem in collaboration with policymakers in Europe and beyond.

We urge EU Member States and institutions to continue their efforts towards a high-quality, transparent, open, trustworthy and equitable scholarly communication ecosystem, through stakeholder engagement (such as [OSEC2022](#)), and with evidence-based reforms underpinned by the principles of open science defined by the '[UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#)'. Upcoming opportunities for dialogue and reform include the European Research Area Policy Agenda 2025-27 and the post-2027 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. National and regional authorities should further support these efforts with their own funding schemes and regulatory frameworks.

### Advancing scholarly communication

Scholarly knowledge is a public good and publicly funded research outputs should be immediately and openly available to all without barriers such as subscription fees or paywalls. This is essential in driving knowledge forward, promoting innovation, and tackling social issues. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the significant benefits of transparent and open research practices, especially in expediting the development of safe and effective vaccines. Open science can provide similar benefits for addressing other significant challenges that our societies are confronting.

The Council conclusions indicate a strong consensus among EU Member States towards promoting scholarly publishing that is of high quality, transparent, open, trustworthy, and equitable. While more specific proposals and details will need to be clarified, developed, and, if necessary, adjusted in consultation with the public research and innovation sector, many aspects of the conclusions can have significant implications for the direction of scholarly communication systems.

Some initiatives called for in the Council conclusions are already being pursued by the sector. Notable examples include backing for not-for-profit open access publishing models (cf. [‘Action Plan for Diamond Open Access’](#), launched in March 2022 and since then garnering endorsement from numerous key organisations and individuals in the public research and innovation sector), a request for more dependable and comparable data on the state of scholarly communication (cf. [‘Journal Comparison Service’](#)), as well as an emphasis on infrastructure development (cf. [OPERAS](#)), among other initiatives.

### Advancing through dialogue

The constructive dialogue between policymakers and the public research and innovation sector is a key success factor for the transition to open science. It has led to advancements in various initiatives, including the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and the future of Open Research Europe (ORE). Equally, efforts are being made to reform research assessment systems, as [previously promoted by the Council](#). The recently created Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) is a step in the right direction. These initiatives aim to ensure public ownership of publicly-funded research and its results, thereby unlocking the full potential of an interoperable, not-for-profit scholarly communication ecosystem.

Policymakers at the regional, national, and EU levels have the means to support frameworks for advancing towards not-for-profit scholarly communication. Universities, research organisations, funders, libraries, societies, infrastructures, and researchers at all stages of their careers are critical partners in the dialogue to develop and implement these reforms. They are essential to ensure reforms will take into account the diverse needs of different scientific and scholarly communities.

In summary, we welcome the Council’s encouragement of initiatives that align with the objective of developing a not-for-profit scholarly communication ecosystem. Our organisations and the members we represent are dedicated to building on existing initiatives from our sector and fostering a constructive dialogue with policymakers. Moving forward, we will launch activities that will further engage our members in shaping the future of scholarly communication. With this shared vision and collective action, we can work towards achieving a more innovative, economically sustainable, and impactful scholarly communication ecosystem.

## Signed by



### EUA

The European University Association (EUA) is the largest and most comprehensive organisation representing higher education institutions in Europe. EUA has more than 850 member universities and national rectors' conferences in 49 European countries. EUA members champion more than 20 million learners, researchers, teachers and administrative staff and are crucial to the development of the continent's cultures, societies and economies. EUA plays a central role in influencing European policies on higher education, research and innovation. Through continuous interaction with policy makers at all levels, EUA ensures that the independent voice of European universities is heard.

Learn more: [www.eua.eu](http://www.eua.eu)



### Science Europe

Science Europe is the association of major research funding and research performing organisations in Europe. Our vision is for the European Research Area to provide the optimal conditions to support robust education and research & innovation systems. We define long-term perspectives for European research and champion best-practice approaches that enable high-quality research for knowledge advancement and the needs of society. We are uniquely placed to lead advancements to the European Research Area and inform global developments through participation in research initiatives where science is a strong and trusted component of sustainable economic, environmental, and societal development.

Learn more: [www.scienceeurope.org](http://www.scienceeurope.org)



### LIBER

LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche - Association of European Research Libraries) is the largest network of research libraries in Europe with over 400 member institutions from more than 40 countries across Europe. LIBER was established in 1971 with the aim of promoting and advocating for the interests of research libraries, facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing, and contributing to the advancement of research and scholarship. Its members include national, university, and other research libraries, as well as library organisations. LIBER provides a platform for its members to exchange ideas, best practices, and expertise through various activities, such as conferences, workshops, and working groups.

Learn more: [www.libereurope.eu](http://www.libereurope.eu)



### ALLEA

ALLEA is the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, representing more than 50 academies from over 40 countries in Europe. Since its foundation in 1994, ALLEA speaks out on behalf of its members on the European and international stages, promotes science as a global public good, and facilitates scientific collaboration across borders and disciplines.

Learn more: [www.allea.org](http://www.allea.org)



Association of ERC Grantees

### AERG

Over 11K scientists to date have benefited from the European Research Council's mission to support excellent science, across national borders, across disciplines and across the scientific career. To give a voice to this outstanding community, the Association of ERC Grantees was created in 2020 as an international non-profit association under Belgian Law. Its core missions are to build and sustain a science-based community through networking and exchange amongst its members, to communicate with the wider public about the key role of fundamental research in knowledge-based societies through outreach and community activities, and to promote and advocate excellence-based, bottom-up, frontier science funding in Europe, as exemplified by the European Research Council.

Learn more: [www.aerg.eu](http://www.aerg.eu)



### **The Marie Curie Alumni Association**

The Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) is an international non-profit organization established and supported by the European Commission but entirely run by volunteer members and with a bottom-up approach at its core. MCAA members have in common to benefit or have benefitted from MSCA funding, therefore sharing a strong background in research while covering all career stages from all disciplines and a wide diversity of career paths. This exceptional diversity makes the MCAA a unique platform for debate and science policy advising. The MCAA offers lifelong career development support, networking, and advocacy, effectively extending the once-obtained MSCA support into the entire career of beneficiaries with the aim of progressing the whole society.

Learn more: [www.mariecuriealumni.eu](http://www.mariecuriealumni.eu)



The European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers

### **Eurodoc**

Eurodoc, the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers, is a grassroots federation of 26 national associations of early-career researchers (ECRs) from 24 countries across Europe. Eurodoc was established in 2002 and is based in Brussels. As a representative of doctoral candidates and junior researchers at the European level, Eurodoc engages with all major stakeholders in research and innovation in Europe.

Learn more: [www.eurodoc.net](http://www.eurodoc.net)



### **cOAlition S**

cOAlition S is an international consortium of research funding and performing organisations supporting Plan S, an initiative for Open Access publishing that was launched in September 2018. Plan S requires that, with effect from 2021, all scholarly publications on the results from research funded by public or private grants provided by national, regional, and international research councils and funding bodies must be published in Open Access Journals, on Open Access Platforms, or made immediately available through Open Access Repositories without embargo.

Learn more: [www.coalition-s.org](http://www.coalition-s.org)



### **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.

Learn more: [www.operas-eu.org](http://www.operas-eu.org)



### **ANR**

The French National Research Agency (ANR) is the funding agency for project-based research in France. The Agency, a public institution under the authority of the Ministry in charge of Research, aims to fund and promote the development of fundamental and targeted research, technical innovation and technology transfer, as well as partnerships between research teams from public and private sectors at national, European, and international levels. The ANR is also the main operator of France 2030 investment plan in the field of higher education and research. The ANR has ISO 9001 certification for all its project selection processes.

Learn more: [www.anr.fr](http://www.anr.fr)