

ON THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABILITY: PAVING THE WAY FOR  
OPERAS AS AN EFFICIENT OPEN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES  
SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

# Roadmap for the Implementation of OPERAS national nodes - final

**OPERAS-PLUS D7.3**

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## Deliverable 7.3

### Roadmap for the Implementation of OPERAS national nodes

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## Abstract

This document provides the final roadmap for the implementation of OPERAS national nodes: communities built with the aim of establishing a connection point to each national community of the OPERAS Research Infrastructure, connecting relevant stakeholders in individual countries and attending to specific needs. The document defines a common approach to all 13 existing nodes for engaging communities and providing OPERAS services nationally, establishing a vision, strategy, requirements and metrics for their development.

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| DOAS   | Diamond Open Access Assessment Standard   |
| EC     | European Commission   |
| ERA    | European Research Area  |
| ERIC   | European Research Infrastructure Consortium   |
| KPI    | Key Performance Indicator(s)  |
| OA     | Open Access   |
| OCT    | OPERAS Coordination Team  |
| OPERAS | Open Scholarly Communication in the European Research Area for Social Sciences and Humanities |
| RI     | Research Infrastructure(s)  |
| SSH    | Social Sciences and Humanities  |
| SIG    | Special Interest Group  |
| TRIPLE | Transforming Research through Innovative Practices for Linked Interdisciplinary Exploration   |
| VERA   | Virtual Ecosystem for Research Activation   |
| WP     | Work Package  |

# 1. Introduction

This deliverable presents a final and updated version of the Roadmap for the implementation of the OPERAS National Nodes. As clear from the name itself, the idea of the roadmap is to provide a structure and a guide for the establishment of the national communities that are critical for the reach of the Research Infrastructure objectives around the European Research Area (ERA). OPERAS national nodes are not only representative of the infrastructure's goals and pillars, but reflect back to the so-called central hub (the core organisational team based in Brussels), the grassroots, the needs and the trends of a diversity of communities comprising not only researchers, but also librarians, editors, publishers, and others.

The second roadmap is established under the same basic structure of the first one, with very localised adjustments, refinement, and three new sections: this introduction, the new section on the current stages of each node, and an annexes section with supporting documents that were developed under the tasks of the OPERAS-PLUS project.

The vision is still the same as before; the team has clarified some of the phrasing and specified some parts such as the description of the National Nodes committee, that used to be called National Nodes exchange. These meetings between all the nodes and the central hub liaison person together with the OPERAS communication team reveal how the planned structure has been already put in place during the almost three years of the OPERAS-PLUS project. And the exchange in place is contemplating not only the members of OPERAS-PLUS, but overall the national nodes representatives, bringing them to the table to discuss about challenges, to create solutions and to find new ways to engage and attend to the communities' needs, supporting both the individual development of each node and their collective growth.

As well as a more clear vision and strategy, the updated version of the roadmap slightly refines the requirements and firmly establishes the metrics definition. This is a relevant step forward, given that everything that is monitored can be better managed. The definition of basic metrics and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are not only a means of combining numbers, but a simple way of advancing feasible, realistic objectives and goals.

The new section 6 of the roadmap can be seen as a consultation manual to keep track of each node's idiosyncrasies and specificities, and to keep following their development along the next years, when these current activities will keep being updated using the template in Annex B.

Finally, the National Nodes policy brief, in Annex A, is one of the strategic documents created by one of the OPERAS-PLUS taskforces to reveal in a summarised and straightforward manner how these nodes are crucial for the growth of the Research Infrastructure.

The OPERAS-PLUS team hopes this roadmap can be helpful for new national nodes and also for future research infrastructures or regional organisations in supporting their alignment and advancing their goals.

## **2. Vision**

### **2.1 Why are OPERAS national nodes needed?**

National Nodes serve as key connection points with local communities, acting as structural mediators within various infrastructures and organisations supported by the European Commission. These nodes ensure that local needs and perspectives are integrated into broader European initiatives, thus facilitating the internationalisation of research without losing diverse cultures, languages and traditions of scholarly practices. The relationship is reciprocal, with OPERAS both guiding and being shaped by the activities and insights of its national nodes.

Overall, the activities of the OPERAS National Nodes can be organised in three main layers:

#### **a) Identification of needs, stakeholders and members**

- identifying specific support and training needs at local and regional levels;
- identifying national services and infrastructures, and needs of improvement, new collaborations, and advocacy for inclusion in OPERAS;
- identifying the national resources pertinent for the implementation of nodes, the networks and the ways to encourage government support for their establishment;
- collecting the needs of the national scientific community and finding aligned answers for them at a European level.

#### **b) Targeting of the needs**

- mapping and promoting the involvement of national stakeholders (service users, regulatory agencies, funders);
- defining targeted solutions and evaluation mechanisms to measure the impact of actions according to the needs of each region, and testing pilots on alternative models of organisation and implementation in order to reflect the differences between national/regional approaches;
- addressing the national communities in an appropriate way and providing support and access to OPERAS (and the associated knowledge) on a low threshold of access;



- presenting and making available the OPERAS services inside the national research landscape;
- Contributing to the improvement of national services by advocating for them, establishing collaborations, or including them in OPERAS
- Providing training on OPERAS services and other OPERAS-related topics

### c) Outreach, networking and intermediation

- Boosting the outreach within each country: involving the national communities in encouraging new members for OPERAS and in the global outreach framework;
- Facilitating interaction, at a national level, with the nodes of other existing infrastructures, and promoting their articulation at a European level, preventing duplication and stimulating cooperation and complementarity of action; this will be facilitated from within the National Node Committee;
- Acting as the intermediary between OPERAS (the European level) and each national research landscape, connecting both levels and facilitating exchange, not only selectively (in the form of selected institutions) but in a broader sense and continuously;

As seen from the list above, OPERAS national nodes work as a point of **multi-focal relations**, in:

- defining the scope of OPERAS inside each national community, at the same time positioning and synergising in relation to national nodes of other infrastructures;
- being a means of local implementation of OPERAS services and helping to identify potential new services;
- promoting multilingualism and bibliodiversity in scholarly communication;
- transferring the objectives and services of the infrastructure from the European level to the national level, enhancing awareness of OPERAS in each country, and the same way in the opposite side – transferring the local needs to the central hub and strengthening each country's position in the European research landscape;
- Contributing to the enhancement of the links between European research infrastructures and members of the national scientific landscapes in SSH;
- supporting collaboration between national communities by developing joint models and best practices.

These correspondences are in current development and will be enhanced in the coming years as OPERAS moves to become an ERIC.

## 2.2 Connection to the OPERAS central hub

The national nodes must have a frequent exchange with the OPERAS central hub to inform about developments within the national community, regarding relevant services/tools/developments, and exchanging news/info material to reuse.

The nodes are needed to co-build the strategy with the central hub in a continuous dialogue. The central hub acts as a **coordination body** between the different nodes in order to guarantee a coherent approach and strategy. Indeed one of the most risky situations in a research infrastructure is the possibility to have growing different approaches and less complementarity between the nodes. To address this, specific indicators will be established to monitor coherence and alignment among the different nodes, ensuring that objectives and collaboration remain productive<sup>1</sup>. Strong and recurrent relations between the nodes and the central hub are necessary to avoid this risk and to secure the unity of the research infrastructure.

In order to facilitate the relationship between the OPERAS central hub and each national node, a recurrent meeting slot was created in order to exchange experiences and coordinate efforts. The first meeting of this initiative was held in November 2021, with the presence of the communication manager of OPERAS and representatives of two national nodes. After that, monthly meetings were established, integrating new representatives from the OPERAS nodes each time, regardless of their level of development.

The purpose of the exchange meetings was initially to provide information from OPERAS RI to the nodes to facilitate the content creation and interaction. Also, to promote and train the nodes representatives to perform dissemination activities, e.g. a workshop on the GoTriple platform as a first initiative. The TRIPLE project team prepared a thorough set of materials and seven different nodes were able to perform the workshops in an organised and unified manner.

The National Nodes exchange meeting went on with the beginning of the OPERAS-PLUS project, strengthening its activities and gathering even more participation. In the beginning of 2025, the meeting was officially renamed to **National Nodes Committee** meeting, providing the official titulation it deserves and revealing the strategic position it has gained and will continue on OPERAS' path towards becoming an ERIC.

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<sup>1</sup> This approach to indicators will be specifically targeted in section 5 of this deliverable.

## 3. Strategy to implement the OPERAS National Nodes

### 3.1 What are the necessary steps to develop OPERAS national nodes?

The OPERAS community reflected together<sup>2</sup> to define requirements to set up, organise in a functional way, and develop a national node. Here we list some of the suggestions:

- The nodes should have some requirements and best practices, although flexibility is welcome – since each node has a different context.
- National Node coordinators/representatives should meet at least six times a year with the National Nodes liaison from OPERAS. This liaison is the principal contact point who coordinates the sharing of information and ensures alignment. This is very important, although there is no need to report on every step, once the national nodes should have enough autonomy. National nodes representatives would also benefit from participating in OPERAS conferences in order to bring their activities to a broader OPERAS public.
- Having a national deputy is a priority to be targeted, in all the cases when it is possible (normally, after funding availability). This person would have a stable position, with actual dedicated effort<sup>3</sup>, being able to provide a continuous communication flow inside the node and in exchange with the OPERAS hub.
- Communication flow (via dedicated website, mailing lists, blog posts and own social media channels) and regular events in the national community are priorities to make the node visible and keep it running.
- Being able to explain to the community what the nodes actually do is a way of approaching stakeholders. Researchers, in particular, have to be engaged and get practical and straightforward information about what the nodes have to offer them – such as a preliminary listening to the needs, services offering, training and research opportunities.
- Seize the opportunities for funding and use them to build competence.
- Get involved in existing networks, initiatives and working groups, attempting as well to organise joint events to synergise and pool resources.

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<sup>2</sup> The main list of contributions in this section was also possible thanks to the participation of Edward Gray, DARIAH Officer for National Coordination, who presented the DARIAH experience during the internal kick-off meeting of the OPERAS-PLUS WP7, on March 20, 2023, online.

<sup>3</sup> Having in mind that OPERAS is ongoing its transition to an ERIC, full FTEs may not be available for the nodes' deputy in a short period of time. For that, it could be established a minimum of 10% FTE as a basic requirement.

### 3.2 Focal points

From the previous experience of the prominent OPERAS national nodes<sup>4</sup>, the strategy of development for the national communities can be organised around four focal points/objectives:

- **1st: Increasing Awareness** – To raise awareness of OPERAS among the national scientific landscape.
- **2nd: Networking** – To connect with institutions, libraries, data centres etc. via events, personal contacts.
- **3rd: Collection of needs** – To understand the needs of the national (potential) partners.
- **4th: Dissemination of the services and targeting of needs** – To provide training and present services in a hands-on approach, focusing on attending to the needs of stakeholders and empowering them to be part of the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) Open Science community nationally.

After almost the entirety of the OPERAS-PLUS project and the continuous work undergone between each national node and the central hub, significant progress has been made on these focal points, as well as on the requirements presented in the next section. Section 6 provides more details on how each OPERAS node is organised as of 2025.

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<sup>4</sup> A first version of the focal points was kindly provided by the German national node (OPERAS-GER) strategy. More information on the German node is available at: <https://operas-ger.hypotheses.org>.

## 4. Requirements

### What are the basic requirements to build a national node?

Defining the functioning of the national nodes requires organising its formal structure, something that is being done by the OPERAS-PLUS project<sup>5</sup> and organised inside the work package responsible for supporting the national nodes (work package 7). Besides detailing the different types of requirements, some planning and formal setups must be in place – and are further developed until the end of the project:

- Choosing a legal framework for each national node, using the support of the central hub and ensuring the compatibility between the central hub and the national nodes.
- The definition of a minimum teamwork (with or without dedicated effort, if this is not initially possible).
- The definition of basic activities (as seen below in point 4.1 – establishment requirements).
- Definition of the target stakeholders and the core business model for the node – how it will be funded, how it will work in case of not being funded.

### 4.1 Establishment requirements

Although the current 13 national nodes<sup>6</sup> have different levels of development, they need to be presented publicly. Since June 2023, there is a dedicated page for the nodes on the OPERAS website<sup>7</sup>. For the first version of this page, some basic information about the nodes is in place, namely:

- Name of the node
- Country
- Lead institution
- Contact
- Website/newsletter/social media
- Logo

The presentation of the nodes on the OPERAS website is a clear sign that they are not a short-term project. However, this basic information is just a first step on communicating the nodes to the public. In the following sections, we present a first proposal of requirements for the nodes functioning.

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<sup>5</sup> Basic information on the project available at: <https://operas-eu.org/projects/operas-plus/>.

<sup>6</sup> As of May 2025.

<sup>7</sup> Available at: <https://operas-eu.org/operas-national-nodes/>.

### **A) Initial activities of the nodes**

The activities that sustain the nodes are gathered from the previous experience of the 13 building-up OPERAS national nodes. Towards the end of the OPERAS-PLUS project, there are some activities which are common to most of them and are already established as a basis both for the creation of new nodes and for the definition of the so-called “minimum viable national node”<sup>8</sup>:

- Establishment of **regular events** (ideally bi-monthly for the funded nodes and quarterly for the non-funded ones), inside each node and its stakeholders. Each meeting could have a specific approach, which can be defined from the topics of this list (provision of training on OPERAS services, discussion groups, joint activities with other national infrastructures etc.);
- Support and promotion of **OPERAS events and activities** of interest to the national communities (researchers, librarians, research performing institutions, civil society, etc.);
- Provision of **dissemination activities** (such as workshops, webinars, presentations and trainings) on Open Science matters connected to OPERAS services (benefiting from the translation of OPERAS materials, which are further mentioned in topic B - coordinated activities of the nodes).

### **B) Coordinated activities of the nodes**

As discussed in the “Strategy” (section 3), there are requirements for the proper maintenance of the national nodes coordination, which are essential for the cohesion of the nodes as a group. One crucial requirement, for example, is the keeping of regular meetings between the national nodes representatives on a regular basis, helping to keep the nodes objectives in the foreground.

The common activities requirements include:

- The continuity of the regular meetings between all nodes, connecting nodes representatives/deputies and the OPERAS Coordination Team (OCT) (National Nodes liaison and OPERAS communication team). The goal is to keep objectives clear among the nodes and allow for mutual help. This is currently guaranteed via the National Nodes Committee meetings, mentioned in section 2.2.
- The use of OPERAS technical and communicational support tools (as described in the section below) to help achieve the minimum viable nodes activities. So far, the list of these activities includes:
  - Offering workshops and training to OPERAS services of interest to the national communities.

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<sup>8</sup> Metrics for the minimum viable national node are detailed in section 5.

- Providing translations to materials and training already available in OPERAS, from English to the national languages – these joint initiatives are organised and coordinated between the nodes and the OCT.
- Advocating for the use of OPERAS services, such as the GoTriple platform<sup>9</sup>, but also for VERA, Pathfinder, PRISM, and other community services at the national level to the ministries, research funding agencies, etc.

### **C) Additional activities**

Departing from the example of existing nodes, the OPERAS-PLUS team provides a list of complementary activities – that means, activities that are not available for all the nodes in their initial establishment, but are relevant once the node is active and, hopefully, funded:

- Creation of or integration into existing national portals/websites to organise information in the national SSH landscape and serve as a hub for open scholarly communication nationally, identifying the initiative as an OPERAS national hub and helping to place OPERAS as a major actor in SSH open scholarly communication. The alignment of information to be presented on each website can be discussed and supported by the OPERAS liaison during the national nodes exchange/National Nodes committee meetings.
- Development of collaboration between the different national nodes, for example, organising events in joint initiatives whenever relevant.
- Development of collaboration with other national infrastructures within the SSH landscape, and the SSH open science landscape in particular, with the aim of making OPERAS and its national nodes relevant actors in the field, both at the European and the national level;
- Suggesting or prototyping new service ideas, resulting from the nodes activities and the interaction with the national communities' needs. These inputs could then be integrated into the workflow of OPERAS to be further developed inside a project, for example.
- Advocacy for the activities of the OPERAS Special Interest Groups<sup>10</sup>, proposing discussion rounds and workshops focused on the SIGs themes inside the national communities.
- Provision of consultation spaces for gathering the needs of the national stakeholders in relation to the Open Science doubts, needs and challenges inside the research community in each country.
- Give the opportunity for national/regional stakeholders to present their

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<sup>9</sup> Link to the platform: <https://www.gotriple.eu>.

<sup>10</sup> More information on OPERAS Special Interest Groups are available here: <https://operas-eu.org/special-interest-groups/>.

services to other national nodes.

## 4.2 Communication requirements

With regards to OPERAS support to national nodes, there are tools and workflows available for the nodes and, in exchange, OPERAS requires the nodes to contribute to the infrastructure with information to be spread via the central hub.

On the requests from OPERAS for the national nodes, the following points can be listed:

- Representation of OPERAS on a national level, helping to raise awareness to the infrastructure;
- Provision of workshops and presentations to introduce OPERAS, OPERAS services and joint activities.
- Provision of users for services and potential members – what can be done via the previous point: by providing workshops or other dissemination activities, the node helps raising awareness of OPERAS and OPERAS services, and can attract potential new members.

Regarding press releases and the relationship with media outlets, these actions are directed to high-level topics and they will always be requested by the OPERAS communication team. However, if the national node members can share blog posts about OPERAS whenever possible, this would be pertinent. In these cases, the translation of the blog posts is always welcome and highly recommended. In 2025, the OPERAS communication team began translating the welcome blog posts of new members into their respective national languages. Additionally, a new series titled 'Spotlight on National Nodes' was launched, aiming to introduce the National Nodes to a broader audience through a bilingual approach.

Besides its brief requests, the infrastructure can provide support to the national nodes in a variety of ways:

- OPERAS will provide guest speakers for trainings and other dissemination events.
- OPERAS offers the possibility to use its channels to invite events and spread the news from the nodes.
- OPERAS offers the possibility of using a social media tool<sup>11</sup> to prepare and schedule communication about the nodes.
- OPERAS provided nodes logos inside the duration of the OPERAS-PLUS project, which can be continuously used after the project is concluded.

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<sup>11</sup> Hootsuite, a tool that allows posting, scheduling and gathering metrics for many types of social media channels and accounts, in one place. OPERAS has a Hootsuite account that can be used to prepare posts and share news on services, projects and national communities. Available at: <https://www.hootsuite.com/>.



- The same is valid for communication materials, which can also be provided by the infrastructure communication team working on WP8<sup>12</sup>.
- OPERAS Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): OPERAS is currently developing a framework to collect and control KPIs. A dashboard will soon be available also for checking IP numbers<sup>13</sup> and where visitors come from when accessing OPERAS services and pages (see 5.3 within the next section).

It is important to note that, in order to enjoy this kind of support from OPERAS, the node needs to be active and running well in terms of funding. The support activities from OPERAS to the nodes are of course not mandatory requirements, but they can boost the nodes communication very effectively.

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<sup>12</sup> Work Package 8 is dedicated to communication and impact assessment, and it's naturally connected with all the other OPERAS-PLUS WPs.

<sup>13</sup> "An Internet Protocol (IP) is a unique numerical identifier for every device or network that connects to the internet. Typically assigned by an internet service provider (ISP), an IP address is an online device address used for communicating across the internet". Available at: [https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/IP-address-Internet-Protocol-Address#:~:text=What%20is%20an%20IP%20address%20\(Internet%20Protocol%20address\)%3F,for%20communicating%20across%20the%20internet](https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/IP-address-Internet-Protocol-Address#:~:text=What%20is%20an%20IP%20address%20(Internet%20Protocol%20address)%3F,for%20communicating%20across%20the%20internet). Accessed in May 25, 2025.

## 5. Metrics

### 5.1 How can we define the minimum criteria for an OPERAS national node to be considered viable?

This point reveals the importance of establishing national priorities and how they can work, even if there is no specific funding for the node. With the establishment of national roadmaps in 2024 for implementation in 2025, each OPERAS National Node has committed to defining its strategic direction and outlining concrete actions to support the broader goals of open scholarly communication and the OPERAS Research Infrastructure. In this final roadmap of the implementation for OPERAS national nodes, the following metrics to make a national node viable will remain:

- Establish national regular meetings (each 3 months, for example);
- Keep a consistent presence in the regular meetings between the nodes and the OPERAS coordination team (OCT);
- Provide information for the OCT on the current state of the node (every four months) to update the section on the OPERAS website. This can be done as a simple report on a meeting organised for all the nodes to report together (preferably during the National Nodes Committee meeting) and provide a brief presentation of what has been done in the last four months.
- Provide training or dissemination activities to the national communities using the material prepared by OPERAS. There is no obligation to provide training for or dissemination activities about all services, but a commitment to provide training or a dissemination activity at least for the services in the final release is a strong indicator.
- Provide information about OPERAS in the national representative channels. The way of tracking this type of activity should, at least during the OPERAS-PLUS project, be added to the [KPIs and tracker spreadsheet](#) created by WP8.

### 5.2 Metrics for funded national nodes

- Permanent human resources for the nodes coordination in 1 or 2 FTEs.
- Presence of node representatives at external events inside the country to raise awareness for OPERAS and the national node itself, informing about its activities.
- Four trainings or dissemination activities per year inside the national community, at least one per trimester. Ideally, the activities should include different groups of stakeholders, defined by each node strategy, ensuring an inclusive approach and broader dissemination.

- National node website (or subpage within the existing institutional page) and regular updates of coordinated activities.
- At least two of the complementary activities listed in section 4.1, c) are completed.

### 5.3 Dashboard of Metrics and KPIs to monitor National Node Performance and Activities

As part of the development of the dashboard for performance monitoring and impact assessment in WP8 of OPERAS-PLUS, a dedicated section will be inserted below the community indicators. This will enable each National Node to monitor its performance and ensure its impact, while also providing an overview for other bodies within and outside the OPERAS community. Based on discussions with the National Nodes and previous work on defining the criteria for a minimum viable National Node, the following overview presents the KPIs and Metrics that will be measured regularly (at the beginning of each year) within the dashboard:

#### ***Dashboard Overview for National Nodes***

| <b>Key Performance Indicator</b>                                 | <b>Reach per year</b>   | <b>Other collected Metrics</b>                                    |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| # of regular meetings within the country                         | Minimum 2               |   |
| # total of events (out of that # of trainings)<br># participants | Minimum 4<br>Minimum 40 |   |
|  |                         | # of OPERAS members within the country                            |
|  |                         | # shared emails via mailing lists (including press releases etc.) |
| # posts on social media  | Minimum 12              |   |
|  |                         | # Visits OPERAS Website   |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | per Country<br># Visits each OPERAS<br>Service per Country |
|--|--|--|

Since each National Node has its own specific characteristics, an additional section will be included in the dashboard to highlight the progress of each node and the milestones. This section should highlight the individual development, strategy, and importance of key directions and focus areas, as well as thematic issues. Examples of what could be included in this section are given below:

**Milestones:**

- *Website & Social Media Channels running, reach (#visits per year, and followers)*
- *Contribution to Policy Development & Recommendations*
- *Active Collaborations with stakeholders/other infrastructures*
- *Other activities, such as inscription to the national node roadmap of research infrastructures within each country, etc.*

The dashboard is currently being set up and will be available at the end of August 2025. During this process, the outlined KPIs and metrics may evolve, as impact assessment is an ongoing and iterative process. As our understanding deepens and priorities shift, adjustments may be necessary to better reflect the actual progress and outcomes.

## **6. National Nodes current stage**

### **6.1 Task 7.3 Outcomes (April 2024 – April 2025)**

Task 7.3, titled “Connecting OPERAS with other national and international Social Sciences and Humanities nodes”, was launched in April 2024 with a clear two-fold strategy: to support the implementation of OPERAS national nodes through direct collaboration and to strengthen internationalisation efforts by identifying complementary infrastructures beyond Europe.

The first phase focused on groundwork. During the initial months, the task leaders (IBL PAN) encouraged the identification of local, national, and regional stakeholders. A shared spreadsheet was created to collect contact points and categorise potential partners. It quickly became clear that each national node would require an individualised approach, depending on its maturity, network, and institutional context.

By mid-2024, partners began designing strategies to engage with national stakeholders. To track and document the process, two templates were developed: the National Node Plan Template and a dedicated Task 7.3 Contact List. The idea of “mini-strategies” was introduced, encouraging each node to define feasible goals, partnerships, and a development pathway. Meetings with national infrastructures and stakeholders were planned, with a recommended timeline extending to mid-January 2025.

Throughout the summer and early autumn, discussions evolved toward policy framing. The need for a policy brief arose — a document that could articulate the value of OPERAS national nodes to ministries and decision-makers. Finalised by the end of 2024, the brief presents OPERAS’ role within national research ecosystems and supports the nodes in advocating for political support and potential integration into national roadmaps.

Between October and December 2024, nodes worked on drafting their strategies and filling in the national templates. The roadmap began to take shape not only as a strategic planning tool but also as a living document reflecting diverse national realities. Case studies and “success stories” started to be collected to illustrate impact and achievements.

In 2025, partners started to work on the new version of this roadmap. They agreed to retain consistency with earlier deliverables while reflecting the evolution and maturity of the nodes. Particular attention was given to indicators, policy actions, and visible outcomes.

Throughout the year-long process, Task 7.3 functioned as both a coordination mechanism and a catalyst for national and international engagement. It facilitated knowledge exchange, encouraged collaboration across borders, and laid the

foundation for a more connected, visible, and politically recognised OPERAS network of national nodes.

## **6.2 Descriptions of National Nodes and their activities**

The following descriptions are based on National node templates for completed and planned activities, policy briefs, and success story interviews.

### ***6.2.1 OPERAS-ES***

The Spanish National Node, OPERAS-ES, is coordinated by the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT), a public institution under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. FECYT plays a crucial role in implementing Spain's Open Science policies and leads OPERAS-related activities by leveraging its national publishing services, journal evaluation expertise, and strong institutional relationships with both regional and national research bodies.

Joining OPERAS marked a natural extension of FECYT's mission, enhancing its services by aligning them with European infrastructures. OPERAS-ES has now begun to strategically embed OPERAS services within FECYT's established communication and certification channels.

#### **A. Strategic Objectives for 2025**

OPERAS-ES will focus on:

- Enhancing the visibility and accessibility of OPERAS services across Spain.
- Deepening relationships with Spanish journal editors, service providers, and publishing platforms.
- Supporting the broader Spanish Open Science strategy through OPERAS training, data provision, and policy dialogue.

#### **B. Key Activities for 2025**

In 2025, a series of initiatives will be rolled out to engage the Spanish academic and publishing community with OPERAS services and Open Science tools. The year will begin in January with the dissemination of OPERAS services, focusing on adapting and promoting them for the Spanish context, targeting publishers, librarians, and researchers. In February, a follow-up survey will be conducted to assess community needs and better tailor future trainings and events. That same month, FECYT staff will be introduced to Mondaecus, OPERAS' collaborative translation tool, through an online

workshop. Journal publishers will also participate in a seminar offering insights into FECYT's journal evaluation process and its alignment with Open Science principles. Additional training sessions and presentations are planned, with dates to be confirmed, including a GoTriple workshop for publishers based on interest gathered through the survey, a VERA presentation for librarians and researchers, and an overview of the Pathfinder tool for the broader academic community. Throughout the year, periodic online and in-person talks will explore various Open Science topics, and the national community will stay informed via a quarterly OPERAS newsletter sharing updates on both national and OPERAS-level activities.

### **C. Institutional Context and Policy Role**

FECYT is responsible for implementing 80% of Spain's National Open Science Strategy, published in 2023. It supports national efforts on four key axes:

1. Digital platforms (e.g. repositories and publishing infrastructure),
2. FAIR data management,
3. Open Access to publicly funded research,
4. Incentives, training, and engagement.

FECYT manages Spain's voluntary journal certification system (active since 2007) and provides technical support through its OJS-based platform, RECYT. It also leads national coordination between regional RPOs, universities, and ministries, acting as a trusted Open Science implementer.

FECYT's integration into OPERAS enables it to offer Spanish publishers international visibility and access to European infrastructure, particularly for Diamond OA journals. Spain's large, well-organised Diamond community has been a driving force behind FECYT's recent engagement in European initiatives such as DIAMAS and ALMASI.

### **D. National Policy Dialogue and ERIC Outlook**

FECYT serves as the primary interlocutor between OPERAS and the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. OPERAS is perceived as unique for its focus on service providers within SSH.

### **E. Communication Strategy and Community Engagement**

OPERAS has been embedded within FECYT's established communication network, including its website, mailing lists, blog, and social media. OPERAS branding is used in presentations and news updates, offering seamless integration and visibility within the national landscape.

FECYT's collaboration with institutional service providers and the National Association of University Presses (UNE) ensures strong outreach. Additional channels include:

- Quarterly newsletters featuring OPERAS updates.
- Online events and seminars.
- Coordination with CSIC and key research institutes.

FECYT is also in contact with institutional publishing platforms that now act as **GoTriple data providers**, increasing OPERAS' national relevance.

## F. Success Factors and Outlook

While still in early stages, several successes and future prospects stand out:

- **Journal participation in GoTriple** as data providers is growing.
- The national OPERAS node is active within RECYT, offering practical tools and visibility.
- FECYT's evaluation model, based on 22 quality indicators, aligns with OPERAS' values and could serve as a basis for future collaboration on editorial assessment.
- Potential for including OPERAS-related recommendations in Spain's national research assessment guidelines.

The OPERAS-ES node reflects a pragmatic and well-coordinated effort to align national Open Science priorities with European infrastructures. With strong policy positioning, growing community engagement, and institutional leadership, OPERAS-ES is poised to become a key actor in Spain's Open Access and SSH publishing ecosystem.

### 6.2.2 OPERAS-FI

The Finnish National Node, OPERAS-FI, is coordinated by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (TSV). TSV serves as a central coordination body in Finland supporting research communication, academic publishing, and Open Science and responsible research assessment. It plays a critical role in national Open Access initiatives and represents Finland in a variety of European Open Science networks and projects. TSV's leadership in the OPERAS-FI Node underlines its commitment to strengthening multilingualism, Diamond Open Access, and participation in transnational scholarly communication infrastructures.

## A. Strategic Objectives for 2025



OPERAS-FI has set the following key objectives for the upcoming year:

- **Improve the accessibility of scientific publications** in Finland by further developing services aligned with the principles of Diamond Open Access.
- **Participate actively in OPERAS Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**, particularly in the area of Multilingualism, where Finland's diverse linguistic context offers valuable insights.
- **Contribute to European collaborative projects**, notably as a partner in the Horizon Europe-funded ALMASI project.
- **Disseminate OPERAS activities and outputs** through TSV's established communication channels, with a focus on reaching its member organisations and strategic partners in Finland's academic community.

## **B. Planned Activities for 2025**

A full list of activities will be further developed throughout 2025 in coordination with OPERAS priorities and the needs of the Finnish scholarly community. Planned areas include a range of activities that will support the engagement of the Finnish research community with OPERAS initiatives. Dissemination of OPERAS services, tools, and outcomes will take place on an ongoing basis through the networks of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (TSV). Finland will also actively contribute to the European ALMASI project, focusing on multilingualism, peer review, and open publishing practices. Continuous participation in the Special Interest Group (SIG) on Multilingualism will enable the sharing of Finnish experiences in multilingual scholarly communication with the broader OPERAS and Nordic communities. Throughout 2025, efforts will be made to support national policy alignment by contributing to discussions with Finnish funders and research institutions on Diamond Open Access, multilingualism, and emphasising scholarly communication as part of the scientific infrastructure.

## **C. Role of TSV and National Context**

TSV provides a strong institutional base for OPERAS-FI. It supports nearly 300 learned societies and four academies in Finland and is closely aligned with national Open Science initiatives. Its expertise in publishing infrastructure, editorial policy, and repository development makes it a key voice in Finland's scholarly communication ecosystem.

The OPERAS-FI Node is well positioned to support and promote OPERAS goals, including multilingual dissemination, service co-development, and Diamond OA

capacity-building. Through projects like ALMASI and participation in OPERAS SIGs, TSV will contribute both nationally and internationally to the co-creation of robust and inclusive research infrastructures.

#### **D. Communication and Community Engagement**

TSV plans to integrate OPERAS messaging and resources into its normal communication activities in accordance with its strategic guidelines. Outreach will target learned societies, editorial boards, and academic stakeholders, focusing on:

- Updates on OPERAS activities via newsletters and social media posts.
- Invitations to participate in OPERAS-related training, seminars, or project dissemination.
- Promotion of multilingualism and equitable access to publishing services.

The OPERAS-FI Node aims to build long-term engagement by connecting OPERAS services to the actual needs of Finland's research community.

#### **E. Outlook and Contribution to OPERAS**

OPERAS-FI brings valuable strengths to the broader OPERAS community:

- A mature infrastructure for supporting Diamond OA publishing.
- International leadership in promoting multilingualism.
- Strong networks for community-driven policy implementation.

As OPERAS evolves into an ERIC, the Finnish Node supports its development and emphasises that Finnish stakeholders benefit from European-level collaboration, tools, and shared standards.

With its structured approach and deep roots in national scholarly communication, OPERAS-FI is poised to be a reliable and engaged contributor to the future of OPERAS and Open Science in Europe.

#### **6.2.3 OPERAS-FR**

France's OPERAS National Node, OPERAS-FR, is coordinated by OpenEdition and is one of the most established nodes within the OPERAS infrastructure. OpenEdition is a national joint unit supported by CNRS (OPERAS Core member), Aix-Marseille University, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), and Avignon University. Benefiting from its strategic position within a major national research institution and

funded through the Commons project, OPERAS-FR plays a vital role in promoting OPERAS services and strengthening Open Science engagement across France.

The Node is deeply embedded in national academic and research publishing structures and operates with a well-developed communication strategy and a strong network of stakeholders from libraries, universities, and publishing platforms.

### **A. Strategic Objectives for 2024/2025**

OPERAS-FR's primary goals are:

- Disseminate and promote OPERAS services across France with a focus on GoTriple, VERA, Pathfinder, and PRISM.
- Engage and support the national community through regular events, workshops, and communication channels.
- Support the OPERAS governance and SIGs by relaying feedback and needs from the French community.
- Prepare future participation of France in OPERAS ERIC.

### **B. Key Activities for 2024/2025**

In 2024 and 2025, a diverse set of activities supported and will support the dissemination and engagement efforts of OPERAS-FR across various stakeholder groups. Throughout the year, the OPERAS-FR Node published regular blog posts and maintained a consistent presence on LinkedIn, posting weekly updates. Monthly or bimonthly mailings kept the OPERAS-FR community informed about events, news, and calls to action. Two webinars for the French Open Science community focused on the DOAS: the first took place in November, followed by a second session in early 2025 to share updates and collect feedback. Node members also led online or in-person talks on Open Science topics all throughout the year. OPERAS-FR was represented at key conferences such as *Medicis* in Lyon and the OPERAS conference in Zadar. OPERAS policy briefs were translated and adapted for the French-speaking audience to improve accessibility and understanding of policy work through a collaborative translating group led by volunteers of the French community. As for the activities planned for 2025: researchers and PhD students will be introduced to the GoTriple platform during an in-person workshop in Aix-Marseille, followed by an online presentation and training session on the VERA service for librarians and researchers. A presentation of the service Mondaecus is also expected at the beginning of the year. The Pathfinder tool will also be presented to the general public later in the year, offering insights into its applications. An online workshop focusing on new peer review models and the PRISM initiative will be held for librarians.

## C. Communication Strategy and Community Engagement

OPERAS-FR benefits from a robust communication infrastructure:

- **Dedicated website:** <https://operasfr.hypotheses.org>
- **Mailing list:** Established in March 2024 for outreach and coordination
- **Social media presence:** Primarily on [LinkedIn](#) for professional visibility
- **Regular publications:** Monthly blog posts and updates
- **YouTube channel:** to disseminate recordings of the webinars and [small videos](#) presenting future ones.

These channels support OPERAS-FR's outreach goals and foster an active and engaged national community of scholars, publishers, and infrastructure providers.

## D. Institutional Context

OpenEdition serves as both a coordinator and service provider in the OPERAS ecosystem. Its national leadership ensures alignment with France's Open Science policy landscape and leverages strong institutional backing to reinforce OPERAS values. As one of the founding members of OPERAS, OpenEdition plays a central role in shaping the development of the infrastructure.

OPERAS-FR also collaborates with university presses, research libraries, and scholarly associations, serving as a bridge between OPERAS and France's academic community. The node's involvement in SIGs, webinars, and collaborative initiatives makes it a model of integrated national engagement.

## E. Outlook and Contribution to OPERAS

OPERAS-FR exemplifies a mature, dynamic node that contributes to OPERAS through:

- Consistent, multilingual dissemination and training activities
- Coordination of national discussions on OPERAS services
- Institutional expertise in publishing platforms and infrastructure development
- Translation of numerous outputs, such as the DIAMAS project one,s to disseminate to the community for better use and comprehension.

As OPERAS evolves toward ERIC status, OPERAS-FR will continue to lead in community engagement, Open Science service promotion, and policy integration in the French context. Its strong communication network and national legitimacy make it a pillar of the OPERAS infrastructure.

#### **6.2.4 OPERAS-GER**

The German National Node of OPERAS, OPERAS-GER, is coordinated by the Max Weber Stiftung (MWS), a unique research organisation that operates exclusively abroad, with 11 international institutes dedicated to transnational and transdisciplinary humanities research. Active since October 2020, OPERAS-GER has focused on promoting OPERAS services, fostering community dialogue, and enhancing the visibility of Germany's contributions to Open Science within Europe.

Although MWS does not provide infrastructure tools directly, it offers a crucial link between international research environments and national Open Science agendas, acting as a bridge between scholars, institutions, and European initiatives.

#### **A. Strategic Objectives for 2025**

Key priorities for OPERAS-GER include:

- Enhancing the international visibility of German humanities research by integrating it into OPERAS services like GoTriple and VERA.
- Building awareness and trust in OPERAS among German stakeholders through events, communication campaigns, and collaboration.
- Contributing to the development of a sustainable Diamond Open Access ecosystem, particularly through participation in the SeDOA project (2025–2028).

#### **B. Key Activities for 2025**

In 2025, OPERAS-GER will carry out a range of activities aimed at strengthening engagement with Open Science tools and practices within the German research landscape. A series of workshops—online or in-person—will introduce librarians and researchers to key OPERAS services such as GoTriple, where Germany is already among the leading user bases, and the VERA tool, with dedicated sessions for presentation and discussion. The Pathfinder service will also be introduced through an online session aimed at the general public. OPERAS-GER will also maintain visibility through poster presentations at conferences throughout the year. Communication efforts will be supported by regular blog posts and articles published via the *hypotheses.org* platform, alongside consistent weekly outreach on platforms like Bluesky and LinkedIn and via national mailing lists. In addition, OPERAS policy briefs will be translated and adapted for German-speaking audiences to ensure accessibility and relevance. A major milestone will be the launch of the national SeDOA consortium in May 2025, co-led by the Max Weber Stiftung (MWS), serving as a single point of contact for DOA

infrastructures in Germany and connecting them to the respective infrastructures on a European level.

### **C. Institutional and Policy Landscape**

MWS is funded directly by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Germany's Open Access policy landscape is fragmented across federal states, research institutions, and funding agencies. While national-level recommendations exist (e.g. from DFG or Wissenschaftsrat), implementation varies, and there is no unified monitoring system.

In this context, OPERAS-GER plays a key role by:

- Connecting with federal initiatives like NFDI and specialised information services (FIDs),
- Advocating for Diamond OA via projects like SeDOA and thus streamlining various DOA-related activities,
- Highlighting the internationalisation potential of OPERAS services.

### **D. Challenges and Strategy**

Despite some hurdles, OPERAS-GER has maintained visibility and credibility by participating in major forums, building community support, and contributing to German Open Access and Open Science discussions.

A significant step was a national meeting in September 2024 of all ESFRI and ERIC infrastructures to share experiences—a key opportunity for OPERAS-GER to strengthen its case.

### **E. Success Stories and Impact**

- Germany has the largest user group of GoTriple and has provided content translations.
- Over 20 OPERAS Open Chat sessions were held with ~30 participants each.
- Established collaborations with national actors such as DFG, CLARIN-DE, DARIAH-DE, and NFDI consortia and specialised information services (FIDs = Fachinformationsdienste).
- Integrated OPERAS into national networks such as open-access.network and FID platforms.
- Participation in ENABLE initiative and cooperation with OPERAS-PL and OAPEN.
- MWS gained recognition in Germany for its role in OPERAS, with increased visibility and trust.

## **F. Community Engagement and Future Outlook**

OPERAS-GER has succeeded in:

- Reaching students, researchers, and institutions through direct outreach and events.
- Creating a space for dialogue via its blog and OPERAS Open Chat series.
- Promoting inclusivity in Diamond OA and SSH infrastructures.

With the launch of SeDOA, and continued engagement with German Open Science stakeholders, OPERAS-GER is well positioned to serve as a strong voice for SSH research infrastructures in Germany, connecting local needs with international standards and consequently underpinning the crucial role of OPERAS in a decentralised national context.

### **6.2.5 OPERAS-GR**

OPERAS-GR is coordinated by the National Documentation Centre (EKT), a mature and pivotal public body in Greece's research infrastructure landscape. Established in 1983 and operating autonomously since 2019, EKT serves as the national hub for documentation, Open Science, and the aggregation of cultural and scientific content. Its responsibilities include maintaining the national dissertation repository and hosting over 80 academic journals, making it a cornerstone of Greek scholarly communication.

EKT's leadership within OPERAS-GR reflects its strategic commitment to integrating the Greek SSH research community with the broader European Open Science agenda. Through services like GoTriple and collaborations in multilingualism and open access, OPERAS-GR is enhancing the visibility, discoverability, and policy alignment of Greek research.

#### **A. Strategic Objectives for 2025**

In 2025, OPERAS-GR aims to actively promote OPERAS services—most notably GoTriple—within Greece's academic and research institutions. There will be a strong emphasis on raising awareness and providing training for open science practices, particularly in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH). Another priority is expanding the node's membership by involving more universities, libraries, research institutes, and scholarly societies in OPERAS activities.

#### **B. Key Activities for 2025**

OPERAS-GR has outlined a series of coordinated actions to strengthen national engagement. In June 2025, it will host an online workshop focused on introducing the

GoTriple platform to librarians and researchers, demonstrating how institutions can become data providers and benefit from the tool's features.

In July, a comprehensive blog post will share updates on the node's mission, services, and strategic direction for the year. To foster discussion and engagement, a series of online talks will be held in September and December, targeting researchers, students, and librarians. These sessions will draw inspiration from similar initiatives like the OPERAS Open Chat series.

A newsletter is planned for September to communicate recent developments and updates to the broader academic and public audience, complemented by regular social media updates and institutional mailings to keep the community informed. Additionally, OPERAS-GR intends to translate selected OPERAS policy briefs into Greek, thereby ensuring accessibility and relevance for national stakeholders including researchers, funders, and policymakers.

### **C. Institutional and Policy Landscape**

EKT functions under the Ministry of Digital Governance and has a strategic role in supporting national policy frameworks. This alignment allows OPERAS-GR to play a strategic role in supporting national policy frameworks while participating in key European initiatives such as EOSC.

The national strategy for open access, in place since the early 2010s, is implemented through EKT-led monitoring systems and services. OPERAS participation builds on this legacy, positioning Greece as a contributor to broader European efforts in open scholarly communication.

### **D. Challenges and Strategic Priorities**

Despite its institutional maturity, EKT faces challenges such as limited resources for scaling OPERAS services nationally and the need to further emphasise the strategic value of SSH in open science discourse. Moreover, while Greece supports OPERAS participation, formal integration into the ERIC framework remains pending.

To address these challenges, OPERAS-GR will strengthen collaboration with universities and cultural institutions, focus on digitising and integrating Greek journals into European infrastructures like GoTriple, and promote the benefits of multilingual content in raising the profile of SSH research.

### **E. Success Stories and National Impact**

OPERAS-GR has already achieved notable success through the integration of Greek SSH journals into GoTriple, raising their discoverability across Europe. National open access principles are increasingly adopted via institutional repositories and platforms, with EKT's infrastructure playing a key role.



The node has also championed multilingualism, ensuring that Greek research is represented in multiple languages. OPERAS-GR serves as a vital mechanism for enhancing SSH visibility and influence within both EOSC and Greek open science policy arenas.

## **F. Community Engagement and Future Outlook**

Through EKT's coordination, OPERAS-GR is bridging national and European scholarly communication efforts. Community engagement efforts—ranging from technical support and training to institutional partnerships—ensure that OPERAS is seen as both a valuable infrastructure and a relevant contributor to policy discussions.

Looking ahead, the OPERAS-GR Node is well-positioned to further advance multilingual, inclusive, and open scholarly communication in Greece, supporting the country's alignment with European research infrastructure goals and paving the way for formal ERIC participation.

### ***6.2.6 OPERAS-HR***

The OPERAS-HR National Node, coordinated by the University of Zadar, serves as Croatia's primary interface for integrating European open science and scholarly communication standards into the national context. Though not yet formally established as a legal entity or funded institutionally, OPERAS-HR was launched on June 16, 2023 and since then is actively shaping the country's open access landscape through education, policy advocacy, and community-building activities.

The University of Zadar, recognised for its Department of Information Sciences and the [MorePress](#) publishing platform, plays a crucial role in the national open access ecosystem, maintaining around 15 journals and more than 100 e-books. The MorePress initiative is nationally recognised as a best practice in scholarly publishing infrastructure.

## **A. Strategic Objectives for 2025**

The core priorities for OPERAS-HR in 2025 are:

- Disseminate OPERAS services and values among Croatian researchers, librarians, and service providers.
- Deepen partnerships with national infrastructures such as DARIAH-HR,

- CLARIN-HR, CROSSDA, and OpenAIRE Node.
- Expand the OPERAS-HR network to include more universities, university presses, research libraries, and learned societies.
- Support Diamond OA book initiatives in Croatia.

## **B. Key Activities for 2025**

In 2025, OPERAS-HR will deliver a dynamic program of activities aimed at strengthening engagement with Open Science and OPERAS services across Croatia. In February, a face-to-face GoTriple training workshop in Zadar will introduce librarians to the platform and guide them on becoming data providers, followed by a VERA training workshop in April, also in Zadar, focused on onboarding librarians into the VERA platform. Throughout the year, the “Podne manje kvarat” talk series will offer monthly discussions alternating between online and in-person formats, open to both researchers and the general public. Journal editors at the University of Zadar (UNIZD) will receive ongoing technical training on the OJS/MorePress platform, aligned with DIAMAS standards. OPERAS-HR will also be present at key events, especially planning a panel discussion at PUBMET 2025 in September, addressing Diamond Open Access and OPERAS-related themes. By June 2025, the OPERAS-HR website will be launched in Croatian, serving as a central platform for news, activities, and documentation targeted at a broad audience.

## **C. Institutional and Policy Landscape**

The Ministry of Science, Education, and Youth in Croatia plays a central role in supporting scholarly communication, having funded open access initiatives for over three decades. The Croatian Ministry appointed representatives for the BGR and supported the University of Zadar as a national node during the OPERAS-PLUS project. OPERAS-HR maintains indirect engagement with the ministry through expert participation and ongoing dialogue and has high expectations for future support from the Ministry.

## **D. Challenges and Strategic Priorities**

The node is prioritising community outreach, institutional collaborations, and coordinated advocacy through stakeholder engagement. Key focus is onboarding of new ordinary members to strengthen national community.

## **E. Success Stories and National Impact**

- Recognition of the MorePress platform and journal support services as national

best practices.

- Successful implementation of DIAMAS and OPERAS standards in University of Zadar Publishing Office.
- Hosting of OPERAS and Diamond-related conferences, including Croatia's first Diamond Open Access Conference in 2023.
- Active engagement in Horizon Europe projects, with the Department of Information Sciences noted for simultaneous participation in four projects (OPERAS-PLUS, DIAMAS, CRAFT-OA and EU-CONEXUS ENABLES).
- Training and technical support to other universities establishing their own OJS platforms.

## **F. Community Engagement and Future Outlook**

The OPERAS-HR Node continues to build momentum:

- Broadening the node to include University of Rijeka, Croatian Association for Scholarly Communication, University of Osijek, Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography, and others.
- Inclusion in national associations for scholarly communication and representation in public discourse.
- Strengthening its presence at major conferences like PUBMET and DEI.
- Starting the initiative for establishment of the Croatian Diamond Capacity Center together with existing and future OPERAS members (SRCE, UniZG Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, National and University in Zagreb, CroASC).

Despite institutional limitations, OPERAS-HR represents a vibrant and community-rooted hub for open science and diamond publishing in Croatia. With continued effort, formal recognition, and alignment with European infrastructure efforts, OPERAS-HR is well-positioned to support Croatia's transition into the OPERAS ERIC landscape and further European integration of its research ecosystem.

### **6.2.7 OPERAS-IT**

The OPERAS-IT National Node is coordinated by the Institute for European Intellectual Lexicon and History of Ideas (ILIESI) of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR). As a multidisciplinary and nationally recognised public research institution, ILIESI-CNR brings together diverse expertise in traditional and digital Humanities scholarship, as well as a longstanding engagement in Open Science. The Italian node operates as a

Joint Research Unit (JRU), comprising universities, libraries, scholarly publishers, and representatives from other SSH research infrastructures. OPERAS-IT plays a pivotal role in supporting open scholarly communication and fostering collaboration across the national and European research landscapes.

The node's mission focuses on strengthening Diamond Open Access, promoting training and advocacy for open science practices, and facilitating synergies between national and European SSH infrastructures. Through targeted outreach and capacity building, OPERAS-IT is advancing Italy's integration into the broader OPERAS framework and contributing to the development of sustainable, inclusive scholarly communication models.

### **A. Strategic Objectives for 2025**

In 2025, OPERAS-IT aims to consolidate its JRU and enhance its visibility through a redesigned website and the expansion of dedicated social media channels. A key strategic priority will be the development of the Italian Diamond Hub within the European Diamond Open Access Community (EDCH), supporting the coordination of diamond OA initiatives nationwide.

The node will focus on training, advocacy, and community building around diamond OA, FAIR principles, and open science, with a particular emphasis on engaging early-career researchers, journal editors, and librarians. OPERAS-IT also seeks to foster closer collaboration with other national SSH infrastructures, such as DARIAH-IT, CLARIN-IT, and E-RIHS IT, by concluding joint initiatives under the H2IOSC project and pursuing collective funding opportunities.

### **B. Key Activities for 2025**

OPERAS-IT has planned a diverse portfolio of activities to support its mission. In spring 2025, the Italian Diamond Hub of the EDCH will launch, accompanied by a public communication campaign and the publication of a national manifesto. A dedicated mailing list and online space will serve as tools for engagement and information sharing among Diamond OA stakeholders.

Several training sessions will be delivered throughout the year, both online and in-person, targeting librarians, PhD students, and journal editors. Notably, in March and May, dedicated open science training courses will be held in Torino and online, while in June, a full-day training event will take place in Napoli under the H2IOSC initiative.

The OPERAS-IT General Assembly will convene in March 2025, followed by the launch of

the new website and the expansion of communication efforts across various platforms, including LinkedIn and Bluesky, in the months to come. Additional events include a Diamond OA webinar during International Open Access Week in October and the organisation of the final OPERAS-PLUS event in June.

### **C. Institutional and Policy Landscape**

OPERAS-IT operates within a highly collaborative and policy-aligned research ecosystem. The node benefits from the institutional credibility and research capacity of CNR, while aligning its efforts with Italy's broader commitment to open science and participation in EU research infrastructures. Through its involvement in projects such as H2IOSC, OPERAS-PLUS, CRAFT-OA and DIAMAS, OPERAS-IT actively supports the implementation of national and European policies on open access, scholarly communication, and research infrastructure development.

### **D. Challenges and Strategic Priorities**

OPERAS-IT faces the challenge of coordinating a diverse range of stakeholders across multiple regions and institutional contexts. Sustaining engagement with journal editors, researchers, and libraries—while promoting innovation and maintaining momentum in Diamond OA adoption—requires continuous investment in communication, training, and infrastructure.

To address these challenges, the node prioritises the consolidation of its community through targeted outreach, the development of reusable training resources, and the creation of national-level coordination mechanisms such as the Diamond Hub. Strategic collaborations with other infrastructures and joint funding applications will also be crucial in reinforcing its long-term sustainability.

### **E. Success Stories and National Impact**

OPERAS-IT has already made substantial contributions to the Italian Open Science landscape. It has led training initiatives for PhD students and academic staff across the country, with publicly available materials archived on Zenodo. OPERAS-IT was instrumental in developing the DOAS (Diamond OA Assessment Standard) and promoting its application among Italian journals.

Through the H2IOSC project, the node has fostered interdisciplinary collaboration and delivered impactful advocacy and education activities. Its coordination of events such as citizen science workshops and technical sprints for publishing platforms further exemplifies its active role in advancing open, inclusive, and community-driven scholarly

communication.

## **F. Community Engagement and Future Outlook**

OPERAS-IT is firmly embedded in Italy's research and innovation ecosystem, bridging national efforts with European initiatives and other Research Infrastructures national nodes (e.g. DARIAH, CLARIN...). Its broad network of partners and commitment to multilingualism, openness, and scholarly inclusivity position the node as a central actor in shaping the future of SSH communication.

Looking ahead, OPERAS-IT will continue to expand its reach through new partnerships, digital tools, and policy engagement. By fostering a strong Diamond OA community and aligning national practices with OPERAS priorities, the Italian node is contributing to the long-term transformation of scholarly communication in Europe.

### **6.2.8 OPERAS-NL**

The OPERAS-NL National Node is led by the OAPEN Foundation, a not-for-profit and independent Dutch foundation ('stichting') headquartered at the National Library in The Hague. Although not formally funded as a national infrastructure, OPERAS-NL is actively engaged in promoting open science practices, especially in scholarly communication and open access book publishing. It operates both the OAPEN Library and DOAB (Directory of Open Access Books), two globally significant open infrastructures for peer-reviewed OA books.

The OAPEN Library contains over 40,000 peer-reviewed OA books from more than 400 publishers, while DOAB (co-governed with OpenEdition) indexes over 95,000 titles from more than 750 publishers. Both infrastructures are recognised for their commitment to transparency, metadata quality, and discoverability.

## **A. Strategic Objectives for 2025**

Key goals for OPERAS-NL in 2025 include:

- Establishing national collaboration with the Humanities Cluster (HuC) at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), especially for stronger national anchoring.
- Promoting OPERAS services, including PRISM and other tools, to the Dutch SSH

community.

- Contributing to the OPERAS-PLUS project and fostering cross-border collaborations.
- Support Diamond OA book initiatives in the Netherlands.

## **B. Key Activities for 2025**

In 2025, OPERAS-NL will focus on raising awareness and promoting its activities through various communication and outreach efforts. A dedicated flyer will introduce PRISM as a tool for quality assessment and transparency in peer review, targeting publishers. A blog post will be published to share insights into OPERAS-NL's objectives and ongoing work with the general public. OPERAS-NL will also gain visibility through poster presentations and discussions at conferences throughout the year. To keep the Dutch academic community informed, a new newsletter will be launched, providing updates on OAPEN, DOAB, and broader OPERAS developments. These efforts will be supported by ongoing social media outreach through platforms such as LinkedIn and Bluesky, where @OAPENbooks will share news, promote services, and engage with researchers and the general public.

## **C. Institutional and Policy Landscape**

The Netherlands boasts a robust Open Science environment, with 47 national and international infrastructures supported by the Dutch Research Council (NWO). OPERAS has been recognised as a qualified initiative by NWO but has not yet received direct financial support. Funding eligibility is contingent upon:

1. The development of the OPERAS ERIC;
2. National co-funding through Dutch institutions (in-kind or direct contributions).

OAPEN is in ongoing talks with KNAW's Humanities Cluster to strengthen national integration and improve OPERAS' visibility within the Dutch SSH ecosystem. Such alignment would enhance OPERAS-NL's standing and funding eligibility.

## **D. Challenges and Strategic Priorities**

Despite international relevance, OPERAS-NL must address several local challenges:

- Absence of direct funding or infrastructure status under NWO.
- Need for a stronger Dutch institutional partner for national anchoring.
- National Open Science policy shifts due to recent government changes, affecting budget allocations negatively.

OPERAS-NL is prioritising strategic alignment with national actors and actively exploring collaboration models to unlock national funding.

### **E. Success Stories and National Impact**

- OAPEN and DOAB provide global infrastructure services from a Dutch base, enhancing the country's international visibility in relation to OA books.
- OPERAS services like PRISM and the Metrics service have been introduced to national stakeholders via collaborative initiatives.
- The OPERAS-NL node helps position the Netherlands as a thought leader in Diamond OA and multilingualism.

### **F. Community Engagement and Future Outlook**

OPERAS-NL/OAPEN continues to:

- Contribute to OPERAS Special Interest Groups, coordinating the OA Books SIG and contributing to the OA Books Network WG, the Business Models WG, the Open Infrastructure WG, and the Common Standards and FAIR Principles SIG.
- Serve as co-manager of DOAB (incl. PRISM) with OpenEdition.
- Facilitate international collaborations and data openness in SSH publishing.

With further alignment via KNAW and sustained outreach, OPERAS-NL is well-positioned to solidify its national presence and contribute substantially to the OPERAS ERIC framework and the broader European research infrastructure landscape.

#### **6.2.9 OPERAS-NO**

The Norwegian National Node, represented by erih+ and hosted by the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills, has been actively laying the groundwork for a stronger integration of OPERAS in the national scholarly communication ecosystem. erih+ (European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences, formerly “ERIH PLUS”), with its longstanding role in supporting academic publishing in SSH, is now evolving into a vital actor in Norway's Open Science infrastructure, aligning its goals with those of OPERAS.

The Directorate itself is a relatively new institution, formally established in 2021,



following the consolidation of several fragmented units responsible for higher education. This merging process has been accompanied by internal restructuring, cross-functional learning, and the gradual formation of stable strategic directions, especially in digital services and Open Science. The Directorate employs a large number of developers and is active in AI-related projects. Their technical capacity is reflected in the upcoming relaunch of the erih+ platform and the Norwegian Register by the end of 2024.

## **A. Strategic Focus and Objectives for 2025**

The OPERAS-NO Node has outlined a focused and actionable agenda for 2025 with the following main objectives:

- To strengthen the visibility and recognition of OPERAS in Norway among researchers, librarians, and national authorities.
- To expand the OPERAS Norway Network by building partnerships with key academic stakeholders.
- To secure funding through the Norwegian Research Council to establish an official and sustainable national OPERAS node.

Moreover, the node also aims to position OPERAS as a key European partner within the national discourse on Diamond Open Access, scholarly publishing tools, and responsible metrics. This aligns well with Norway's broader policy strategy of deepening its connections with European research infrastructures.

## **B. Planned Activities for 2025**

### **1. National Visibility and Web Presence**

A major milestone will be the **launch of new erih+ websites by July 2025**, including a dedicated **OPERAS Norway subpage**. This initiative will significantly enhance OPERAS' visibility and create a communication hub tailored to Norwegian stakeholders in SSH.

### **2. Translation and Localisation**

The OPERAS-NO team plans to **translate key DOAS documents and press releases** into Norwegian by the end of summer 2025. These materials will support outreach and engagement within the Norwegian research and library communities.

### **3. Strengthening Partnerships**

A continued and essential collaboration with the **University of Tromsø** (with Aysa

Ekanger and Philipp Konzett) will support the development of the national node. This collaboration includes regular meetings and joint planning for activities, including co-applying for national infrastructure funding.

#### 4. Funding and Infrastructure Development

The OPERAS-NO team plans to **apply for infrastructure funding through the Norwegian Research Council** in 2027. The goal is to secure long-term support for OPERAS-related activities and establish a formal national node. This application process includes **identifying institutional partners, mapping needs**, and preparing the funding bid. Success would help elevate OPERAS onto the national research roadmap, increasing its visibility and relevance within the Ministry of Education and Research. It was initially the plan to apply for this funding in 2025, but unfortunately this year's call did not include pre-projects, which is what realistically could have been achieved with limited preparation time. Rather than seeing this as a setback, the OPERAS-NO team will focus on submitting a full project for the next call in 2027.

#### 5. Metadata Enrichment and Diamond Open Access

In collaboration with the University of Tromsø and **Septentrio Academic Publishing**, OPERAS-NO is undertaking a project to **identify and mark Diamond journals within erih+**. This includes expanding the platform's metadata fields to reflect Diamond OA practices. The initiative is expected to be positively received by policymakers due to its alignment with national goals and the 2030 Open Access roadmap.

#### 6. Training and Community Engagement

- A **seminar for PhD candidates** was arranged in January 2025 as part of the "Open Science" course at HVL's research school.
- A **potential workshop in summer 2025** will target Norwegian university libraries and serve to bring together potential partners for the infrastructure application.

#### C. Institutional Role and Policy Context

The Directorate is under the authority of the **Ministry of Education and Research (Kunnskapsdepartementet)** and works closely with the **Norwegian Research Council**, which plays a key role in defining and funding national research policies. The Directorate contributes national statistics for research and education and maintains registries like erih+ and the Norwegian Register.

Norway is a highly organised country in terms of Open Science implementation. The national policies are well integrated into university practices, and tools like VERA and

CRISTIN form part of a coherent infrastructure. Open Access and Diamond publishing have strategic significance, with new national policy frameworks expected in early 2024. In this context, OPERAS is seen as an opportunity to avoid duplicating efforts and instead connect to robust European initiatives.

Despite limited national funding, especially due to recent reallocations toward health and defence, the OPERAS-NO team is optimistic. They argue for OPERAS' inclusion on the grounds of internationalisation, policy alignment, and cost-efficiency. With OPERAS' demonstrated project success and strategic focus on SSH, the node advocates that joining the ERIC is a low-cost, high-value action for Norway.

#### **D. Challenges and Outlook**

While OPERAS-NO enjoys institutional support through the Directorate, the formal establishment of a national OPERAS node depends on securing infrastructure funding. The Norwegian Research Council's 2025 call presented itself as a timely opportunity, but as the 2025 call did not include pre-projects, the application will need to be pushed to the next call in 2027. Since the OPERAS-NO team now has more time to organise support for an application, they will be applying for a full project for the 2027 call.

Meanwhile, OPERAS-NO continues to build momentum through active communication, documentation translation, and stakeholder engagement. In support of the mentioned application to the Norwegian Research Council, the team will focus on having OPERAS included in different roadmaps of national importance.

Efforts are also being made to involve additional institutions in the OPERAS infrastructure application to demonstrate broader national commitment. Coordination of the OPERAS SIG on Tools & Platforms is being discussed, as is potential involvement from universities like Stavanger. The node is also present at relevant conferences, such as Munin (which Aysa Ekanger is heavily involved in the planning of) and Nordic bibliometric forums, to increase recognition of OPERAS among policy and research actors.

Finally, the erih+ team is now applying for the OSCARS 2nd Open Call, the goal being to obtain funds for a locally hosted erih+ Article Search, to be developed by Cottage Labs. Should erih+ receive funding, there is already a verbal agreement in place to share article level metadata with the GoTriple platform.

#### **E. Milestones Overview**

Several key milestones are planned as part of the upcoming initiatives. By July 2025, a

new erih+ website will be launched, featuring a dedicated subpage for OPERAS Norway. In parallel, efforts are underway to translate at least one essential DOAS document into Norwegian, with the goal of completing this by the summer of 2025. A seminar focusing on Open Science, specifically tailored for PhD candidates, was arranged in January 2025. Throughout the year, collaboration will continue with the University of Tromsø and Septentrio Academic Publishing, strengthening existing partnerships. An application for infrastructure funding will be submitted to the Norwegian Research Council in 2025. Additionally, a workshop is being proposed for the summer of that year, aimed at engaging university libraries and potential OPERAS collaborators in discussions around infrastructure partnerships. The project also includes an initiative to enhance the visibility and metadata quality of Diamond journals within erih+. This involves identifying relevant journals and enriching their metadata accordingly. Finally, the team will actively participate in key academic and policy events, including presentations at the Munin Conference, the Reykjavik bibliometrics forum, and various national policy consultations. Finally, an application to the OSCARS 2nd Open Call is underway. The goal of this application will be to obtain funding for a locally hosted erih+ Article Search, which in turn would share data with the GoTriple platform.

In conclusion, OPERAS-NO is well-positioned to become a vital link between national SSH stakeholders and the broader OPERAS infrastructure. Its work in metadata enhancement, outreach, and coordination exemplifies how national nodes can localise and amplify OPERAS' goals, while paving the way for sustained impact in national research policy and scholarly communication.

### ***6.2.10 OPERAS-PL***

The Polish National Node, coordinated by the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IBL PAN), exemplifies the dynamic and locally rooted engagement that OPERAS seeks to foster across Europe. IBL PAN, specifically its Centre for Digital Humanities, has long been active in digital scholarship, managing numerous research infrastructures including bibliographic and biographical databases, digital editions, and collaborative European projects. It is also a founding member of OPERAS AISBL and has been involved in OPERAS-related initiatives since 2017.

## **A. Strategic Activities by Area**

### **1. Awareness, Visibility, and Internationalisation**

OPERAS-PL has made considerable strides in increasing the visibility of OPERAS and Open Science practices in the Polish SSH community. This has been achieved through a sustained series of workshops, public events, social media engagement (notably via Facebook), and a regularly updated newsletter. The node maintains a strong mailing list with around 500 subscribers and has authored over 20 blog posts on its Open Humanities blog hosted on Hypotheses.org.

The node's most significant outreach tool has been the "Manifesto of Open Humanities," which served as a platform to gather stakeholders and voice the need for tailored Open Science strategies in the humanities. The manifesto encouraged critical discussion about values in humanities research assessment and inspired community-led responses.

## **2. Service Dissemination and Training**

OPERAS-PL has conducted extensive training sessions on OPERAS services, including GoTriple and VERA, often drawing large and diverse audiences. A particularly successful event was a two-day design-thinking workshop with scientific publishers, which facilitated in-depth discussions on the challenges of Open Access publishing and generated ideas for future support services.

Translations of OPERAS materials into Polish are ongoing, enabling wider access and fostering inclusivity. OPERAS-PL also collaborated with OpenEdition to host Polish journals and monographs online, significantly increasing their visibility and discoverability.

## **3. Community Building and Stakeholder Engagement**

Over the past three years, OPERAS-PL has built a vibrant community encompassing researchers, publishers, and increasingly, libraries and infrastructures. By organising events that invite dialogue across these sectors, IBL PAN has established itself as a trustworthy, central actor in Poland's SSH Open Science landscape. A key partner is PSNC, and ties are strengthening with universities such as Poznań and Katowice, and with infrastructures such as DARIAH-PL and CLARIN.

## **4. Policy Dialogue and National Integration**

Despite persistent advocacy, OPERAS-PL is still not included in the official Polish roadmap for research infrastructures. Efforts have included direct letters and meetings with the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, including attempts to engage deputy ministers and infrastructure departments. Though interactions at the

departmental level have been positive, high-level political support remains elusive.

This exclusion poses a barrier to full national integration, particularly as Poland prepares for the OPERAS ERIC. OPERAS-PL is actively constructing a national consortium that could formally represent OPERAS in Poland and strengthen the argument for joining the ERIC as a Member State. This is seen as crucial, especially in light of the upcoming Polish Presidency of the EU Council in January 2025.

## B. Achievements and Success Stories

- **Manifesto of Open Humanities:** Initiated broad conversations around research assessment reform in SSH.
- **OPERAS Days Poland:** Created space for cross-sector engagement.
- **Open Humanities blog:** Enabled outreach beyond academia.
- **Cooperation with OpenEdition:** Hosted Polish monographs and journals, enhancing accessibility.
- **Design thinking workshops:** Engaged publishers directly to identify their needs.
- **TRIPLE, OPERAS-P, and Innovation Lab involvement:** Positioned Poland as a visible and active partner in Horizon Europe projects.

## C. Challenges and Policy Landscape

OPERAS-PL faces institutional and political hurdles, particularly in being recognised on the Polish national roadmap. Funding remains an ongoing issue, with limited national mechanisms supporting Diamond OA models. The National Science Centre has some Open Access requirements aligned with Plan S, but remains resistant to broader CoARA reform principles. There is no comprehensive national Open Science policy in place.

Still, the node is building a strong case for national relevance by:

- Proposing the localisation of OPERAS services (e.g., Innovation Lab in Poland).
- Demonstrating collaboration with other EU infrastructures.
- Emphasising societal and economic impact.
- Creating a vision for a Polish SSHOC cluster aligned with EOSC.

## D. Milestones Overview

The OPERAS initiative in Poland began with a successful kick-off meeting during OPERAS Days Poland 2023, which saw broad participation from various stakeholders. Following this, a series of workshops were organised to promote key OPERAS services such as GoTriple, VERA, OpenEdition, and the Innovation Lab, helping to build awareness and engagement within the community. The national website is currently

under development, while a blog has already been launched and is active through the Hypotheses platform, providing regular updates and insights. In terms of funding, the Polish node has benefited from involvement in Horizon Europe projects like TRIPLE and OPERAS-P, and efforts are underway to secure renewed national funding to support continued activities. The national consortium is coordinated by the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IBL PAN) and includes a range of partners such as PSNC, several universities, and DARIAH-PL, ensuring a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach. Advocacy work is also in progress, with a focus on securing recognition from the national ministry for inclusion in the national research infrastructure roadmap and eventual membership in an ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium).

In summary, OPERAS-PL exemplifies a resilient, proactive, and visionary National Node. Despite institutional roadblocks, it continues to influence national discourse, cultivate communities, and amplify OPERAS' mission throughout Poland. As OPERAS moves toward ERIC status, the activities of IBL PAN reflect a strong foundation for long-term engagement and structural integration at the national and European levels.

### ***6.2.11 OPERAS-PT***

The Portuguese National Node, OPERAS-PT, coordinated by the University of Coimbra, has been steadily expanding its presence within the national academic landscape. Although not yet formally funded, the node has demonstrated strong institutional commitment and strategic planning toward consolidating its structure, engaging local stakeholders, and contributing to OPERAS at a European level. In terms of funding and capacity building, the Portuguese node has benefited from Coimbra's participation in Horizon Europe projects such as TRIPLE, OPERAS-P, PALOMERA, CRAFT-OA, ATRIUM, LUMEN. Efforts are currently being made to secure consistent national funding to fully support the implementation of the node and the expansion of its activities, particularly through the integration of OPERAS-PT into the National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures.

#### **A. Strategic Objectives for 2025**

In 2025, OPERAS-PT will focus on the following priorities:

- Consolidating a core group of OPERAS-PT stakeholders, particularly involving the main academic publishers in Portugal.
- Increasing the reach and frequency of training and communication activities.

- Representing OPERAS-PT in at least three external events to raise visibility.

These goals reflect a balanced approach that combines national network development with international representation.

## B. Planned Activities for 2025

### 1. Training and Service Promotion

OPERAS-PT is committed to promoting OPERAS services throughout 2025 via targeted training sessions:

- **GoTriple platform presentation:** Scheduled for the end of the first semester, aimed at students and researchers.
- **VERA platform introduction:** Planned for the second semester.
- **Information on Pathfinder:** Included in upcoming outreach materials and presentations.

These sessions are tailored to increase familiarity with OPERAS tools, improve research workflows, and stimulate engagement with Open Science infrastructure.

### 2. Communication and Engagement

OPERAS-PT will increase public engagement and awareness through a series of communication initiatives:

- **Regular blog posts** published throughout the year.
- **Face-to-face talks on Open Science topics** every three months in partnership with the Rómulo Science Communication Centre.
- **Bi-monthly newsletters**, starting in June.
- **Weekly social media posts** across Bluesky, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.
- **Event-driven mailings.**
- **Translation of the OPERAS policy brief** into Portuguese (first semester).

These activities aim to maintain a consistent presence across multiple platforms and strengthen OPERAS-PT's visibility among students, researchers, librarians, and the general public.

### 3. Dissemination and External Representation

OPERAS-PT also plans to:



- Attend and present at national or international **conferences**.
- Submit and disseminate a **poster about the node**.

Participation in these forums will serve both as outreach and as strategic positioning of OPERAS in the national science policy context.

#### 4. Structural Development

The node aims to formalise its structure by:

- **Signing a consortium agreement** with national stakeholders, reinforcing institutional cooperation and operational coordination.

#### C. Past Activities in 2024

OPERAS-PT has already laid important groundwork through a variety of activities:

- **Open Science Communities Coimbra (May 2024)**: A face-to-face event at the University of Coimbra gathering researchers, librarians, and educators.
- **Presentation of OPERAS services (September 2024)**: Online meeting with OPERAS-PT's core group, focusing on the OPERAS service catalogue and platform capabilities.

These actions have helped create a base of understanding and interest in OPERAS tools and open scholarly communication within the Portuguese academic community.

#### D. Thematic Expertise and Strategic Contribution

National Nodes such as OPERAS-PT (the Portuguese node led by the University of Coimbra) are providing expertise for specific topics that are particularly important and addressing needs within the open scholarly communication community in the Social Sciences and Humanities. OPERAS-PT, for example, is contributing with its expertise on Multilingualism through its work as a leader of the Special Interest Group (SIG) on Multilingualism of OPERAS and initiated the creation of a new translation service, **Mondaecus**, with the purpose of supporting collaborative work that brings together translators, editors and subject matter experts to deliver high-quality translations. Additionally, National Nodes have enabled translations for national communities early in the process, such as DOAS via the Mondaecus service. Furthermore, within the OPERAS framework, national languages are also prioritised to enhance accessibility. For instance, the **GoTriple** and **VERA** services are available in nine different languages, those of the National Nodes, making resources more accessible for local users or National Nodes being supporters in translating info and presentation material into their

national languages.

## E. Challenges and Future Outlook

A key challenge for OPERAS-PT remains the **lack of formal funding**. Despite this, the team at the University of Coimbra has mobilised institutional resources and partnerships to continue its work. Strengthening the consortium, improving national visibility by being formally integrated into the National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures, and securing sustainable funding will be central to OPERAS-PT's success.

The University of Coimbra's leadership, the strength and experience of Coimbra University Press (with the work of around 8,000 authors published in Open Access), combined with Portugal's emerging Open Science agenda, places OPERAS-PT in a strong position to grow its role nationally and to contribute meaningfully to the OPERAS Research Infrastructure at the European level.

## F. Milestones Overview

In 2025, a series of training sessions will introduce the GoTriple and VERA platforms to the Portuguese research community. Alongside these, dissemination efforts will continue through events where information about the Pathfinder tool and related OPERAS services is shared. Substantial developments are also expected for the Mondaecus platform to support collaborative translation, with the launch of the Alpha version planned for the last quarter of the year. Engagement is further supported by quarterly in-person Open Science talks and regular blog publications, fostering dialogue and raising awareness. A dedicated social media campaign runs with weekly posts across platforms including Bluesky, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram, complemented by a bi-monthly newsletter that will begin circulation in June 2025. To broaden accessibility, a key OPERAS policy brief is being translated into Portuguese, with completion planned for the first half of the year. The national node is also solidifying its foundation through a formal consortium agreement with key academic stakeholders in Portugal. OPERAS-PT will maintain a strong presence in the wider scholarly community by participating in at least three external conferences or events throughout the year, ensuring visibility and continued collaboration.

In summary, OPERAS-PT continues to develop as a committed, proactive national node. Its community-building efforts, strong communication strategy, and dedication to service dissemination reflect a clear vision for enhancing Portugal's role in European open scholarly communication networks.

### **6.2.12 OPERAS-SI**

Slovenia's contribution to OPERAS is coordinated through ZRC SAZU (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts), one of the country's leading institutions in the humanities and social sciences. Comprising 18 institutes, mainly SSH, and more than 500 researchers, ZRC SAZU has been a key actor in promoting open scholarly communication and alignment with European infrastructures, especially in the areas of publishing.

OPERAS has been included in the Slovenian National Roadmap since 2021, and in 2024 several news and invitations to OPERAS activities were published via the Slovenian Society for Open Science (SSOZ), which greatly increased the visibility of OPERAS; the PALOMERA final conference in Ljubljana (October 2024) also contributed greatly to this. The consortium, founded in December 2024, has received funding from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation for the consortium's activities during the transition period until ERIC is established.

#### **A. Strategic Objectives for 2025**

In 2025, OPERAS-SI will focus on:

- Establishment of a comprehensive database of scientific journals and scientific publishers in Slovenia.
- Promoting the quality of Slovenian scientific publishing: disseminating the DIAMAS and PALOMERA principles, increasing the number of Diamond Journals and trustworthy publishers.
- Organising a year-long programme of training and engagement activities.
- Strengthening its position within national infrastructure discussions and policy frameworks.
- Enhancing collaboration with national publishers, libraries, and policymakers to raise awareness of OPERAS tools.

These efforts will strengthen and firmly establish the national node and integrate it even more closely into the general Slovenian Open Science community within the field of publishing. The SSH community is the main beneficiary of the development of domestic publishing (about 60% of scientific publications in Slovenia are SSH), but it is also a model for other disciplines to follow.

#### **B. Planned Activities for 2025**

In 2025, OPERAS-SI will conduct a range of activities to support strategic coordination and foster engagement within the Slovenian research community. The year will begin with an internal consortium meeting in January to update partners on ongoing activities and ensure alignment. Several workshops and trainings will be offered throughout the year, including an online OJS training in February for editors and authors, focusing on the DIAMAS/CRAFT-OA guidelines, and an online Monographs Workshop in April to discuss the results of the PALOMERA project and developments in monograph publishing. Another key online workshop, the Diamond Journals Workshop in May, will present a database of Slovenian scientific journals and introduce the principles of DOAS. Several additional consortium meetings will take place in April, June, September, and November, continuing the strategic coordination and sharing of updates. In November, OPERAS-SI will contribute to the national Open Science Days (Dnevi OZ) with a panel discussion and poster presentation for researchers. The year will conclude with a face-to-face VERA training workshop in December, specifically tailored for librarians, to provide practical insights into using the VERA platform.

### **C. Institutional Role and Strategic Relevance**

ZRC SAZU is Slovenia's third-largest research institution and plays a leading role in promoting Open Access publishing through its in-house publisher, Založba ZRC, which annually produces around 70 books and 15 journals. It is well-positioned to bridge the gap between researchers, publishers, and Open Science policy actors.

In addition to the ZRC SAZU, the initial consortium includes:

- The University of Ljubljana, the largest Slovenian university and the largest Slovenian publisher of scientific publications;
- The University of Maribor, the second largest Slovenian university, with a strong publishing house;
- University of Primorska, the third largest university in Slovenia, responsible for publishing under the Slovenian Action Plan for Open Science (2023–2030);
- Central Technical Library, national library (for STEM) and one of the coordinators of the consortium for the purchase of foreign journals, with several tasks under the Slovenian Open Science Action Plan, especially for citizen science;
- Institute of Contemporary History, a public institute and the Slovenian coordinator of DARIAH-SI.

ZRC SAZU and the other members of the consortium are involved in the above-mentioned SSOZ, in which OPERAS-SI activities have a strong influence, particularly on activities related to open access publishing.

## **D. Community Engagement and Policy Context**

OPERAS-SI's strength lies in its close ties with the research community and its ability to operate within Slovenia's highly interconnected academic environment. Communication often occurs through informal channels, but the node is increasingly participating in formal activities such as:

- Hosting discussions on Open Science and OPERAS tools.
- Engaging in European projects (e.g. GoTriple, CRAFT-OA, PALOMERA).
- Building bridges with national libraries, universities, publishers, and policy influencers.

Raising OPERAS' visibility at the national policy level remains a priority. The node seeks to demonstrate the value of OPERAS tools and services in supporting Slovenia's strategic goals for internationalisation, research impact, and Open Access compliance.

## **E. Challenges and Outlook**

Slovenia has (since 2023) strong legal provisions prescribing open science, and is implementing an Open Science Action Plan, in which all Slovenian public scientific institutions are more or less directly involved, including the members of the OPERAS-SI consortium. In short, the establishment of OPERAS-SI comes at a time when all Slovenian research and educational institutions are striving for the same goal: to strengthen research and educational activities according to the principles of open science. The experience and methods of SSH, as well as knowledge of similar activities abroad, are crucial in this respect.

2025 presents key opportunities:

- Consolidating the national consortium.
- Strengthening participation in national and European infrastructure projects.
- Building capacity through training and knowledge-sharing among other national nodes and OPERAS training activities.

As expressed by the OPERAS-SI team, "It's always good to hear news from the West side. There are improvements and technologies we can benefit from. And we can add our experience to them too."

## **F. Milestones Overview**

The OPERAS initiative began with the first webinar in April 2023, where the project and its services were introduced to a wider audience, marking a key moment in its outreach

efforts. A follow-up webinar is scheduled for May 2024 to provide further updates and engage additional stakeholders. One of the significant milestones will be the final PALOMERA conference, set to take place in Ljubljana in October 2024. This conference marked the culmination of the PALOMERA project and its contributions to the broader academic community. In December 2024, the OPERAS consortium formalized its collaboration with the signing of a consortium contract by six partners, officially approved by the ministry, solidifying the initiative's institutional framework.

### **6.2.13 OPERAS-UK**

The OPERAS-UK National Node, coordinated by Jisc, was launched in 2025. As the primary digital infrastructure and services provider for UK higher education and research, Jisc brings a wealth of experience, infrastructure, and strategic connectivity to the OPERAS community. Jisc's broad remit encompasses networking (via Janet), licensing and negotiations with publishers, and the delivery of Open Science services for its institutional members across the UK.

The inclusion of Jisc as the UK representative in OPERAS was a natural transition from UCL Press, which originally served as the UK's member. Jisc's capacity to connect with research funders, policymakers, and institutions across the UK has positioned it as a strategic and impactful node within the OPERAS network.

#### **A. Strategic Objectives and Vision**

OPERAS-UK seeks to:

- Establish a visible and active OPERAS presence in the UK.
- Engage with research funders, councils, and policymakers to advocate for OPERAS' inclusion in national infrastructure plans.
- Raise awareness of OPERAS services and foster participation from UK institutions in OPERAS activities.
- Support the UK's Open Access and Open Science strategy, with a focus on equity, accessibility, and international collaboration.

OPERAS-UK will build upon Jisc's existing relationships and policy engagement with stakeholders such as the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), UKRI, and the Department for Science, Innovation and

Technology (DSIT).

## **B. Key Activities for 2024–2025**

In 2024 and early 2025, OPERAS-UK carried out a series of activities to increase its visibility and engage key stakeholders in the UK academic and Open Access communities. On December 5, 2024, an online event was held as a "soft launch" to begin promoting OPERAS-UK and initiate early contacts with stakeholders. The official public launch took place on February 25, 2025, marking the formal introduction of the UK Node and engagement with institutions. Throughout 2025, OPERAS-UK engaged in policy advocacy, establishing contact with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) and research councils to promote the UK's participation in OPERAS. Member engagement efforts have been ongoing, reaching out to universities, libraries, and other Open Access stakeholders.

In the future, OPERAS-UK will continue to promote its presence in 2025, with features on the Jisc website, social media campaigns, and strategic invitations. It will also actively participate in European initiatives such as PALOMERA and DIAMAS through cross-ERIC collaboration. Furthermore, in 2025, OPERAS-UK will facilitate community-building activities, organising conversations among its members and with Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) organisations to strengthen its network.

## **C. Institutional Role and Policy Landscape**

Jisc operates as a trusted partner of UK higher education, providing connectivity and services that underpin national research activities. It also supports international initiatives, such as OpenAIRE and Knowledge Exchange, with key team members deeply involved in OPERAS, PALOMERA, and DIAMAS.

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) oversees UK research infrastructure policy, while research councils under UKRI manage funding. However, AHRC and ESRC, which are most relevant to SSH, face challenges such as limited budgets and a lack of dedicated infrastructure pathways.

OPERAS-UK engages with these structures to present a compelling case for national support, highlighting OPERAS' contributions to Open Access monographs, Diamond OA, multilingualism, and equitable infrastructure for SSH.

## **D. Challenges and National Context**

The UK context presents a mix of opportunity and complexity:

- Ministries rely heavily on research councils for infrastructure recommendations.
- Funding constraints, Brexit-related shifts, and civil service turnover hinder long-term planning.
- SSH infrastructures, such as OPERAS, DARIAH, or CLARIN, have historically struggled to secure UK national investment.

Despite this, Jisc has maintained consistent advocacy and institutional engagement. OPERAS-UK aims to create a space for SSH-focused institutions to collaborate, promote service uptake, and present a unified voice for inclusion in research infrastructure policy.

### E. Success Stories and Impact

- OPERAS featured multiple times in Jisc's internal **International Baseline Report**, highlighting its value.
- Through Graham Stone's involvement in IFLA, OPERAS participated in a cross-project webinar alongside PALOMERA, DIAMAS, and CRAFT-OA.
- OPERAS-UK played a supporting role in **Knowledge Exchange** reports on Open Access Books, contributing to the research foundation of PALOMERA.
- **New UK institutional members** are joining OPERAS, strengthening national representation.

### F. Community Strategy and Outlook

OPERAS-UK prioritises inclusivity and internationalisation:

- Working with broad communities, including libraries, Open Book Collective, and institutional publishers.
- Promoting OPERAS tools that align with UK interests in discoverability, equity, and responsible research evaluation.
- Advocating for OPERAS as a solution to policy gaps in SSH infrastructures.

With its launch in 2025, OPERAS-UK is positioned to become a dynamic node connecting UK SSH research to European infrastructure efforts.



## 7. Conclusion

The pathway for the second and final version of the OPERAS National Nodes roadmap has revealed itself as a rich one, comprising a plethora of aligned activities, support among both new and existing nodes, and within the infrastructure, with dedicated activities in communication and liaison. In the first version of this roadmap, the team presented ideas and plans. In the second version, the reader will be presented with the realisation of the proposed plans and a series of actions already put in place, along with supporting documents that provide structure to each national community representative/deputy.

This version of the roadmap reinforces the basis created in the first year of OPERAS-PLUS and also serves as a means to review and consolidate the structure that was initially proposed. Now, the bones have gained muscle, and the work has to be continued until the ERIC is established on a strong base.

As stated since the beginning, OPERAS national nodes are highly strategic to achieve OPERAS objectives, especially in what regards Objective 1: establishing OPERAS as a pan-European, efficient organisation and highly representative of the SSH Open ScholComm<sup>14</sup> communities. Now, the roadmap presented here offers not only a guide but also proof of how this main objective has started to reach its way.

As challenges are always part of all processes, one of the annexes presented after this conclusion, the National Nodes policy brief, is positioned in a way that highlights the importance of the nodes and also their path towards financial stability that is needed for the future.

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<sup>14</sup> SchoComm: Scholarly Communication.

## 8. Annexes

### Annex A

OPERAS Policy Brief on National Nodes (*version of May 2025; might be changed after publication*)

#### POLICY BRIEF COMMON TEMPLATE

#### RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

#### INTRODUCTION: PROJECT TITLE AND PROJECT OBJECTIVES

**CALL:** HORIZON-INFRA-2021-DEV-02

(Developing and consolidating the European research infrastructures landscape, maintaining global leadership (2021))

**TOPIC:** OPERAS National Nodes

**PROJECT:** On the road to sustainability: paving the way for OPERAS as an efficient open Social Sciences and Humanities scholarly communication Research Infrastructure (OPERAS-PLUS)

<https://operas-eu.org>

**PROJECT:** objectives

The general objective of the OPERAS-PLUS project is to provide the necessary support OPERAS needs to complete its preparatory phase and to transition its status into an ERIC.

This general objective is divided in several specific objectives (SOs), defined by the topic description, the recommendations provided by the ESFRI report and the issues raised by the OPERAS General Assembly in 2021:

(SO1) To develop and strengthen OPERAS governance structure, esp. financial, legal, and human resource management aspects of the infrastructure central hub in a sustainable way, compliant with RI management best practices.

(SO2) To support the establishment and development of OPERAS national nodes, set up and manage their relations with the central hub.

(SO3) To develop OPERAS portfolio of services by providing both required technology and a monitoring system for services development.

(SO4) To maximise OPERAS' impact in the ERA and at international level by extending it beyond its current scope and onboarding new members and countries in the infrastructure.

**Name and email address of the operational project coordinator:**

Michael Kaiser, Max Weber Stiftung, [kaiser@maxweberstiftung.de](mailto:kaiser@maxweberstiftung.de)

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Implementation of research infrastructures.**

**National Nodes are essential structural elements** within the OPERAS Research Infrastructure, serving as key connection points between European-level coordination and local research communities. These nodes ensure that local needs and perspectives are integrated into broader European initiatives, thus facilitating the internationalisation of research without losing diverse cultures, languages and traditions of scholarly practices.<sup>15</sup> This integration is fundamental for building a truly inclusive and effective European Research Area (ERA), particularly in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH).

National Nodes are instrumental in delivering OPERAS' objectives and successful community management. To guide their development, an **OPERAS National Nodes Roadmap** was developed during the the OPERAS-PLUS project, setting out four strategic principles:

- **Increasing awareness of OPERAS nationally;**
- **Building strong networks among relevant stakeholders;**
- **Understanding the specific needs of potential partners;**
- **Tailoring the dissemination of OPERAS services to meet those needs.**

The project has achieved critical milestones and key results that bring OPERAS closer to full operational maturity:

- Established a structured network of emerging National Nodes in 13 countries
- Developed a common strategic framework for community engagement and service dissemination
- Enhanced national visibility of OPERAS through targeted outreach and stakeholder involvement
- Initiated collaboration with local institutions, laying the groundwork for long-term partnerships

These results provide a solid foundation for the sustainable implementation of the National Nodes' and demonstrate their potential to serve as multipliers of European impact at national and regional levels.

Despite the progress made, the **primary bottleneck remains a lack of sustained funding** for the National Nodes. Currently, most activities are carried out as in-kind contributions, placing a strain on institutional resources and limiting the Nodes' capacity to scale up their operations.

- **Access to research infrastructures.**

**National Nodes facilitate bidirectional integration.** This approach ensures specific local needs are acknowledged, discussed and integrated into the OPERAS infrastructure at European level, while overarching recommendations, resources and services are tailored to the unique needs of each national research community, fostering both scalability and collaboration.

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<sup>15</sup> The importance of national contact points are common in a lot of European structures, as well as in [Horizon Europe](#) itself.

Examples of the work and impact of OPERAS National Nodes within their respective countries can be grouped into:

→ **Enhancing visibility and reach of national initiatives and services**

PRISM, a peer review service for monographs operated by OAPEN for DOAB and representing the Dutch National Node, OPERAS-NL, became part of the OPERAS service catalogue in 2019, enabling software improvements and wider outreach. This integration helped increase DOAB's collection from 10,000 to 35,000 books and downloads from 300,000 to over 14 million. OPERAS-GER, led by the Max Weber Foundation, raised awareness of PRISM in Germany, leading to 25 new publisher supporters and over 1.3 million downloads—15% of total traffic. In 2023, a service-level agreement allowed the OAPEN Library to host DFG-funded (Germany's largest research funding body) open access books.

→ **Internationalisation & strengthening collaboration within national infrastructures**

The rapid establishment of OPERAS-IT (Italy) within 12 months initiated strong national engagement and led to the formation of H2IOSC, a collaborative cluster of humanities-focused infrastructures including CLARIN-IT, DARIAH-IT, E-RIHS.it, and OPERAS-IT.

OPERAS-GER (Germany) has become a key player in Germany's national research infrastructure through its involvement in the NFDI, especially the Text+ consortium, and by joining GKFI e.V. alongside CLARIN and DARIAH. It has also facilitated the integration of services such as BASE and the German National Library into the GoTriple platform, expanding access to millions of OA publications.

OPERAS-SI (Slovenia) was launched in December 2024 and now leads national efforts on publishing quality and visibility, supported by a broad open science community and expected future ministry funding.

→ **Triggering new discussions**

OPERAS-PL (Poland), led by IBL-PAN, developed the 'Manifesto of Open Humanities', stimulating national debate on integrating open science into research assessment and policy.

OPERAS-HR (Croatia), led by the University of Zadar, is aligning national standards with European developments by implementing services like PRISM and promoting initiatives locally such as the Barcelona Declaration.

OPERAS-PT (Portugal), led by the University of Coimbra, contributes expertise on multilingualism and launched Mondaecus, a translation service supporting high-quality, collaborative scholarly translations. Across National Nodes, early translation efforts and services like GoTriple and VERA—available in eleven and nine languages, respectively—enhance accessibility and engagement with open scholarly communication across Europe.

- **Funding of research infrastructures.**

As OPERAS moves towards becoming an ERIC, different national funding models are being discussed within the Board of Governing Representatives, taking into account each country's GDP.

Securing sustainable funding is crucial for National Nodes to actively support the local implementation of OPERAS services in order to identify potential new members, and enhance awareness in each country. **Investing in the National Nodes is not just an investment in OPERAS but in the future of open scholarly communication and research excellence in the ERA for Social Sciences and Humanities.**

- **Sustainability of research infrastructures.**

To sustain the impact of the National Nodes, to ensure they effectively contribute to national and EU priorities and maintain interconnectivity between infrastructures and research communities within SSH across the ERA, we recommend the following actions:

1. **Establish a Structured EU-Level Dialogue**

Encourage continuous engagement amongst the European Commission, OPERAS, and National Nodes to align strategies and explore collaboration opportunities for long-term sustainability.

2. **Foster Strategic Partnerships**

In recognition of the value that OPERAS National Nodes bring to the EU, key areas and actors identified nationally, particularly within the SSH, should be taken into account in EU policies to maximise impact.

3. **Enhance Financial Support at the EU Level**

Develop dedicated EU funding instruments to support the operational activities and coordination of National Nodes—especially staffing and service implementation—and encourage Member States to co-invest through ERIC membership or complementary national schemes.

By working together, we can strengthen the National Nodes and reinforce their pivotal role in achieving the connection between the European and national infrastructures.

## Annex B

National Node template (generic example)

# National Nodes ROADMAP

## Activities plan for the year XXX

### **General information**

Name: OPERAS-XX

[insert National node LOGO]

Country:

Lead Institution:

**[Insert name]**

Contact: [name of the person]

E-mail:

Institution's website:

National node website:

Funding Information:

Mailing list

Social media: Twitter/X/Mastodon/LinkedIn

Blog

### **Planned activities for 20XX**

Main objectives for the OPERAS-XX Node are: **[suggestion: name 1-3 main objectives]**

•

**[Potential list of activities; examples from which you can choose. Delete or add what is necessary/missing]**

| Activity              | Planned date and place | Type of activity      | Stakeholder group         | Short description, link to materials |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| GoTRIPLE presentation |                        | F2F / online workshop | librarians<br>researchers | Presentation of the GoTRIPLE         |

| Activity                                    | Planned date and place | Type of activity                   | Stakeholder group                           | Short description, link to materials   |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
|   |                        |                                    |   | platform   |
| VERA presentation                           |                        | F2F / online workshop              | librarians<br>researchers                   | Intro to VERA <a href="#">documents</a>  |
| Pathfinder presentation                     |                        |                                    |   | Info about the <a href="#">Pathfinder</a>  |
| PRISM Peer Review                           |                        |                                    |   |  |
| a blog post on the Node                     |                        |                                    |   |  |
| Online talks on OS topics                   |                        | short online talks/<br>discussions | general public,<br>researchers,<br>students | Monthly online talks<br>Inspiration:<br><b>Chats series from OPERAS-GER</b>  |
| <b>[different]</b><br>Conference attendance |                        | conference submission              | conf participants                           | poster about OPERAS National Node  |
| newsletter                                  |                        |                                    |   |  |
| SM posts                                    |                        |                                    |   |  |
| mailings                                    |                        |                                    |   |  |
| Policy brief - translation                  |                        |                                    |   |  |
| Operas-UK soft launch                       | 5 December 2024        | Webinar                            | Existing members in the UK                  | Operas people will do a presentation of what a node does and we will encourage existing UK members to say what they want from the UK |

| Activity         | Planned date and place | Type of activity | Stakeholder group                            | Short description, link to materials |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
|                  |                        |                  |  | node                                 |
| Operas UK launch | 25 February 2025       | Webinar          | UK HEI institutions, the public, researchers | In planning stage                    |
|                  |                        |                  |  |                                      |

## Past activities

Year 20XX

| Activity | Date and place | Type of activity | Stakeholder group | Short description, link to materials/reports |
|----------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
|          |                |                  |                   |  |
|          |                |                  |                   |  |