



DIAMOND OPEN ACCESS RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES

*for Institutions, Funders,
Sponsors, Donors, and
Policymakers*

May 2025



About this document

These recommendations and guidelines were developed for and together with institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers through co-design processes that were led by the European University Association, Science Europe, and OPERAS, respectively. This was done between December 2023 and November 2024 as part of the Horizon Europe project 'Developing Institutional Open Access Publishing Models to Advance Scholarly Communication' ([DIAMAS](#)). The [project report](#) was the basis for this publication.

Authors

Sona Lisa Arasteh-Roodsary (OPERAS), Vinciane Gaillard (European University Association – EUA), Federica Garbuglia (EUA), Pierre Mounier (OPERAS), Janne Pölönen (Federation of Finnish Learned Societies – TSV), Vanessa Proudman (SPARC Europe), Johan Rooryck (cOAlition S), Bregt Saenen (Science Europe), and Graham Stone (Jisc).

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the reviewers of the project report, Remedios Melero (Spanish National Research Council – CSIC) and Youngim Jung (Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information – KISTI).

Design

Iwan Groeneveld (Science Europe)

Image Credits

Cover	Pexels/Aleksandar Pasaric
Page 13–23	Icons: reshot/@oelhoem



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
1. Introduction	6
1.1. A New Focus on Diamond Open Access	7
2. Pathways to Support Diamond Open Access	10
3. Recommendations and Guidelines	13
3.1. Positive Research Cultures	13
3.2. Economic and Financial Responsibilities	16
3.3. Dynamics of Authority, Patronage, and Legitimacy	19
4. Concluding Remarks	24






Executive Summary

This report presents a comprehensive and flexible framework to support Diamond Open Access (OA) in scholarly publishing. It offers recommendations and guidelines tailored to institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers, and addresses the diverse needs, concerns, and opportunities within the evolving Diamond OA ecosystem.








Collective responsibility and collaboration

Supporting Diamond OA is a shared responsibility among institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers. While each plays a distinct role, their coordinated efforts are essential for the long-term sustainability of this publishing model. The report underscores the importance of coordinated collaboration, emphasising that:

-  **Institutions** act as ‘parent organisations’ by providing staff, infrastructure, and academic resources to maintain Diamond OA journals, platforms, and repositories.
-  **Funders, sponsors, and donors** ensure financial sustainability through policies and investments that enable the continued maintenance and development of Diamond OA.
-  **Policymakers** at regional, national, and EU levels create frameworks that facilitate and incentivise Diamond OA adoption.

Pathways for supporting Diamond OA



To foster a thriving Diamond OA ecosystem, the report outlines strategic pathways for engagement, recommending the following concrete actions:

-  Identify reasons and motivations to support Diamond OA and promote its benefits.
-  Enhance recognition and reward systems for Diamond OA authors, editors, and staff.
-  Invest in the development of monitoring systems and evidence-gathering initiatives.
-  Sign the [Action Plan for Diamond OA](#).
-  Support local, national, and community Diamond Capacity Centres.
-  Engage in the [European Diamond Capacity Hub](#).
-  Engage in the Global Diamond Open Access Framework.



Recommendations and guidelines

The framework aims to guide institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers in their support of Diamond OA. The report organises its recommendations and guidelines in separate, but related categories that reflect the main reasons for research actors to support Diamond OA, including:

-  **Positive research cultures:** Institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers share a responsibility to strengthen positive research cultures that reflect core values such as autonomy, freedom, care, collegiality, collaboration, equality, diversity, inclusion, integrity, ethics, openness, and transparency.
-  **Economic and financial responsibilities:** Institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers must address economic and financial responsibilities to ensure that scholarly publishing is sustainable and provides societal value.
-  **Dynamics of authority, patronage, and legitimacy:** When supporting Diamond OA, institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers must take into account the dynamics of authority, patronage, and legitimacy. This includes both top-down support and bottom-up initiatives.

While comprehensive, this framework remains flexible, allowing different organisations to prioritise actions based on their unique contexts, governance structures, operational models, and available resources. Stakeholders may implement recommendations at varied timelines, depending on national policies and institutional readiness.

Conclusion

This set of recommendations and guidelines serves as a foundational document for institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers committed to supporting Diamond OA. By providing a structured yet adaptable set of recommendations and guidelines, it lays the groundwork for a collaborative effort to reshape scholarly publishing. The continued evolution of Diamond OA will require ongoing dialogue, policy alignment, and resource allocation to ensure its long-term success.




1. Introduction

The recommendations and guidelines in this report have been developed to help institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers that support, or are willing to support, Diamond Open Access (OA) as a model for scholarly publishing. They were co-designed together with and for European institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers.



These recommendations and guidelines are a comprehensive and flexible framework for institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers to take action on Diamond OA. The framework is comprehensive because it provides a wide scope of actions, including supporting positive research cultures, taking economic and financial responsibilities, and acknowledging dynamics of authority, patronage, and legitimacy.

The framework is also flexible because organisations can prioritise the actions most important to them in the short and long term, depending on their goals and objectives. First, the recommendations presented in this document may have different implementation timelines. This is especially relevant for institutions, whose operations highly depend on national contexts, institutional readiness and specific organisational cultures. Second, the actionability of selected recommendations may differ depending on the type of institution, as funders, sponsors, donors, universities, research performing organisations, and learned societies. Different governance structures, operational models or resources, including staff or social and technical infrastructures can significantly influence their ability to adopt these recommendations.

Supporting Diamond OA is a collective responsibility shared by institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers. The analysis presented here highlights areas of priority that are common to many, emphasising that the recommendations and guidelines to support Diamond OA ultimately require collective action and collaboration across all these actors, with each of them playing an essential role in maintaining and developing this model.

 **Institutions** such as universities, other research performing organisations, and learned societies often act as a ‘parent organisation’ for institutional publishers and publishing services providers. On the one hand, they provide them with a diverse set of services, including infrastructure, financial support, and, on the other, with the academic resources needed to maintain and operate Diamond OA outputs (journals, books and other publications), publishing platforms, and repositories.



-  **Funders, sponsors, and donors** are key actors in the fast-evolving scholarly publishing landscape. Their policies and investments ensure that scholarly publishing is sustainable and provides societal value. This responsibility is especially important as studies ([example 1](#), [example 2](#)) consistently highlight sustainable funding as one of the key challenges to support Diamond OA.
-  **Policymakers** are key to facilitating Diamond OA, because they create crucial regional, national, and EU-level policies and funding that simultaneously support and incentivise funders, sponsors, donors and institutional leaders in progressing the development of Diamond OA.

1.1. A New Focus on Diamond Open Access

The scholarly publishing landscape has become increasingly complex and diverse with the growth of open access. Shifting away from the traditional subscription-based publishing model, the research sector has had to navigate transformative agreements, article processing charges, and several other publication models.

The predominantly commercial approach to open access has raised urgent questions about its economic sustainability. Commercial Open Access publishing also introduces considerable inequities for authors and institutions in terms of access to funds for publication, as well as problems of research integrity such as paper mills, research fraud, and retractions. The drawbacks of commercial approaches to open access suggest that scholarly publishing may increasingly require a firmer degree of control by both public authorities and the academic community.

Recently, Diamond OA has captured the attention of public sector organisations and policymakers as an institutional publishing model that explicitly rejects the extractive and inequitable nature of commercial models. Diamond OA is a scholarly communication model in which research outputs are openly available, without charging fees to either authors or readers. In this model, all content-related elements of publishing are directly controlled by the academic community and public institutions.

The landmark [Diamond Open Access Journals Study](#) first uncovered and made visible the vast size and scope of this ecosystem worldwide. In particular, the study was instrumental in revealing the extent of a wide archipelago of relatively small and isolated Diamond OA journals and platforms serving diverse scientific communities in different languages. Despite the richness of the Diamond OA landscape, findings from the



study showed that this collaborative, community-driven publishing model needs to be more efficiently organised, coordinated, and funded to better support researchers in disseminating their work. Challenges such as lack of technical capacity, management, visibility, and sustainability of journals and platforms need to be addressed in order to realise the vision of a just scholarly communication ecosystem.

Both public sector engagement in and political support for Diamond OA have grown considerably in recent years. Public sector engagement is organised around the [Action Plan for Diamond Open Access](#), which focuses on improving the efficiency, quality standards, capacity, and sustainability of this model. Launched in March 2022 by Science Europe, cOAlition S, OPERAS, and the French National Research Agency (ANR), the action plan has since been endorsed by more than 160 organisations and 150 individuals from across the research sector.

The Diamond OA community has been taking shape through a series of events. A [first conference](#) in September 2022 in Zadar, Croatia served to discuss Diamond OA as a not-for-profit scholarly communication model. The endorsers of the action plan took a step forward with the [1st Global Summit on Diamond Open Access](#) in October 2023 in Toluca, México. The summit was organised by a global consortium, including AmeliCA, Autonomous University of Mexico State (UAEM), cOAlition S, ANR, Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), OPERAS, Oscar Ribas University (UÓR), Redalyc, Science Europe, and UNESCO. This emphasised the global outlook of the community, and focussed the discussion on the community-led and -owned nature of the model.

The [2nd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access](#) took place in December 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa, and explored social justice as an element of the model. Through the lens of social justice in scholarly communication, global perspectives were presented on framing scholarly knowledge as a public good, building sustainable open access infrastructure, creating innovation hubs, and reforming research assessment. The event was an important next step in ensuring equitable access to scholarly knowledge and fostering global collaboration.

Political support for Diamond OA has been growing in alignment with initiatives taken by the public research sector. At the global level, UNESCO is facilitating a Global Framework for Diamond Open Access as part of their engagement through the [UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#).



UNESCO officially announced the Global Framework for Diamond Open Access in July 2024, highlighting its vision, mission, and objectives, and engaging stakeholders in a collaborative effort to promote Diamond OA. A global consultation to develop the framework further was carried out in late 2024.


At a national level, governments are increasingly focussing on Diamond OA as a way forward for open scholarly communication. In Europe, political support for Diamond OA took a step forward with the Council of the European Union (EU) adopting [conclusions](#) on high-quality, transparent, open, trustworthy, and equitable scholarly publishing in May 2023 (Council of the European Union, 2023). EU Member States in these conclusions unanimously support “the development of aligned institutional and funding policies and strategies regarding not-for-profit open access multi-format scholarly publishing models in Europe with no costs for authors or readers, and to set and implement roadmaps or action plans for a significant expansion of such publishing models.” Representative organisations of the public research sector in Europe welcomed these conclusions in a [joint statement](#).

Notable recent developments and commitments by research funders to Diamond OA include the French National Research Agency (ANR) committing €250,000 to fund the [European Diamond Capacity Hub](#), launched in January 2025, and the German Research Foundation (DFG) is [establishing a service centre](#) to develop further and consolidate the Diamond OA landscape in Germany. The new action plan from the [Bibsam Consortium](#) in Sweden and the Norwegian National Strategy for Scientific Publishing after 2024 make the recommendation to set up a Nordic Centre for Diamond OA. Various institutional and national stakeholders from Sweden, Finland, and Denmark, and Norway, including the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and Stockholm University Library, are currently exploring this option.



2. Pathways to Support Diamond Open Access

What are the main pathways for institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers to support Diamond OA? Before we turn to more detailed recommendations and guidelines, this part of the report outlines various pathways to provide broad support for the Diamond OA ecosystem. They focus on becoming involved in key initiatives that are shaping the landscape, and engaging with the communities that are forming at the local, national, and global level.

-  **Identify reasons and motivations to support Diamond OA and promote its benefits.** Research organisations and policymakers should explore and identify their main reasons and motivations to support Diamond OA, as well as the obstacles encountered in this pursuit. The three main reasons and motivations to support Diamond OA are explained in this report (see Chapter 3), and can serve as a starting point together with the [talking points](#) that were developed as part of the DIAMAS project. Exploring ways to broaden and combine these reasons and motivations as part of an organisational strategy, will ensure more effective support (see ANR model, inset below). Institutional leaders, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers should also take the initiative to raise awareness among researchers and researcher communities on the benefits offered by the Diamond OA publishing model, and the [sustainable](#) alternative it presents to traditional subscription-based and pay-to-publish OA models.

Integrating Values and Economics: ANR's model for supporting Diamond OA



The French National Research Agency (ANR) offers a compelling example of how research funding organisations can articulate and strengthen [their support for Diamond OA](#) by integrating diverse and complementary arguments. ANR's commitment, which aligns with the [Second French Plan for Open Science](#) by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research, highlights two key elements. Firstly, ANR prioritises fostering positive research cultures. Their support for Diamond OA aims to promote





bibliodiversity and a variety of scholarly publication pathways, and encourages multilingualism in research. This approach reflects their dedication to a more inclusive and pluralistic research ecosystem. Secondly, ANR underscores their economic and financial responsibility as a public research funding organisation. They emphasise the importance of sustainable funding models, cost transparency, and control, guided by their fiduciary duty to optimise public investment for societal

benefit. This example demonstrates how combining diverse motivations, such as promoting research cultures and ensuring financial sustainability, can create a more robust case for supporting Diamond OA. By aligning economic considerations with the shared values and goals of the research community, ANR effectively reinforces the impact of its initiatives, illustrating a good practice approach for other organisations.



Research Funders Committing to Diamond OA: A DIAMAS Case Study Report

More good practices have been collected by the DIAMAS project. Based on a series of dialogues with representatives from research funders, a [separate report](#) provides a set of insights into why and how funders are trying to support OA, specifically Diamond OA publishing.

-  **Enhance recognition and reward systems for Diamond OA authors, editors, and staff.** Research organisations and policymakers should establish and promote strategies to recognise and reward the contributions of editors, reviewers, and authors in Diamond OA publishing. These strategies should avoid perpetuating the current system's excessive emphasis on publication metrics (e.g. Journal Impact Factor, h-index), and instead align with the principles outlined in the [Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment \(CoARA\) Commitments](#), and contribute to positive research cultures.
-  **Invest in the development of monitoring systems and evidence-gathering initiatives.** Research organisations and policymakers should establish a strong evidence base through monitoring the landscape and evidence-gathering activities, which will be essential for advancing Diamond OA as the leading scholarly communication model for publicly funded research. Importantly, the gathered data should be openly accessible and internationally comparable, adhering to shared methodologies and principles.
-  **Sign the Action Plan for Diamond OA.** Research organisations and policymakers should contribute to the growing Diamond OA community by endorsing the [Action Plan for Diamond Open Access](#) (published in March 2022). Regular meetings are organised to keep this community informed of the latest initiatives and developments, give them a platform to engage in mutual learning and knowledge exchange, and discuss opportunities for collective action. These discussions emphasise the importance of strengthening the complementarity between the various initiatives that are emerging in the Diamond OA landscape.
-  **Support local, national, and community Diamond Capacity Centres.** Research organisations and policymakers should develop, implement, and expand support for local, national, and community Diamond Capacity Centres. A wide range of new and innovative practices and services are emerging in this regard, both those that serve specific national and disciplinary communities, and those that aim to cut across those boundaries to provide resources and services to a wider community that wishes to adopt and promote innovative publishing practices.



-  **Engage in the European Diamond Capacity Hub.** Research organisations and policymakers should support Diamond OA communities at the national and European levels by engaging in the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH) that was launched in January 2025. Alongside capacity hubs in other world regions, the EDCH federates and aligns national, disciplinary, and institutional capacity centres in Europe that deliver services and guarantee quality standards of Diamond OA journals in various languages and for a variety of disciplines.
-  **Connect with the Global Diamond Open Access Framework.** Through the EDCH, research organisations and policymakers should also engage in the forthcoming Global Diamond OA Framework. This infrastructure will aim at providing resources and services to Diamond OA communities worldwide to strengthen their role in scholarly communication. It will be a global infrastructure serving communities worldwide, operating as a distributed system that aligns diverse communities to achieve shared goals.

The Role of Capacity Centres in the Diamond OA Ecosystem

Capacity centres play an important role in the Diamond OA landscape, offering support to national and disciplinary communities. A variety of such centres have already been established or are under development. Examples include [HRČAK](#) in Croatia, [OpenEdition](#) in France, [openjournals.nl](#) in the Netherlands, and a new capacity centre in Germany supported

by the [German Research Foundation](#) (DFG). Looking ahead, these centres have the potential to transcend national boundaries, providing resources and services to a wider community. This expansion could be facilitated by the [European Diamond Capacity Hub](#) (EDCH), launched in January 2025, which aims to coordinate and enhance collaboration across capacity centres.

Policies supporting Diamond OA on a national level significantly impact the adoption and advancement of Diamond OA practices. Through its [National Plan for Open Science](#) (2021-2024), France has prioritised the support of Diamond OA. Dedicated to supporting Open Science principles, measures such as supporting no-fee publishing models, encouraging multilingualism, and establishing a dedicated [French](#)

[National Fund for Open Science](#) (which allocates financial resources to establish and sustain OA infrastructure) have proven to effectively support Diamond OA.

National Policies & Funds Supporting Diamond OA:

The (Second) French Open Science Plan and National Fund for Open Science



3. Recommendations and Guidelines

How can institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers support Diamond OA? This report sets out key recommendations and guidelines in separate, but related categories. These categories reflect some of the main reasons for research actors to support Diamond OA, including positive research cultures, economic and financial responsibilities, and dynamics of authority, patronage, and legitimacy.

As mentioned previously, supporting Diamond OA is a collective responsibility shared by institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers. This report explores this collective responsibility by noting the complementary and essential roles of institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers for most, if not all, recommendations and guidelines.

3.1. Positive Research Cultures

Research organisations and policymakers share a responsibility to strengthen [positive research cultures](#) that reflect core values such as autonomy, freedom, care, collegiality, collaboration, equality, equity, diversity, inclusion, integrity, ethics, openness, and transparency. While these values are often implicit, supporting Diamond OA is a concrete way to affirm them. Journals, publishing platforms, and repositories within this model are led and owned by scholarly communities and serve a diverse range of typically multilingual and multicultural scholarly communities, reinforcing the principle of bibliodiversity. By its nature and design, Diamond OA promotes equity and inclusion in the creation and dissemination of scholarly knowledge.

The following recommendations provide concrete actions to engage in this space. For each recommendation, it is indicated whether it applies to institutions, funders, sponsors, and donors, or policymakers.



Institutions



*Funders, Sponsors, and
Donors*



Policymakers



*This is a shared recommendation
for institutions, funders, sponsors,
donors, and policymakers*

Support multilingual and multicultural scholarly communities and their journals, repositories, and publishing platforms

Establish grants and offer in-kind and other support specifically designed to support Diamond OA outputs, platforms, and repositories that publish in the local language or multiple languages, ensuring that non-English research is accessible and valued, as well as engaging multicultural scholarly communities. In addition, seek to encourage serving broad research communities, including and specifically addressing under-represented and marginalised groups and publishers that serve local or multiple languages. This approach can be implemented through policy and financial support, e.g. through structural funding and by starting up new efforts through grants. Valuing linguistic, societal and cultural diversity in scholarly publishing and thereby preserving epistemic cultures can help reduce bias in knowledge production and increase the impact of research.



*This recommendation is primarily
relevant for institutions*

Organise initiatives to promote the benefits of Diamond OA in your institution

Organise initiatives that promote the benefits of Diamond OA in institutions, including targeted training sessions, workshops and information events for researchers based on the [DIAMAS Toolsuite](#), as well as reports on [contractual, in-kind, and voluntary work](#) in Diamond OA. Such activities should also improve the [researchers' understanding](#) of the different OA publication models (Gold, Green, Diamond, etc), including their costs, benefits and potential risks as outlined in [UNESCO's outlook report](#). In implementing this recommendation, institutional leaders should collaborate closely with their institutional publishers and relevant institutional departments. Resources such as [EUA's new university Open Access checklist](#) can also be instrumental in offering a detailed overview of the current opportunities and challenges within the scholarly communication landscape.



*This recommendation is primarily
relevant for institutions*

Ensure that your institution's Diamond OA publisher adheres to rigorous quality standards

Encourage institutional publishers to use the [DOAS self-assessment tool](#) developed by the DIAMAS project, which helps institutional publishers evaluate their alignment with high-quality Diamond OA standards.



*This recommendation is primarily
relevant for institutions*

Raise awareness about the importance of finding and choosing high-quality Diamond OA publication venues

Inform researchers and academics about the opportunity to publish their research results in Diamond OA outlets. To facilitate this, institutional leaders should ensure that clear guidelines are available in the institution. Support and training should also be offered to find and publish in Diamond OA outlets. In particular, they should be instructed on how to select Diamond OA publishers that adhere to rigorous quality standards, helping them ensure the credibility and impact of their research publications.



*This recommendation is primarily
relevant for policymakers*

Advocate for a more equitable scholarly publishing ecosystem, including Diamond OA through policy change and action

Encourage the development of Open Access or publication policies to highlight the importance of a wide range of publishing venues, including Diamond OA, in publicly funded research. Collaborate with national policymakers (e.g. via CoNOSC) to build a consensus around the importance of Diamond OA and help develop policies that reflect this priority. Policies should be coupled with clear guidelines, incentives, and recognition to ensure their implementation. OA policies and advocacy for them should be based on a good understanding of the Diamond OA publishing sector and researcher's information practices.



3.2. Economic and Financial Responsibilities

Research organisations and policymakers must address economic and financial responsibilities to ensure that scholarly publishing is sustainable and provides societal value. For public organisations, this is a key part of their fiduciary duty to ensure that public funds are optimally invested and lead to societal benefits. Diamond OA offers the potential for a more sustainable funding model that can ultimately provide greater cost transparency and control. Unlike profit-driven, extractive practices in other models, Diamond OA is led and owned by scholarly communities. This approach ensures a better return on public investment, maximising the societal impact of research funding.

Sustainable Funding



This is a shared recommendation for institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers.

Make long-term funding commitments

Provide multi-year funding mechanisms to ensure the long-term financial stability and sustainability of Diamond OA initiatives, reducing reliance on project-based funding that is limited in time. Whether it is structural funding from institutions to support institutional publishers within their organisations, or government investments in the broader ecosystem, the goal is to provide sufficient and predictable funding streams to support the development of institutional, national, and international initiatives and infrastructures. Conversely, research organisations and governments should also allow for short-term flexibility through innovation grants and pilot programmes to develop, test, and refine innovative approaches to Diamond OA publishing, with the potential for wider adoption.



This is a shared recommendation for institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers.

Develop collaborative funding initiatives

Encourage collaboration between institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and other actors to pool resources and support Diamond OA initiatives sustainably. These collaborations can develop bilaterally or multilaterally, and can also benefit from the cooperation developing at European and global level through the EDCH and Global Diamond OA Framework (see Chapter 2).



This recommendation is primarily relevant for policymakers

Encourage institutions to repurpose savings from institutional, regional or national publishing deals.

Encourage institutions to repurpose savings from publishing agreements such as institutional, regional or national publishing deals, read and publishing deals, and subscriptions, or from (temporarily) cancelling



*This recommendation is primarily
relevant for institutions*

such agreements. These savings can be used to strengthen the national and international Diamond publishing ecosystem and community-owned, shared infrastructure for equitable and trustworthy scholarly communication. For a good and practical example of this approach, see the '[Lorraine model](#)'.

Consider exploring strategies for a more sustainable budget allocation for the institution's scholarly communication activities

Reflect on the opportunity of redirecting institutional funding from for-profit publishing to Diamond OA activities, especially now that agreements with for-profit publishers are becoming increasingly unsustainable for institutions. Implementing a budget reallocation will be instrumental in supporting the long-term sustainability of institutional publishers. However, such a shift should be implemented through a carefully evaluated step-by-step approach. In particular, fostering a cultural shift will be crucial to ensure that the reallocation of the money effectively supports Diamond OA publishing. Institutional leaders should see the support of national funders and policymakers, especially in those countries where traditional publishing models continue to be prioritised in the assessment of research and academic careers.



*This recommendation is primarily
relevant for policymakers*

Seek to innovate funding mechanisms to support improvements in digital transformation

Advocate for change in funding regulations to allow for greater flexibility in supporting digital and open access initiatives. Review policies to ensure that funding mechanisms are aligned with the needs of the digital age, enabling support for innovative models like Diamond OA and funding international infrastructure not based in the research funder's country. Promote best (digital) practices for Diamond OA.



*This recommendation is primarily
relevant for institutions and
policymakers*

Support open, inclusive and community-owned databases

Policymakers should invest in the development and widespread adoption of open, inclusive, and community-owned research information systems that serve many, including for example the EDCH, [Public Knowledge Project \(PKP\)](#), and the [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#). Institutions also have a role to play in ensuring that academics and researchers are aware of such community-owned databases. These include institutional



Current Research Information Systems (CRIS) and repositories, as well as global publication and citation databases like [OpenAlex](#), [OpenCitations](#) and [OpenAIRE](#). Such databases ensure the visibility of globally and locally relevant research, regardless of language and many adhere to the principles of the [Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information](#) and the [Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure](#) (POSI).

Cost Transparency and Control



*This is a shared recommendation
for institutions, funders, sponsors,
donors, and policymakers*

Require transparent financial reporting

Require Diamond OA journals, publishing platforms, and repositories to provide detailed and transparent financial reports to ensure accountability and responsible use of funds, in alignment with relevant procedures at different levels.



*This is a shared recommendation
for institutions, funders, sponsors,
donors, and policymakers*

Invest in cost-effective publishing solutions

Invest in the development and implementation of cost-effective publishing technologies and practices that reduce operational costs while maintaining quality.



3.3. Dynamics of Authority, Patronage, and Legitimacy

When supporting Diamond OA, research organisations and policymakers must take into account the dynamics of authority, patronage, and legitimacy. This includes both top-down support, such as political, financial, and logistical backing from national authorities and funding bodies, and bottom-up initiatives driven by universities, research institutions, and scholarly communities, including learned societies. In recent years, political support for Diamond OA has grown, particularly from [European governments](#) and [UNESCO](#). At the same time, research communities have called for collective action, as seen in their endorsement of the [Action Plan for Diamond OA](#).

Top-down Support



This is a shared recommendation for institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers

Advocate for public policies

Advocate for regional, national, and international policies that encourage the adoption of Diamond OA as the leading scholarly communication model for publicly funded research. Institutions and organisations should be encouraged – e.g. through national publishing strategies – to strengthen a more equitable publishing system, including Diamond OA. These stakeholders can help establish a national organisation aimed at coordinating Diamond OA efforts, to collaborate on various aspects of Diamond OA publishing. These collaborations could include developing and utilising shared resources, making joint funding applications, carrying out coordinated efforts to develop and maintain OA infrastructure through in-kind contributions or direct funding, and joint implementation.



This is a shared recommendation for institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers

Engage in international collaboration

Participate in and support international initiatives, consortia, and projects that promote Diamond OA on a European and global scale and establish a shared monitoring and evidence base for its further development. Examples include: first, at European level, the EDCH (see Chapter 2), which aims to strengthen the Diamond OA community in Europe by supporting European institutional, national, and disciplinary capacity centres and Diamond publishers and service providers in their mission of Diamond OA scholarly publishing; and second, at the global level, the Global Diamond OA Framework (see Chapter 2) being developed by UNESCO. To enhance understanding the landscape of Diamond OA, it is highly advised to facilitate and collaborate in international, national, and regional projects that work on joint advocacy, explore the scope of the Diamond OA publishing landscape, and collaborate on joint services.



*This is a shared recommendation
for institutions, funders, sponsors,
donors, and policymakers*

Create opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking.

Organise, support, and attend conferences, workshops, and networking events focused on Diamond OA to facilitate the exchange of good practices and innovative ideas, and build networks between actors at regional, national, and international level. Examples include: first, the community webinars organised to foster information exchange between the endorers of the [Action Plan for Diamond OA](#); and second, the Global Summits on Diamond OA that so far took place in [Toluca, México in October 2023](#) and [Cape Town, South Africa in December 2024](#), and have been instrumental in bringing together global partners and align their positions on key elements of Diamond OA.



*This is a shared recommendation
for institutions, funders, sponsors,
donors, and policymakers*

Strengthen Diamond OA through strategic funding and funding strategies

Build capacities for Diamond OA through strategic funding focused on enhancing shared services and open research infrastructure while leveraging economies of scale. Collaborative funding strategies on the international, national and regional level are needed to reduce fragmentation and enhance the capacities of the Diamond OA community. This can be achieved by many actors (e.g., charities, national research funders or agencies, information research providers and institutions) collaborating for bigger causes that aim to support international services and infrastructures that serve many. Funding is necessary to develop and support regional capacity hubs such as the EDCH as well as local and national capacity centres or cross-country regions (e.g., the Nordic countries), to help scale up Diamond OA. Enable the EDCH to collaborate with other regional hubs via the Global Diamond OA Framework. Support national capacity centres in their efforts to innovate and implement new practices that serve local and national communities and foster diversity through community-led initiatives. Recognise scholarly communication platforms and services as research infrastructures and include them in national and international [research infrastructure roadmaps](#).

Bottom-up Initiatives

Support community-led initiatives

Support community-led initiatives and networks that promote Diamond OA, fostering a sense of ownership and engagement among researchers across all disciplines and communities, with a view to collectively solve common challenges, i.e. develop Diamond OA capacity, drive change in the research community, and more.



*This is a shared recommendation
for institutions, funders, sponsors,
donors, and policymakers*



This recommendation is primarily relevant for funders, sponsors, donors

Promote grassroots funding opportunities and other resources

Create funding opportunities and other resources specifically for grassroots Diamond OA initiatives proposed by researchers and scholarly communities, encouraging innovation and responsiveness to the specific needs of local communities. Diamond Capacity Centres (see Chapter 2) can play an important role in this regard, also providing technical assistance to help new and existing Diamond OA outlets to improve their operations and sustainability.



This recommendation is primarily relevant for institutions

Provide dedicated support staff to the institutional publisher for the management of Diamond OA activities.

Provide institutional publishers with professional staff needed to ensure the smooth operation of institutional publishing activities, while safeguarding their editorial and scientific independence. Providing such support is not only crucial to curate Diamond OA outputs, but also to improve their recognition across the scientific community and, therefore, their value for the institution itself. While support should come from the institutional level, leaders can also encourage institutional publishers to engage with national-level infrastructures and services for Diamond OA publishing, which can provide additional support and resources to perform publishing activities.



This recommendation is primarily relevant for institutions

Allocate dedicated time for researchers and academic staff to engage in Diamond OA editorial activities.

Explore alternative ways to recognise and reward the editorial and peer-review work of researchers for Diamond OA outputs, including those published by other institutions such as learned societies, while also integrating contributions to Diamond OA into academic and research evaluation processes at institutional, and national level. Non-monetary compensations, such as allocating dedicated time for Diamond OA activities, can play an important role in supporting and acknowledging the voluntary editorial work put into institutional publishing. Providing researchers and academics with the time needed to curate their Diamond OA activities will also be important to ensure that their publications are in line with high-quality standards and practices.



*This recommendation is primarily
relevant for institutions*

Develop an inventory of Diamond OA activities in your institution.

Develop an inventory that includes information such as a list of Diamond OA outputs published by the institutional publishers, details on the number of issues or articles published annually and Information about editorial boards and peer review practices. The aim of the inventory is to provide institutional leaders with a clearer understanding of the needs, challenges and opportunities associated with the institutional publishers operating within their organisation. Building this awareness will allow institutional leaders and institutional publishers to collaborate more effectively. This will also create pathways to maximise the impact and reach of the institution's Diamond OA activities, promoting them both within and outside the institution. Institutional leaders can refer to the Diamond OA publisher typologies compiled in the [DIAMAS Synergy Report](#).



*This recommendation is primarily
relevant for institutions*

Co-develop a marketing strategy to improve the external visibility of institutional Diamond OA publishers

Collaborate with institutional publishers and editors to develop a clear strategy on how to ensure the visibility and findability of the Diamond OA outputs published by the institution. This will be instrumental in attracting contributions from different institutional, disciplinary and national contexts. Institutional leaders should also ensure that their institutional publishers are part of the [EDCH Registry and Forum](#), which will provide opportunities for the exchange of experiences, good practices, and resources on several Diamond OA publishing-related topics.



*This recommendation is primarily
relevant for institutions*

Explore inter-institutional collaborations on various aspects of Diamond OA publishing

Support institutional publishers in looking for opportunities to collaborate with other institutions and their publishers to pool resources, share costs, and exchange good practices. Promoting the creation of inter-institutional collaboration can help different institutional publishers address common challenges, such as limited funding and resources, while also complementing the support provided by individual institutions. However, such an approach should also be supported by the creation of targeted measures at national level, which can include the development of a national strategy to strengthen Diamond OA or the establishment of a national organisation aimed at coordinating Diamond OA efforts.



*This recommendation is primarily
relevant for institutions*

Integrate Diamond OA publishing into institutional open science policies

Ensure that Diamond OA publishing is regulated by institutional policies that address open science practice. Such policies should include provisions related to publishing practices, financial support, quality assurance and peer review, legal and copyright issues, and training and awareness. This will be instrumental in supporting a more strategic approach to strengthening the institutional publisher operating within the institution, as well as promoting Diamond OA initiatives among researchers and academics working in the institution.

Developing Inter-institutional Collaborations in Diamond OA Publishing: Universities SHARE Platform






A strong example of inter-institutional collaboration in Diamond Open Access (OA) publishing is [Universities SHARE](#) (Scholarly Heritage and Access to Research), an open platform coordinated by the University of Naples Federico II and involving 11 Italian universities. This initiative fosters cooperation among academic institutions in both scholarly communication and library services. Universities SHARE operates on two complementary levels. First, it integrates the library services of the participating institutions by providing a shared catalogue in linked open data and an information discovery system, enabling seamless access to analogue and digital collections across partner universities. Second, it supports Diamond OA digital

publishing, allowing universities to pool their resources for journals, e-books, research data, and historical records. A key feature of this model is the mutual recognition of institutional users, granting them access to consultation, lending, and other services across all member institutions. While the platform is sustained by the participating universities, which provide funding for its infrastructure, editorial independence is safeguarded through a dedicated scientific committee that retains full control over the quality and content of the publications. To ensure a consistent standard of quality and transparency, Universities SHARE requires adherence to a [minimum set of formal requirements](#).



4. Concluding Remarks

The recommendations and guidelines presented here are both a call to action and a roadmap for institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers to collectively support Diamond OA as a sustainable, equitable, and community-driven model for scholarly communication. The comprehensive and flexible framework outlined here enables these actors to prioritise actions aligned with their specific goals, operational contexts, and resources, while contributing to the broader development of a thriving Diamond OA ecosystem.

-  **Positive research cultures:** Institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers share a responsibility to strengthen positive research cultures that reflect core values such as autonomy, freedom, care, collegiality, collaboration, equality, diversity, inclusion, integrity, ethics, openness, and transparency.
-  **Economic and financial responsibilities:** Institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers must address economic and financial responsibilities to ensure that scholarly publishing is sustainable and provides societal value.
-  **Dynamics of authority, patronage, and legitimacy:** When supporting Diamond OA, institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers must take into account the dynamics of authority, patronage, and legitimacy. This includes both top-down support and bottom-up initiatives.

Diamond OA offers a diverse, inclusive, and equitable alternative to commercial approaches to open access, addressing critical challenges such as economic inequities, sustainability, and research integrity. By placing the academic community and public institutions at the heart of scholarly publishing, Diamond OA fosters transparency, trust, and a commitment to advancing knowledge for the benefit of all.

As highlighted throughout this report, supporting Diamond OA is a collective responsibility. While distinct roles and approaches exist for institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers, their success in advancing Diamond OA ultimately depends on collaboration and shared accountability. The co-design process that informed these recommendations has already demonstrated the value of unified efforts, serving as a foundation for continued dialogue and collective action.



Looking ahead, it is essential for stakeholders to engage proactively in implementing these recommendations, aligning them with local, national, and international policies and initiatives. By doing so, they can help build an open, sustainable, and equitable future for scholarly publishing, ensuring that research outputs remain a shared public good.

This report marks the beginning of a journey – a step toward real change in scholarly communication. With continued commitment and collaboration, institutions, funders, sponsors, donors, and policymakers can play a pivotal role in shaping a publishing landscape that upholds the principles of accessibility, equity, and integrity.

