

Advancing Equity and Inclusion in Scholarly Communication

Findings from the Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework



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Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the survey "Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework," conducted online between September 2024 and January 2025 by UNESCO. This survey received nearly 2,900 responses from across 90 Countries. It aimed to understand current practices, structural challenges, and future aspirations regarding community-led, non-commercial scholarly publishing. The process was open, multilingual, and voluntary. Although not statistically representative, the responses reflect the real-world experiences and values of a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

Findings demonstrate widespread support for Diamond Open Access as a viable, values-driven model of scholarly communication. Respondents associated it with principles such as equity, inclusion, multilingualism, and the public good. However, the survey also revealed persistent obstacles, including limited funding, inadequate infrastructure, lack of institutional recognition, and barriers to multilingual participation. Many of these challenges are structural, reflecting broader imbalances in knowledge production and access.

Respondents consistently supported decentralised governance and regional leadership, showing no desire for centralised coordination. There was strong support for establishing a global framework for Diamond Open Access that is voluntary, modular, and founded on shared values rather than imposed standards. Respondents emphasised the importance of aligning future initiatives with existing frameworks, including the UNESCO 2021 Recommendation on Open Science¹, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development², and the UN Global Digital Compact³.

The findings point to multiple avenues for action, emphasising that governments, institutions, publishers, and regional coalitions all have crucial roles in advancing Diamond Open Access. Key recommendations include investing in public infrastructure, developing context-specific standards, promoting multilingual publishing, and recognising a broader spectrum of scholarly contributions.

Stakeholders clearly articulated UNESCO's role in this process. Its function should stay facilitative, reflecting its core mandates as a laboratory of ideas, standard-setter, clearing house, capacity builder, and catalyst for international cooperation4. Respondents urged UNESCO to keep supporting dialogue, sharing knowledge, and fostering inclusive cooperation.

This report marks a beginning and embodies a shared willingness to experiment, collaborate, and co-create. The future of Diamond Open Access will rely on continued regional leadership, institutional commitment, and voluntary coordination. What is needed now is to support communities already advancing these principles and to ensure their efforts are recognised and strengthened.

https://www.unesco.org/en/open-science/about

https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda https://www.un.org/digital-emerging-technologies/global-digital-compact

UNESCO. 41 C/4 Medium-Term Strategy (2022–2029). Available at: https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/medium-term-strategy-2022-2029-41-c/4-0.

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1. Background

Diamond Open Access (Diamond OA) is a scholarly publishing model that is community-led and community-owned. In this model, neither authors nor readers pay fees. Instead, publishing services are supported by public institutions, academic consortia, or other entities that do not operate for profit. While the term 'Diamond Open Access' has gained recent international visibility, its core principles have long been practised under different names and frameworks across various regions.

In July 2024, UNESCO launched the Global Consultation Process on Diamond Open Access. This initiative aimed to better understand current practices, barriers, and stakeholder aspirations across regions, languages, and professional roles. As the initial phase, UNESCO conducted a survey entitled the "Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework."

UNESCO's involvement is strongly connected with its mandate to promote knowledge as a global public good. It aligns with three interconnected international frameworks: the <u>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</u>, the <u>UN Global Digital Compact</u>, and the <u>UNESCO 2021 Recommendation on Open Science</u>. These frameworks share common aims, including equity, openness, multilingualism, and inclusive governance of digital knowledge infrastructures.

In supporting this initiative, UNESCO reflects its complementary institutional functions as defined in its 41 C/4 Medium-Term Strategy. As a clearing house, it collects and shares regional practices and policy options. As a catalyst, it promotes cooperation between Member States and stakeholder communities. As a capacity builder, it helps strengthen infrastructure, training, and governance for public-interest publishing.

This report offers a foundation for discussion and collaboration, rooted in the diverse experiences and values of global stakeholders. It encourages collective dialogue and co-creation of approaches to advance Diamond Open Access.

2. Methodology and Participation Overview

The survey consisted of 31 questions divided into 10 thematic sections⁵. These addressed stakeholder experiences, support mechanisms at institutional and national levels, regional preparedness, perceived benefits and challenges, and expectations for global coordination. The format included single- and multiple-choice questions, matrix scales, and open-ended fields for narrative insights. Conditional logic guided the respondent's journey, tailoring questions based on previous responses. For instance, participants unfamiliar with Diamond Open Access were asked about perceived barriers, while others were prompted to describe institutional support or enablers. In line with UNESCO's commitment to multilingual engagement, the survey was available in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

A) Reach and Participation

The survey received responses from approximately 2,900 participants from 90 Countries⁶. Respondents represented a wide range of stakeholders: researchers and scholars, librarians and information specialists, academics and faculty members, publishers and publishing professionals, policymakers, representatives of funding agencies or government officials, executive members of academic societies or professional associations, and technological or infrastructure providers for publishing and editorial services⁷.

⁵ A sample of the original survey is presented in the Annex 3.

⁶ There were 2887 responses from 90 countries. The list of countries is available in Annex 1.

⁷ Annex 2 presents response graphs clustered by region or professional profile.

B) Quantitative Analysis and Interpretation

Quantitative analysis focused on a subset of 1,519 respondents who completed at least 70 percent of the survey. Responses were analysed using descriptive and proportionate methods, depending on question format. The analysis was organised into seven thematic insights:

- ◆ Who Responded: Descriptive data on geography, language, stakeholder role, and familiarity with Diamond Open Access.
- ◆ How the Community Engages: Roles and responsibilities, broken down by region and stakeholder type.
- ◆ What the Community Values: Perceived benefits of Diamond Open Access, analysed by geography and role.
- ◆ Barriers to Engagement: Challenges faced by both familiar and unfamiliar respondents.
- ◆ Ecosystem Readiness: Types of institutional support and awareness of national or regional initiatives.
- ◆ Community Priorities: Aims for equity, multilingualism, infrastructure, and collaboration.
- ◆ Anticipated Impact: Expectations regarding visibility, inclusion, and future relevance.

Each insight highlighted patterns in the structured responses and added to a broader understanding of institutional and regional readiness, engagement, and needs.

C) Qualitative Analysis and Interpretation

The qualitative analysis aimed to capture the values, concerns, and visions shared through open-text responses. Over 3,600 narrative contributions were coded across four languages using Microsoft Excel and Python. Thematic coding followed a descriptive interpretive approach, guided by five qualitative insights:

- ◆ **Values and Motivations:** Ethical, identity-related, and professional reasons for participation.
- Institutional and Policy Support: Perceived enablers across organisational and policy settings.
- ◆ **Obstacles and Exclusion:** Barriers related to funding, language, infrastructure, and recognition.
- Governance and Coordination: Preferences for decentralisation, regional leadership, and legitimacy.
- ◆ Future Aspirations and Impact: Projected contributions of Diamond Open Access to equity and knowledge justice.

Themes were validated through reflective iteration and multilingual review. Insights aligned with ROAM-X⁸ principles to ensure policy relevance.

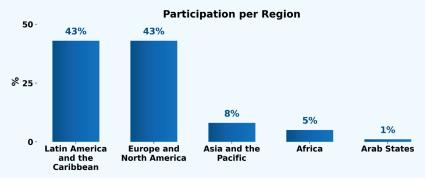
D) Methodological Considerations

The survey was based on self-selected, open participation. Responses are not statistically representative. Many questions allowed multiple selections. Therefore, percentages do not always total 100. Qualitative data serve as illustrations rather than generalisable findings. Language diversity, variable response density, and interpretive complexity influenced the final thematic structure. Despite these limitations, the survey yielded a comprehensive, globally sourced dataset. It reflects a broad spectrum of stakeholder views and provides a solid foundation for collaborative efforts towards a more inclusive and equitable scholarly communication system.

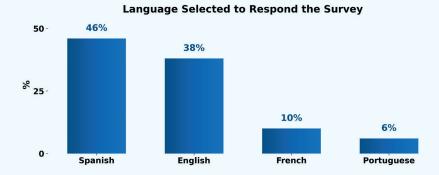
⁸ UNESCO. Internet Universality Indicators: ROAM-X Framework. The ROAM-X principles provide a framework for assessing internet development through four pillars. Available at: https://www.unesco.org/en/internet-universality-indicators/roam-x.

E) Respondent Demographics and Diversity

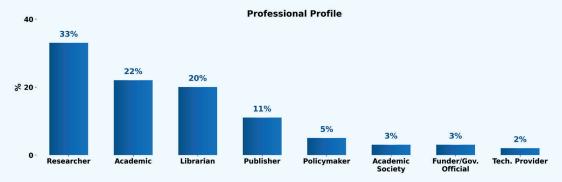
Responses were received from 90 countries. In this report, the countries are grouped into five UNESCO regions⁹. Africa (5%), Arab States (1%), Asia and the Pacific (8%), Europe and North America (43%), as well as Latin America and the Caribbean (43%) are represented. This distribution reflects both the strength of established networks and the need to support outreach in underrepresented areas.



Linguistic accessibility influenced the survey's reach. English (38%) and Spanish (46%) were the main response languages, followed by French (10%) and Portuguese (6%). These results affirm the value of providing multilingual participation and emphasise the need for further support for language communities beyond dominant English-speaking contexts.



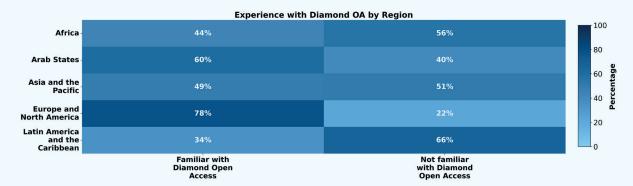
Professionally, the respondent group included researchers (33%), academics or faculty members (22%), and librarians (20%). Publishers (11%) and policymakers (5%) were also represented, along with smaller but important contributions from academic societies, funders, government officials, as well as technical and infrastructure service providers. This diverse range of roles provides insight into the various positions, responsibilities, and capacities within the scholarly communication system.



Just over half of respondents (54%) reported familiarity with Diamond Open Access, including those actively involved in this form of publishing as well as those aware of its principles. The remaining 46% were unfamiliar with the model. This balance indicates increasing awareness, while also highlighting the need for education, outreach, and resources to broaden understanding and participation.

⁹ Source: UNESCO Basic Texts 2024, Definition of regions for the execution of the Organization's regional activities. https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389074

Regional comparisons offer further insights. Respondents in Europe and North America reported the highest familiarity with Diamond Open Access (78%). In contrast, Latin America and the Caribbean, despite high response numbers, demonstrated lower familiarity (34%). This gap highlights the need to contextualise terminology, even where public, community-led publishing is already active under different names or models.



The survey shows that Diamond Open Access is understood differently across languages, professional roles, and regions. To promote equity and participation, future policy and capacity-building efforts must recognise this diversity as both a strength and a key consideration for planning.

3. Diamond Open Access in Practice

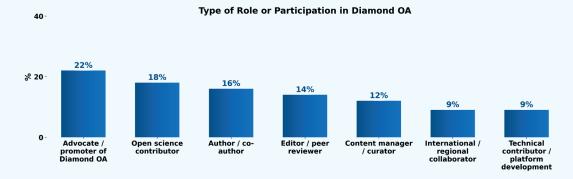
The survey offered insights into how Diamond Open Access is experienced in various contexts. This section outlines stakeholder roles, motivations, and enabling factors. It highlights regional differences, institutional capacity, and values-driven engagement. Additionally, it points out shared goals and differing interpretations and practices.

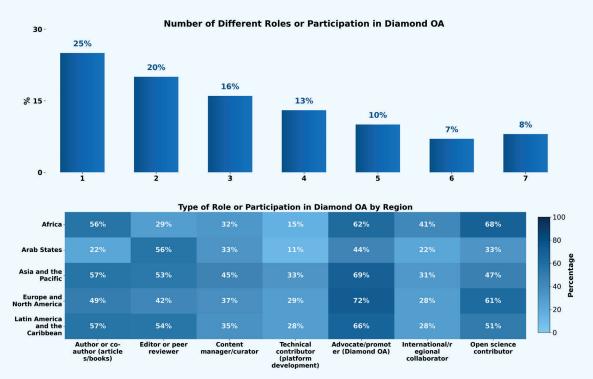
A) Engagement Across Roles and Responsibilities

Respondents participate in various activities related to Diamond Open Access. Over half reported taking on three or more roles, including authorship, advocacy, open science practices, editorial duties, and technical development. This demonstrates a highly participatory and integrated model of scholarly communication.

Engagement patterns differ by region. In Latin America and the Caribbean, authorship and advocacy are most common. Europe and North America display a balanced mix of editorial, advocacy, and technical roles. In Africa, Asia and the Pacific, content creation and promotion are prominent, although technical roles are less visible.

Institutional roles also vary. Researchers and academics are involved in nearly all functions. Librarians and publishers concentrate on curation and editorial duties. Technology providers for publishing and editorial services support the infrastructure. Overlapping responsibilities are common in smaller institutions, owing to limited staff capacity and the need for more robust support systems.





B) Values, Identity, and Motivations

Stakeholders often associate their involvement with Diamond Open Access with ethical principles and professional identity. Respondents described their work as contributing to equity, autonomy, and public knowledge. Qualitative responses frequently mentioned equity, access, recognition, and community.

Many participants felt proud to work with Diamond Open Access platforms. This was especially true in environments where mainstream publishing limits visibility or recognition. Editorial independence and shared decision-making were highlighted as strong motivators. Stakeholders viewed their roles as aligned with the principles of open science and the public good.

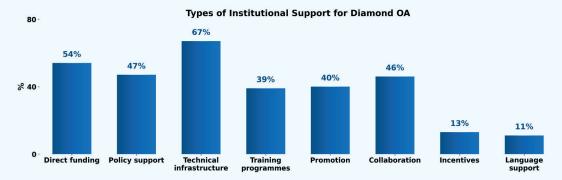
Community-based publishing and multilingual inclusion were key themes. Respondents identified linguistic diversity as vital to the legitimacy and reach of Diamond Open Access. They regarded peer networks and regional solidarity as fundamental elements of inclusive publishing systems.



C) Institutional Conditions and Enabling Mechanisms

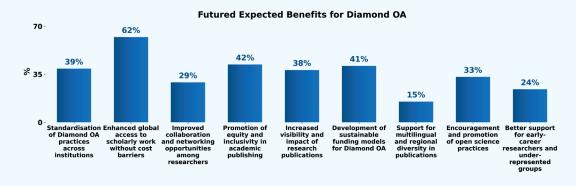
Institutional and policy frameworks significantly shape how stakeholders engage with Diamond Open Access. Among those who receive institutional support, the most prevalent forms are technical infrastructure (67%), direct funding (54%), and policy frameworks (47%). Support for multilingualism (11%) and author incentives (13%) remains limited.

Support at national and regional levels varies. About a third of respondents identified government programmes, publisher networks, or shared infrastructure. However, another third was unaware of such initiatives. Institutional-library partnerships are frequently mentioned but mostly operate locally. This emphasises the need to develop more robust regional platforms.



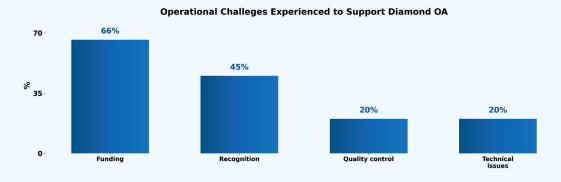
D) Shared Aspirations and Divergent Realities

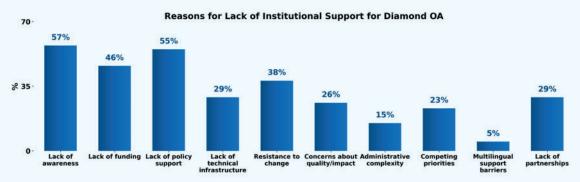
Stakeholders agree on the value of Diamond Open Access but differ in how they define and experience it. Some focus on the absence of author or reader fees. Others see it as a model for ethical, inclusive knowledge production. These differences reflect both local contexts and global inequalities. The survey uncovered a gap between current experiences and future aspirations. Respondents valued better visibility and lower costs. However, many still expected advancements in multilingual infrastructure, early-career support, and institutional recognition.



4. Barriers to Equity and Participation – Structural and Systemic Challenges

The survey revealed a complex array of barriers that limit participation in Diamond Open Access. These challenges include institutional, technical, and financial factors, as well as issues related to how knowledge is created, validated, shared, and understood. Although expressed differently across regions and professional groups, they often stem from fundamental structural imbalances. Overcoming these barriers requires not only improved support systems but also ongoing, collective efforts.





A) Institutional Constraints

Funding is the most frequently cited challenge for stakeholders involved in Diamond Open Access. Across all regions, 58 to 69 percent of respondents identified financial constraints as a key concern. Executives from academic societies, publishers, and policymakers associated these gaps with broader needs, including operational sustainability, staffing, and long-term stability.

Institutional support plays a crucial role in tackling these challenges. Respondents with dedicated backing reported a greater ability to manage funding pressures and resolve technical issues like metadata quality and platform stability. Strengthening institutional frameworks can therefore improve sustainability and lessen operational barriers.



B) Gaps in Recognition and Visibility

Stakeholders indicated that Diamond Open Access outputs are frequently undervalued in academic evaluation systems, which reduces author visibility, journal credibility, and institutional support. These issues are especially evident in Asia and the Pacific, as well as Europe and North America, particularly for initiatives outside commercial indexing platforms or multilingual inclusion.

To address this, respondents proposed developing quality benchmarks and shared recognition frameworks covering peer review, editorial transparency, and digital preservation. They emphasised that these frameworks should remain regionally adaptable and be created through inclusive processes.

C) Technical and Capacity Barriers

Stakeholders identified technical challenges such as quality control, platform maintenance, and interoperability, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean¹⁰. Librarians and policymakers reported the highest incidence of these issues. These problems are often linked to uneven institutional capacity rather than a lack of expertise. When infrastructure and support systems are in place, technical concerns become easier to manage.

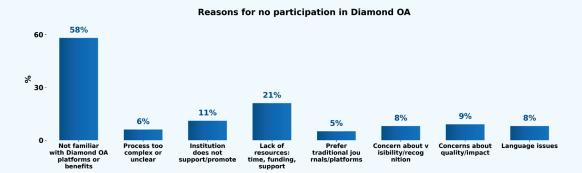
Respondents also highlighted the importance of greater linguistic inclusion in publishing platforms. They suggested investing in inclusive metadata practices, localised editorial tools, and multilingual user interface design to enhance accessibility and participation across different language groups.

¹⁰ Annex 2 presents response graphs clustered by region or professional profile.

D) Awareness Gaps and Entry Barriers

A lack of familiarity with Diamond Open Access is the most common limitation for stakeholders who are not engaged, particularly in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. Technology providers, policymakers, and publishers reported the highest levels of unawareness, often linked to unclear entry points and limited institutional support.

Respondents advocated for targeted outreach to address these gaps. They suggested multilingual awareness campaigns, locally tailored training programmes, and toolkits to enhance participation and foster trust in community-led publishing models.



E) Structural Exclusion and Regional Disparities

Stakeholders indicated that structural barriers, including funding models, policy incentives, and infrastructure flows, favour well-established institutions and limit broader participation. Exclusion is particularly significant in Africa and the Arab States, where over 60 percent of respondents attributed non-participation to systemic barriers such as insufficient funding, a lack of partnerships, and multilingual challenges.

Respondents stressed that fair resourcing, inclusive governance, and increased visibility are vital for creating a more just system. They urged Diamond Open Access to incorporate equity and pluralism into its frameworks, ensuring that Indigenous, minority, and marginalised knowledge traditions are fully represented.

5. Stakeholder Priorities for a Global Framework

The survey explored the significance and structure of a global collaborative framework for Diamond Open Access by collecting perspectives on anticipated benefits, coordination models, and governance principles.

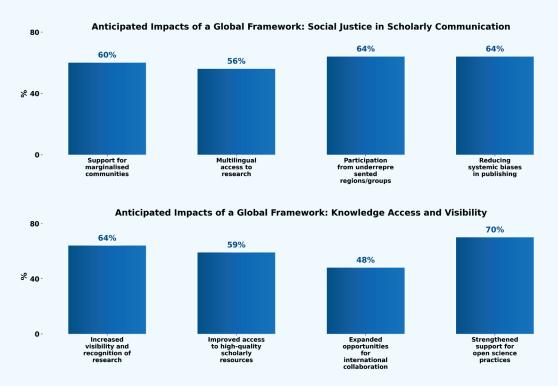
Respondents emphasised a shared aim of creating coordinated, inclusive, and adaptable systems grounded in equity, multilingualism, and public-interest principles. While there was broad agreement on these principles, participants held different expectations regarding structure, implementation, and governance.

Stakeholders pointed to decentralised, regionally adaptable structures aligned to local needs within a coherent global vision. Many favoured a hub-and-network model: regional coordination bodies operating under shared norms, enabling mutual learning, technical alignment, and collective advocacy.

A) Anticipated Impacts on Scholarly Communication

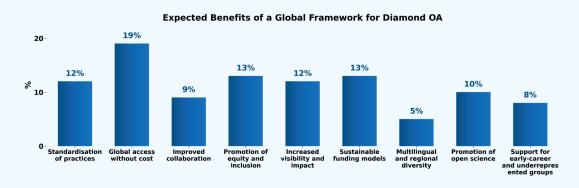
Respondents expected transformative impacts of a global framework on the scholarly communication system. They stressed increasing participation from underrepresented regions and groups (64%), expanding support for marginalised communities (60%), and reducing systemic biases in publishing (64%). Enhancing open science practices (70%) and expanding multilingual access to research (56%) were also seen as key priorities.

Additionally, respondents appreciated the framework's potential to increase visibility and recognition of research (64%), enhance access to high-quality scholarly resources (59%), and expand opportunities for international collaboration (48%). These priorities reflect a vision of systemic change that aims to make scholarly communication more equitable, transparent, and globally inclusive.



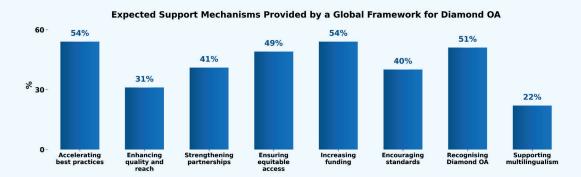
B) Expected Benefits for the Scholarly Ecosystem

Beyond systemic impacts, stakeholders highlighted specific benefits for those involved in scholarly publishing. They appreciated free global access to research (19%), the development of sustainable funding mechanisms (13%), and fair recognition of contributions (12%). Standardising practices (12%), supporting open science (10%), and encouraging collaboration (9%) were also considered valuable advantages. Respondents particularly stressed the need to expand opportunities for early-career and underrepresented researchers (8%), ensuring the framework supports those most affected by structural barriers. These benefits illustrate how the framework could deliver immediate, tangible value to researchers, institutions, and scholarly communities worldwide.



C) Priority Support Mechanisms

Participants identified essential support mechanisms anticipated from a global framework. These included promoting good practices (54%), increasing funding (54%), and recognising the role of Diamond Open Access within scholarly systems (51%). Respondents also stressed the importance of ensuring equitable access (49%), strengthening partnerships (41%), encouraging adaptable standards (40%), improving quality and reach (31%), and supporting multilingualism (22%).



D) Framework Design Preferences and Core Principles

Stakeholders see a global framework as an open, voluntary platform. They highlighted the importance of incorporating regional and linguistic diversity into its design and ensuring participatory mechanisms for fair representation and decision-making. These preferences suggest a framework that balances global coordination with regional ownership.

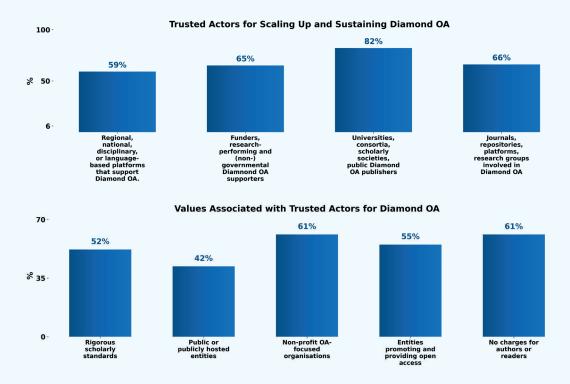
Building on these preferences, stakeholders identified five core design priorities¹¹:

- 1) Equity and Inclusion: Respondents viewed the framework as a chance to address structural inequalities in scholarly publishing. They called for greater support for underrepresented regions, early-career researchers, and multilingual access. Linguistic justice and the inclusion of diverse knowledge systems were seen as vital for global legitimacy.
- 2) Transparent Quality Standards: Participants supported creating flexible benchmarks for peer review, metadata, editorial transparency, and preservation. Instead of rigid rules, they suggested collaborative standard-setting based on local practices and aligned with open science principles.
- **3) Sustainable, Public Infrastructure:** The call for infrastructure that serves the public interest remains a consistent theme. Stakeholders advocated for non-profit, community-led platforms funded by fair models. Priorities included equitable resource distribution, transparent reporting, and mechanisms to prevent the concentration of power.
- **4) Inclusive Eligibility:** There was strong support for criteria based on mission alignment rather than technical compliance. Respondents urged excluding commercial or hybrid organisations that prioritise profit and instead highlighted scholar-led, community-driven initiatives that promote the public good.
- **5) Flexible, regionally grounded governance:** Most stakeholders (82%) preferred a coordination model led by regions with the support of organisations like UNESCO over centralised or consultative-only approaches. They emphasised the importance of balancing regional autonomy with overall inter-regional consistency.

¹¹ The five core design priorities identified by survey respondents were derived from open-ended responses and analysed during the qualitative coding process.

E) Roles and Responsibilities

Respondents emphasised the importance of empowering academic consortia¹², universities, scholarly societies, and public open access publishers. These actors were regarded as most aligned with the principles of Diamond Open Access. Key characteristics of trusted actors included non-profit orientation (61%), no charges for authors or readers (61%), and a strong commitment to rigorous scholarly standards (52%). UNESCO was viewed as a facilitator and clearing house rather than a central authority, which can provide normative guidance, support regional coordination, and build capacity.



F) Towards Inclusive, Shared Design¹³

Findings show that a global framework for Diamond Open Access must be developed as a dynamic, iterative process. Such a framework should support equity, multilingualism, and public-interest principles while being adaptable enough to fit regional and institutional contexts. Going forward, the priority is to co-create a model that provides shared principles, voluntary guidelines, and tools for monitoring progress, while allowing regional leadership and experimentation. This approach ensures that, if a global framework is implemented, it will avoid imposing rigid solutions and instead foster a connected, inclusive, and sustainable system for scholarly communication worldwide.

G) UNESCO's Mandate and Role

The survey captures the priorities and proposals expressed by respondents. These views do not reflect UNESCO's official positions or policy commitments. Consistent with its core mandate¹⁴, UNESCO serves as a convener, clearing house, and capacity builder. It promotes dialogue, knowledge exchange, and policy alignment across regions. Any future global framework for Diamond Open Access must be developed through inclusive and participatory processes. Voluntary engagement and regional ownership should remain central.

¹² Academic consortia are groups or alliances of academic institutions—like universities, research centers, or libraries—that collaborate to achieve common goals. These consortia often pool resources, share knowledge, or coordinate efforts to improve research, teaching, or scholarly publishing.

¹³ This perspective on inclusive and iterative framework design emerged from open-ended survey responses and was shaped through qualitative thematic analysis of participant narratives.

¹⁴ UNESCO. 41 C/4 Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2029). Available at: https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/medium-term-strategy-2022-2029-41-c/4-0.

6. Stakeholder Insights: Proposed Pathways for Advancing Diamond Open Access

Survey respondents identified five key directions for advancing Diamond Open Access. These proposed actions emphasise decentralised, regionally led approaches and encourage UNESCO to support the process through facilitation, dialogue, and the sharing of knowledge and practices.

- 1) Develop Supportive Policy Frameworks: Governments should develop policies that ensure fair funding, recognise editorial contributions, and encourage multilingual publishing. These policies should be aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UNESCO 2021 Recommendation on Open Science.
- 2) Strengthen Institutional Capacity: Higher education and research institutions should emphasise sustainable infrastructure, such as repositories and multilingual metadata systems. Training programmes, delivered by national and regional partners, can improve editorial and institutional capabilities without imposing global standards.
- **3) Promote Regional Leadership and Cooperation:** Regional consortia and coalitions have proven successful in community-led governance. These methods should be expanded through interregional knowledge exchange, peer learning, and voluntary guidelines for collaboration.
- **4) Share Promising Practices and Adaptable Models:** Regional models of successful public-interest consortia should be documented and shared. When necessary, UNESCO's clearing house function could facilitate this exchange, supporting the adaptation of these practices to diverse regional contexts.
- **5) Establish Voluntary Monitoring Tools:** Stakeholders proposed developing indicators and benchmarking platforms to monitor progress in multilingualism, equity, accessibility, and institutional recognition. Such tools should stay voluntary and adaptable to regional requirements.

7. Conclusion and Future Engagement

The survey showed widespread support for Diamond Open Access as a community-led approach rooted in equity, multilingualism, and shared responsibility. Stakeholders recognised ongoing barriers, including funding shortages, limited institutional recognition, and policy misalignment, but expressed a strong dedication to promoting inclusive publishing models. They confirmed the importance of regional leadership, voluntary coordination, and knowledge sharing as guiding principles for future efforts, aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Digital Compact, and the UN Global Dig

The consultation highlighted regional diversity in approaches and opportunities. This diversity underscores the importance of tailored, region-led strategies that build on existing strengths and respond to local contexts. Respondents from some regions expressed that they benefit from established communities and practices in Diamond Open Access, while others indicated the need for further outreach to better understand current adoption, capacity, and infrastructure.

Within this landscape, UNESCO's role is to facilitate dialogue, share knowledge, and enhance capacities per its core mandates, while respecting the independence of Member States and scholarly communities.

In alignment with its Medium-Term Strategy (41 C/4), UNESCO will work with stakeholders to promote multistakeholder regional dialogues to clarify needs, harmonize terminology, and foster mutual confidence. It will also serve as a clearinghouse, supporting stakeholders in documenting practices, sharing multilingual resources, and strengthening capacities. These measures will reinforce inclusive governance and public-interest infrastructures, helping to translate shared goals into practical, context-sensitive improvements.

Annexes

This appendix offers supplementary materials to aid in the interpretation and analysis of the consultation results. These materials provide extra context for understanding respondents' engagement patterns and the original survey tools employed during data collection.

Annex 1. Geographic Distribution of Survey Respondants

This Annex lists the countries where a response was received.

Annex 2. Response Graphs

This annex presents visual graphs that demonstrate how respondents engaged with Diamond Open Access. In the subsection Respondent Demographics and Diversity, the heatmaps show the demographic diversity of survey participants. The first graph depicts the distribution of professional profiles (such as academics, librarians, policymakers, researchers, and others) across regions. The second graph illustrates the languages selected by respondents to complete the survey, offering insights into linguistic accessibility across regions. In both heatmaps, darker shades indicate higher percentages, enabling readers to quickly identify patterns in representation and language use.

For the remaining subsections, graphs illustrate engagement and responses across various regions and professional profiles. Each graph employs a colour gradient to represent the percentage of respondents involved in specific roles such as authorship, editing, advocacy, technical contribution, or open science collaboration. Darker shades denote higher levels of engagement. These graphs enable readers to quickly compare participation patterns between regions and professional categories, providing a visual summary of different roles and responsibilities.

Annex 3. Original Survey Screenshots

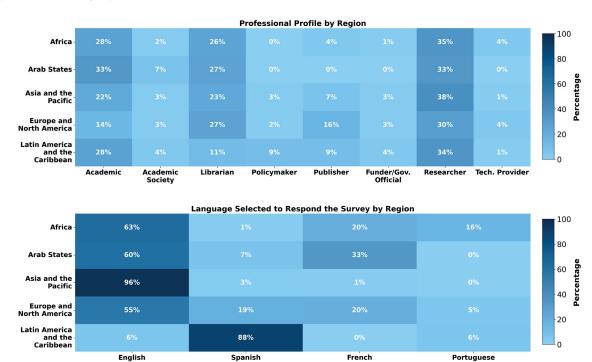
This annex contains screenshots of the original consultation survey. These images provide transparency about the survey's design, the types of questions asked, and the options available to respondents. They aim to give readers a full understanding of the consultation process and its methodological basis.

Annex 1. Geographic Distribution of Survey Respondents

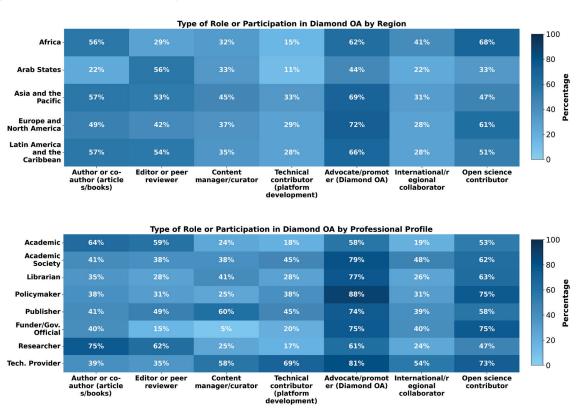
Algeria	Ireland	Slovenia
Angola	Israel	South Africa
Argentina	Italy	Spain
Australia	Jamaica	Sri Lanka
Austria	Japan	Sudan
Bangladesh	Kazakhstan	Sweden
Belgium	Kenya	Switzerland
Bolivia	Latvia	Thailand
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Lebanon	Trinidad & Tobago
Botswana	Lithuania	Tunisia
Brazil	Malawi	Türkiye
Bulgaria	Malaysia	Uganda
Canada	Mali	Ukraine
Chile	Mexico	United Kingdom
China	Moldova	United States
Colombia	Mongolia	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Morocco	Venezuela
Croatia	Nepal	Vietnam
Cuba	Netherlands	Zambia
Czech Republic	New Zealand	
Denmark	Nigeria	
Dominican Republic	Norway	
Ecuador	Pakistan	
Egypt	Panama	
Estonia	Paraguay	
Ethiopia	Peru	
Finland	Philippines	
France	Poland	
Germany	Portugal	
Ghana	Republic of Korea	
Greece	Romania	
Guatemala	Russian Federation	
Hungary	Saudi Arabia	
India	Senegal	
Indonesia	Serbia	

Annex 2. Graphs of Responses

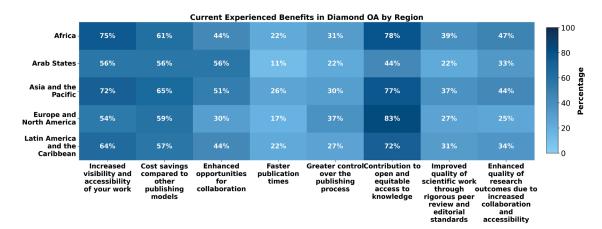
Respondent Demographics and Diversity

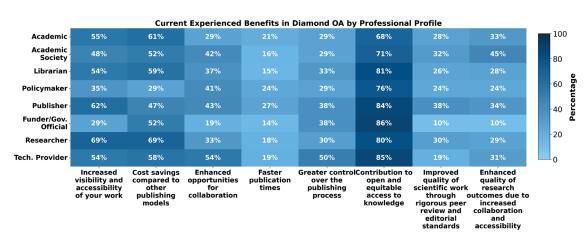


Engagement Across Roles and Responsibilities

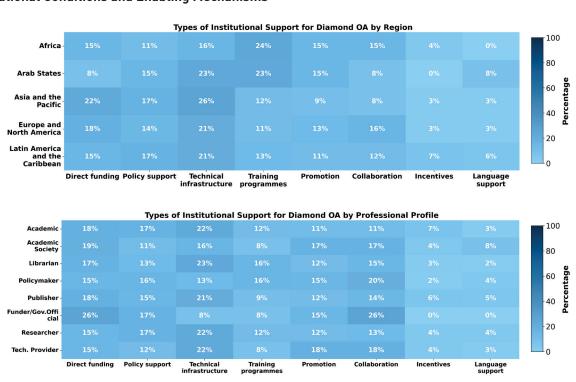


Values, Identity, and Motivations

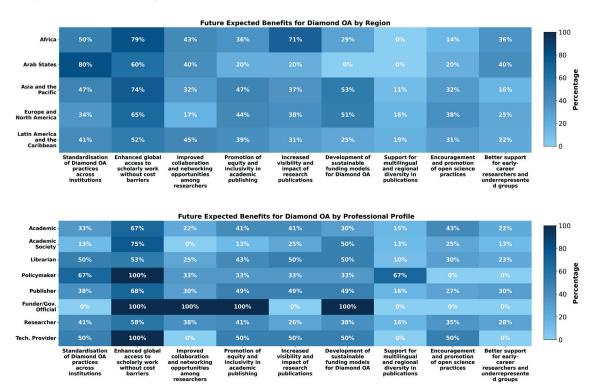




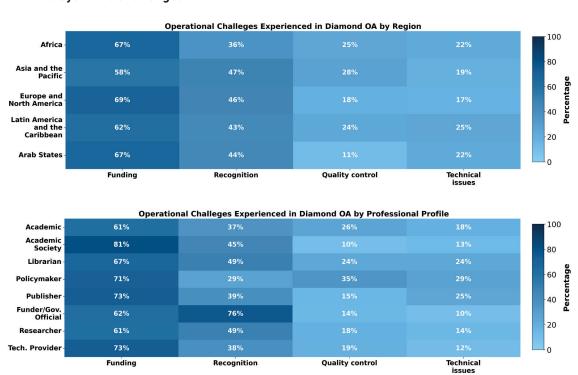
Institutional Conditions and Enabling Mechanisms

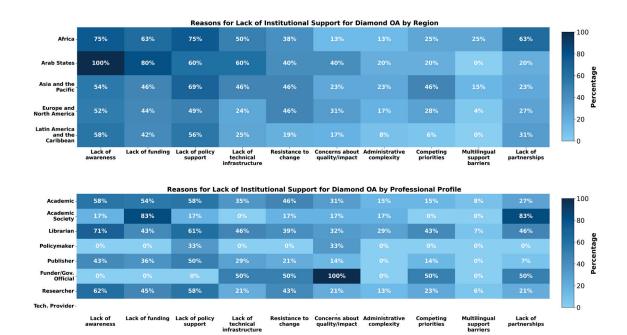


Shared Aspirations and Divergent Realities



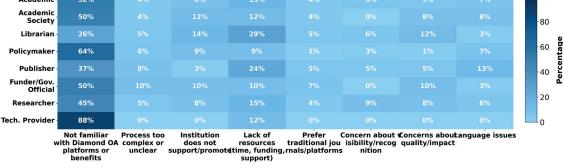
Structural and Systemic Challenges



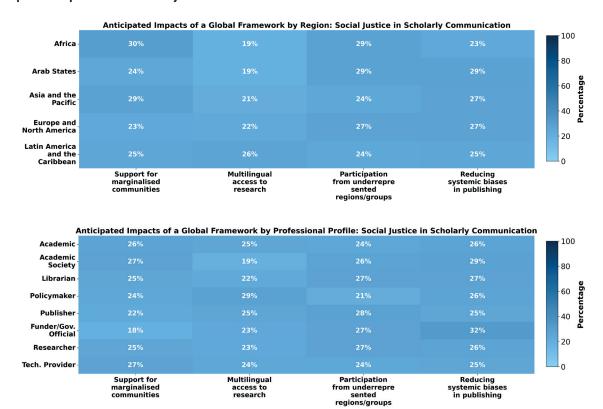


Awareness Gaps and Entry Barriers

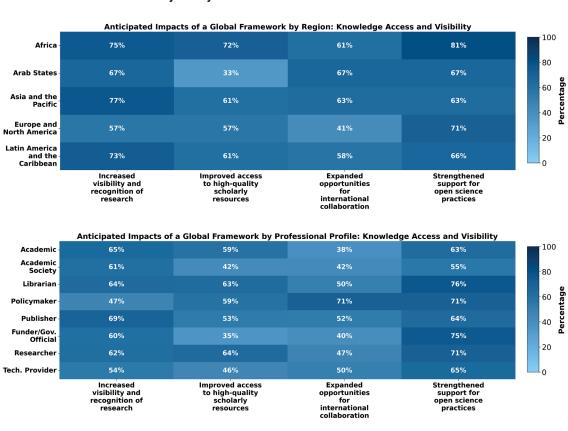




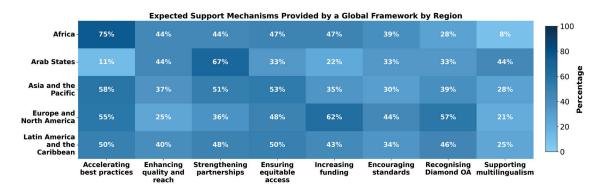
Anticipated Impacts on Scholarly Communication from a Global Framework

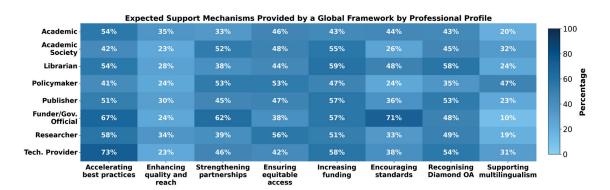


Expected Benefits for the Scholarly Ecosystem from a Global Framework

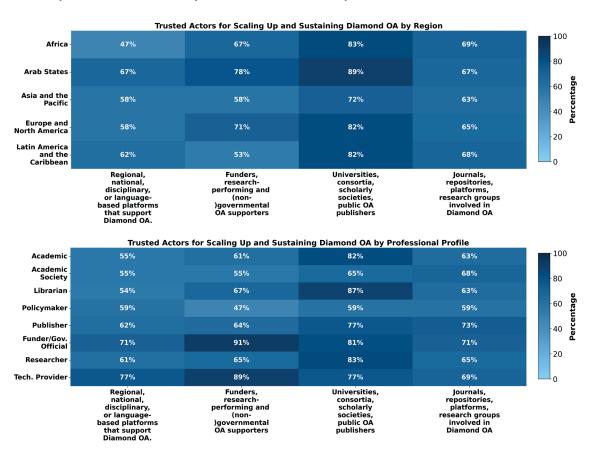


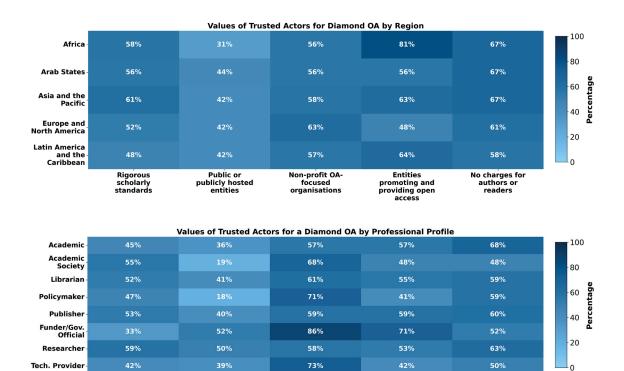
Priority Support Mechanisms anticipated from a Global Framework





Roles and Responsibilities to Scale up and Sustain Diamond Open Access





Non-profit OAfocused organisations Entities promoting and providing open access No charges for authors or readers

Rigorous scholarly standards Public or publicly hosted entities

Annex 3. Original Survey Screenshots

Resume later Load unfinished survey

Language: English - English 🔻

Next

Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

Welcome to the global Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework!

Thank you for contributing to this survey and for shaping the future of Diamond Open Access (DOA). The survey will take 15 to 25 minutes, and your responses will directly influence future strategies. Thank you for your participation and your commitment to advancing Diamond Open Access.

lf you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email us at diamond.oa@unesco.org, attn. Dr David Oliva Uribe.

Let's get started!

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Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

Which of the following best describes your professional profile? O Choose one of the following answers If you choose 'Other:' please also specify your choice in the accompanying text field.	Researcher/Scholar	Librarian/Information Specialist	Academic/Faculty Member	Publisher/Publishing Professional	olicy Maker	Representative of a Funding Agency//Government Official	Executive Member of an Academic Society or Professional Association	Technological or Infrastructure Provider	ther:
Which of the following Choose one o	Researcher/6	Uibrarian/Info	Academic/Fa	Publisher/Pu	Policy Maker	Representati	Executive Me	Technologica	Other:

Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

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In which region are you primarily based?

Choose one of the following answers

According to UNESCO's definitions, Mexico is classified within the Latin America and the Caribb

According to UNESCO's definitions, Mexico is classified within the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Therefore, in this context, North America refers solely to the United States and Canada.

Source: https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/region-definition

Africa

Arab States

Asia and the Pacific

Europe and North America

Latin America and the Caribbean

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Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

Are you familiar with Diamond Open Access, and do you currently participate in related activities?

Ohoose one of the following answers

Diamond Open Access (DOA) is an academic publishing model where scholarly works, such as books, edited volumes, and journal articles, are made freely available to readers and authors, with no costs for publishing or accessing the content. Also known as platinum open access, non-commercial open access, or open access commons, this model gained prominence in the 2000s and 2010s but has roots in earlier forms of publishing, such as subsidised university presses and community-led initiaEven if you haven't directly engaged with platforms labelled explicitly as "Diamond Open Access," you may have participated in or encountered initiatives that align with this model, which focuses on providing equitable access to knowledge by removing financial barriers for all parties involved.

Additional Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamond_open_access

- I am familiar with Diamond Open Access and actively participate in related activities.
- I am familiar with Diamond Open Access but do not currently participate in related activities.
- I am not familiar with Diamond Open Access.

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Section 2: Experience with Diamond Open Access

• Select all that apply	I have authored or co-authored articles or books published on Diamond OA platforms. I have served as an editor or peer reviewer for a Diamond OA journal.	I have managed or curated content for a Diamond OA repository or platform.	I have been involved in a Diamond OA platform's technical development and maintenance.	I have promoted or advocated for Diamond OA initiatives within my institution or community.	I have collaborated with international or regional partners through Diamond OA platforms.	I have contributed to promoting open science practices through Diamond OA.	

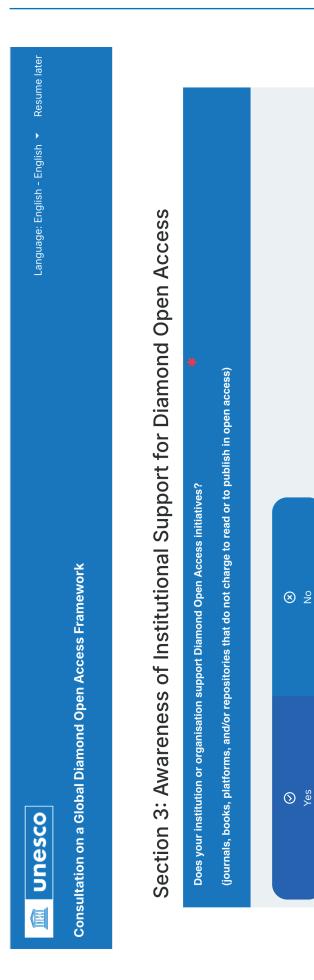
Section 2: Experience with Diamond Open Access

What specific benefits have you experienced from your involvement with Diamond Open Access? ② Select all that apply
Increased visibility and accessibility of your work
Cost savings compared to other publishing models
Enhanced opportunities for collaboration
Faster publication times
Greater control over the publishing process
Contribution to open and equitable access to knowledge
Improved quality of scientific work through rigorous peer review and editorial standards
Enhanced quality of research outcomes due to increased collaboration and accessibility
Other:



Section 2: Experience with Diamond Open Access

What challenges have you faced or do you anticipate with the Diamond Open Access? ② Select all that apply Please select at most 2 answers	Funding Funding	Recognition	Quality control	Technical issues	Other:



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Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

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Section 3: Awareness of Institutional Support for Diamond Open Access



Section 3: Awareness of Institutional Support for Diamond Open Access

You answered No. What are the barriers to your institution/university/organisation supporting Diamond Open Access? © Select all that apply	There needs to be more awareness and understanding of Diamond OA within the institution.	The institution lacks the financial resources to support Diamond OA initiatives.	The institution does not have policies supporting or encouraging Diamond OA.	The institution needs the technical infrastructure to support Diamond OA platforms or publications.	There is resistance to changing traditional publishing practices within the institution.	There are concerns about the quality and impact of Diamond OA publications.	The perceived administrative complexity of supporting Diamond OA is a barrier.	The institution prioritises other initiatives over Diamond OA.	The institution faces challenges in supporting multilingual Diamond OA publications.	The institution needs more partnerships or networks to support Diamond OA initiatives.	
You answered No. What are the barriers Select all that apply	There needs to	The institution	The institution	The institution	There is resist	There are cond	The perceived	The institution	The institution	The institution	Other:



Section 4: National and Regional Context for Diamond Open Access Are you aware of national and/or regional initiatives or organisations supporting Diamond Open Access ⊗ ≥ ⊗ Šes



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Section 4: National and Regional Context for Diamond Open Access

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Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework	
Section 4: National and Regional Context for Diamond Open Access	
What specific national or regional initiatives are you aware of that positively impact Diamond Open Access? (Optional)	Optional)
m Unesco	Language: English - English 🔻 Resume later
Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework	
Section 5: Purpose of a Global Collaborative Framework	
In what ways could a global collaborative framework most effectively support and enhance Diamond Open Access initiatives? © Select all that apply Please select at most 4 answers	
Accelerating the adoption and sustainability of Diamond OA practices.	
Enhancing the quality and reach of scholarly publications.	
Strengthening international partnerships and networks.	
Ensuring equitable and inclusive access to research globally.	
Increasing funding and resource availability for Diamond OA.	
Encouraging best practices and standards in OA publishing.	
Recognizing and valuing Diamond OA publications in research evaluations.	
Supporting the development of multilingual and diverse publications.	
Other:	

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Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework	
Section 6: Structure for a Global Collaborative Effort	
How should a global collaborative framework for Diamond Open Access be coordinated? ** Select all that apply	
A globally coordinated initiative led by UNESCO.	
A globally coordinated effort led by relevant regional entities and supported by UNESCO. Coordination efforts should remain flexible for now, as further exploration and discussions are needed to determine the need, the form of the framework, the most appropriate the need, the form of the framework, the most appropriate the need of the framework, the most appropriate the need of the framework, the most appropriate the need of the framework and the need of the framework as further exploration and discussions are needed to determine the need, the form of the framework, the most approximately as formally as formally as formally and the needed to determine the need of the framework and the needed to determine the needed to det	work, the most ap-
other:	
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Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework	
Section 6: Structure for a Global Collaborative Effort	
Why do you prefer this structure? (optional)	

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Section 6: Structure for a Global Collaborative Effort

Do you have any suggestions for a name for this global collaborative effort? (e.g. alliance, federation, framework, partnership, network, etc.)



Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

Section 7: Vision and Mission of a Global Collaborative Framework

Please select at most 3 answers
• Reference Note: The Vision represents the long-term aspiration of the global collaborative effort for Diamond Open Access. It outlines the desired future state and the ultimate impact thi initiative aims to achieve globally.
Alignment with open science values and principles as defined in the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science
Making Diamond Open Access the preferred model of scholarly communication, fully recognised and sustained by research communities and research systems.
Ensuring all individuals have equal access to scholarly work regardless of geographical location or institutional affiliation.
Making scientific knowledge freely accessible to a global audience without financial, technical, or legal barriers.
Promoting environmentally and economically sustainable models for scholarly publishing.
Upholding rigorous standards for peer review, editorial processes, and publication ethics.
Ensuring diverse participation and representation from various regions, disciplines, and communities in scholarly publishing.
Fostering global partnerships and collaboration between researchers, institutions, funders, and publishers.
Encouraging the development of innovative and forward-thinking models for Diamond Open Access publishing.
Emphasising that scientific knowledge is a global public good that should benefit society as a whole.
Other:

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Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

Section 7: Vision and Mission of a Global Collaborative Framework

Promote the principles of community governance and actionable steps to drive the collaborative effort towards achieving its vision. It focuses on the critical areas necessary to fulfil the vision effectively. Promote the principles of community governance and participation in scholarly publishing. Support and expand non-commercial publishing models that prioritise open access over profit. Increase Diamond Open Access publications¹ visibility and global impact, ensuring they reach a broad audience. Strengthen collaboration across regions and institutions to advance Diamond Open Access initiatives. Secure long-term financial support and robust infrastructure for the sustainable growth of Diamond Open Access. Encourage and facilitate the publication of research in multiple languages to broaden accessibility. Promote inclusive practices that ensure equitable participation and recognition in scholarly communication. Develop and disseminate best practices and technical standards to ensure the quality and reliability of Diamond Open Access publications. Other:
Reference Note: The the critical areas ne the critical areas ne Support and ex Strengthen colling Strengthen colling Secure long-ter Encourage and Encourage and Develop and discother:

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Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

Section 8: Key Objectives and Actions of a Global Collaborative Framework

What should be the primary objectives of a global collaborative effort for Diamond Open Access?

Select all that apply

Ensure that research is accessible to all, regardless of financial or institutional constraints. Advocate for publishing models that prioritise community governance and open access.	Increase the global reach and academic impact of Diamond OA publications. Strengthen partnerships and collaboration across regions to advance open access goals.	Ensure long-term financial and infrastructural support for Diamond OA initiatives.	Promote the publication of research in multiple languages to increase accessibility.	Advocate for practices that ensure equitable participation and social justice in the global research community.	Promote standardised practices to ensure consistency and quality across Diamond OA platforms.	Support the implementation of UNESCO's Open Science Recommendation	Implement mechanisms to track and assess the effectiveness of Diamond OA initiatives over time.	Ensure that Diamond OA publications are recognised and valued in research evaluations.

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Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

Section 8: Key Objectives and Actions of a Global Collaborative Framework

What specific actions should the global collaborative effort undertake to achieve its objectives?

Please select at most 3 answers Host regular summits to bring together stakeholders and share best practices.	Create guidelines and frameworks to support high-quality Diamond OA publishing. Identify and establish funding sources to support Diamond OA projects.	Invest in and build the necessary infrastructure to support Diamond OA platforms. Engage with policymakers to create favourable conditions for the growth of Diamond OA.	Offer educational programs to equip stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed for Diamond OA.	Develop tools to assess the progress and impact of Diamond OA initiatives.	Strengthen collaboration between institutions, regions, and organisations to expand Diamond OA. Facilitate the translation of research and the publication of multilingual content.	Regularly report on the progress and state of Diamond OA globally. Other:

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Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

Section 9: Building a Global Community

Which types of organisations should be the most suitable to participate in the organisation of a global collaborative effort for Diamond Open Access? © Select all that apply	Regional, national, disciplinary, or language-based platforms that support Diamond OA.	Research funders, research-performing organisations, and governmental or non-governmental organisations that support open access.	Universities, university presses, scholarly societies, library consortia, libraries, and public organisations that publish or support Diamond OA content.	Journals, platforms, aggregators, institutional journal portals, institutional repositories, and research groups involved in Diamond OA.	her:
Which types of or Select all that	Regional, na	Research fur	Universities,	Journals, pla	Other:



Section 9: Building a Global Community

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Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

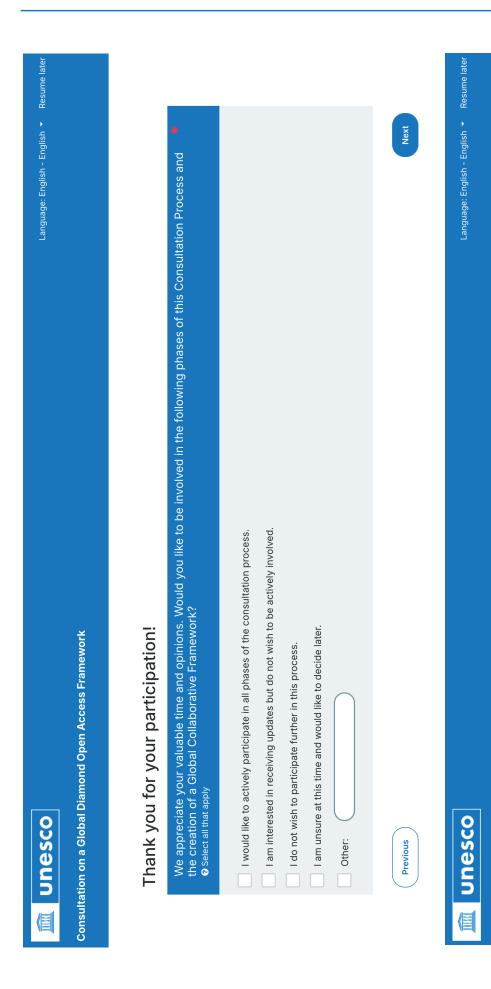
Section 10: Impact on Scholarly Work

In what ways do you expect a Global Collaborative Framework for Diamond Open Access to impact your professional and scholarly work? © Select all that apply
Increased Visibility and Recognition of Research.
Improved Access to High-Quality Scholarly Resources.
Expanded Opportunities for International Collaboration.
Strengthened Support for Open Science Practices.
Other:

Section 10: Impact on Scholarly Work

How could a global collaborative framework for Diamond Open Access advance social justice and promote universal access to knowledge? Select all that apply Supporting the Publication and Dissemination of Research from Marginalized Communities. Ensuring Multilingual Access to Research Outputs. Promoting Participation from Underrepresented Regions or Groups. Addressing and Reducing Systemic Biases in Scholarly Communication.
--

Language: English - English 🕶 Resume later What specific outcomes or benefits would you like to see from implementing this global collaborative effort? (optional) Section 10: Impact on Scholarly Work Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework unesco



Thank you for your participation!

Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework

Thank you for your participation! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to send us an email at:

diamond.oa@unesco.org attn: Dr David Oliva Uribe.



End of Survey

What are the main reasons for not being involved with Diamond Open Access? • Select all that apply
I am not familiar with Diamond OA niatforms or their henefits
I find the process of publishing or contributing to Diamond OA platforms too complex or unclear.
My institution does not actively support or promote Diamond OA initiatives.
I lack the resources (time, funding, support) to engage with Diamond OA platforms.
I prefer to publish or contribute to traditional, well-established journals or platforms.
I am concerned that publishing on Diamond OA platforms may not provide sufficient visibility or recognition for my work.
I have concerns about the perceived quality or impact of Diamond OA publications.
Language issues make it difficult to engage with Diamond OA platforms.
Other:

End of Survey

Would you like to be informed about events and information to gain experience with Diamond Open Access? ⊗ ≥ è è S



Further information:



diamond.oa@unesco.org



https://www.unesco.org/en/diamond-open-access