Introduction

2022 was an eventful year for SPARC Europe. With the Covid-19 pandemic waning in Europe, we were pleased to reconnect with our network in person once again.

Over the past year, we began work in earnest as a facilitator of CoNOSC, the Council for National Open Science Coordination. We kickstarted the year's Open Access (OA) efforts with an Open Science (OS) policymaker needs analysis and report. We facilitated mutual learning exercises among national policymakers by organising a range of rich discussions around policymaking processes, OS policy funding, data stewardship, and research assessment with over 15 countries. This propelled to conversations about OS policies and the challenges of developing and implementing policies in different national contexts.

On the project front, we wrapped up the FAIRsFAIR project. This highly successful project delivered top-notch results, firmly embedding FAIR across Europe; we said a fond farewell to our research data colleagues. However, this made way for our significant involvement in several new projects: The DIAMAS Project — 'Developing Institutional Open Access Publishing Models to Advance Scholarly Communication' began in the autumn bringing together 23 European organisations to map the landscape of Diamond Open Access publishing in the European Research Area and develop common standards, guidelines, and practices for institutional publishing. We also made headway on reforming copyright through a new project, Project Retain, where we worked hard to gather insights into rights retention and open licensing policies by surveying higher education institutions, interviewing scores of funders, publishers, and institutions, and building on our previous work in the area. In 2023 we look forward to developing an action plan based on our findings.

We are pleased to see that in 2022, the Open Access Books Network (OABN), that we helped build and co-coordinate, became an OPERAS Special Interest Group (SIG). Our work continues with the OABN, and this new organisational move will bring more stability to this important network. This has enabled us to strengthen our relationships with those active in European open access books whilst sharing knowledge to accelerate access to books and monographs.

Our European Network of Open Education Librarians (ENOEL) continued growth, strengthening, advocating, and developing Open Education (OE) across the continent. Various materials were produced, such as version 3 of the ENOEL Toolkit, now translated into 18 languages — a valuable resource to raise awareness of OE. We showcased the vital people behind change in Open Education through our Open Education Champions and hosted conversations with them around the UNESCO OER Recommendations. And towards the end of 2022, we published our OE in European Libraries of Higher Education 2022 Report, demonstrating that libraries have stepped up their activities since last year.

Lastly, as part of our efforts to secure open infrastructure, via SCOSS, we are proud to announce that four pledging rounds have helped raise 4.85 million EUR to sustain Open Science Infrastructure so far. We are so grateful that even in hard economic times, libraries are investing in open infrastructure.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our growth in 2022. We look forward to an exciting 2023 where we continue to work towards creating a more inclusive, diverse and equitable research and education open ecosystem.

Vanessa Proudman
Director, SPARC Europe
Gaining Ground: SPARC Europe Strategy 2021-2024

We are halfway through our 2021-2024 Strategy, published in January 2021. The SPARC Europe Board developed the initial Strategy document in consultation with our key partners and libraries.

Through our Strategy, we envision a more equitable, diverse, sustainable, and Open Science and Education ecosystem.

The strategy has six major goals:

1. Strengthen Open Access, Open Scholarship/Open Science, and Open Education policy in Europe, and align where possible.
2. Advocate for Open in research and education.
3. Strive to enable more equity in Open so that all those who wish to publish and share research and education resources openly are better enabled to do so.
4. Promote diversity in publishing Open research and education.
5. Raise the impact of publicly funded research by reimagining the way that Open research is rewarded and incentivised.
6. Help sustain the Open infrastructure/service ecosystem.

The strategy gives us a clear direction for the future. As such, our Annual Report is organised around these six strategic goals, showing projects and events that SPARC Europe engaged in over the past year to achieve the ambitious objectives outlined in the strategy.

Read the strategy here.
Strengthen Open Access, Open Scholarship/Open Science, and Open Education policy in Europe

Facilitating the Network of Open Science Coordinators: CoNOSC

CoNOSC is the Council for National Open Science Coordination, and SPARC Europe has been facilitating it since 2021. Starting with a handful of members, CoNOSC now has members from 22 different European countries.

To kickstart our efforts to facilitate CoNOSC and plan the work ahead, we investigated the needs of members and published the key findings in a report. The report investigates the needs of national policymakers, presenting key takeaways from interviews with CoNOSC members, representatives, national OS coordinators, ministry officials, research funders, and other policymaking decision-makers. SPARC Europe conducted interviews with 30 representatives from 18 different European countries, as well as with the now Head of the Open Science Unit from the European Commission. Interviews were designed to identify what activities and areas would provide the most value through collaboration at CoNOSC without duplicating current European efforts elsewhere. The report was published in April 2022. Read the full report here.

Listening to CoNOSC policymakers, we hosted several meetings with the view to share inside knowledge amongst national Open Science policymakers. We hosted deep-dive discussions around a wide range of topics, including policymaking processes, the funding for Open Science, building data steward networks and reforming research assessment. The first of our meetings saw 37 participants and 18 countries in attendance. Summaries of the rich discussions can be found on the CoNOSC website.

We also summarised the newest significant European policy on Open Science: The European Council Conclusions on Research Assessment and Implementation of Open Science. Read it here.

As part of our facilitation of CoNOSC, one of our ambitions was to create an information hub listing developments in OS policies across Europe. In 2022, we launched the OS policies webpage that provides short summaries of OS policies from 20 countries, with links to the most crucial OS documents and projects. All information comes straight from the policymakers, so we hope it will serve as a reliable source for the community. View the page here.
Helping find a sustainable funding model for EOSC, the European Open Science Cloud

Throughout 2022, as a member of the EOSC Financial Sustainability Task Force, SPARC Europe was involved in discussions related to how we fund EOSC from 2027 onwards. First findings and initial conclusions culminated in a report in November 2022. The Task Force scoped and defined the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Core, Exchange and Data Federation in the context of financial sustainability, identified barriers and boundary conditions and developed initial financial scenarios. We are keen to hear the community’s views, and thus, it will be open for consultation in 2023. Read the report here.

Successful culmination of the FAIRsFAIR Project

2022 marked the final year of the FAIRsFAIR Project. The project delivered important results with significant immediate and potential impact. FAIRsFAIR has significantly contributed to creating – and helping others create – a FAIR ecosystem in Europe. We were proud to be involved in FAIR policy research, analysis, and advice to help guide national and funder Open Science policymakers to strengthen the FAIRness of their research data policies. In addition, we were heavily involved in looking at how to sustain some of the extensive results of the project, completing the activity with an engaging event on the topic. On the 12th of May, FAIRsFAIR underwent its final review, and reviewers concluded that the project results are excellent, outstanding and exemplary. Read the report here.

Kickstarting policy alignment of OA books and monographs; preparing for the PALOMERA Project

In 2022, preparatory work began in anticipation of the PALOMERA project (Policy Alignment of Open Access Monographs in the European Research Area). PALOMERA will run for two years from January 2023 and will investigate the reasons for the lack of focus on OA books by OS policymakers across geographies, languages, economies, and disciplines within the European Research Area (ERA) to date. Through desk studies, surveys, in-depth interviews, and use cases, PALOMERA will collect, structure, analyse, and make available knowledge that can explain the challenges and bottlenecks that prevent OA to academic books. Based on this evidence, PALOMERA will provide actionable recommendations and concrete resources to support and coordinate aligned funder and institutional policies for OA books, with the overall objective of speeding up the transition to open access for books. SPARC Europe looks forward to joining the project to help build a meaningful knowledge base for policymakers, come up with recommendations for institutional strategies and funder policies for OA books, and get this work out to those who need to know through increased engagement building on the work we’ve done with the Open Access Books Network (OABN). Read more here.
Advocating for Open in research and education

Gaining exposure for OA Books

The Open Access Books Network (OABN) is coordinated by SPARC Europe's Agata Morka, Tom Mosterd (OAPEN/DOAB), and Lucy Barnes (Open Book Publishers). OABN activities fit into SPARC Europe's Strategy to advocate for Open in academic books; we are doing this by facilitating knowledge-exchange and by building capacity for OA for books across Europe.

In 2022 specifically, the OABN held the OA Books Workouts series of author talks and our OA Mythbusters video series. We also had several successful events both within and outside the network, including talks on climate change and OA books, usage data and Project Gutenberg, as well as panel discussions at the UKSG Annual Conference, with the Polish Open Science Platform and Liverpool John Moore University's Research Week.

We also helped organise a popular series of Open Café meetings for small university open access presses. We look forward to what we will achieve with the OABN community next year! View all events by the OABN here.

Open Access Books Network (OABN) joins OPERAS Special Interest Group (SIG)

This year the Open Access Books Network (OABN was delighted to become an OPERAS Special Interest Group (SIG). This has enabled us to strengthen our relationships with people and organisations active in European open research while remaining part of the global open access network. These connections will bear fruit with new projects in the coming year, including the European PALOMERA Project.

Going forward, the OABN will be formally supported by OPERAS, the European Research Infrastructure advancing open scholarly communication in the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in the European Research Area. Thanks to this transition, OABN will receive administrative support and hopes to form stronger links with people and organisations in the European open research landscape. The OABN will continue to organise its activities independently, with the three above-mentioned coordinators steering its development.

Going forward, the OABN aims to develop a more international approach and broaden its network. SPARC Europe and our colleagues look forward to driving OA books forward with the OABN and the community. If you are not yet a member, join the OABN here.
Increasing capacity in Open Education in Europe

The European Network of Open Education Librarians (ENOEL) is a community of academics from across Europe who share educational values and advocate for OE. It is central to what we do. Established in 2018, ENOEL encourages and facilitates the exchange of ideas and learning between peers to drive OE forward. The network currently has 104 representatives from 27 countries, and members are involved in 7 active projects. This year we are very proud to have won the OE Global Award for Open Collaboration. One of our members from Ukraine also won the Open Resilience Award.

Our 2022 OE survey shows progress in OE across Europe

In November 2022, SPARC Europe and the European Network of Open Education Librarians (ENOEL) published their yearly report entitled Open Education in European Libraries of Higher Education. This report is the third edition of the 2020 report under the same title, which was the first of its kind. The 2022 report was framed by the UNESCO Recommendation on OER.

The report outlines the challenges, opportunities, and needs of European academic libraries in their efforts to implement and accelerate the OE roadmap. It highlights their pivotal role in advancing OE in Europe. Since last year, we see more awareness around OE and the UNESCO Recommendation, more library engagement in OE policymaking, we see activities stepping up to implement more OER tools and practices. However, more widespread institutional commitment to Open Education is needed since OE policies and funding are still scarce. We are also keen to address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Open Education since this is an important area of focus for SPARC Europe and for Europe as a whole.

Read the SKIM (a two-page document with key takeaways and recommendations from the report) here. Read the full report here.

More resources for librarians as OE advocates

In 2022, ENOEL put much energy into creating and gathering resources for OE advocates. The European library community continued to collaboratively create activities and resources to support librarians and OE advocates. Early on in 2022, we showcased some of the leaders behind the OE movement in Europe, sharing their stories about their OE journeys: their successes, challenges and plans for the future online. This completed our open champion dedicated website.
In 2022, we released the Open Mic podcast series, where ENOEL members talk about UNESCO OER Recommendation Action Areas. Sound bites explain the areas and refer to library activities that are reaching its goals. We also hosted several OE Cafes to discuss the Areas with OE champions from Europe. Listen to all Open Mic Podcasts here.

We released the third version of the ENOEL Toolkit: Open Education Benefits — which now appears in 18 European languages. This advocacy tool supports many librarians on the topic of OE resources in their mother tongue. We also produced an infographic on the Open Education Librarianship: a learning path that starts to guide librarians on the path to OE. This links to a new Wakelet page, curated by ENOEL members, which gathers content related to OER, OE policies, OE support, and OE research results.

**Raising awareness of European library action worldwide**

During 2022, ENOEL was extensively involved in creating awareness of its community, services, and of OER in general. We explored ENOEL activities as an open practice that brings together librarians from different institutions and countries in the EU. We presented and actively participated together with our network in various events and conferences, including Open Education Week, OE Global 2022 Conference, the 51st LIBER Conference, UniLibNSD Conference, the EADTU Conference, the 11th Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference (EALC), and the Open Education Conference 2022. Librarians are, as a consequence, increasingly being recognised as important advocates and practitioners in Open Education.

We are sincerely grateful to the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation who is supporting our work in this area.

View the work of the ENOEL here.
Enabling more equity in Open

**Fuelling a 21st-century copyright environment across Europe — Knowledge Rights 21**

The Knowledge Rights 21 Programme, of which SPARC Europe is one of the three partners, continues its work towards "the long-term copyright reform that benefits library users and researchers in the 21st century." It is funded by the Arcadia Fund. This project combines the strengths of SPARC Europe, LIBER, and IFLA to promote access to knowledge for study, research, and culture in Europe.

As part of this programme, several projects are underway to address challenges with eBooks, contract override, open norms and secondary publishing rights. SPARC Europe started a project dedicated to Rights Retention and Open Licensing in 2022 for equity’s sake, i.e., to allow as many authors as possible to publish OA regardless of their financial resources.

**Project Retain: Rights Retention, Licensing & Copyright**

Project Retain is a one-year project led by SPARC Europe that forms part of the above-mentioned Knowledge Rights 21 Project. In 2022 we surveyed European academic institutions to gain insight into copyright and open access, including the following key areas affecting researchers since they are crucial to support their researchers publish OA:

- Whether the initial ownership of copyright is with authors or their employing organisation.
- What rights are transferred from authors to the publisher.
- Author rights retention – the extent to which researchers retain rather than transfer control of their published research.
- Open licensing – the promotion of licences which grant permission to access, reuse, and redistribute.
- Reuse of scientific publications – ensuring that the written outputs of research can be reused by the community as a whole but also by the original author in new contexts.

Over 225 responses were garnered from across Europe. We furthermore spoke to a further 25 or so policymakers from universities, in addition to other key OA stakeholders that include funders and publishers to understand motivations, directions, contexts and details of policymaking processes, including drivers and blockers of change. In 2023, we will publish our evidence-base of findings and come up with an action plan to promote policy change in Europe in this area. Read more about the key findings from Project Retain’s survey in our blog post here. You can also view Project Retain’s general web page here.
Promoting diversity in publishing Open research and education

Launch of new institutional publishing project — DIAMAS

The institutional OA publishing sector is challenged by fragmentation; its visibility is limited, its service of varying quality, and its sustainability is not always secure. A new European Commission-funded project, DIAMAS, aims to build capacity amongst European institutional publishers to address some of these challenges. The project started on the 1st of September 2022 with 23 partners, including SPARC Europe, and will run for 30 months.

We are proud to lead the workpackage on Exploring and supporting the sustainability of institutional publishing. We look forward to empowering Institutional Publishing Service Providers (IPSPs) to financially sustain OA diamond operations by providing intelligence and building capacity on financial models.

We also head up the project's engagement task, where we will strategically engage with the project's key stakeholders. This includes research organisations and their libraries, scholarly societies, OA diamond publishers and their service providers, funding bodies, policymakers, and researchers. This task is essential to understand the sector better and collaborate and onboard OA diamond institutional publishing service providers to build capacity in this important area. We will leverage the strong partners of the project to reach many organisations. We have helped map over 200 stakeholders; together with project partners, we have looked at the needs and concerns of key stakeholder groups and at how DIAMAS can meet those needs specifically. This intelligence will feed into an engagement plan which will help us inform and validate project results and, above all, pave the way to building meaningful partnerships to help build capacity in institutional publishing in a targeted way.

Read more about the project.

Reimagining the way that Open research is rewarded and incentivised

Building on the work we did with EUA and DORA in 2021, SPARC Europe was invited to take part in the European Commission’s Stakeholder Assembly Meetings on the Reform of Research Assessment to review the new Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment and to discuss plans to develop a Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), which was established in December 2022. The Agreement sets a shared direction for change in assessment practices for research, researchers, and research performing organisations, with the overarching goal to maximise the quality and impact of research. We look forward to exploring how we can support CoARA in building capacity to reform research assessment amongst Europe’s universities in 2023. See the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment. For more on CoARA, see here.
Helping sustain the Open infrastructure/service ecosystem

Raising funds for Open Science via SCOSS

SCOSS, a SPARC Europe initiative dedicated to raising funds to sustain Open Science Infrastructures, is supporting four pledging rounds to sustain important Open Science infrastructure across the globe. The SCOSS Family of infrastructures includes DOAJ, Sherpa Romeo, DOAB, OAPEN, PKP, OpenCitations, arXiv, DSpace, Redalyc/AmeliCA, Dryad, ROR and LA Referencia. We are working with them to see how to further strengthen ties between open infrastructures worldwide whilst at the same time helping raise funds for them.

Building on the SCOSS strategy developed in 2021, we have helped raise 4.85 million EUR to sustain Open Science Infrastructure so far.

We are very grateful to have received support from the following countries so far: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the US. We are particularly grateful to library consortia committing to SCOSS infrastructure, including Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the UK, and the US. The support added up to more than 4.85 million EUR in pledges at the end of 2022.

Looking back, SCOSS organised a series of regional webinars focusing on the 3rd pledging cycle in 2022. This series was titled, ‘Everything you always wanted to know about the SCOSS 3rd pledging round,’ featuring arXiv, Redalyc/AmeliCA and DSpace representatives. We presented this series for audiences stemming from 4 regions: Australasia, North America, Latin America and Europe. We also spoke at the esteemed Africa Universities Days in November. In addition to this, SCOSS was discussed during a panel discussion at the UKSG Annual Conference: ‘From speed dating to long-term relationships: strategies for including support for Open Science Infrastructures into library budgets.’ We hope to forge more links with Asia in 2023.

Ready, steady, pledge! SCOSS’s fourth pledging round launched in November 2022

To highlight the need to fund OS infrastructure, SCOSS regularly selects essential infrastructures that require funding to encourage collective funding. After a rigorous evaluation process, in 2022, SCOSS chose organisations for its fourth pledging round, welcoming Dryad, LA Referencia and ROR on board. Read more about how to pledge here. You can also read more about all funding calls here.
It's your call! SCOSS published the 2023 Expression of Interest

In November 2022, SCOSS published the 2023 Expression of Interest Call. Having raised well over 4.8 million EUR to sustain vital, non-commercial infrastructure and services within the Open Science community, the Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS) is again searching for new potential candidate organisations to fund during the 2023 to 2025 SCOSS funding cycle.

This year's areas of priority are:

- Open publishing services, tools, and platforms;
- Open research data infrastructure and services;
- Research assessment reform tools.
Faces behind SPARC Europe

This work could not have been done without the following individuals in particular:

- **Aricia Bassinet** is a librarian at the University of Lorraine in France. She assists researchers and doctoral students in the creation of open access journals, research data management and bibliometrics. She recently had the chance to discover SCOSS and is supporting communications; she is learning a lot along the way!

- **Paola Corti**, Open Education Community Manager, who joined the SPARC Europe team in February 2021, manages the Hewlett Foundation-funded project, which helps implement the UNESCO OER Recommendation. Paola is the always-energetic engine behind the European Network of Open Education Librarians.

- **Caroline Fardell** provides administrative support to SPARC Europe. She’s been working with SE since autumn 2022. Caroline lives on a farm in rural Suffolk in England and enjoys spending time with her dog and her pony.

- **Mieke Grooten** has been supporting the SPARC Europe since 2017. Mieke built the SPARC Europe, SCOSS, and OpenScholarChampions websites and continues to maintain them and help SPARC with new website needs. Designing things makes Mieke happy.

- **Elizabeth Joss-Bethlehem** is SPARC Europe's Communication Consultant and owner of WordWorx, an English communication/training company in The Hague. She has supported SPARC Europe's communication and messaging tasks since 2022.

- **Bianca Kramer** provides SCOSS Community Strategy & Support. She works as an independent advisor, research analyst and facilitator at Sesame Open Science. For SCOSS, she works with participating infrastructures to develop strategies for achieving funding goals. She focusses on strategy & community-building for SCOSS.

- **Mariël Lam** designed the current logo of SPARC Europe, SCOSS and ENOEL. She likes the idea of sharing in Open Education and ENOEL to create better opportunities for everyone.

- **Kirstine McDermid** supports SPARC Europe with our social media channels. When her head is not deep in all things OA, you might find her writing fiction, swimming or walking in the woods.

- **Agata Morka**, Communications Officer and SCOSS co-ordinator, joined SPARC Europe in March 2021 and divides her time between implementing SPARC Europe’s communication strategy and coordinating and supporting SCOSS. She gave birth to a baby boy in 2022.

- **Vanessa Proudman**, Director of SPARC Europe, is working to make Open the default in Europe. Vanessa tries to make sure that there is a true spark in every SPARC Europe project.

- **Jon Treadway**, the Founder and Director of Great North Wood Consulting, helped SPARC Europe with various research projects in 2022. He will contribute his analytical skills to more SPARC Europe research projects in 2023.

- **Mariska van Harn** and **Robert Pel** have been involved in the financial administration and annual accounts of SPARC Europe since May 2022. They help SPARC Europe extract valuable information from the financials and present that in an efficient, visually appealing way using business intelligence software to help SPARC Europe going forward.
Thank you for supporting our work!

If you are interested in the activities of SPARC Europe, please subscribe to OPEN, our monthly newsletter featuring updates for those working to advance Open in Europe.

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