



# SCOSS and Research Funders: Securing Investments in Open Science by Sustaining Open Infrastructure

Research Funding Organisations have been generous in supporting new initiatives that advance Open Science. Additionally, most funding organisations themselves rely on open infrastructures such as DOAJ, OAPEN, DSpace, or arXiv to provide access to their funded research.

Increasingly funder policies reference standards maintained by open infrastructures such as ROR, and research funders participate actively in social infrastructure organizations such as RDA.

Traditionally, research funder models are often focused on projects rather than ongoing operational support. The SCOSS fundraising model offers a solution for sustaining initiatives and provides mechanisms through which funders can readily contribute to vital infrastructures' long-term operational viability.

## Ways to Contribute

There are a variety of ways that research funders can support SCOSS-endorsed Open Infrastructure. Below are a few examples:



**Sponsor a Project:** Support a specific project that can assist SCOSS infrastructures. For example, funding projects for metadata exchange systems, Open Science advocacy in low-adoption regions, or operational collaboration.



**Encourage the Use of Open Infrastructure:** Consider encouraging organisations that you support to use non-commercial, open infrastructure whenever possible.



**Join as a Member:** Become a member of an infrastructure and help to grow their revenue base.



**Provide Seed Funding:** Help newly selected SCOSS Family infrastructures by offering seed funding as they wait for pledges to come in.

## How to Contribute

Please review the list of vetted Open Science infrastructures on our [who to fund](#) page.

To discuss any of these possibilities, please contact us to learn more. [info@scoss.org](mailto:info@scoss.org)

**As of 2024, over 345 institutions have pledged support for SCOSS-endorsed, non-commercial, Open Science infrastructure, raising over 6.4M Euro for 15 infrastructures.**

## Short-term

Through SCOSS's 3-year campaigns, infrastructures have received funding from institutions to undertake activities that have strengthened their core operations. These funds cover costs typically overlooked by traditional funding streams (see [Aug 2024 SCOSS blog post](#)), such as upgrading legacy software, purchasing hardware, stabilising their governance model, or hiring staff. Here are some examples:

**arXiv** hired key staff, including a community engagement manager, software developers, a project manager and documentation specialist and they updated their legacy code.

**DOAJ** made a significant impact in reducing their backlog, expanding their ambassador network, and training editors to improve application quality.

**DSpace** hired a part-time coordinator to oversee management and community engagement for the DSpace global community.

**OpenCitations** developed governance documents, formalised their organisation, recruited a software developer, and streamlined operations by creating a unified index.

**PKP/OJS** hired staff who played a key role in expanding their membership base, partnerships, and hosted clients.

**LA Referencia** undertook a crucial project to support the broader Open Infrastructure ecosystem, completing the first phase of dARK, a PID solution for low-resourced institutions globally.

## Long-term

SCOSS's long-term impact has been to transform funding models to better support open infrastructure. SCOSS has facilitated the development of relationships and partnerships that help infrastructures secure longer-term support.

## What is SCOSS?

The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS) provides a framework that enables support to community-led, open non-commercial services and infrastructure. Each year, SCOSS rigorously assesses applications from non-commercial, Open Science (OS) infrastructures and endorses a select few. These infrastructures set a funding target and SCOSS connects them with funding partners (primarily libraries and their consortia to date) to build a relationship, which we hope will continue well into the future. SCOSS also helps solidify the OS infrastructure ecosystem by connecting and supporting its infrastructures through common SCOSS Family activities.

## Mission

We create connections to sustain vital Open Science Infrastructure.

## Vision

A world where research is supported by a sustainable and thriving ecosystem of Open Science Infrastructures

## Values

- Community-led
- Expert-driven
- Global in reach
- Collaborative
- Equitable and inclusive
- Practical and outcome-driven

