

 **THE SKIM****Report: Scoping the Open Science Infrastructure Landscape in Europe** | Published Oct 2020**BACKGROUND**

During the summer of 2020, an in-depth survey of infrastructure/services that are part of the European Open Science infrastructure (OSI) landscape was conducted. It encompassed 120 Europe-based OSIs with a regional, national or international focus; it excludes projects, and includes infrastructure prior to 2019. A full and in-depth report on the findings was published on 30 October 2020.

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

The authors of the report describe a diverse, interconnected, open, professional and viable, OS infrastructure ecosystem in Europe on solid ground; one that is worth investing in. At the same time, this ecosystem — still developing — faces a range of issues that challenge its path to a more open and sustainable future. The importance of Open Service Infrastructure will intensify as OSIs become the backbone of new open workflows globally for stakeholders in the scholarly communications landscape.

**Key takeaways**

*Recommendations for Open Science Infrastructure to help us achieve greater sustainability:*

- **Follow good governance practices.** This allows the community to trust that the infrastructure or service will be steered by the needs of the community and stay true to the values of research.
- **Go open source, adopt open standards and unlock open content.** “Despite a strong uptake of open source and open standards by many, challenges remain for some in sharing good governance, open content and applying open standards,” wrote the authors.
- **Diversify fund-raising efforts, upskill to embrace a range of business revenue models.** This allows the organisation to spread financial risk.
- **Share within the community.** By sharing resources and working together to solve common challenges, we can scale small, medium and large infrastructure and help build a thriving ecosystem. This might involve developing communities of practice and guidance; pooling resources and working with initiatives such as Invest in Open Infrastructure (IOI) and JROST.

The report’s conclusions also include a **call to action for agencies, institutions, charities and in particular governments to maintain and increase support for both development activities and for sustaining operations.** Making smart choices on what to invest in will be essential. Making smart choices on what to invest in will be essential; for instance, prioritising critical nodes of infrastructure, such as aggregation and indexing, search, storage, identity (e.g. ORCID) and persistent identifiers (PIDs)

SPARC Europe looks forward to taking these learnings forward into 2021 and beyond – as part of its strategic plan – to strengthen and sustain the current scholarly communication infrastructure in Europe.

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