

EUT<sup>+</sup>

## EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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## Foreword to deliverable 114

Open research and academic publishing are rapidly evolving, driven by the principles of transparency, accessibility, and collaboration. In recent years, academic presses have played a pivotal role in reshaping the landscape of scholarly communication, embracing open research practices, and revolutionizing the way knowledge is disseminated. This introduction explores the world of academic presses in the context of open research, highlighting their advantages, and shedding light on the most common platforms used in higher education. The present deliverables 114 is thus based on previous Open Research-related deliverables (D.8.7abc Open Science Agenda) for coherence purposes and to allow it to be standalone. Its purpose is to present the initiation of the EUT+ Academic Press platform in Open Research context and will be further developed after full deployment of the said platform in D115 (D8.8c EUT+ University Press Report) will present further the internal workings of the EUT+ Academic Press platform.

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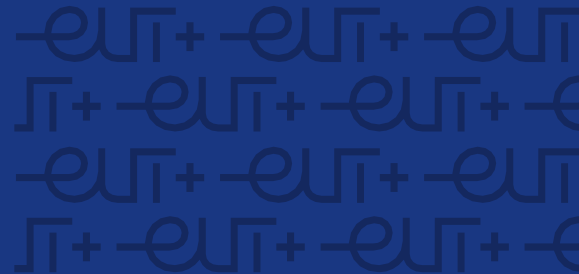
## Introduction

Open Research (OR) makes the research methodology, software, code, and equipment freely available online, along with instructions for using it. Publications are freely available online (open access), in addition to the underlying research data (open data) and methodologies are open and transparent (open notebooks). Open means that these resources are freely available to be viewed and downloaded by anybody with an internet connection, anywhere in the world, without having to log in or pay. The free transfer of ideas, results and data is particularly important now as the modern world faces many catastrophic problems such as pandemics, climate change and sustainability issues. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century research needs to be collaborative and global to find societal solutions.

This means that the current scholarly communication model which concentrates on final outcomes (via journal articles) is no longer fit for purpose. Information is placed behind paywalls which only those wealthy enough to afford journal subscriptions can access. Open Access charges (APCs) have evolved to support publishers to make information freely available but in many cases these charges are prohibitively high while at the same time libraries continue to pay expensive journal subscriptions. Many fear that “open” in research will lead to poor quality outcomes but in fact the opposite may very well be true. The more open a process is, the more open it is to scrutiny and investigation which validates the results.

However, it is true to say that while “open” is seen to be valuable, it is not without its problems. Who will fund the publishing process; once you move away from publication/citation-based evaluation, and what will replace it?

There are the problems of being scooped, using sensitive data, predatory journals, the quality of peer review, the misuse of data, the pressure to produce only positive



results, financial implications and so on. Solving these problems will result in a culture change in how research is carried out and disseminated. In such an environment, researchers need to understand the concepts of OR, produce workflows that suit their process and disseminate results earlier and in a totally different way.

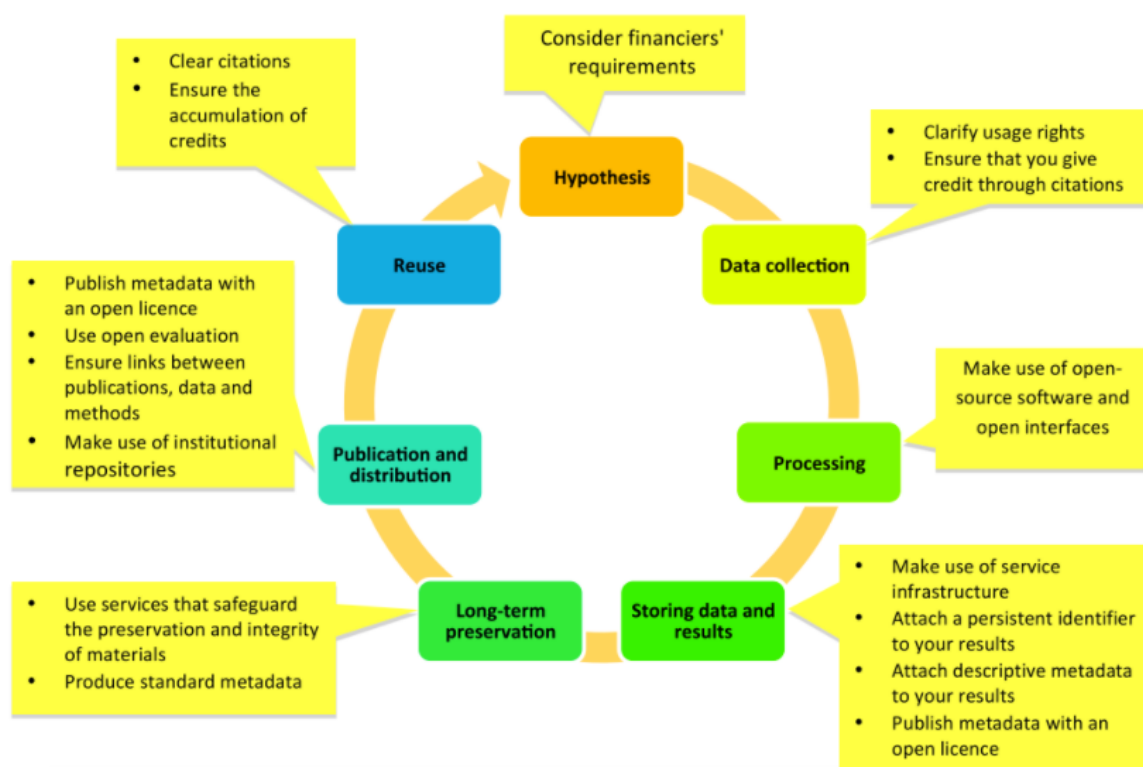


Figure 1: Foster: the OR Process.

The present tasks have recognised that OR is not just about open access to publications. It is a much broader process that requires researchers and support staff to learn new skills. We are working to create an ecosystem that supports OR. We recognize that OR is not an all-or-nothing proposition. Some material may never be made publicly available, but this should not be the default position. The decision to withhold material must be justifiable, and the mantra of "as open as possible and

as closed as necessary" should only be used as a defence. We believe that any steps towards OR should be encouraged. As a group, we have worked together to identify and address any structural barriers that could slow down this process.

From the beginning, there were differing levels of awareness about the value of OR in the partner universities, some were more advanced in this area than others. However, three years later it can be said that all the participants are now more aware of the value of OR.

***This specific report deals with the global aspects of OR, because all of them are integrated and necessary as a TOTAL, but with specific attention to Academic Press and its inter-relation with the other aspects of OR.***

Within the tasks 8.6-8.7 has been demonstrated the value of working together to achieve mutually beneficial goals. Partners learn from each other and by working together we all reach the same level of excellence. This is particularly important in the EUT+ which will have a transient population of students and academics who need to be able to access the same level of support and training no matter which university they may be temporarily attached to. We believe that a vital component to accomplish this will be the establishment of the CORE Centre of Excellence (see Appendix 1) which will enable partners to be informed, educated and proactive in this rapidly advancing area. It is essential that the same standards and quality of training would be available throughout the EUT+. With the OR Statement EUT+ has designated itself as an open university but the statement will remain just an aspiration if there is no will to implement it. We have suggested several actions in line with the principles in the Statement which can make this aspiration a reality.

## 1 From Open Research statement to EUT+ Academic Press

The Open Research Statement (signed by the University Rectors in 2023) is a visible marker of this progress. While the statement is aspirational it is also a declaration of intent as to where the EUT+ positions itself with regards to OR. However, implementation is another matter and will require commitment and resourcing to make it happen. As a new type of university, EUT+ is conscious of the benefits of making their research open as it highlights the quality of the work being carried out in each participating university. To continue to promote OR within EUT+, WP8.6/7 has developed two OR platforms for the EUT+:

- The [EUT+ Institutional Repository](#) (IR) based on the European ‘Open Aire’ Platform bringing all the individual partner IRs together.
- EUT+ Open Academic Press. The Open Academic EUT+ Press, based on a Digital Commons platform, hosted by one of the partners (TU Dublin) provides a forum for the publication of high-quality scholarly material as well as promoting the work and outputs of the EUT+ project itself.

### The Evolution of Academic Press in the Era of Open Research

Traditionally, academic presses have been gatekeepers of knowledge, acting as intermediaries between researchers and their audience. However, the digital age has disrupted this traditional model, ushering in a new era of open research. Open research is a philosophy that emphasizes making the outputs of research - including publications, data, and methodologies - freely available to the global community. Academic presses have adapted to this changing landscape, and many have embraced open access publishing, which aligns with the core tenets of open research.

Open research aims to enhance collaboration, transparency, and impact in the academic world. By breaking down barriers to access and encouraging sharing, it fosters a more inclusive and efficient research ecosystem. Academic presses that have incorporated open research practices into their operations have become instrumental in promoting these values.

### Advantages of Open Research in Academic Press

1. **Global Accessibility:** One of the key advantages of open research in academic press is that it ensures research findings are accessible to a global audience. By removing paywalls and subscription fees, open access publications enable anyone with an internet connection to read and benefit from scholarly research. This democratizes knowledge and promotes equity in information dissemination.
2. **Increased Impact:** Open research increases the visibility and impact of scholarly work. Research published openly is more likely to be cited and shared, contributing to the academic discourse. It allows researchers to reach a broader audience, including policymakers, practitioners, and the general public.
3. **Transparency and Reproducibility:** Open research encourages transparency by making data and methodologies available for scrutiny. This transparency promotes trust in scientific research and allows for the reproducibility of experiments, a cornerstone of the scientific method.
4. **Innovation:** Open research promotes innovation by fostering collaboration among researchers from diverse backgrounds and institutions. It allows for the rapid dissemination of new discoveries, accelerating the pace of scientific progress.



5. **Cost Savings:** From the perspective of institutions and libraries, open access publishing can lead to significant cost savings. Libraries can reallocate funds previously spent on subscriptions to support other scholarly activities.

### Common Platforms in Higher Education

1. **Digital Commons:** Digital Commons is a popular platform for hosting open access institutional repositories and academic journals. It offers a robust and customizable solution for universities and academic institutions to publish their research outputs openly.
2. **Open AIRE:** Open AIRE is a European initiative that provides infrastructure and services for open scholarly communication. It supports the creation of open access repositories and the dissemination of research outputs.
3. **eScholarship:** eScholarship is a digital publishing platform used by various universities and research institutions. It hosts a wide range of open access journals, books, and working papers, making research accessible to a global audience.
4. **Zenodo:** Zenodo is a multidisciplinary open access repository that allows researchers to share and preserve their research outputs. It is integrated with academic publishing platforms and enables the easy upload of datasets, preprints, and other scholarly materials.
5. **arXiv:** While not a traditional academic press, arXiv is a well-known preprint server that serves as an early platform for the dissemination of research papers. It is widely used by researchers in fields such as physics, mathematics, and computer science.
6. **OJS (Open Journal Systems):** OJS is an open-source software platform designed for the management and publication of academic journals. It is

widely used by academic presses and universities to launch and manage open access journals.

7. **PubMed Central:** Focusing on life sciences and biomedical research, PubMed Central is a digital archive of freely accessible biomedical and life sciences journal literature. It is a key resource for researchers and healthcare professionals.
8. **DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals):** DOAJ is a comprehensive directory of open access journals that adhere to high publishing standards. Researchers can use it to discover reputable open access publications in various fields.

These platforms have played a vital role in enabling universities and academic presses to disseminate research openly and foster collaboration in the academic community. As the open research movement continues to gain momentum, these platforms will likely evolve and expand, further transforming the landscape of scholarly publishing.

In conclusion, academic presses are experiencing a paradigm shift in the era of open research, with open access becoming a prominent feature in the dissemination of knowledge. The advantages of open research, such as global accessibility, increased impact, transparency, innovation, and cost savings, have contributed to this transformation. Common platforms used in higher education play a crucial role in facilitating open access publishing and advancing the principles of open research. As the academic community continues to embrace open research, the role of academic presses will remain pivotal in shaping the future of scholarly communication. The first decision made by the group was to undertake a survey of each university to determine the status of OR within that institution and the first survey was completed in March 2021. From the responses, it was clear that, while

every partner was aware of OR and was active in some regard, the specific implementations in terms of investment and activities vary widely. Divergences existed in the presence or absence of high-level strategic commitment, the presence or absence of policies and procedures and their enforcement, the requirement for either local or national OR reporting, infrastructure, personnel, etc. The analysis of the survey produces a set of recommendations to guide the work of the next 12 months and this model was followed in the following year. The set of recommendations regarding Academic Press for the first year are listed following:

### Year 1 Recommendations:

1. EUT+ should consider leveraging the existing 4 Academic Presses within the network. A sub-group of Academic Press managers should be set up to study the feasibility of providing an Academic Press across the network using a combination of the existing 4.
2. EUT+ should establish a subgroup to examine the feasibility of introducing a common DORA or Leiden type evaluation framework for research within the network.
3. EUT+ should establish a subgroup to examine the feasibility of coordinating RGMSs, cRISs, or RIMs (Research Information Management). While this is more broadly applicable than just supporting OR, it includes the potential to rapidly build new research teams, research income and to increase the variety and quantity of research outputs.

Members were divided into several subgroups to work on specific areas. This was agreed quickly, and several sub-groups were established to investigate and propose solutions. At the initiation stage of the project the decision was made to merge the Open Science task group with the task groups for the Institutional Repository and the Academic Press as the participants were the same and there was a very

significant overlap in the work to be done. It was felt that this would be a more coherent and logical approach. The combined work packages became known as WP8.6/7. We also elected to use the term « Open Research (OR) » as being more inclusive than « Open Science »

## 2. Introduction to EUt+ Academic Press platform





The [EUt+ Academic Press](#) has been established to provide proof of concept. The current press is hosted on the Digital Commons Platform provided by TU Dublin. This solution was decided on because it was cost neutral and allowed us to establish the press quickly. The Academic Press is a digital, open access press available to all. Currently it hosts 8 peer reviewed open access journals produced by partners that are listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals, three sets of conference proceedings, one journal article and 4 books.





## EUT+ ACADEMIC PRESS

The EUT+ is an alliance of eight universities that make up the European University of Technology. The partners are **Technical University of Sofia, Cyprus University of Technology, University of Technology Troyes, Hochschule Darmstadt, University of Applied Sciences, Technological University Dublin, Riga Technical University, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Technical University of Cartagena.**

The EUT+ is part of the European initiative to build a European Education Area. The EUT+ Academic Press is an open access academic press available to the partners in the alliance. All material is free to read online. We are committed to the principle that scholarship should be available to all without barriers or paywalls. We offer authors a global readership and thus contribute to the dissemination of knowledge. We welcome quality works of scholarship regardless of subject area. Our material is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial-No Derivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) license We are committed to Gold Open Access which is the free, immediate and permanent online access to a publication's version of record. Currently, there are no fees for authors.

If you are interested in submitting to the EUT+ Academic Press, please apply for a proposal form from your local representative or from Yvonne Desmond, [yvonne.desmond@tudublin.ie](mailto:yvonne.desmond@tudublin.ie)

[Open Research Statement](#)

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**Links**

[EUT+](#)

Figure 2. EUT+ Academic Press web.

TU Dublin has commissioned a monograph entitled *Irish Food History: A Companion* which will be initially published on the Press (before it goes into print). This seminal scholarly publication will be free to read online, download or download by chapter and should be available October/November 2023.



Figure3. Material downloaded from the Press by 108 institutions in 66 countries.

In table 1 can, be read the Top 10 Countries with more material downloaded regarding figure 3.

Country	N° downloads
Bulgaria	221
China	97
United States	76
Ireland	71
France	52
Germany	39
United Kingdom	25

Netherlands	18
Italy	14
Russian Federation	12

Table 1. Top ten countries more downloaded materials.

D115 (D8.8c EUT+ University Press Report) will present further the internal workings of the EUT+ Academic Press platform.

## Conclusion

The "Open Research Statement" signed by the Rectors of EUT+ universities in 2023 and highlights the commitment of the academic community to open science. Some conclusions can then be drawn based on the principles of open science and their application in the context of European universities:

- + **Commitment to Open Science:** EUT+'s commitment to Open Science, as reflected in the statement, is a significant step towards promoting transparency, accessibility, and collaboration in academic research. It demonstrates a willingness to adapt to best practice in the information and communication age.
- + **Need for Implementation:** The text highlights that, while the declaration is aspirational, implementation of Open Science principles will require real commitment and resources to make it a reality. This highlights the importance of moving from rhetoric to action and ensuring that the necessary resources are available.

- + Benefits of Open Science: EUT+ recognises that Open Science has tangible benefits, such as highlighting the quality of the work carried out in each participating university. Openness in research can increase the visibility and impact of academic contributions.
- + Open Science Tools and Platforms: EUT+ has developed two specific platforms to foster Open Science: An Institutional Repository (IR) and an Open Academic Press. These tools are fundamental for the dissemination of research and the promotion of open practices.
- + Evolution of the Academic Press: The creation of the EUT+ Academic Press demonstrates a willingness to evolve and adapt to trends in academic publishing. The Publisher provides a forum for the publication of high-quality scholarly material and promotes the results of the EUT+ project.
- + Open Access and Content Diversity: EUT+ Scholarly Publishing currently hosts a variety of content, including open access journals, conference proceedings, journal articles and books. This underlines the commitment to format diversity and the dissemination of open access knowledge.
- + Collaboration and Scalability: The fact that this initiative is a multi-university collaboration demonstrates the collaborative approach of Open Science. In addition, the platform aims to be scalable, which could attract other institutions to join and promote Open Science.

In summary, EUT+'s commitment to Open Science and highlights the importance of implementing these principles. The creation of tools such as an Institutional Repository and an Open Scholarly Publishing House demonstrate the willingness to adopt open practices in research and knowledge dissemination.



## Annexes

### [Annex 1: Building an online OR centre of excellence in the EUt+](#)

Building an Online OR Centre of Excellence in the European University of Technology (CORE) Using a Shared Services Model: An introduction to the concept.

#### May 2023. Introduction and Problem Statement

Two recent health emergencies (Ebola 2014 - 2016 and SARs-Cov2 2020 - 2022) have underlined the need for rapid access to scientific information and data to develop control and treatment options. In Ebola, new treatments could be identified in results from previous clinical trials and for SARs-Cov2, rapid access to the sequence data of the virus enabled the development of brand-new vaccines that limited the damage the pandemic caused. Initially, all information was shared but within six months of the start of the outbreak publishers' pay walls were back up restricting this literature to subscribers only. Restricting access to publicly funded information, results, data, etc. limits its usefulness and challenges the integrity, reproducibility and replicability of the work carried for which, the taxpayer is often the funder.

The European research ecosystem has a problem. Though research and innovation have been described as 'strategic assets' the visibility of that asset and, hence, its accessibility is limited to a small group of people who are 'in-the-know.' Any 'strategic asset' is only useful when its outputs are easily accessible and actionable, anything that restricts that access undermines the value of the Europe's investment in the public research ecosystem.

Europe has recognised this and is trying to deal with the issue of accessibility. The EU (European Union) has committed to a transition to OR by 2030. The modern idea of OR dates to Vannevar Bush's *Science the Endless Frontier* report published in 1945 (Bush 2015). However, converting his aspiration into practical reality has taken more

than 70 years and we are still only at the beginning of the journey. There are 4 compounding issues; physically, making research more accessible; identifying the value to the researcher of making their research open; the cost of a comprehensive OR Framework and, the real cost.

Europe is building the necessary infrastructure through EOSC (European Open Science Cloud) and OpenAire with three objectives in mind.

- Establishing a culture of OR.
- Achieving 100% open access to research publications.
- Enabling FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) research data and other outputs.

Delivering on one of these would be challenging enough, delivering all three will require a genuinely collaborative effort if the European OR Environment is to be sustainable into the future.

### Background to the proposal

Tasks 8.6-8.7 has been an extremely effective group achieving the deliverables of the EUT+ Institutional Repository and Open Access Academic Press within 15 months. That group then went on to develop a specification for a cRIS system, a platform for open educational resources and are currently working on a roadmap for implementing OR in the EUT+ in the next phase of the project. Part of our agreed strategy is the development of a shared online '*Centre of OR Excellence in EUT+ (or CORE)*' both as a repository of best practices and as a training and delivery support mechanism based on a shared service model across the range of relevant OR activities.

The outcome would be that each alliance member contributes but the whole is worth more than the sum of its parts. This is to acknowledge that support services

such as the Library and Research Office working with researchers are essential to create the ecosystem that is required for OR.

The proposal will deliver.

1. A shared Open Access repository for all research outputs (as opposed to just publications)
2. A shared community cRIS system that will host a common research profile for the sector and access to relevant research data.
3. Common training and development resources available across the EUT+ Alliance.
4. A shared suite of policies, standards, and definitions to provide consistency across the sector.
5. A shared OR Data (ORD) support framework linking existing and to-be-developed ORD resources across the sector.

### Why is this needed?

Members of the EUT+ alliance are at various stages in implementing OR with an amount of success in open access to publications but little success regarding open data, FAIR data, OR practices and procedures, and exposing research outputs beyond publications. Training is carried out by research offices and libraries already stretched to the limit with existing demands. In the 2023 survey of the open access landscape in the EUT+ all work package members agreed that working together had been informative, efficient, productive, and cost effective. Members shared their expertise and decisions were implemented across all the 8 universities instead of each university having to go through the same process eight times. The existing institutional repositories try to be a comprehensive representation of research

outputs but only a fraction of their contents is used in any attempt to assess the intensity or the quality of research.

We each operate to different national plans, use (and defend) disparate policies and standards oftentimes consistent only with our internal concerns at that moment and without adequate reflection of the taxpayers' needs. This has real effects, it makes comparisons across the sector almost impossible, it limits the ease with which potential users can access information that, as taxpayers, they have paid for, and it stops government and their agencies from getting a clear view of how resources are deployed and used.

While each alliance member has training and advocacy functions to build awareness of OR among students and staff, it is limited and patchy in quality reflecting the dual role of the trainers as trainers and often as sole deliverers of a larger OR service. In many cases, there is a hard divide between research support and OR support which means that neither element gets the attention required and both suffer.

#### An integrated approach.

There is a fundamental contradiction at the heart of current OR implementations around the world. A lack of cooperation between OR system actors limit its usefulness. CORE will be a central (virtual) place where knowledge is shared in the field of OR support, operating as an information and advice centre through networking and sharing of expertise. It will also be a virtual space to collaborate on guidelines and protocols for OR, of research data management and the development of future virtual research environments. We will pool our resources, share our knowledge, and develop to the same standard together. The essential component currently lacking in the EUT+ sector is any kind of research data stewards or managers.

Our proposal will be a success because.

- + It is based on the practical experience of the members of the Alliance over the three years of the current project.
- + It is fundamentally based on formal collaboration between research offices and library/OR offices.
- + The proposal focuses on the delivery of OR services that each university has identified as being important.
- + The proposal provides a safe space for OR experimentation.

Who cares? If you are successful, what difference will it make?

Taxpayers care, funders care, academics care, researchers (particularly younger researchers) care, and universities care.

- + Taxpayers care because, through their elected representatives, they can see how their resources are used to improve the quality of their lives. Moreover, they will have access to the outputs and outcomes of the research they paid for and understand the impacts.
- + As citizen scholars, taxpayers are increasingly behaving both as producers and consumers of scientific outputs, they are educated enough to be able to read, understand and act on the outputs. They have paid for the outputs.
- + Funders care because openness goes to the heart of research integrity, reproducibility, and replicability in the research they support. Openness in their outputs goes to the heart of their own credibility.
- + Academics care because openness promotes, professional reputation, transparency, and research integrity all essential elements of successful 'academic track-records'.

- + Researchers care because openness promotes quality and verifiable research practices and outputs.
- + Young researchers care because their future careers will, increasingly, be hosted in an OR ecosystem and the need to start early in an environment that supports them.
- + Though they may not know it yet, universities must care as their reputations will rest on the quality of their research, freely available and verifiable, and characterised by integrity.

### What are the risks?

Separately, none of the Alliance members can provide the necessary infrastructure to implement a comprehensive OR environment. The risk in not doing this is to agree to continue with the piecemeal and fragmented approach to OR we have now. We know this works only very slowly if at all. OR is increasingly the way research works. To ignore it or do it inefficiently would reduce our competitiveness as RPOs. CORE can reduce or eliminate these risks by coming together and sharing resources.

### How long will it take?

We are proposing a three-year pilot project to establish CORE and explore commonalities throughout the sector. Our objectives would be to implement a program that would advocate and develop OR in the EUT+ making the new university an exemplar for OR Practices.

### Outcomes

- + Provision of a Portal for the Open Access Repositories of the Alliance members with a data management service (currently underway in partnership with Open Aire).

- + Provision of 2 data managers for the Alliance Members with the objective of making datasets FAIR.
- + Provision of the Centre of Excellence for the 8 members with a website to act as a one-stop shop.
- + Standardisation of identifiers for institutions, researchers, and research outputs across the EUT+.
- + Standardisation of DMPs (Data Management Plans), data management practices and training.
- + Alliance members commit time and staff to establish working groups on relevant topics.

### Ultimate Goals

- + Increase the percentage of peer reviewed literature available as open access material to at least 95% in three years. Currently, the average is 54%
- + Common training programmes in FAIR data management both online and physically.
- + Research publications/case studies documenting implementation which will be evidence-based.
- + Be proactive in a rapidly changing environment. Working together we can collectively react to changes but also be proactive in scanning the horizon to identify issues at an early stage.

We feel the establishment of the Centre of Excellence will allow us to make an important contribution to the implementation of OR in the EU by monitoring its practical implementation in the universities and by documenting that process. But more importantly, it will facilitate alliance members working together, whereby each university will learn from and with each other and in this way, accelerate together to realize our ambitions in the field of OR. Collaboration is a keystone of the open

environment, and it is entirely fitting that as a new type of university, the EUT+ should come together in this way for our common interests and advantage.



## Annex 2: Roadmap for implementing the Open Research Statement

### DRAFT PROPOSAL ROADMAP EUT+ Academic year 2023-2024-OPEN SCIENCE

Proposed Actions for **Implementing Open Science in EUT+ based on the Strategic Document of OR Commitments** within the framework of the OR Statement, EUT+ universities have made a series of commitments related to Open Science. To fulfil these commitments, a set of actions are proposed to be implemented.

Maximising the proportion of our research outputs, including FAIR data, that are available in Open Access repositories/outputs at the point of presentation, supporting the implementation of Plan S in appropriate Open Access Journals and supporting Green OA in preference.

#### Proposed Actions:

- + Increase the typology of outputs published in open access: publications, data, software, methodologies, posters, DMP, etc.
- + Increase the number of items: implement actions to increase the number of items deposited in EUT+ repositories, including actions related to bulk uploads from open databases (for example using the tool developed by CUT)
- + Encourage all EUT+ partners to publish research data related to their publications in data repositories and ensure that the data follows the FAIR principles. In cases where universities do not have institutional data repository, recommend creating a community in Zenodo and an EUT+ community specifically designed to map datasets from EUT+ partners.
- + Promote the use of Argos OpenAire as the tool for drafting Data Management Plans (DMP).

- + Promote the publication of Data Management Plans in data repositories (or Zenodo) by linking through unique identifiers (DOIs) sets and Data Management Plan.
- + Promote the linking of research results through persistent identifiers PIDs (publications-data-software-DMP, etc.)
- + Work so that all EUT+ repositories comply with OpenAire requirements and are validated.
- + Expand the use of PIDs (Persistent Identifiers) among EUT+ partners as a commitment to the infrastructures and open systems that build and enable a linked web. Campaigns at EUT+ universities.

**Developing an Open-research-permissive IP** (Intellectual Property) protection regime to support industrial and commercial partners to convert research outputs into impactful research outcomes.

#### Proposed Actions:

- 2.1 Follow up Horizon Europe's mandate that establishes the need to publish the results of publicly funded projects and data in open access immediately.
- 2.2 Extend the mandate of Horizon Europe to include results that have used resources from EUT+ Universities (staff, laboratories, technical means, etc.)

**Supporting the use of humane, fair, transparent, and responsible use of indicators for research evaluation and career progression.**

#### PROPOSED ACTIONS:

- + Implement an open peer review system for the academic press and the institutional repositories, based on the OPRM (Open Peer Review Module)

- + <https://digital.csic.es/handle/10261/131442>
- + Propose new indicators for evaluating the research career that value the practice of open science (open access publications in the institutional repository, data sharing, participation in open peer review processes, publication, and engagement in OR Europe, scientific outreach practice, etc.).
- + Rewards and incentives: Value the practice of different aspects of open science and propose awards or recognitions such as most committed researcher to open science in EUT+, the most popular researcher, the research group most dedicated to citizen science, etc.

**Providing the EUT+ Academic Press which is an open access publishing platform for members of the Alliance.** This will serve to disseminate the scholarly outputs of the members and will publish in all the languages of the Alliance.

Proposed Actions:

- + Publish in EUT+ Academic Press the results of conferences, congresses, EUT+ meetings with PID (Persistent Identifiers) assignment (DOI).
- + Create a community for EUT+ OERs that have been developed with Forma UPCT.

**Further assist the dissemination of scholarly outputs by harvesting the open access repositories of the Alliance members under a common portal of the EUT+.**

- + Integrating Open and Citizen Science methods into our curricula to provide our students with the skills and training in OR to enable them to flourish in this new environment.
- + Proposed Actions:
- + Train our students with skills and abilities in open science through the preparation of OER on open science for students.

- + Publishing detailed data on our institutional research performance. (See 1)
- + Developing an Open Educational Resource (OER) policy, the creation and dissemination of OERs and aim to support creators and users of OERs equally.
- + Create a streamlined EUT+ Open Educational Resources (OER) policy that ensures all partners who have the responsibility to publish materials in open access adhere to UPCTforma's OER standards. Since we share a platform, let's also share a unified policy.
- + Publish *EUT+ OER in EUT+ Academic Press, just the metadata and link to UPCTforma*
- + *Encourage the reuse of EUT+ OER by EUT+ partners in all languages (diversity)*

## Skills and competences in open science.

### Proposed Actions:

- Write an open science training plan that provides partners with the skills and abilities necessary for the practice of open science.
  - + Training plan for managers
  - + Training plan for researchers
  - + Training plan for doctoral students
  - + Training plan for undergraduate students
  - + Training plan for support staff
- Share training places among partners.

- Encourage discussions and informal gatherings on topics like open science, evaluation reform, and so on among the EUT+ partners, fostering engaging debates and coffee conversations.

### Annual Landscape Survey.

### Proposed Actions:

Make an application to automate and update the survey. This would allow each partner to update their progress individually on the different issues or questions raised in the annual survey and obtain the global results automatically and at any time, avoiding the repeating annual surveys. This application would allow us to have snapshots of open science in EUT+ at any time and see the progress of the different partners.

## Annex 3: Recommendations from the Annual Landscape Survey 2021 and 2022

### 2021: Recommendations

1. EUT+ should adopt, as far as possible, a common approach to OR including a Statement of OR Principles and a common OR dictionary.
2. EUT+ should develop a common training and awareness programme across all aspects of OR both for researchers, research managers, students, and others for whom it is relevant.
3. EUT+ should examine ways to leverage existing cRIS and OR infrastructure to support OR. Specifically, a common presentation layer for individual Institutional Repositories providing for a real 'window' on EUT+ outputs.
4. EUT+ should consider leveraging the existing 4 Academic Presses within the network. A sub-group of Academic Press managers should be set up to study the feasibility of providing an Academic Press across the network using a combination of the existing 4.
5. EUT+ should establish a subgroup to examine the feasibility of introducing a common DORA or Leiden type evaluation framework for research within the network.
6. EUT+ should establish a subgroup to examine the feasibility of coordinating RGMs, cRISs, or RIMs (Research Information Management). While this is more broadly applicable than just supporting OR, it includes the potential to rapidly build new research teams, research income and to increase the variety and quantity of research outputs.

### 2022: Recommendations

1. The EUT+ Alliance should encourage researchers not to engage with hybrid publishers (charging very expensive apcs) to publish in open access journals (with reasonable and transparent apcs)

to follow the green route by supporting their institutional repositories.

Transformative agreements should not be seen as a long-term solution but only as a transition phase on the way to full open access. Moreover, self-archiving in the institutional repository is the only way to ensure full preservation of the scholarly record as publishers are under no obligation to do so. The EUT+ Alliance as an entity should sign up to European agreements such as Plan S or similar type agreements.

2. The EUT+ Statement on OR signed by the Rectors should be displayed on a public facing website in each university. This indicates institutional support for the statement while recognising that implementation may take some time to be achieved in its entirety.
3. Support for OR varies among the alliance partners. There needs to be a concerted push in advocating and promoting OR in general and the green route to open access in particular. This may be helped by the formulation of common training programmes and standardised templates for data management plans.
4. Data and data management training needs to be increased in all the universities. The production of Fair data needs to be considered as all the alliance partners are failing to produce this. There also needs to be a clear definition of the roles involved in data management e.g., Data Librarian, Data Manager, Data Steward.
5. All the universities expressed a need for such staff but it would be important that the right people are appointed to meet the specific needs of the individual university. A standardised EUT+ data management template has been produced and this should be used by all alliance partners. This template

should be available online and it would also be beneficial to create a space on the EUT+ Institutional Repository to display these plans.

6. All partners expressed a need for training and the production of common training programmes is to be recommended. These programmes must provide some kind of certification which is recognised by the alliance partners for promotion and internal funding. Researchers need the appropriate skills to navigate the OR environment and their investment in this kind of training should be acknowledged.
7. The Metrics subgroup recommends that the EUT+ Alliance observe the work of the [Coalition on reforming research assessment](#) organised by the European Commission, tasked with drafting an agreement on reforming research assessment. Signatories agree to base actions on common principles, to implement commitments for change (including a given timeframe for implementation), to operate and organise the Coalition along some common principles. We recommend that the EUT+ and its members adopt its propositions regarding quantitative and qualitative research assessment.
8. On the specific topic of Open Access dissemination of publications, this group recommends the commonly used and accepted open access metric to monitor the institutions progress in this regard which is the percentage of research outputs (articles, books, chapters, proceedings, theses, research datasets, reports) published in the five last years under any form of Open Access (Gold, Green, Diamond, etc.).
9. The cRIs (Common Research Information System) sub-group recommends the EUT+ Alliance produce a 'Proof of Concept' common cRIS for EUT+. The proof of concept acknowledges that there are some issues which will not be possible to resolve in a proof-of-concept version but these may be resolved



in a final version of the cRIS. A key consideration is that the pilot should exploit as much existing software and information as possible and that it must be compliant with relevant technical standards.

There are several potential routes to delivery:

- + Develop, inhouse, a harvesting process and software to support the project.
- + Purchase a commercial cRIS software product.
- + Develop the cRIS through existing systems such as Open Aire

One commercial provider has offered us the opportunity to accomplish this project in a platform-agnostic 'community cRIS' portal that they have developed. Developing their platform to support international collaborative projects is one of their strategic objectives so they are willing to offer their product and services on a 'each covers their own costs' basis. This may be the most cost-effective way to produce a common research information system for the EUT+ Alliance.