



HANKEN

Public funding of scholarly journals in Europe

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BY

Background

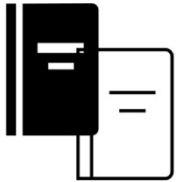
- ✓ Data collected during 2021
- ✓ Funded by the Finnish Association for Scholarly Publishing
- ✓ Main findings recently published here:

Laakso, M., & Multas, A-M. (2023). European scholarly journals from small- and mid-size publishers: Mapping journals and public funding mechanisms. *Science and Public Policy*. In Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scac081>

- ✓ Open dataset of journals from the study:

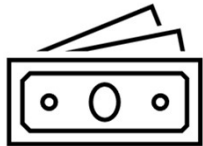
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7180290>

The 2 key components of the study



1) Establish the volume and key bibliometric characteristics of small- and mid-sized journal publishers present in European countries

The Ulrichsweb publications database was used for this



2) Collect information about country-level public funding mechanisms for scholarly journals active in Europe

Manual data collection was required, which included explorative web searches, consultations with scholarly publishing experts in the countries of interest. Survey to 30 random journals in each country + open preprint for several months to collect additional leads.

Number of journals published	Number of publishers
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	Number of journals published	Number of publishers
Small- and mid-sized publishers	1	5,912
	2	755
	3	295
	4	170
	5	112
	6	61
	7	60
	8	46
	9	44
	10	31
Large publishers	11-50	165
	51-100	17
	101-150	4
	151-500	5
	501-1,000	3
	>1,000	4

Publication language comparison between publisher categories

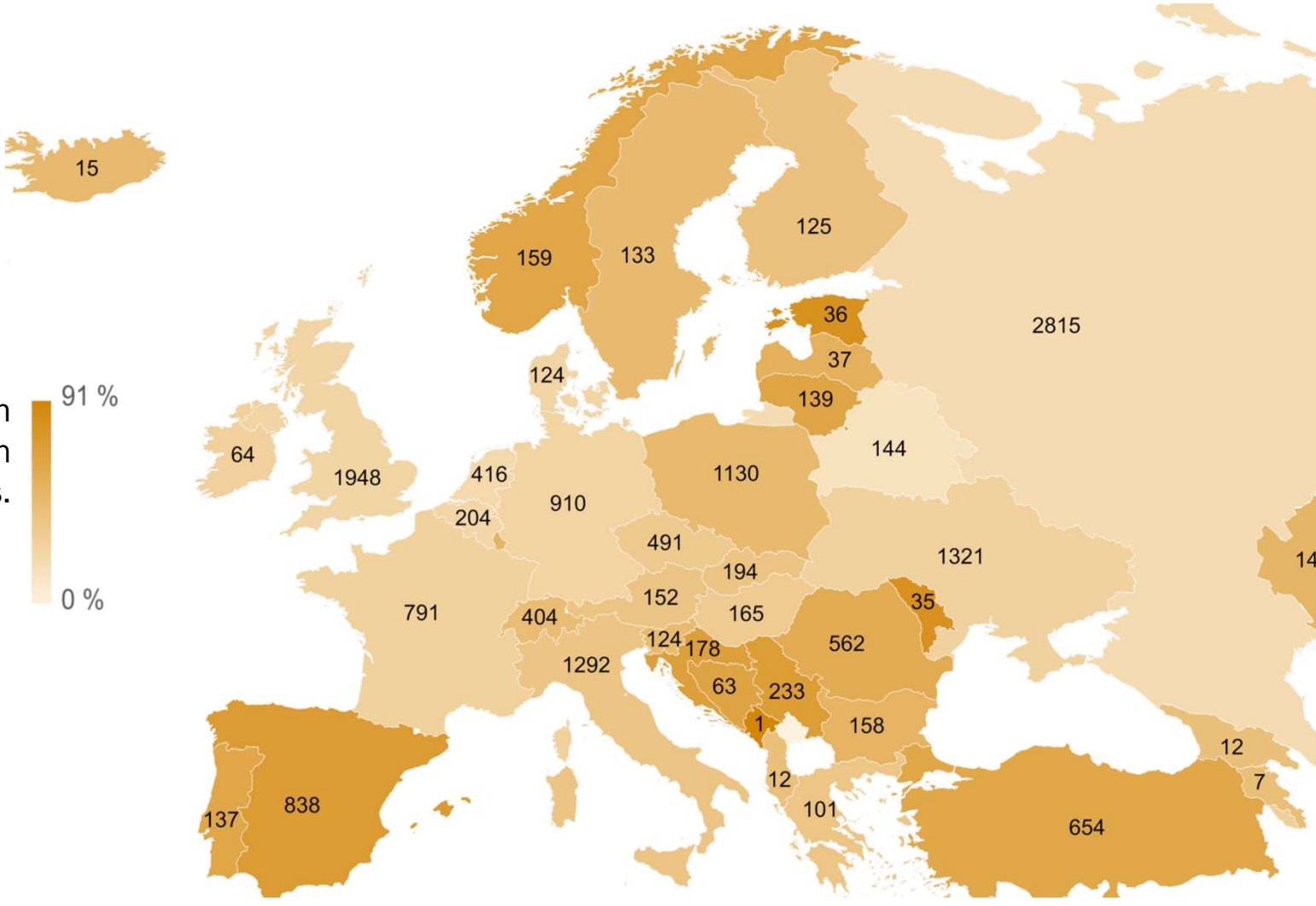
	Mean number of languages per journal	% English-only journals	% non-English journals	% with two or more languages	% with three or more languages
Journals from large publishers	1.09	89	5	6	3
Journals from small- and mid-sized publishers	1.45	32	43	44	18

Number of journals from small- to mid-sized publishers

The degree to which journals are Open Access.

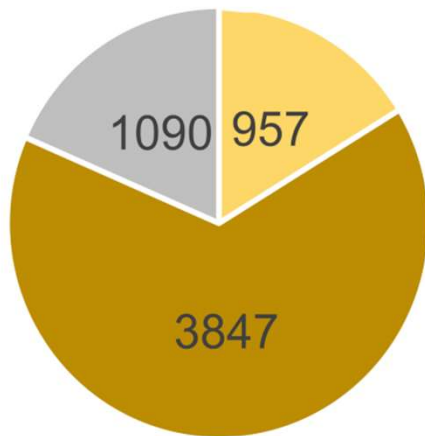


A vertical color scale legend ranging from 0% (lightest tan) at the bottom to 91% (darkest brown) at the top.

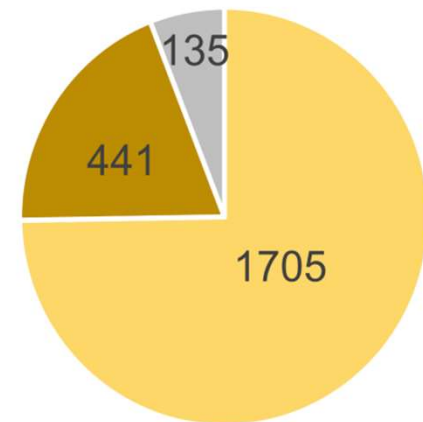


Use of Article Processing Charges (APCs) among OA journals

APC No APC No APC info



Journals from small- to mid-sized publishers



Journals from large publishers

Notable examples of public funding

Inclusive government subsidies for (non-profit) peer-reviewed journals	Government funding to a limited pre-defined set of journals	Competitive grants by national research funders (length often between 1-3 years)	Notable countries with no dedicated public funding source for journals
<p>Finland</p> <p>Spain (50% of costs of journals within SSH disciplines up to a certain level)</p>	<p>Norway</p>	<p>Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Denmark France Italy Poland Romania Serbia Slovenia Sweden</p>	<p>Germany (only transitory funding) United Kingdom The Netherlands Greece</p>

Interested in more detail?
 There is a supplement linked from the
 article page

Supplementary data

[scac081_Supp](#) - zip file

	Type of funder	Funder name	URL	Evaluati on-base d funding	Open access criteria	Continuous/ One-time	Indication of Scope	Comments	Technical platform(s)	Journal s
Northern Europe										
Denmark	National research funder	Independe nt Research Denmark	https://dff.dk/en	Yes	Yes				tidsskrift.dk	175
Estonia									http://ojs.utlib.ee/	21
Finland	National co-operative body of scholarly societies	Federation of Finnish Learned Societies	https://www.tsv.fi/en/grants/publishing-and-international-activities-scientific-societies/application-instructions	No	Yes	Continuous (annual)		Funding for 1 year at a time. The funding that is distributed is a government subsidy funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture	journal.fi	112

Some observations on the nature of the funding instruments

There was large diversity observed in how (and if) countries reserve and distribute funds to journals active in the countries, ranging from continuous inclusive subsidies to competitive grant funding or nothing at all. A lot of support for individual diamond OA journals seems to be managed indirectly by universities without earmarked government funding.

Funding models do often have OA requirements for the journals. However, some funders require additional income for funding to be granted which is a challenge if a diamond OA model is desired (e.g. Finland).

In Europe there could be potential to develop international funding mechanisms and consortia to support non-profit diamond OA journals, particularly for journals that publish also in English and are not only of national interest.

Thoughts for the future

- With the EUs increasing pressure for no APC/diamond OA there is a need to rethink and re-shape funding models
- Current funding instruments mainly for sustaining journals on life-support, what about stimulating growth?
- If direct monetary funding to individual journals is hard, what about funding common infrastructures and service providers that many journals are able to share (e.g. web platforms, copyediting) ?

<https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-news-europe-infrastructure-2023-5-eu-ready-to-back-immediate-open-access-without-author-fees/>

POLICY 05 MAY 2023

EU ready to back immediate open access without author fees

By Rachel Magee



Provisionally agreed position also expresses support for non-profit publishing models

The EU is ready to agree that immediate open access to papers reporting publicly funded research should become the norm, without authors having to pay fees, and that the bloc should support non-profit scholarly publishing models.

Merci à vous tous!
