

OPERAS Rules of Participation

Preamble

OPERAS - open scholarly communication in the European research area for the social sciences and the humanities - is a research infrastructure incorporated as an international non-profit association (AISBL), in Brussels, Belgium. OPERAS membership is open to any organisation in Europe and worldwide, which adopts OPERAS' principles, abides by its rules of participation and contributes to its actions.

OPERAS' mission is to coordinate and federate resources in Europe to efficiently address the scholarly communication needs of European researchers in the field of social sciences and humanities.

OPERAS' vision is to make Open Science a reality for research in the social sciences and the humanities and achieve a scholarly communication system where knowledge produced in the social sciences and the humanities benefits researchers, academics, students and more generally the whole society across Europe and worldwide, without barriers.

Principles

As a member of OPERAS, the undersigned organisation:

- supports the development of **open science and open access**, particularly in the social sciences and the humanities,
- agrees to follow the [Principles for open scholarly infrastructures](#) and the [FAIR Principles](#).

Definition

Open Science is defined as:

- Transparency in experimental methodology, observation, and collection of data.
- Public availability and reusability of research data.
- Public accessibility and transparency of scientific communication.
- Using open digital tools to facilitate scientific collaboration within research and between research and society.

Open Access is defined as:

- Free access to scientific publications with reuse conditions defined by the license attached to the publication.

The Principles for Open Scholarly Infrastructure are defined as:

- Good Governance,
- Open Standards,
- Fair Data Collection,
- Transparent Pricing and Contracts,
- Easy Migration,
- Succession Planning,
- Open Content.

The FAIR Principles are defined as:

- To be Findable:
 - F1. (meta)data are assigned a globally unique and persistent identifier.
 - F2. data are described with rich metadata.
 - F3. (meta)data are registered or indexed in a searchable resource.
 - F4. metadata specify the data identifier.
- To be Accessible:
 - A1 (meta)data are retrievable by their identifier using a standardized communications protocol.
 - A1.1 the protocol is open, free, and universally implementable.
 - A1.2 the protocol allows for an authentication and authorization procedure, where necessary.
 - A2 metadata are accessible, even when the data are no longer available.
- To be Interoperable:
 - I1. (meta)data use a formal, accessible, shared, and broadly applicable language for knowledge representation.
 - I2. (meta)data use vocabularies that follow FAIR principles.
 - I3. (meta)data include qualified references to other (meta)data.
- To be Re-usable:
 - R1. meta(data) have a plurality of accurate and relevant attributes.
 - R1.1. (meta)data are released with a clear and accessible data usage license.
 - R1.2. (meta)data are associated with their provenance.
 - R1.3. (meta)data meet domain-relevant community standards.

Rules of participation

By joining OPERAS, the organization agrees to:

- Abide by the [governance framework and bylaws of OPERAS AISBL](#),
- Actively participate in OPERAS' activities,
- Authorize the OPERAS Coordination Team to refer to the organization as a member of OPERAS.

Requirements and commitments

To join the OPERAS Consortium, the organisation should meet minimum requirements and commit to the list of actions described in the following table (next page).

Topic	Requirements	Commitments
Transparency	<p>To have provided clear information about its nature, mode of operation, business model, model of governance and scholarly communication practices.</p> <p>To agree that this information will be shared with other OPERAS members.</p>	<p>To update the aforementioned information whenever it is necessary.</p> <p>To provide its best effort to adopt the Best Practices and Standards defined by the relevant OPERAS Special Interest Groups and subsequently adopted by the Executive Assembly.</p>
Open practices	<p>To have conducted an assessment exercise of the organisation against the COAR-SPARC Good Practice Principles for Scholarly Communication Service</p>	<p>To plan for full adoption of those principles if they are not currently met</p>
Technical readiness	<p>To describe accurately the organisation's technical capacity in terms of tools, services and infrastructure used by the organisation in its operation</p>	<p>To make best efforts to adopt scholarly communication practices and other tools conformant to the state of the art defined by the Special Interest Group Tools and subsequently adopted by the Executive Assembly.</p>
Participation	<p>To have identified and described the envisaged contribution of the organisation to OPERAS and selected Special Interest Groups (SIG).</p>	<p>To present and represent OPERAS and its services to relevant stakeholders in the organisation's environment.</p> <p>When needed, to provide a Letter of Support to OPERAS from the legal representative of the organisation.</p>

Membership

Levels of Membership

The organisation chooses to join OPERAS as:

- **Ordinary member:** to participate in at least one Special Interest Group equivalent to 10% FTE commitment in-kind, with voting rights in the Assembly of the Commons.
- **Core member:** to participate in the Assembly of the Commons and Executive Assembly, equivalent to 20% FTE commitment in-kind, with voting rights in the Assembly of the Commons and the Executive Assembly. To support OPERAS AISBL by an annual membership fee of 5,000 euros or equivalent.
- **Supporting member:** to participate in the General Assembly. To support OPERAS AISBL by an annual membership fee of 10,000 euros or equivalent.

Duration of membership

Membership will be renewed each year by tacit and automatic agreement of both parties, until one of the two denounces this agreement.

Resignation

According to the Article 9 of the bylaws, If the member resigns within the first six months of the financial year, the resignation of a member of the Association shall become effective on 31 December of the year it resigned. If the resignation arrives less than 6 months before the end of the financial year, it will only become effective at the end of the following financial year.

OPERAS Application review procedure

1. The applicant must have one meeting with at least one of the OPERAS Coordinators and one of the Core members. The interviewing Core member will be the one representing the applicant's country. If the country does not have a representative in the OPERAS' Executive Assembly, then the Chair of the Executive Assembly will be the interviewing Core member.
2. The applicant must send the OPERAS rules of participation (this document) signed by the legal representative of its legal entity.
3. The application file (gathering the interview reports and the signed Rules of Participation) will be reviewed by the Executive Assembly.
4. The Executive Assembly may seek further clarification as necessary.
5. The Executive Assembly will communicate its decision: accept, reject (upon justification), temporarily suspend the application for more information.

**The organisation applies to be a
part of the following Special Interest Group:**

of OPERAS and be

Date of Signature:

First name, name:

Organization:

Signature:

Reference documents

Bilder G, Lin J, Neylon C (2015) Principles for Open Scholarly Infrastructure-v1, retrieved [30 December 2019], <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1314859>

Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2002, <https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/read>

COAR-SPARC, Good Practice Principles for Scholarly Communication Services, <https://www.coar-repositories.org/files/COAR-SPARC-Good-Practice-Principles.pdf>

Dan Gezelter, 'What, Exactly, Is Open Science? | The OpenScience Project', accessed 30 December 2019, <http://openscience.org/what-exactly-is-open-science/>

Force11, The Fair Principles: <https://www.force11.org/group/fairgroup/fairprinciples>

OECD (2015-10-15), "Making Open Science a Reality", OECD Science, Technology and Industry Policy Papers, No. 25, OECD Publishing, Paris.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5jrs2f963zs1-en>

OPERAS Consortium, bylaws of OPERAS AISBL
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16cHtLALrLFInie-R0nSx1chyBYM0NmuE/view>