

SLSP

Swiss Library
Service Platform



Creating a National Diamond OA Consortium

Susanne Aerni & Daniela Hahn
Consortium of Swiss Academic
Libraries

Bibliosuisse 2025



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

CoDOA-CH

Objective:

Establish a National Diamond Open Access Consortium with the aim to fund scholar-led journals through a sustainable consortial funding scheme

Project Duration: July 2025 – July 2026

Project Lead: Susanne Aerni

Funded by: swissuniversities (Programme Open Science II) and the partner institutions

Website: www.codoa.ch

Lead Institution:

Konsortium der Schweizer Hochschulbibliotheken
Consortium des bibliothèques universitaires suisses
Consorzio delle biblioteche universitarie svizzere
Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries

Partner Institutions:



ETH zürich



UNIVERSITÄT
LUZERN



Agenda

1. Context

- Why Diamond Open Access?
- Diamond Open Access in Switzerland
- Consortial Funding Scheme

2. CoDOA

- Work Packages
- Governance
- Focus: Community Involvement
- Roadmap

3. Key Takeaways

1. Context

Diamond Open Access in Switzerland



Why Diamond Open Access?

Failed Targets and Unsustainability

- Transition to full and immediate open access by subscription publishers yields mixed results at best (see <https://www.coalition-s.org/blog-category/policies/>)
- Research Institutions are trapped in a hybrid system with high subscription fees to unlock paywalled content for readers and article-processing fees for authors (see Rothfritz/Herb/Schmal 2024)

Equity

- Shifting costs onto authors or institutions via APCs excludes less-funded researchers, smaller institutions, or researchers in low-income countries

Ownership

- Publishing of scientific knowledge as public good should be steered by scholarly communities, not the commercial logic of publishers

Bibliodiversity

- Concentration on big publishers disadvantages full OA publishers and stalls investments in alternative OA routes

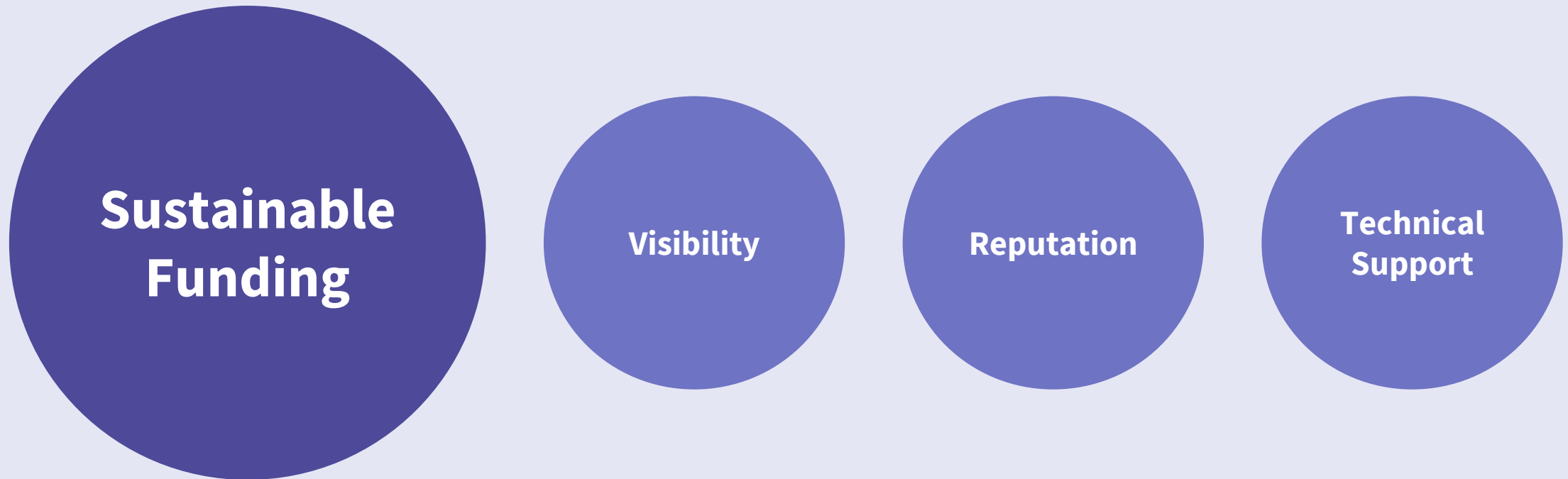
Policy: Sustainability as Key Concern

The **Revised National Open Access Strategy (2024)** set the goal to develop a robust and financially viable framework for scaling up current Diamond OA publishing capacities in order to reduce the dependency of scholarly publishing on for-profit publishers as well as to avoid lock-in effects and long-term price spirals.

Resource: [Swiss National Open Access Strategy. Revised in 2024.](#)

→ **CoDOA as contribution to the implementation
of the National Open Access Strategy in Switzerland**

Practice: Challenges of Diamond OA



Resource: Mapping the Swiss Landscape of Diamond Open Access Journals. PLATO Study on Scholar-Led Publishing (2023);
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7461728>

Advancing Diamond OA in Switzerland

The diagram consists of two main rounded rectangular containers. The left container, labeled 'CoDOA' at the bottom, contains a large dark blue circle with the text 'Sustainable Funding' in white. The right container, labeled 'DOACH' at the bottom, contains three smaller blue circles arranged horizontally, labeled 'Visibility', 'Reputation', and 'Technical Support' in white.

**Sustainable
Funding**

CoDOA

Visibility

Reputation

**Technical
Support**

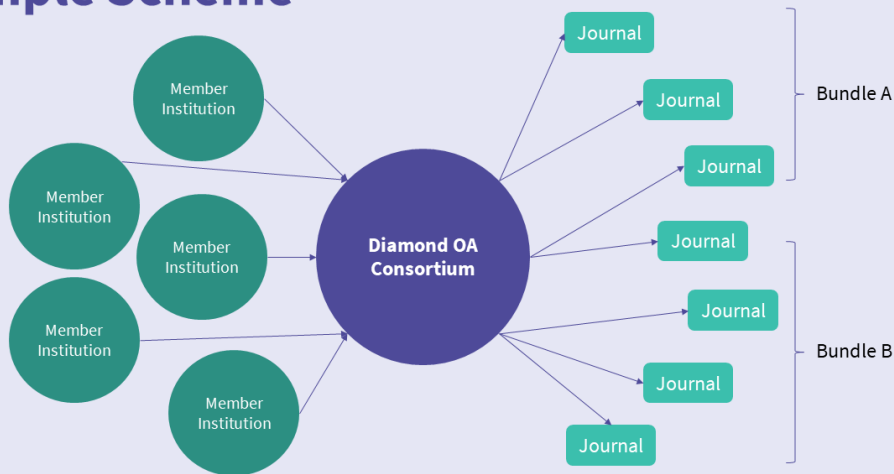
DOACH

What is a consortial funding scheme?

Definition

A consortial funding scheme is a collective financial model in which multiple institutions—such as universities, research libraries, or funding agencies—pool resources to sustainably support non-profit, scholar-led journals. Instead of relying on single institutions, costs are distributed across a consortium of stakeholders.

Sample Scheme



10

Examples

- KOALA/KOALA-AV (TIB Hannover/KIM Konstanz)
- KOALA-SLUB (Sächsische Landes- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden)
- Open Library of Economics/OLEcon (Leibniz Information Centre for Economics)
- Open Access Consortium Education for e-books and journals/edu_consort (Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education)
- Open Library of Humanities (Birbeck, University of London)
- Partnership for OA (érudit/Canadian Research Knowledge Network)

2. CoDOA

Work Packages, Governance and Roadmap



Work Packages

(1) Governance

Define a transparent governance and efficient management structure and procedure for the administration of funding processes

(2) Evaluation Procedure and Quality Assurance

Define eligibility criteria and evaluation process for funding decisions

(3) Financial Flows

Develop a sustainable funding mechanism and propose a model of how funds will be pooled, allocated and managed

(4) Communication

Engage stakeholders and organise outreach

Governance

CoDOA

Project Board

Susanne Aerni, Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries

Silke Bellanger, University of Basel

Pascalina Boutsouci, ETH Zurich

Jean-Blaise Claivaz, Université de Genève

Yves Corpataux, Graduate Institute Geneva

Margit Dellatorre, University of Zurich

Lorenzo Di Sopra, EPFL

Laurent Gobat, Université de Neuchâtel

Thomas Henkel, Université de Fribourg

Dominik Matter, University of Lucerne

Lothar Nunnenmacher, Lib4RI

Thematic Working Groups related to the 4 Work Packages with Internal and External Stakeholders

Sounding Board with Supporting Institutions and international Diamond OA experts

Focus: Community Involvement

CoDOA

**Broad Support
Framework and
Participation by
Swiss Academic
Libraries**

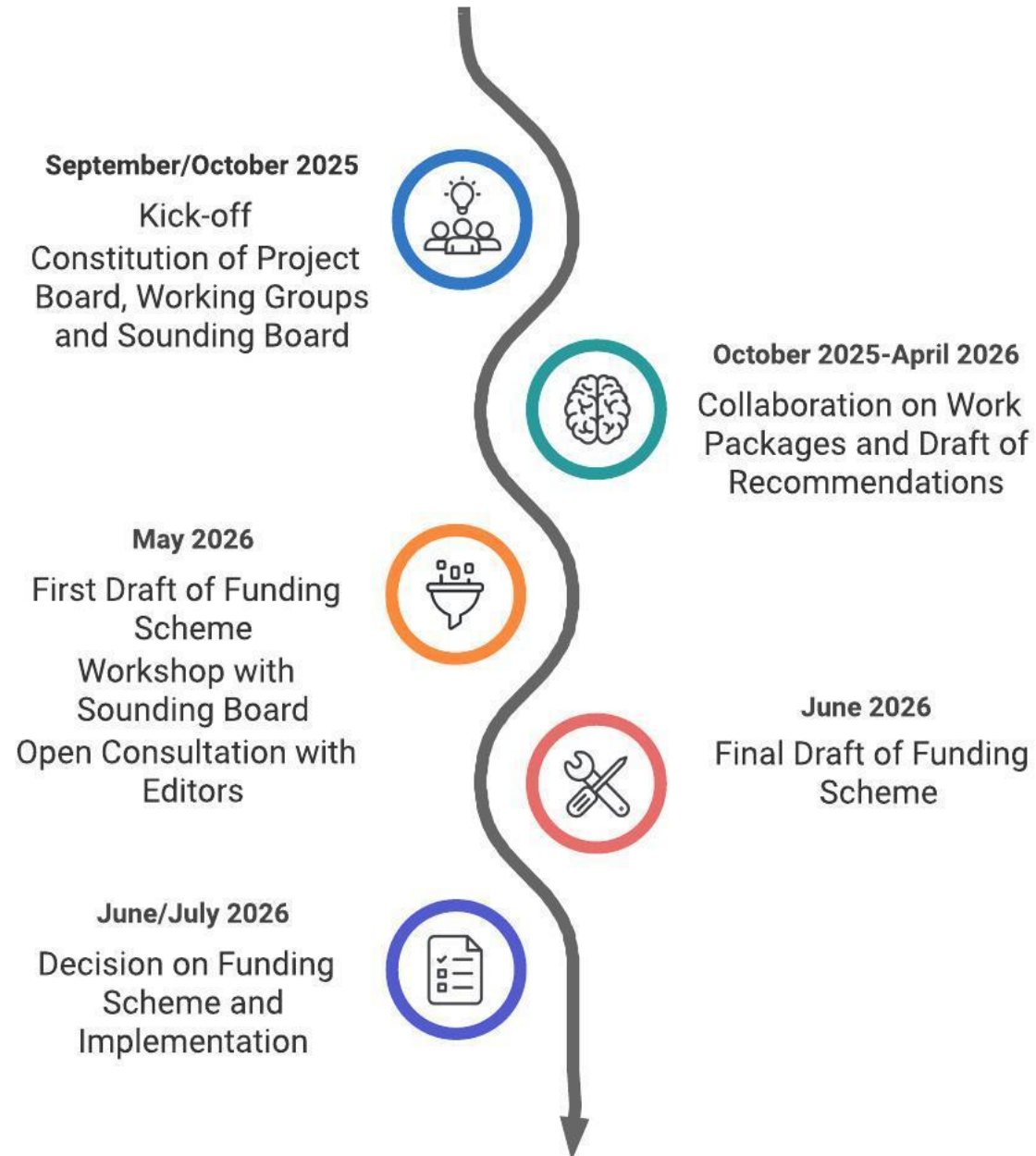
**Inclusive
Stakeholder
Management**

**Participation
of Researchers
in Shaping
Outreach
Strategies**

**Open
Consultation
with Editors of
Diamond OA
Journals**

Roadmap

CoDOA



3. Key Takeaways



- **Advancing Diamond Open Access in Switzerland** as alternative to commercial publishing
- **Community model** based on collaborative and inclusive process (in accordance with the «spirit» of Diamond OA) and **shared investment**
- Other **funding initiatives have shown that they can flourish**, be sustainable and offer valuable support
- In order to build a successful and sustainable funding scheme, **we need the support and sustainable contributions from institutions**

Discussion

- Is your institution funding international Diamond OA initiatives?
- What would your institution need to commit funds to a consortial funding scheme for Diamond OA journals?
- What Diamond OA projects would you fund?