

THE ROLE OF OA IN EVALUATION – TOWARDS OPEN INFRASTRUCTURES FOR RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

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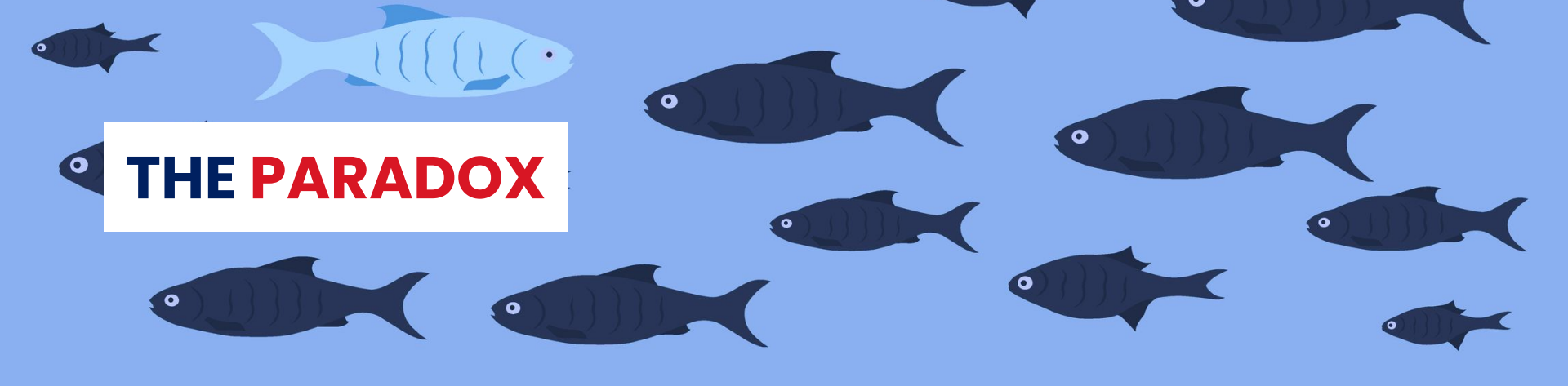
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Based on presentation by Angeliki Tzouganatou,
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THE PARADOX

We **invest** in open infrastructures for research,
Yet we **rely** on closed systems for research assessment

Total amount of financial investments in
EOSC and Open Science in 2022 (in
millions of Euro)

479.13 M

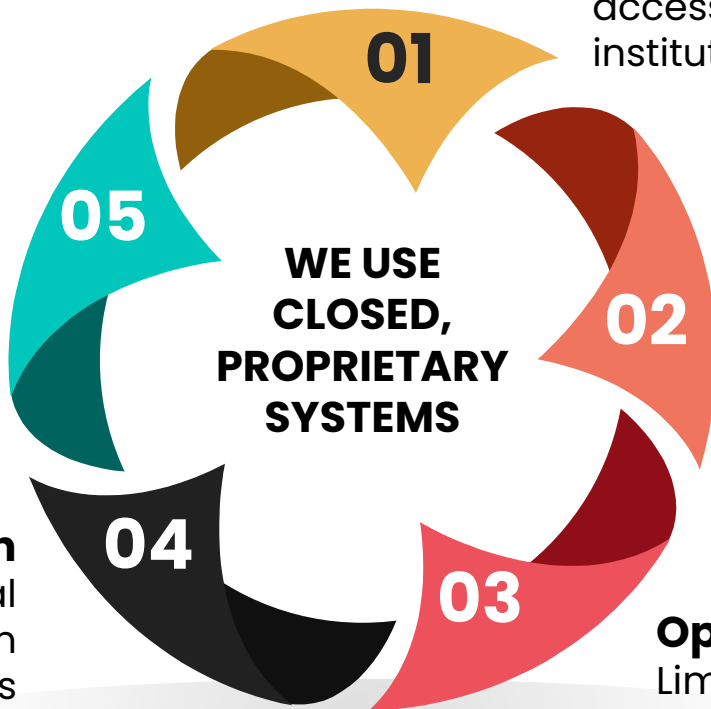
How are we currently **assessing research?**

Focus on metrics

Overemphasis on traditional metrics (e.g., citations, journal impact) disregards multidimensional research outputs and impact

Vendor Lock-In

Dependence on commercial providers creates long-term financial and operational risks



Restricted access

High subscription costs limit accessibility for researchers, institutions, and the public

Siloed information

Data is often fragmented, locked within single systems, and lacks interoperability

Opaque processes

Limited transparency in data provenance, methodology, and assessment criteria

Why infrastructures & services matter for RRA

Where principles become practice:

- Make reforms actionable and scalable.
- Enable transparency, interoperability, accountability.
- Connect research outputs, data, and assessment systems.
- Recognize diverse contributions (publications, data, software, engagement).
- Anchor reforms beyond policy cycles.
- Reduce duplication and support systemic change.

CoARA Vision

The assessment of research, researchers and research organisations **recognises the diverse outputs, practices, and activities** that maximise the quality and impact of research.

This requires basing assessment primarily on **qualitative judgement**, for which **peer review is central**, supported by **responsible use of quantitative indicators**.

765 organisations have joined the Coalition

(as of September 2025)



CoARA

Coalition for Advancing
Research Assessment

WG: Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment – OI4RRA

Mission

- Enable institutions to **move from proprietary infrastructure** and research information, to open (interoperable) alternatives.
- Take into consideration the **wide range of research outputs** and **open science** practices, addressing the **diversity** of the research community.

80

members

43

organisations

Chairs: Natalia Manola (OpenAIRE), Clifford Tatum (CWTS)



Key outputs from the OI4RRA WG

1

Principles and characteristics for OI fit for RRA

2

Interviews to find out the barriers & enablers

3

Conceptual architecture of infrastructure components and how they link to institutions

4

Specifications to allow the community to describe OI in a concrete & informative way

5

Towards operationalisation: exploring business models and governance structures

Core Principles of Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment



zenodo

<https://zenodo.org/records/14844582>

RPO Action Plan – institutions leading the change

- Institutions are key in **capturing and curating the full range of research activities** — from software to mentoring.
- A set of actions for universities and research institutions to **align local systems with the global open** ecosystem.



Integrate systems
with Open
Infrastructures



Improve
Metadata Quality
and Data Sharing



Broaden the
Range of Research
Outputs You
Collect



Embed Open
Infrastructure
Practices in Your
Policies

RFO Action Plan – funders shaping the system

- Funders influence what is valued in research; by supporting diverse outputs and open metrics, they **reshape incentives**.
- A strategy for funders to drive **systemic reform** by embedding Open Infrastructure requirements in funding policies.



Promote Open
Funding Data



Integrate and
Monitor Funding
Outcomes



Adopt Research
Indicators
Responsibly



Embed OI
Requirements in
Funding Policies

Newest output – report

Transitioning to OI for RRA: barriers, enablers, and strategic recommendations

- Drawing on **interviews with 17 experts across 11 countries**, the report explores what enables, and what hinders the transition toward open infrastructures fit for RRA, highlights effective national and institutional strategies, and **proposes actionable recommendations** for sustainable and equitable reform.

Summary

- We are beyond what, why, and how.
- We are ready to **implement and build awareness...**
- ...and track good examples.
- What challenges come with choosing OI for institutions and funders?