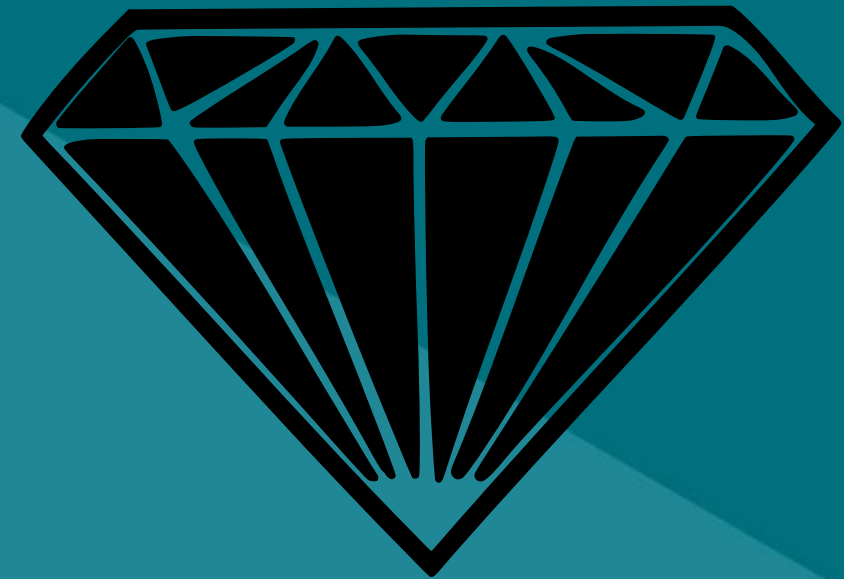


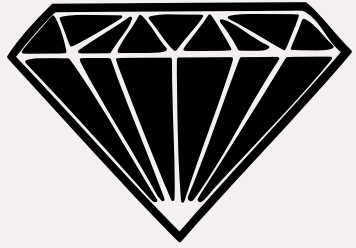


# BeDiamond – The Belgian Diamond Open Access Foundation



Open Access Belgium Netwotking Groups  
Brussels

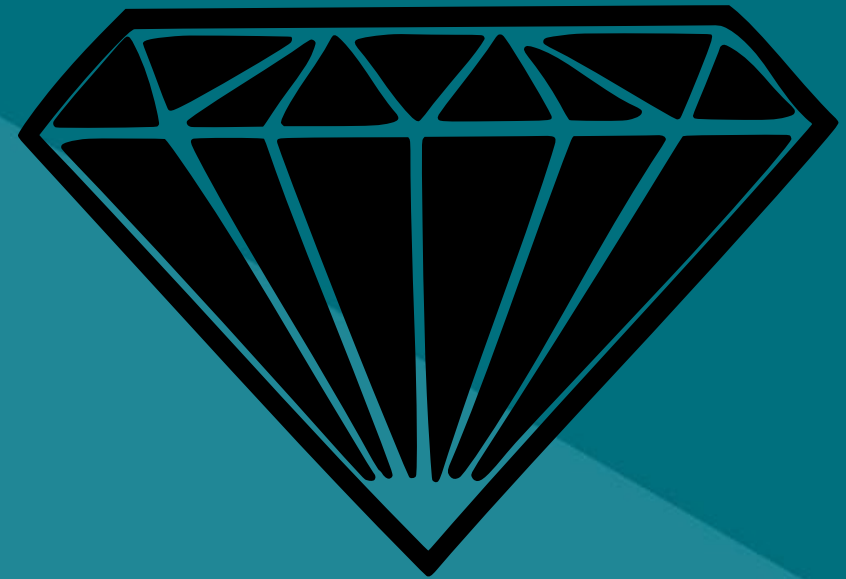
15.06.2026



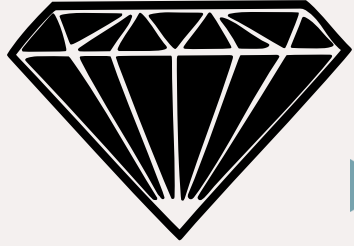
- ▶ 1. FWB-COARA project
- ▶ 2. Diamond OA
- ▶ 3. BeDiamond
- ▶ 4. A Proof of Concept – *Circular Materials and Chemistry (CMC)*
- ▶ 5. Where are we now?



# 1. FWB COARA project



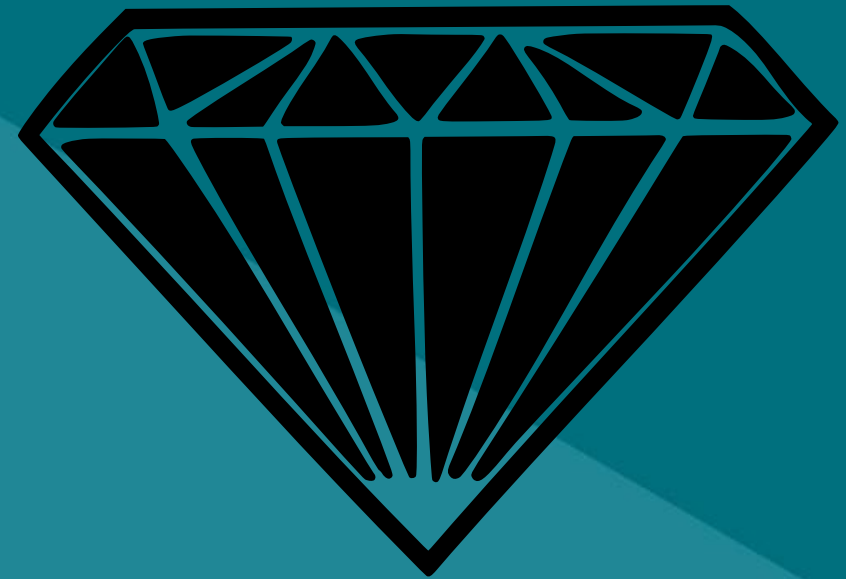
# 1. FWB-COARA project



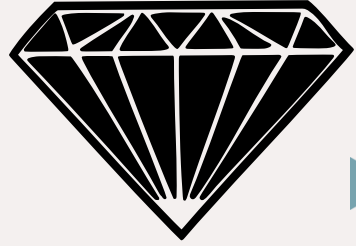
- ▶ **COARA** – *Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment* – Initiative EU
- ▶ **FWB-COARA** – Interuniversity Project: Reform of Research Assessment – End June 2025
- ▶ **5 Work Packages**
  - WP1 – New rules of research assessment (UCL)
  - WP2 – Open Data and Open Access (ULiège) → Journal Diamond OA – CMC
  - WP3 – Scientific Ethics (ULB)
  - WP4 – Scientific Integrity – Authorship, Publish or Perish (UMons)
  - WP5 – Career development and formation of researchers (UNamur)



## 2. Diamond Open Access

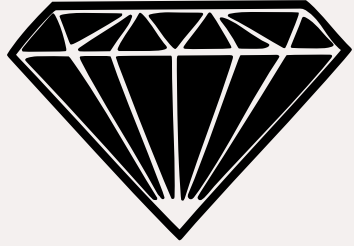


## 2. Diamond Open Access – Model



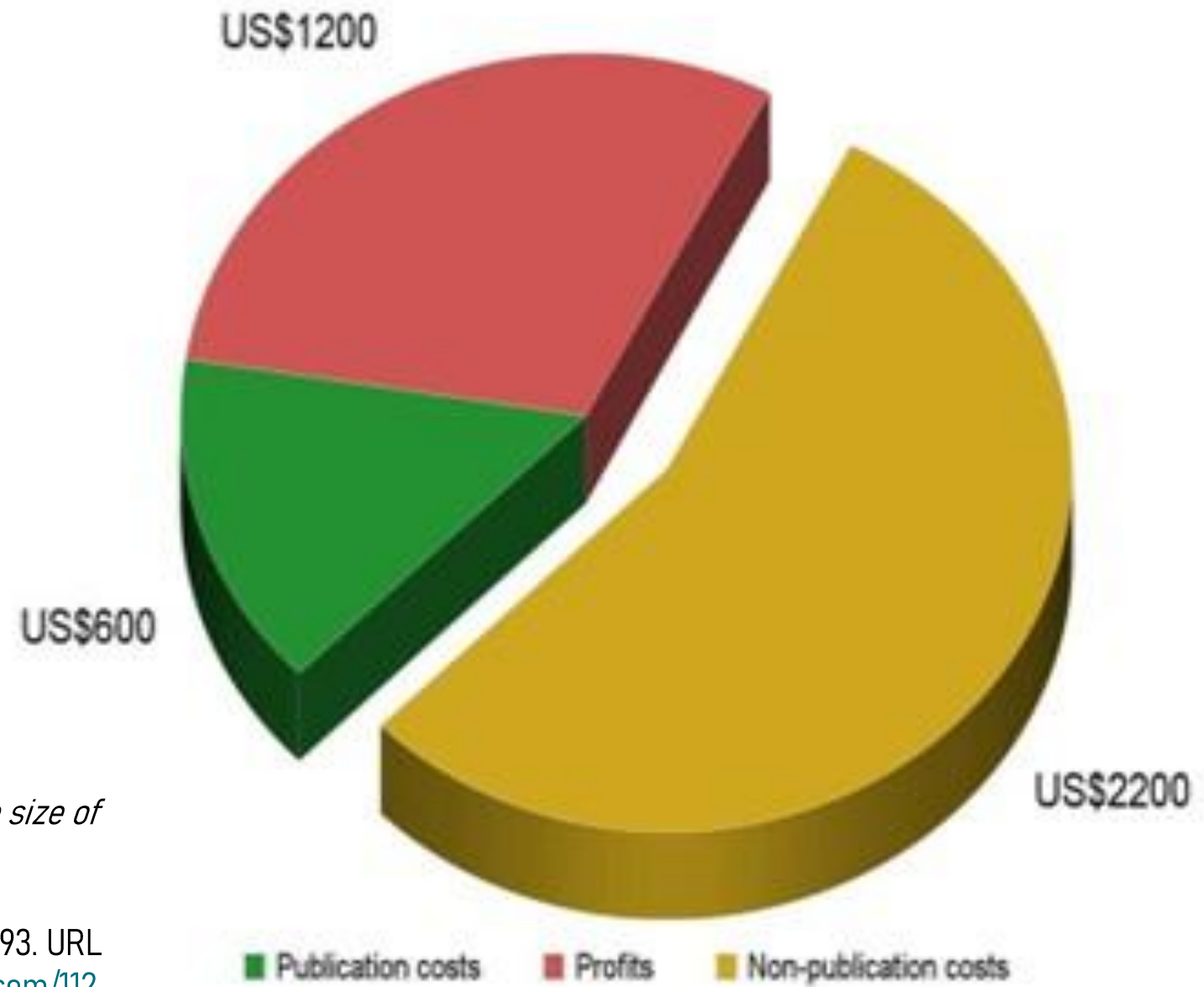
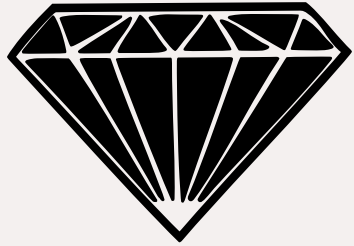
- ▶ **Free Authors / Readers** – No APCs – No Subscriptions
- ▶ **Model for Scientific Publications** – Only Scientific Criteria
- ▶ **Non-for-Profit** – No Dividends paid to Shareholders
- ▶ **Collaborative** – By Researchers for Researchers
- ▶ **Online and Open**
- ▶ **CC-BY Licences** – Preservation of Intellectual Property
- ▶ **Fair Economic Model** – Accessible to all despite Economic Differences

## 2. Diamond Open Access – APCs Costs



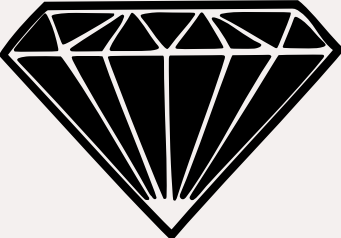
	EES en FWB			Comparaison internationale (OpenAPC)		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
APC moyens - revues entièrement en accès ouvert	1 740 €	1 771 €	2 127 €	1 699 €	1 804 €	2 031 €
APC moyens dans des revues hybrides	2 147 €	2 453 €	2 852 €	2 393 €	2 493 €	2 737 €
APC moyens tout type de revue	1 737 €	1 958 €	2 248 €	1 803 €	1 878 €	2 091 €
Nombre d'articles avec APC identifiés dans des revues entièrement en accès ouvert	295	372	519	19 871	23 711	15 812
Nombre d'articles avec APC identifiés dans des revues hybrides	65	68	100	3 501	2 871	1 470
Nombre total d'articles identifiés avec APC <sup>31</sup>	540	681	621	23 372	26 582	17 282

## 2. Diamond Open Access – APCs and Dividends

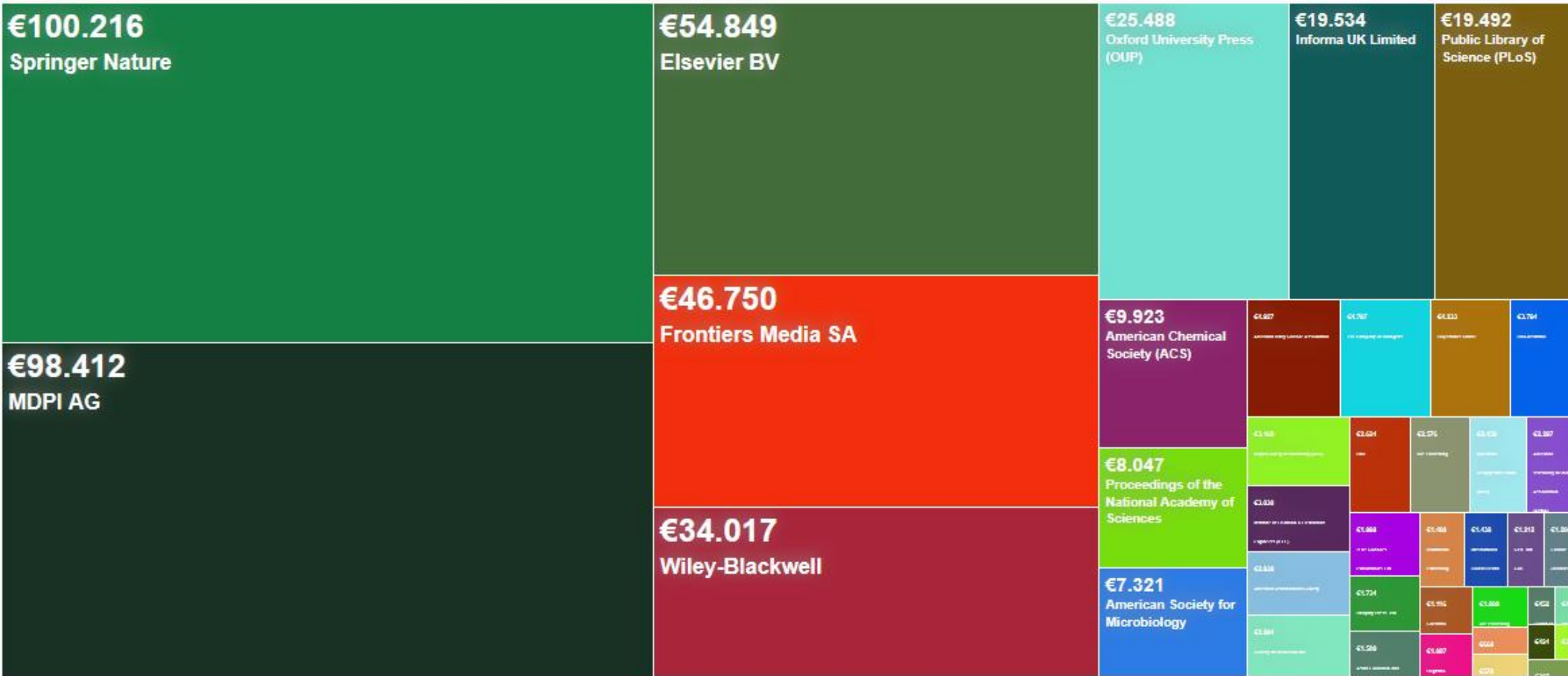


A. Grossman, B. Brembs, *Assessing the size of the affordability problem in scholarly publishing* (2019). Copyright, Fair Use, Scholarly Communication, etc., 112, p. 493. URL : <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/scholcom/112>.

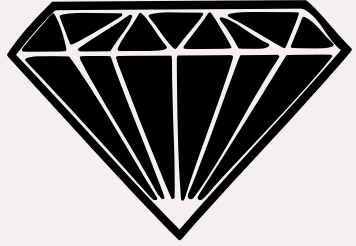
# 2. Diamond Open Access – APCs ULiège 2024



Total: € 480.836  
2020: € 376.184



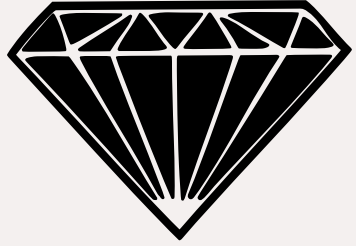
## 2. Diamond Open Access – APCs and Quality



- ▶ APCs = Quality?
- ▶ Commercial Practices vs. Scientific Integrity / Deontology
- ▶ What is already known vs. what is still exploratory
- ▶ The Case of Wiley 2023

Van Noorden, R. (12 December 2023), More than 10,000 Research Papers were Retracted in 2023 — a New Record”, in: *Nature*, URL: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-03974-8>.

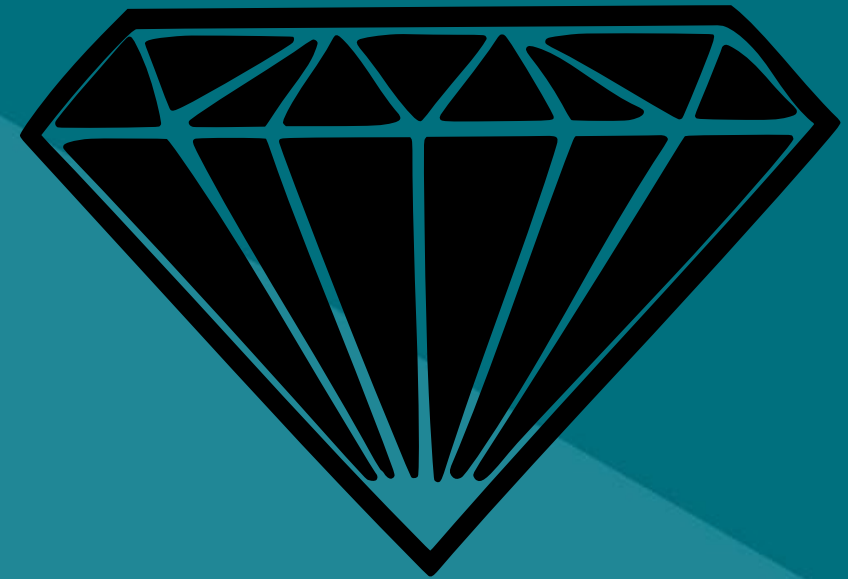
## 2. Diamond Open Access – Diamond OA Turn



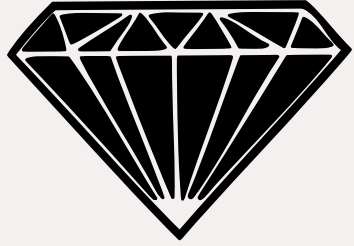
- ▶ **Diamond OA** – Future of Scientific Publication
- ▶ **European Union** – Council Resolution (23 May 2023) – DIAMAS-EDCH-ORE Projects
- ▶ **G7** – Sendai Summit Report (Japan, May 2023)
- ▶ **UNESCO** – The Global Diamond OA Survey



### 3. BeDiamond – The Belgian Diamond Open Access Foundation



## 4. BeDiamond – Context

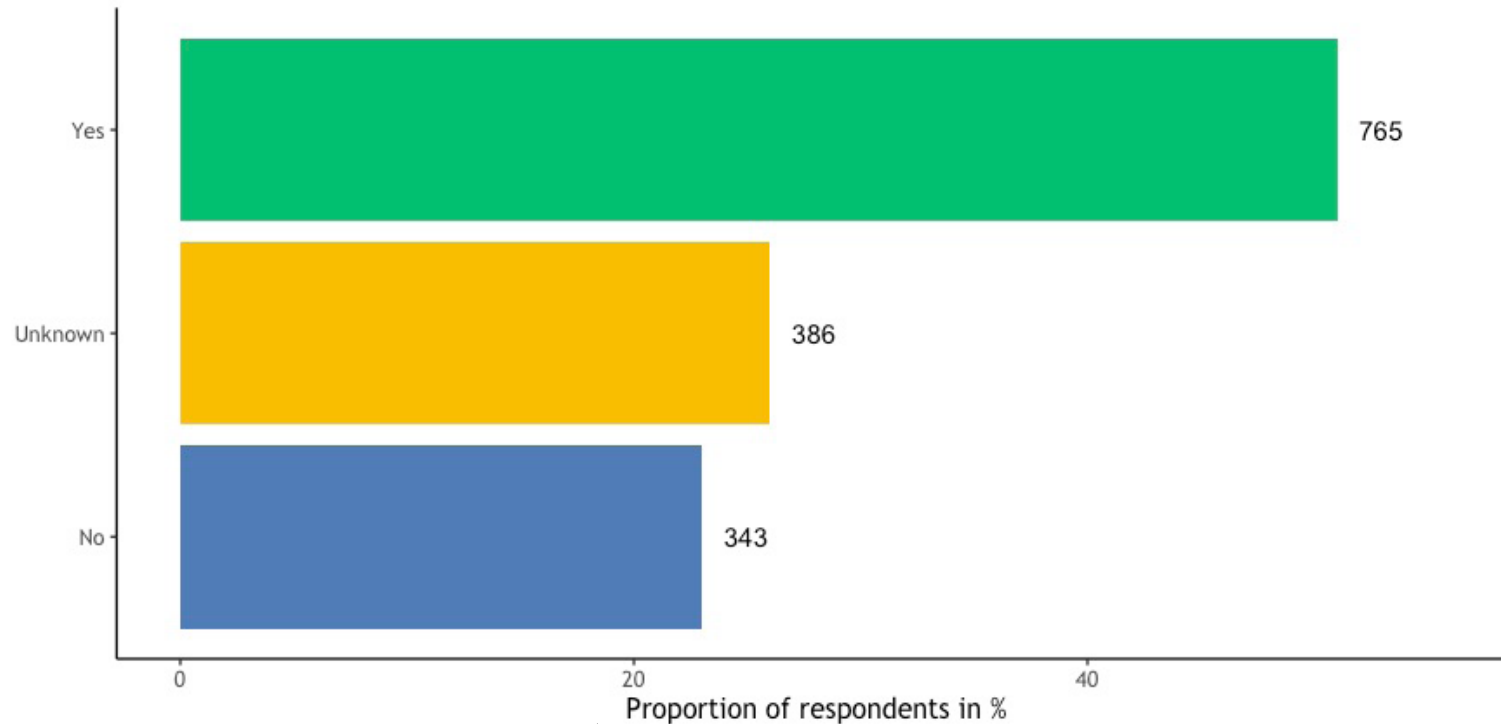


Is there a document establishing legal ownership ?

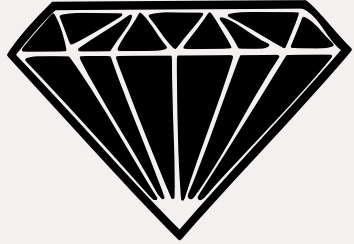
1494 respondents

386 Unknown

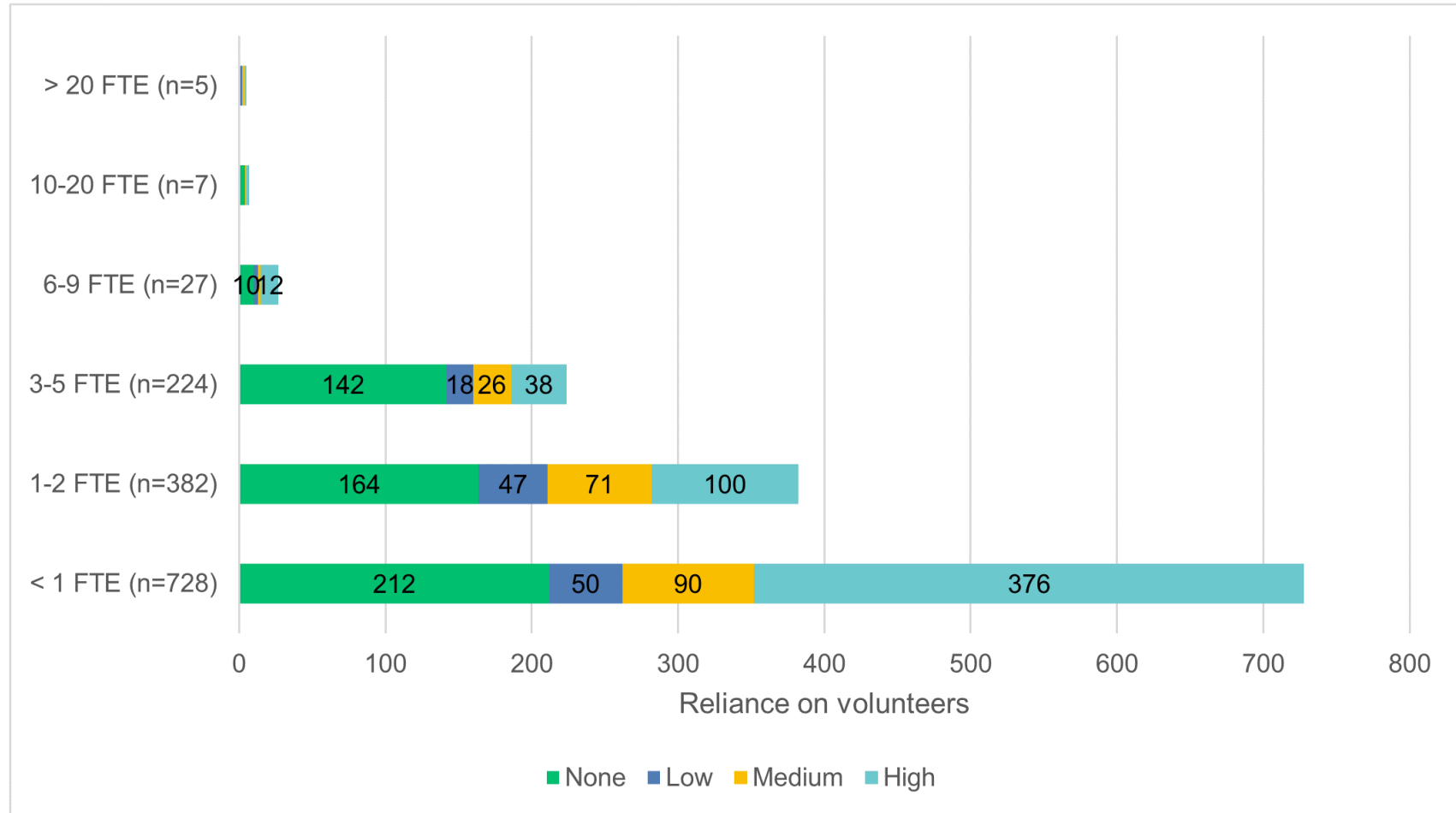
343 No



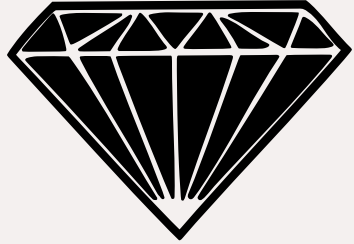
# 4. BeDiamond – Context



Reliance on volunteers by size of paid staff for journal editing and operational work

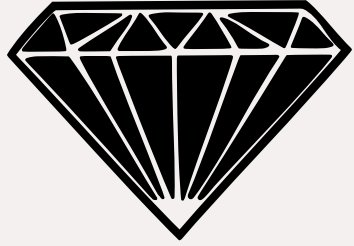


## 4. BeDiamond – Context



- ▶ **No National Diamond OA Initiative in Belgium**
- ▶ **Platforms** – UGent, UCLouvain, ULiège
- ▶ **Groups** – University and interuniversity reflexion committees
- ▶ **21 EU National Initiatives** – France (Fonds science ouverte/Open Edition), Germany (SeDOA), Netherlands (National Diamond Open Access Expertise Centre) – See <https://edch.eu/national-capacity-centres>
- ▶ **No Intention of Competing with Existing Solutions (i.e. no new platform). Diversity is Key!**

## 4. BeDiamond – Context



### ► Necessity of Regional / National Hubs

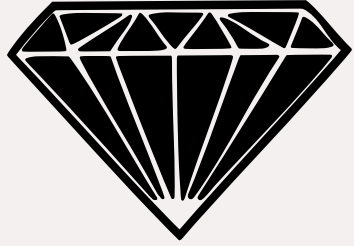
The image shows the cover of a UNESCO report. The top left features the UNESCO logo. The title is 'Advancing Equity and Inclusion in Scholarly Communication' in bold white text on a blue background. Below the title, it says 'Findings from the Consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework'. The bottom half of the cover features a stylized globe with a network of blue lines and dots connecting various points, symbolizing global connectivity and networks.

**EUROPEAN  
DIAMOND  
Capacity Hub**

Establishment of *National Capacity Centers* (NCCs)  
<https://diamas.org/>

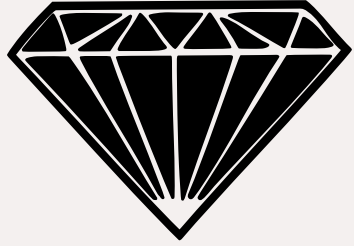
“a hub-and-network model: regional coordination bodies operating under shared norms, enabling mutual learning, technical alignment, and collective advocacy”, *Advancing equity and inclusion in scholarly communication: findings from the consultation on a Global Diamond Open Access Framework*, Paris, UNESCO, 2025, p. 12. URL: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000396324>

## 4. BeDiamond – Missions



- ▶ **Public Benefit Foundation** – Philanthropic, Serving the Common Good
- ▶ **Improving the Quality of Life of People** through the Free Sharing of Scientific Knowledge Worldwide
- ▶ **Collective Endeavour** not a Transactional One
- ▶ **A Virtuous Circle** – We **Offer** – services – and we **Get** – EDCH, other National Capacity Centres, etc.

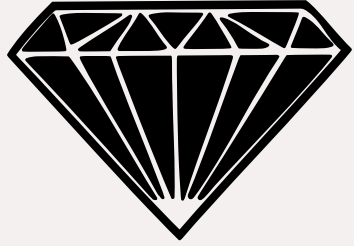
## 4. BeDiamond – Missions



### 3 Missions

- ▶ **1. Gathering** – Agora for Actors of Scientific Research BE / INT
- ▶ **2. Disseminating** – Diamond OA Ideas and Practices with Researchers and Stakeholders
- ▶ **3. Supporting** – Improving Quality, Creating Journals / Flipping Journals  
Juridical Assistance, Editorial Services

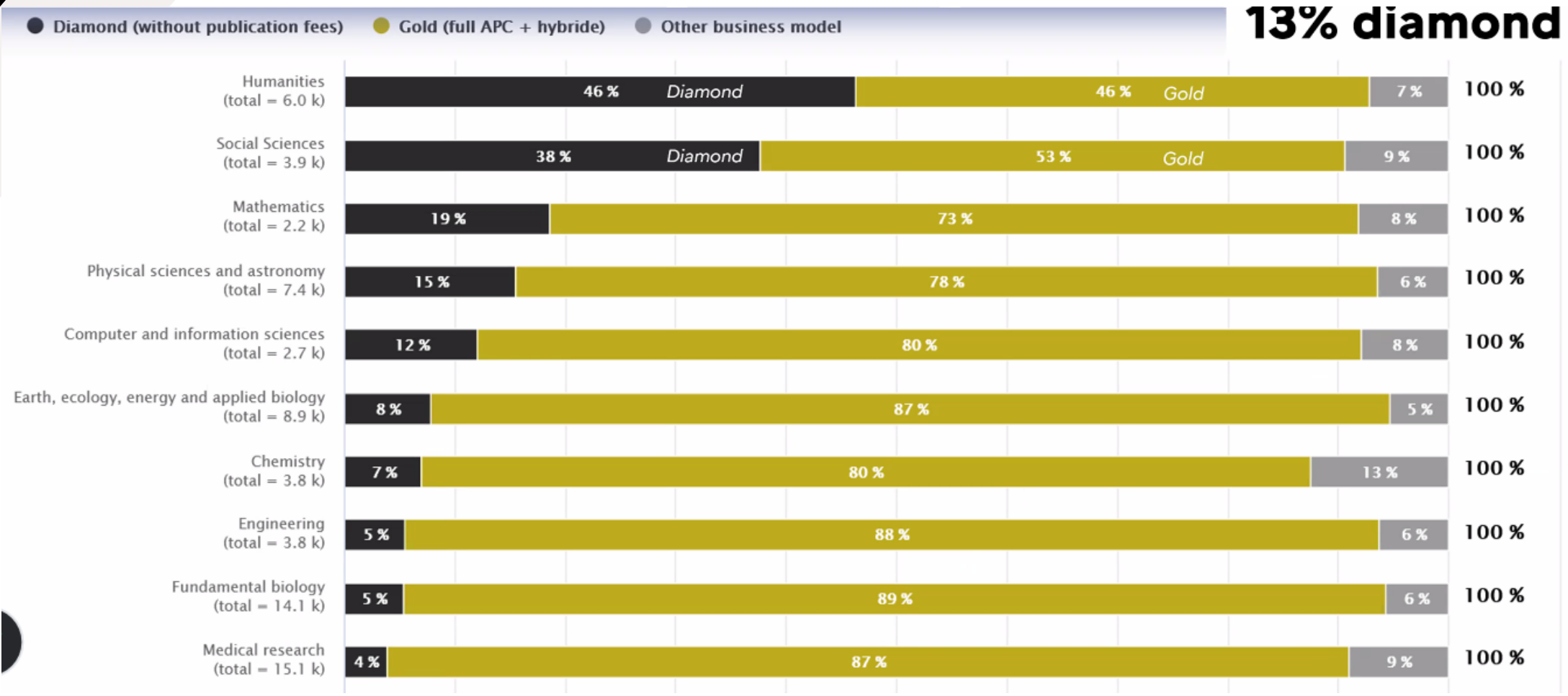
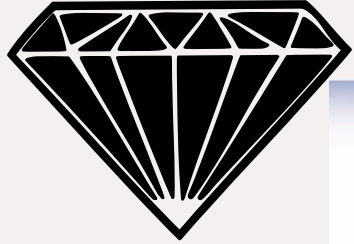
## 4. BeDiamond – Services



### 3 Categories of Journals

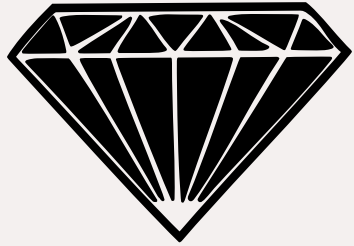
- ▶ **Followed Journals – Services:** Improving Quality
- ▶ **Related Journals – Services:** All Above-mentioned Services + Juridical Assistance
- ▶ **Strategic Journals – Services:** All Above-mentioned Services + Editorial Services – Created by the Executive Board – Focus in STEM

# 4. BeDiamond – Why STEM?

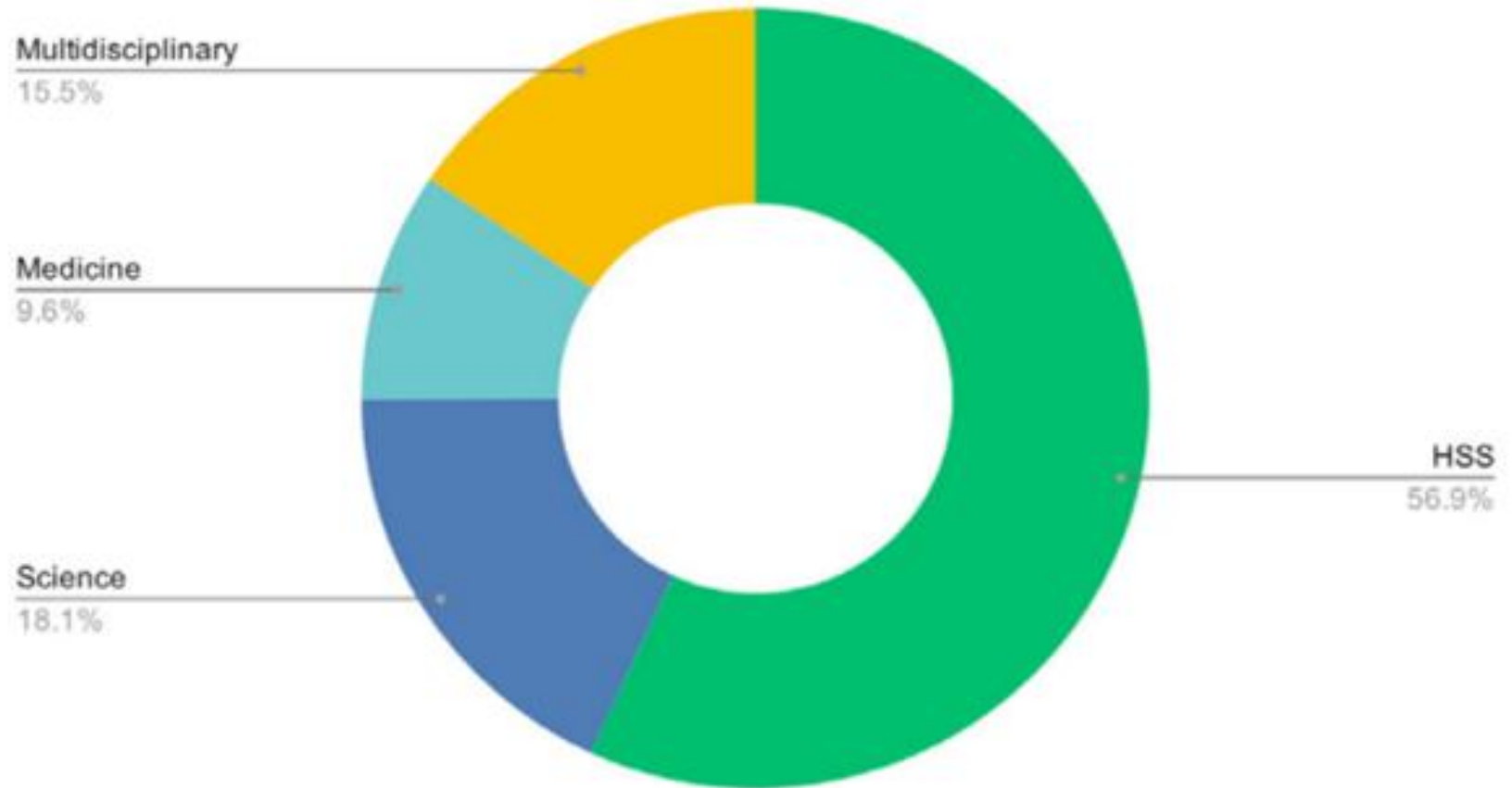


Source: DOAJ

# 4. BeDiamond – Why STEM?

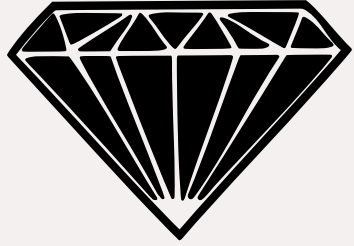


Survey - DOAJ journals (n=962 of 1,136)



Source: Bosman, J., Frantsovåg, J. E., Kramer, B., Langlais, P.-C., Proudman, V. (2021), "OA Diamond Journals Study. Part 1: Findings", p. 34. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4558704>.

## 4. BeDiamond – Actors



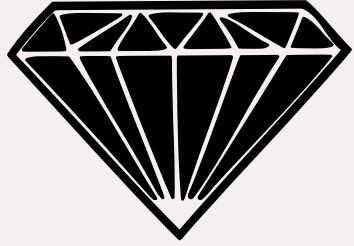
### Founding Members

- ▶ 10 Belgian Universities + Funding Agencies (FNRS/FWO) + BELSPO + Royal Academy
- ▶ International Partners – CNRS, Couperin, ULorraine, ULuxembourg, UMaastricht, UAachen, etc.

### Non-Founding Members Partners

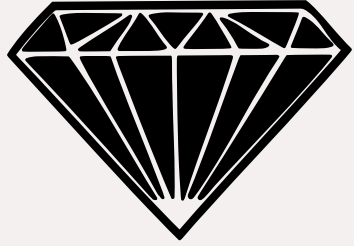
- ▶ UNESCO
- ▶ DIAMAS-EDCH-ORE, etc.

## 4. BeDiamond – Governance



- ▶ **Executive Board – Governing Body** – Strategic Decisions, Articles, Revision of Articles – 1 Administrator/Founding Member
  - Appoints the **Secretary-General** – In Charge of the Day-to-Day Functioning of the Foundation and Foundation's Representative
- ▶ **Scientific Council** – Which Journals to support as Strategic Journals
- ▶ **Open Access Council** – Diamond Open Access and Open Science
- ▶ **Editorial Office** – Ensures the Fulfilment of the Editorial Duties

## 4. BeDiamond – Collaborations



- ▶ **Belgian Platforms** – UGent, ULiège, UCLouvain – Collaboration to bolster the Ecosystem – No Additional Platform
- ▶ **Open Research Europe (ORE)** – 4 types of Collaboration:

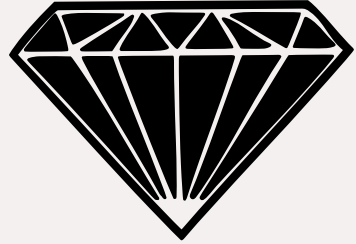
Article Archiving (Green Repository)

Open Peer Review System

ORE's Communities

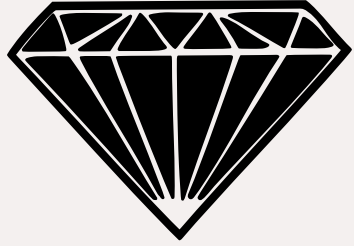
Preprints

## 4. BeDiamond – Creation



- ▶ **Notarial Deed → Ministry of Justice → Royal Decree** – Min. 1 year
- ▶ **Articles** – Objectives, Activities, Internal Rules
- ▶ **1 or more Founding Members** – Research Institutions and Non-for-Profit Organisation Actives in Diamond OA
- ▶ **Executive Board** – 1 Representative / Founding Members
- ▶ **Secretary-General and (Optional) Delegates** – Chosen by the Executive Board for the day-to-day management
- ▶ **Fundings / Founding Members** – “Enough to ensure the foundation’s functioning”

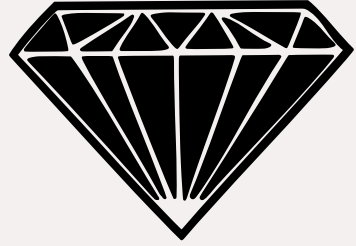
## 4. BeDiamond – Ambitions



- ▶ **Covering the Foundation's 3 Missions** – Gathering, Disseminating, Supporting
- ▶ **Blue Minimum Ambition** – €119,200 (year 1)
- ▶ **Green Improved Ambition** – €220,600 (year 1)
- ▶ **Orange Strategic Ambition** – €296,000 (year 1)



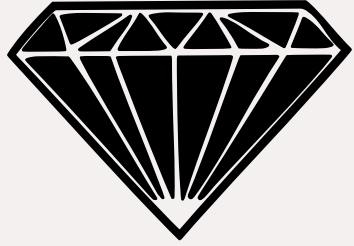
## 4. BeDiamond – Blue Minimum Ambition



- ▶ **2-3 Strategic Journals** supported
- ▶ **More Journals** created/flipped
- ▶ **Secretariat General** – 1 Specialist (0,5 FTE, MA or PhD) in Open Access and Diamond OA – Administrative, Gathering, Disseminating tasks, partly Supporting (Accompanying Journals + Legal Advice)
- ▶ **Editorial Office** – 1 Specialist (0,5 FTE, MA) in Editing with Knowledge in Open Access and Diamond OA



## 4. BeDiamond – Blue Minimum Ambition

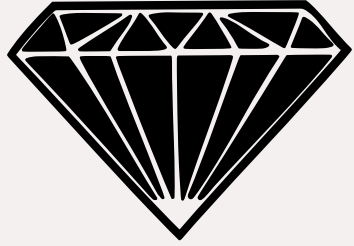


### Budget

- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> Year Total Costs – €119,200
- ▶ Personal Costs – 2x0.5 FTE (1 MA or PhD, 1 MA, €95,200)
- ▶ Operational Costs – €15,000
- ▶ Editorial Board Costs – €9,000
- ▶ Advantages: Lower Initial Investment



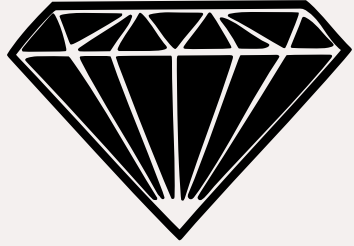
## 4. BeDiamond – Green Improved Ambition



- ▶ **4-6 Strategic Journals** supported
- ▶ **More Journals** created/flipped
- ▶ **Secretariat General** – 1 Specialist (1 FTE, MA or PhD) in Open Access and Diamond OA – Administrative, Gathering, Disseminating tasks, partly Supporting (Accompanying Journals + Legal Advice)
- ▶ **Editorial Office** – 1 Specialist (1 FTE, MA) in Editing with Knowledge in Open Access and Diamond OA



## 4. BeDiamond – Green Improved Ambition

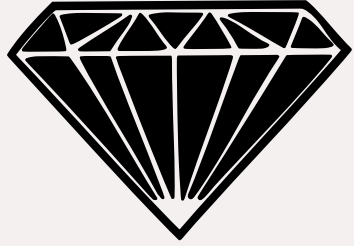


### Budget

- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> Year Total Costs – €220,600
- ▶ Personal Costs – 1 FTE (MA or PhD, €95,200) – 1 FTE (BA, €65,400)
- ▶ Operational Costs – €35,000
- ▶ Editorial Board Costs – €25,000
- ▶ **Advantages: Stronger Editorial Office, Higher Number of Journals**



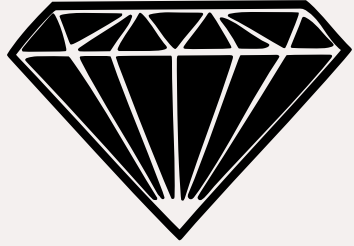
## 4. BeDiamond – Orange Stronger Ambition



- ▶ **7-10 Strategic Journals** supported
- ▶ **More Journals** created/flipped
- ▶ **Secretariat General** – 1 Specialist (1 FTE, MA or PhD) in Open Access and Diamond OA – Administrative, Gathering, Disseminating tasks, partly Supporting (Accompanying Journals + Legal Advice)
- ▶ **Editorial Office** – 2 Specialists (2 FTE, MA) in Editing with Knowledge in Open Access and Diamond OA



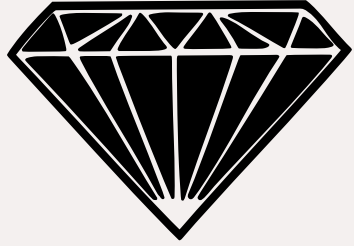
## 4. BeDiamond – Orange Stronger Ambition



### Budget

- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> Year Total Costs – €296,000
- ▶ Personal Costs – 1 FTE (MA or PhD, €95,200) – 2 FTE (BA, €130,800)
- ▶ Operational Costs – €40,000
- ▶ Editorial Board Costs – €30,000
- ▶ Advantages: Stronger Editorial Office from Start, Higher number of Journals

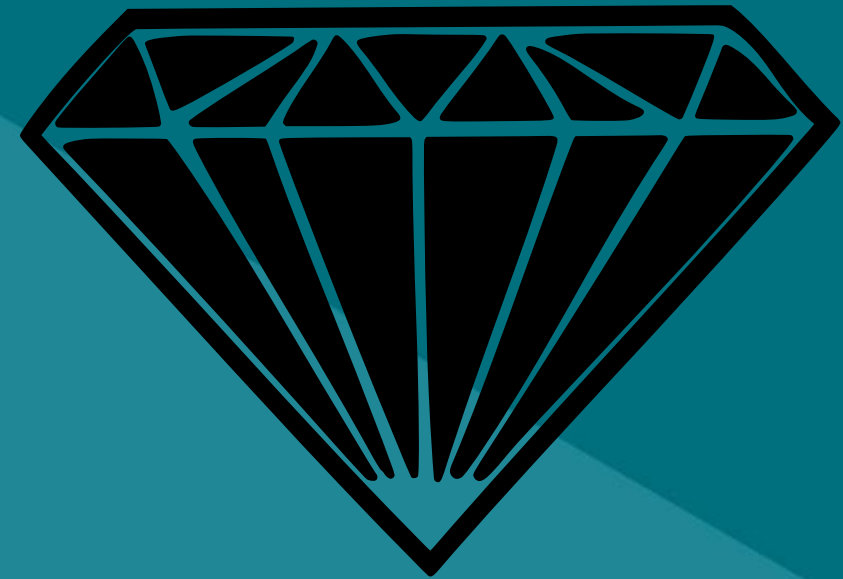
## 4. BeDiamond – Funding: A Proposal



- ▶ **Suggested Entry Tickets** – Annually Paid by Founding Members – In Case of Universities, based on Total Working Units (FTEs+Students)
  - Tier 1** – Up to 20k working units – Entry Ticket 10k
  - Tier 2** – Between 20k-50k working units – Entry Ticket 15k
  - Tier 3** – Above 50k working units – Entry Ticket 20k
- ▶ **IT Support**– ULiège Library (0,2 FTE)
- ▶ **Strategic Journals' Resources** – Covering partly their needs
- ▶ **External Resources** – Calls, Donations

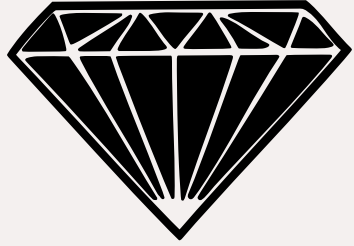


## 4. A Proof of Concept – *Circular Materials and Chemistry (CMC)*





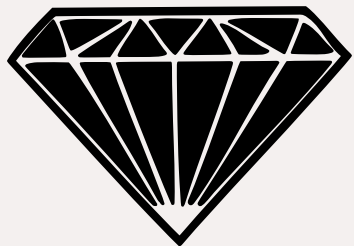
## 4. A Proof of Concept – *Circular Materials and Chemistry (CMC)*



- ▶ **Proof of Concept** – Developing / Strengthening Diamond OA
- ▶ **International** – English
- ▶ **High Quality** – Peer Review
- ▶ **Excellency** – International Scientific Community
- ▶ **Critical Mass** – Respectable Starting Size
- ▶ **Field** – International / Filling a Gap
- ▶ **Researchers** – With an International Team of Researchers
- ▶ **Dissemination** – Platform / Indexation Strategy
- ▶ **Sustainability** – Viable and Stable over 5 years

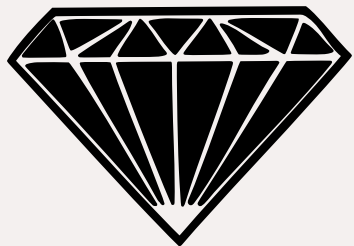


## 4. A Proof of Concept Journal – *Circular Materials and Chemistry (CMC)*



- ▶ **Circularity** – How can we create Materials that have a smaller Environmental, Ecological and Social Impact?
- ▶ **Interdisciplinarity** – Materials and Processes / Economy / Society
- ▶ **Difficulty** to Publish Interdisciplinary Papers in this Field
- ▶ **No International and Important Diamond OA Journal**
- ▶ **No Strong European Journal** – ACS
- ▶ **Strong Potential Belgium / Neighbouring Countries**

## 4. The example of *CMC* – Realisations



# Circular Materials and Chemistry

A Cross-Disciplinary Journal



Circular Materials and Chemistry – A Cross-Disciplinary Journal

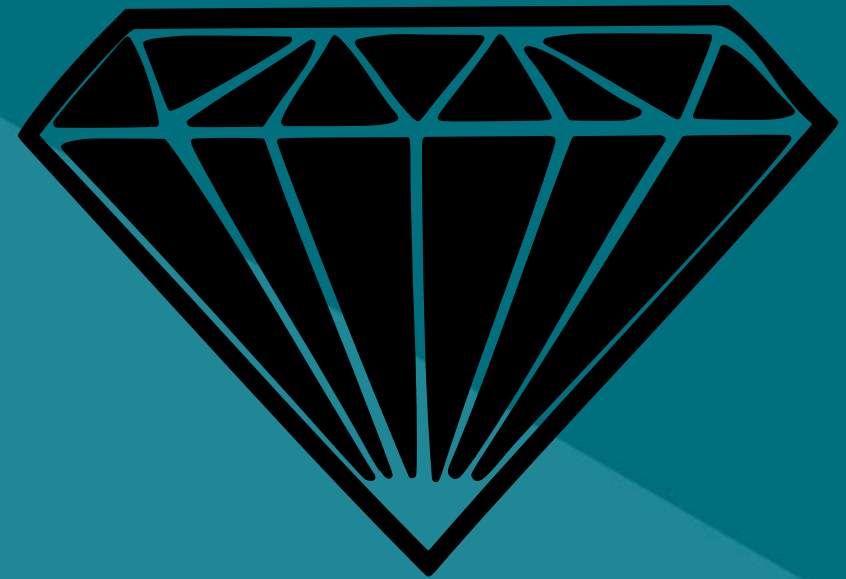
**Circular Materials and Chemistry – A Cross-Disciplinary Journal** is a new diamond open access journal dedicated to Circularity. It examines this concept from three viewpoints: **Materials and Processes, Economy** and **Society**. How are new bio or non-bio materials created and processed? What effect do they have on the economy, particularly production processes? And how are societies transformed by these new materials? CMC aims to address these fundamental questions in order to contribute to the development of a more sustainable global society and economy.



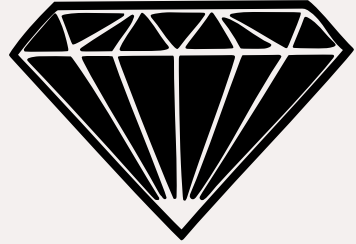
<https://popups.lib.uliege.be/cmc/>



## 5. Where are we now?



## 5. Where are we now?



- ▶ **6 Institutions on Board** – Royal Academy of Belgium, UGent, ULB, ULiège, UMon, UNamur
- ▶ **On-Going Discussions** – BELSPO, CNRS, Couperin, FNRS, KULeuven, UAntwerpen, UHasselt, UCLouvain, UMaastricht, ULuxembourg, VUB
- ▶ **To Contact** – FWO, Other International Partners
- ▶ **Structural Documents** – Draft of the Notarial Deed + Manifesto
- ▶ **European Diamond Capacity Hub** – National Capacity Centre
- ▶ **Reflexive Seminar** – Next Fall