

Status of Croatian journals, goals and trends in journal development

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Scopus Day Workshop
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Current status of Croatian scientific journals

420 journals in OA available in **Hrčak** (13 more than in 2023)

166 journals in **DOAJ** (5 more than in 2023)

203 journals in **SJR** (45 more than in 2023)

122 journals in **JCR** (2 suspended from 2023)

Funding

- Funding agreements with higher education institutions and public research institutes
- Funding call for learned societies by the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth - 882.071 EUR in 2024 for 132 learned societies (for all activities)
- APCs (60-800 EUR for 13 journals in DOAJ)
- Subscriptions for printed copies
- Some journals have several co-publishers and funding streams
 - No public information about journal funding
 - No quality assessment from the funding bodies

Membership

- 14 members of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
- 67 individual members of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE) via CROASC
- 142 members of the Croatian Association for Scholarly Communication

Croatian Association for Scholarly Communication (CROASC or ZNAK in Croatian)

Established in September 2019 - association of 50 journal editors, researchers and librarians

Today: 109 individual members and 33 institutions (faculties, universities, learned societies, journals)

Main goals:

- Promoting transparent, publicly funded and OA scholarly communication
- Increasing the quality of scholarly output
- Helping journal editors and publishers in their work
- Cooperation with other stakeholders (Ministry, National and University Library in Zagreb, University and Computing Centre – SRCE, EASE, Elsevier, Clarivate, JISC, DOAJ, OPERAS consortium etc.)

CROASC activities - PUBMET

- Co-organisation of 6 **PUBMET conferences** on scholarly communication in the context of open science from 2020 (100+ participants)

12th PUBMET2025 conference (11 and 12 Sept, Zagreb) – quality in science communication

- ✓ Supported by EASE, OpenAIRE, OPERAS, SPARC Europe, EIFL, Knowledge Rights21, Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Youth
- ✓ 5 invited speakers (Jadranka Stojanovski, Mikael Laakso, Merle Jacob, Ana Lazarova, Livija Puljak), 22 short talks, 10 posters, 2 panels (research assessment and quality in scientific publishing)
- Co-organisation of 2 **PUBMET summer schools**
 - ✓ 1st PUBMET2024 summer school (10-12 Sept 2024, Zadar) - journal editors
 - ✓ 2nd PUBMET2025 summer school (11-13 June 2025, Opatija) - early career researchers

Webinars and workshops for editors

- **Scopus:**
 - ✓ 2020 Scopus criteria and evaluation
 - ✓ 2022 How to index a journal in Scopus; Scopus resources and tools
 - ✓ 2023 Scopus Only Day
 - ✓ 2024 Elsevier drop in session for Croatian editors
 - ✓ 2025 Scopus Day
- **ZNAK workshops:** XML, functional PDF, DOI and CrossRef membership (HR-DOI), WoS criteria, copyright and creative commons licencing
- ZNAK/CROSSDA webinar on research data
- Two JISC webinars on Sherpa Romeo and journal copyright, usage rights and archiving policies

Webinars and workshops

- 2024 COPE/ZNAK workshop for journal editors on research integrity
- 2024 Two NSK/ZNAK webinars: use of persistent identifiers; the role of social networks and altmetrics
- 2025 OPERAS/ZNAK workshop on OJS in scientific publishing
- DIAMAS – co-organisation of 4 regional workshops for journal editors in 2024 and 2025: journal quality, technical aspects, indexing and visibility, experiences in the use of OJS, Diamond Open Access Standard (DOAS), European Diamond Capacity Hub

Collaboration

- National and University Library in Zagreb and SRCE - Hrčak – content crawling for Scopus and WoS, inclusion of more journals in Scopus
- Hrčak - OJS problem resolving, DOCX to JATS XML conversion, MODS XML conversion
- EASE - organisation of HR EASE online sessions on preprints and publishing practices in 2021, use of social networks in 2022, and best practices in peer review in 2023. Participation in the organisation of EASE conferences. Organisation of Peer Review Week webinars in 2021, 2023 and 2025. Participation in Horizon, COST and COARA project proposals. Raising awareness about SDGs and DEI, and promoting peer review tools
- JISC – overseeing collected data for 127 journals for inclusion in Sherpa Romeo
- DOAJ – preparation of training materials

Panels, surveys and consultations

- **Panels:**

- ✓ 2020 Elsevier panel session on future of Croatian research
- ✓ 2022 Publishing books in OA (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)
- ✓ 2024 Good publication practices (SRCE Days of e-infrastructure)
- ✓ MICC2024 – panel on scientific production and sustainability
- ✓ Interliber Zagreb Book Fair – University of Zagreb OA journals in 2023 and OA policy and diamond OA journals in 2024

- **Surveys:** journal financing models, preprints and publishing practices, promotions on social networks, alignment with SDG Publishing Compact, use of peer review tools and AI

- **Consultations:** comments on the Act on Higher Education and Scientific Activity, programme financing, research assessment criteria, individual consultations for journal editors

OA initiatives and promotions

- OPERAS SIG Best practices – input for Diamond Open Access Standard (DOAS), testing DOAS self-assessment tool
- Collaboration on the development of OA policies (University of Zagreb and individual faculties)
- Supporting OA books initiative – infrastructure, tools, networking
- Supporting AEGIS-OA project - viable, future-fit, and sustainable scholarly communication ecosystem, capable of implementing OA as a standard publication practice across the European Research Area
- Initiative for Croatian Diamond Capacity Centre (National and Univ. Library, Univ. Zadar, SRCE, Univ. Zagreb Fac. Hum. Soc. Sci., CROASC)
- Testing OpenAIRE Publishers Dashboard (Univ. Zadar, Univ. Zagreb Fac. Hum. Soc. Sci., Fac. Food Technol. Biotechnol., Miroslav Krleža Instit. of Lexicography)

Future goals

- Improving the position of diamond OA publishing in Croatia
- Raising the quality of journals (DOAS)
- Raising awareness about the importance of good editorial practices, preprint evaluation, open peer review, data sharing, creating policies for resolving research integrity issues, reducing research waste, implementing journals' sustainability and DEI policies, etc.
- Raising the visibility of Croatian journals (indexing databases, promotion, networking)
- Establishing Croatian Diamond Capacity Centre to provide infrastructure, training, resources, tools and support for publishers in diamond OA
- Collaboration with other institutions, organisations, associations, and diamond capacity centres (Slovenia, Serbia, and others)

Thank you for the attention

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