

Facilitate international repository networks: the Pan-European OpenAIRE project and the international organisation Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR)

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Abstract

OpenAIRE builds a support infrastructure for the implementation of the Open Access-Mandate (“OA Pilot”) of the European Commission, which covers 7 thematic areas of the Seventh EU Research Framework Programme (incl. Climate, Energy, Health). The Infrastructure comprises National Open Access Desks in almost all 27 EU member states plus Norway plus a technical repository infrastructure. The presentation will show both the organizational and technical structures and discuss the successes and challenges of the largest repository network initiative that existed so far.

COAR is a new organization founded in Gent, Belgium on the 21 October 2009. Comprising already at this early stage almost 50 institutions and organizations from 35 countries (incl. Asia, South- and North-America) its mission is to enhance greater visibility and application of research outputs through global networks of Open Access digital repositories. Following the first General Assembly in March 2010 in Madrid COAR is building up the organizational structure to be able to carry out those activities which have been identified as being vital for COAR members. The presentation will outline some of those activities such as:

- Raising the profile of repositories through a strong organization with an authoritative voice
- Ensuring interoperability of repositories, e.g. by providing guidelines to repository managers and aggregators
- Populating repositories with content, e.g. by sharing success stories or working with publishers to standardize self-archiving policies and publisher deposit processes
- Supporting regional and national repository initiatives, e.g. by giving practice-based support to their regional or national repository helpdesks or providing advice and guidance on suitable repository infrastructure technologies
- Promoting the repository manager profession.