



## Memorandum of Understanding

### Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to establish and promote a strategic and cooperative partnership between OpenAIRE and euroCRIS.

euroCRIS is a not-for-profit, statutory association (<https://www.eurocris.org/>) established in 2002, governed by Dutch law and dedicated to the development and implementation of efficient and effective institutional, national and international research information systems and their interoperability, based on CERIF (Common European Research Information Format). One of euroCRIS's main objectives is the promotion of cooperation and exchange of expertise between stakeholders in the research information domain, in particular by setting up Strategic Partnerships with international organisations in the field of Research Information.

OpenAIRE A.M.K.E., <https://openaire.eu/>, is a non-profit legal entity that consolidates and continues the results of its e-infrastructure and its pan-european open science network funded since 2009 in the framework of EU projects. The core mission of OpenAIRE is to shift scientific communication towards openness and transparency, and to enable innovation in the communication and monitoring of research results. An e-infrastructure with a true EU footprint, OpenAIRE promotes open scholarship and improves the discoverability, accessibility, shareability, reusability, reproducibility and monitoring of data-driven research results, across scientific disciplines and thematic domains, cross-border in Europe and beyond.

### Motivation

Both euroCRIS and OpenAIRE share a vision of realising an optimal research information ecosystem and infrastructure, using technology to store, preserve, manage, share, use and re-use information on research.

Widespread Current Research Information Systems (CRISs) offer a rich set of contextual metadata, linking eg research publications and datasets to the projects they stem from and to the researchers, institutions and funders involved in the research. CRISs are thus fundamental information supplying components of such a research information infrastructure, while the OpenAIRE aggregation system is well placed and conceived to operate as the central core or hub of the infrastructure.

Given these complementary roles and values, a close cooperation between euroCRIS, the organisation representing the CRIS community and expertise, and OpenAIRE, the organisation managing the central resource, would be highly advantageous for the realisation and optimal functionality of this infrastructure. The benefits of such a collaboration would reach all stakeholders and beneficiaries involved, including the research community itself, research funders, research managers and policy makers, professionals dependent on research, and - last but not least - society at large.

## **Objective**

The strategic partners will work together:

**(a) To realise optimal interoperability between the central OpenAIRE system and CRISs based upon the international standard CERIF exchange format, resulting in:**

- An enrichment of the OpenAIRE database with an extended set of additional contextual metadata
- A substantial extension of the kind and number of data providers to the OpenAIRE aggregation, enabling a more complete coverage of the research information domain
- The gradual addition of the research information management community to the group of parties that have a stake in OpenAIRE

**(b) To promote the implementation of research information policies and practices supporting the development of an optimal international research information ecosystem and infrastructure as described above and to influence policy makers and other relevant research information stakeholders (e.g. funders, CRIS developers) on both a national and international level on:**

- The relevance of OpenAIRE as the central hub or core for the infrastructure
- The relevance of CRISs as basic components of and data providers for OpenAIRE
- The importance of the use of international open standards (CERIF) for the implementation of the infrastructure and more specifically for information exchange
- The support of policy formulation at a national and international level
- The provision of consultancy-services in policy development

**(c) To make known and communicate each other's activities and accomplishments with their stakeholders and members and at each other's events.**

**(d) To jointly set up and implement projects to promote and realise the optimal integration of CRIS systems in the infrastructure.**

**(e) To jointly set up training events in research information management, i.e. with regard to CRIS features (information models, standards, OpenAIRE guidelines), including the qualitative management and opening to third parties of the data they contain.**

## **Mechanisms**

In order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, both partners agree on the following concrete actions for collaboration:

1. To work together on the further development and promotion of the CERIF-XML OpenAIRE Guidelines for CRIS Managers and to support the OpenAIRE user engagement activities to this regard;
2. As euroCRIS to take care of the versioning and maintenance of the CERIF-XML guidelines;
3. To work together to develop and optimise the OpenAIRE validator for CRIS systems;
4. As OpenAIRE to develop and maintain the CRIS ingestion pipeline of the OpenAIRE aggregator;
5. To organise workshops/training activities for CRIS developers and managers on aspects related to the implementation of the CERIF-XML OpenAIRE Guidelines;
6. To present and promote the collaborative activity and the CRIS-OpenAIRE-based research information infrastructure at each other's events and through jointly organised webinars;

7. To jointly promote best practices for improving the amount, the quality and the visibility of metadata kept in CRIS systems, potentially via jointly organised training events;
8. To agree on and communicate the role to be played by the euroCRIS Directory of Research Information Systems (DRIS) in supporting the gradual inclusion of specific CRIS systems into the set of OpenAIRE data providers;
9. Up to two representatives of euroCRIS shall be invited, on a waived fee basis, to conferences, seminars and webinars organised by) OpenAIRE;
10. Up to two representatives of OpenAIRE shall be invited, on a waived fee basis, to conferences, seminars and webinars organised by euroCRIS (such as Strategic Membership Meetings and CRIS conferences);
11. OpenAIRE agrees to participate in appropriate euroCRIS Task Groups to contribute to the development of the OpenAIRE-CRIS interoperability roadmap;
12. euroCRIS agrees to participate in any appropriate OpenAIRE task forces to contribute to the development of a roadmap for CRIS interoperability and data provision;
13. Both organisations will regularly offer information on activities for the other partner to disseminate via their respective communication channels;
14. For reasons of efficiency in time and costs, communication will be through teleconference or webinar when appropriate.

#### **Publicity**

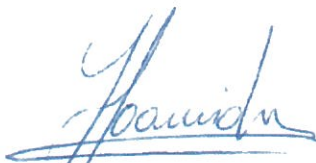
The logo of both strategic partners will be placed on each other's website under the respective heading with a hyperlink to the homepage of the strategic partner. Both parties shall approve any public announcement regarding this MoU. Each party may suggest that its logo be used in accordance with provided guidelines.

#### **Liabilities and Termination**

This agreement does not define a financial relationship between the strategic partners, but does not exclude that such relationships could be negotiated. The agreement does not restrict the rights and responsibilities of each partner nor increase them. This agreement remains in force until terminated in writing by each party. Upon termination, both parties will remove the logo and hyperlink of the other party from their websites.

Signed in Nijmegen and Athens on 27 May 2019,

**For OpenAIRE A.M.K.E.**



Yannis Ioannidis  
OpenAIRE A.M.K.E Interim Head  
Director of the Athena Research Center

**OPENAIRE**

ΑΣΤΙΚΗ ΜΗ ΚΕΡΔΟΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΙΑ  
ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ ΕΡΕΥΝΗΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ  
ΑΡΤΕΜΙΔΟΣ 6 & ΕΠΙΔΑΥΡΟΥ 151 25 ΜΑΡΟΥΣΙ  
ΑΦΜ: 997032008 - ΔΟΥ: ΑΜΑΡΟΥΣΙΟΥ

**For euroCRIS**



Ed Simons  
euroCRIS President



Pablo de Castro Martin  
euroCRIS Secretary

