

SciPost: 3 Pillars Project

Context - Since its inception in 2016, [SciPost](#) has been operating as a community-based [Genuine Open Access](#) publisher in the physical sciences. With more than 3300 publications from more than 7000 authors associated to more than 1200 [organizations](#) throughout the world, it exemplifies how community-led, open refereed, quality-focused publishing can be successfully deployed as an attractive [Diamond](#) alternative for scientists. Despite this success, the reality is that the scale which SciPost has managed to achieve, though significant (as a comparison, its output is four times that of the much better-funded [Open Research Europe](#)), is extremely limited as compared to what it was originally intended to be, and ideally could be. SciPost implements a cost-slashing consortial [business model](#) as a working alternative to subscriptions or Article Processing Charges, but this is at the mercy of [insufficient institutional support](#) for Diamond-class initiatives like ours. As a result, SciPost's growth has been stunted, activities have remained mostly limited to Physics, and our potential is underexploited.

This proposal's overarching goal is to catalyze the transformation of [SciPost](#) into a large-scale, multi-field, multi-level community-led open access publishing infrastructure. This is to be achieved by improving and extending three existing pillars of SciPost's infrastructure: In-house Journals, Hosted Journals and Affiliate Journals.

In-house Journals - This first pillar consists of field-scoped journals implementing SciPost's [open editorial procedure](#) and run by [Editorial Colleges](#) of reputed specialists. SciPost currently has significant levels of activity in [Physics](#), and activities in [Chemistry](#) and [Astronomy](#) awaiting resources for upscaling. There is however a clear opportunity and need for extending this successful setup to other fields of academia, in order to empower researchers in these other fields to benefit from Genuine Open Access. Our [vision](#) foresees the extension to [many other fields](#) (with a portfolio of field-scoped journals similar to our Physics journals), together with the installation of a multi-field overarching journal called [Selections](#), highlighting the very best science from all fields and targeted towards a much broader readership (from non-specialists to journalists/press agencies all the way to the general public; admittedly, we plan to position this venue to provide an attractive Genuine Open Access alternative to the "glossies").

Hosted Journals - This second pillar complements the field-scoped in-house journals by providing more specialized field/specialty-targeted publishing venues run by independent Editorial Colleges. These journals make full use of SciPost's editorial, publishing, production and maintenance systems, and are fully embedded into (and thus supported by) SciPost's business model. It is currently used by [Migration Politics](#) and (launched in early 2025) the [Journal of Robustness Reports](#). This infrastructure is built to address the needs of academic groups who intend to establish their own Genuine Open Access venue (using the same thorough editorial protocols as SciPost's in-house journals; these protocols are not available on other platforms) but do not have the capability or intention of building and/or maintaining their own platform. Our vision is to upscale use of these facilities by supporting the creation and maintenance of a large portfolio of community-run but SciPost-hosted specialized journals (and thus naturally complementing the field-scope in-house journals of the first pillar).

Affiliate Journals - This third pillar enables independently-run Diamond-class journals to make use of SciPost's extensive [information system for organizations](#) linking publishing activities (via authors and their affiliations) with institutional support, enabling complete transparency in expenditures and returns on investment as per SciPost's PubFracs concept (see our [business model page](#) for a detailed description). It is currently used by [Internet Policy Review](#) as a pilot. This system is built to address the need for any Diamond initiative to highlight the value of their work and ensure that benefitting organizations are aware of it. Our vision is to upscale use of these facilities by onboarding a large family of existing Diamond journals, and by extension to effectively form a strong federation able to act synergetically as lobbying group for Diamond sustainability.

In terms of alignment with open science principles, SciPost has from the very beginning followed the Genuine Open Access principles, which can be viewed as a strengthening of the [Fair Open Access Principles](#). They signify community ownership, open infrastructure, copyright to authors, open access, open citations, fee free, non profit, open finances and academic editing. The same principles will of course be followed within this project. SciPost has also adopted the [Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure](#), which we naturally [implement and achieve](#) (except for the Sustainability one, which depends on our supporters).

Project plan

In-house Journals - For this pillar, our plan is to:

- upscale existing editorial administration and production facilities to cover an increased workflow volume;
- support the expansion of our existing [Colleges](#) through the recruitment and onboarding of new Fellows;
- expand the family of in-house journals offered in Chemistry and Astronomy (with among others Lecture Notes, Codebases, Proceedings, Reviews);
- once our activities in Chemistry and Astronomy are consolidated, support the formation of additional Editorial Colleges in other fields of academia with initial emphasis on the remaining natural sciences, computer science, engineering, social sciences and humanities;
- for each field with a newly-formed College, launch a portfolio of titles (adapted from the Physics template) including a field-wide flagship journal;
- as an overarching binder to the in-house Journals: activate [SciPost Selections](#), publishing extended abstracts of Editorial College-selected publications of outstanding quality from flagship titles in each field.

Hosted Journals - For the SciPost-hosted journals pillar, we plan to:

- enhance our onboarding protocols and documentation;
- actively support academic communities setting up new hosted venues;
- provide all needed editorial support, production and maintenance services to hosted journals.

Affiliate Journals - For this pillar, we will:

- produce a detailed how-to guide on how to join the scheme;
- improve and extend the existing information system, making it more visible and usable by diverse agents;
- widely publicize this system to university libraries and funding agencies and facilitate its use as a hub of information about Diamond publishing activities, expenditures and financial support;
- form a lobbying group for Diamond sustainability out of the community of affiliate journals.

Resources required (estimates)

Initiation of activities in any new academic field: 100k euros

Installation of SciPost Selections: 50k setup, and 30k per year for operations.

Per year expenditures: depending on usage volume - for 100 published works, we estimate 50k euros expenditures.