



Preparing institutions for the transition: consortial cost-sharing model in Austria

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Context



Austrian Academic Library Consortium

- ✓ 60+ institutions
- ✓ **Bottom-up** organisation
- ✓ **No central funding** for agreements



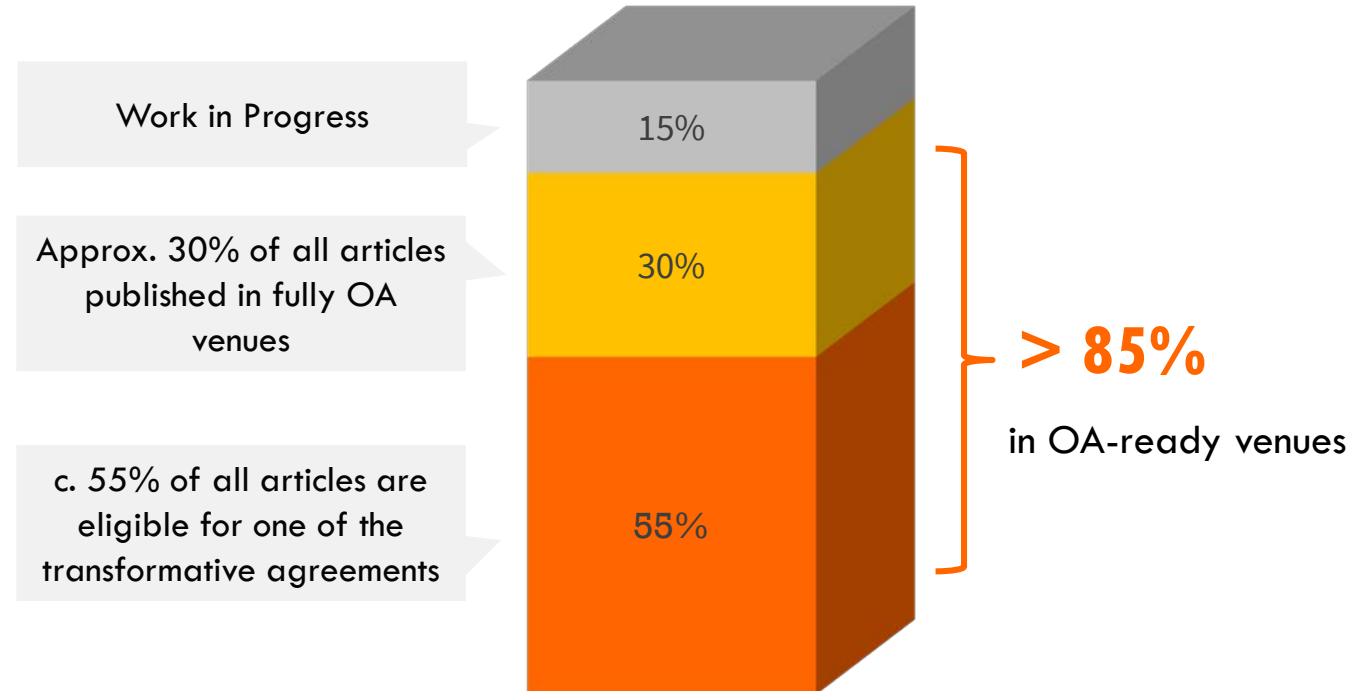
Open Access

- ✓ **2014**: 1st OA-publishing agreement
- ✓ Subscription-only consortium contracts converted to **OA deals** in a **cost-neutral** manner



Pricing – until 2019:

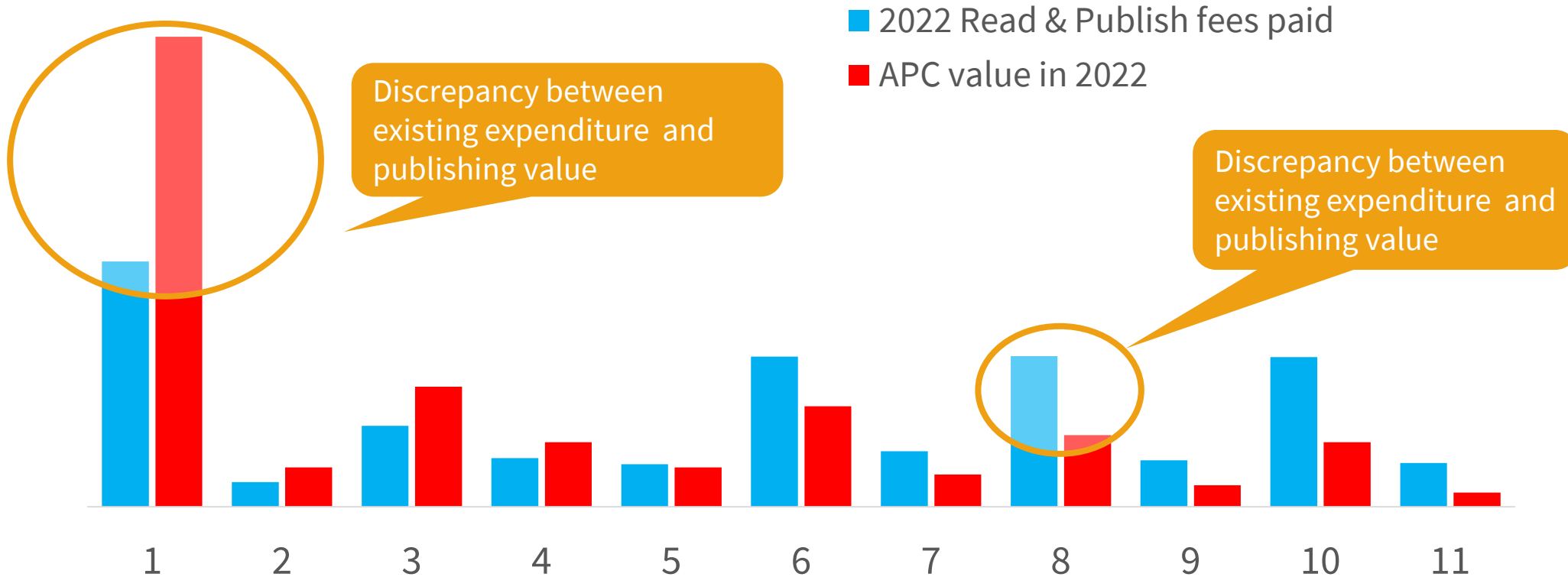
- Mostly **Read & Publish** Agreements
- **Lump sum** to publisher
- Based on **legacy spend**
- No internal cost-sharing mechanism



2021 Web of Science & Scopus data, research & review articles, with corresponding authors from a member institution, applying agreements from 2023

Why a new cost-sharing model?

Example: Read and Publish agreement with Publisher X, Institutions 1-11



Consortium-wide consultation & review

Making this financial move **in one go: too challenging** for institutions.

2019: first transformative cost-sharing model: „Tiering Model“

2022: further consultation and review

MODEL REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ a **gradual shift** towards publishing-based costs
- ✓ while **preserving a „reading“ element**
- ✓ has to be relatively **simple** and
- ✓ **transparent**
- ✓ **rational**

New model - parameters

based on Dr Nina Schönfelder's smooth transition model*



of publications by the institution



Publisher's OA share within its hybrid portfolio



Article Processing Charges



Existing (subscription) spend with publisher

1

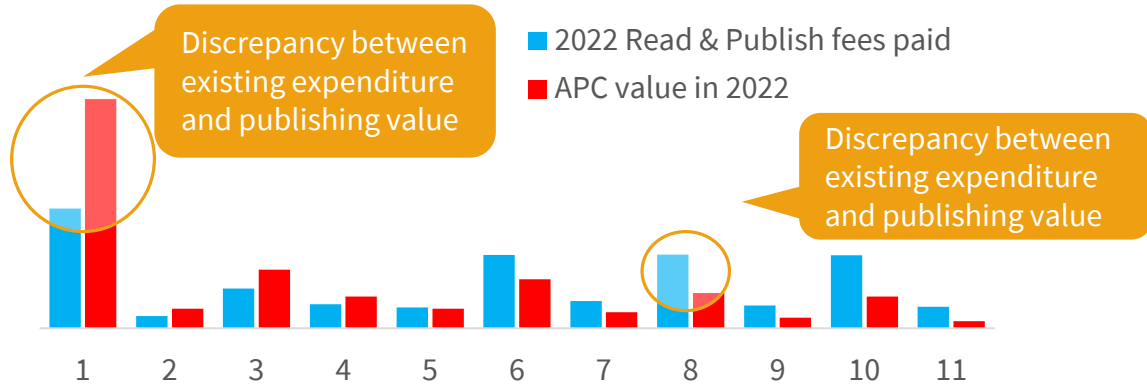
Starting point: institution's existing spend

2

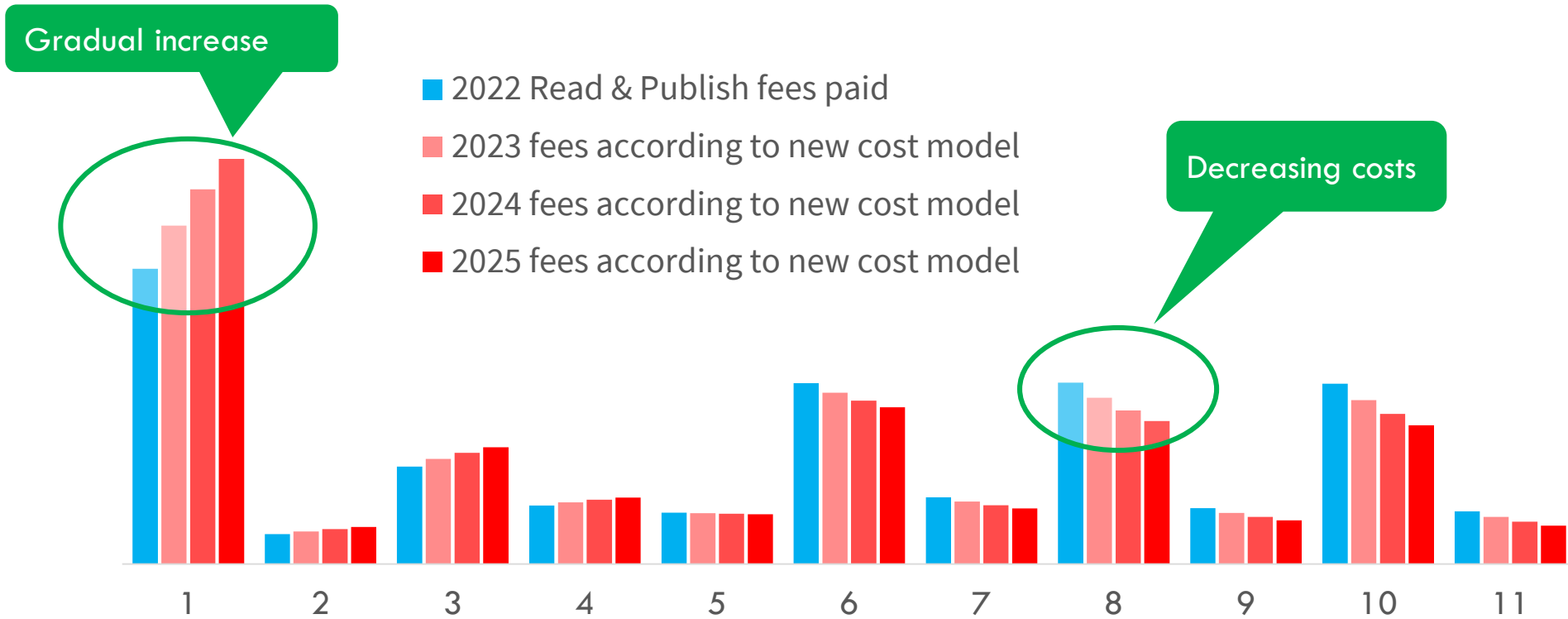
As publisher's OA-share grows, the publishing component of the fee becomes more prominent

BEFORE

Example: Read & Publish agreement with Publisher X, Institutions 1-11



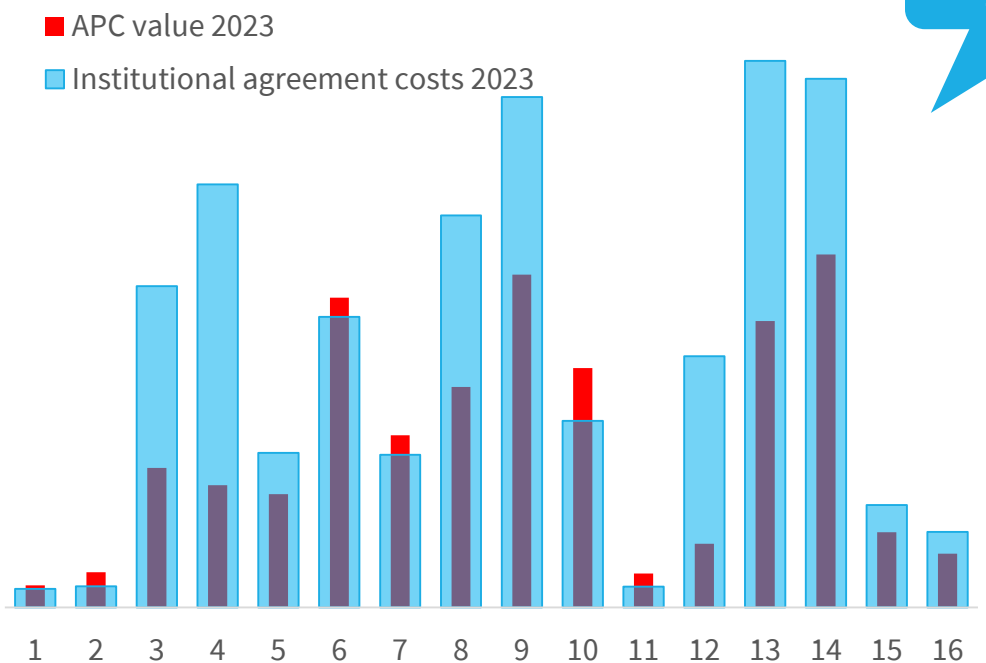
AFTER



- ✓ Still an annual **lump sum**
- ✓ **Predictable:** we set the fees for the duration of the agreement
- ✓ **Prepares institutions** for an article-based economy
- ✓ **Individual pricing** for each institution

Redistributing costs – beyond Austria

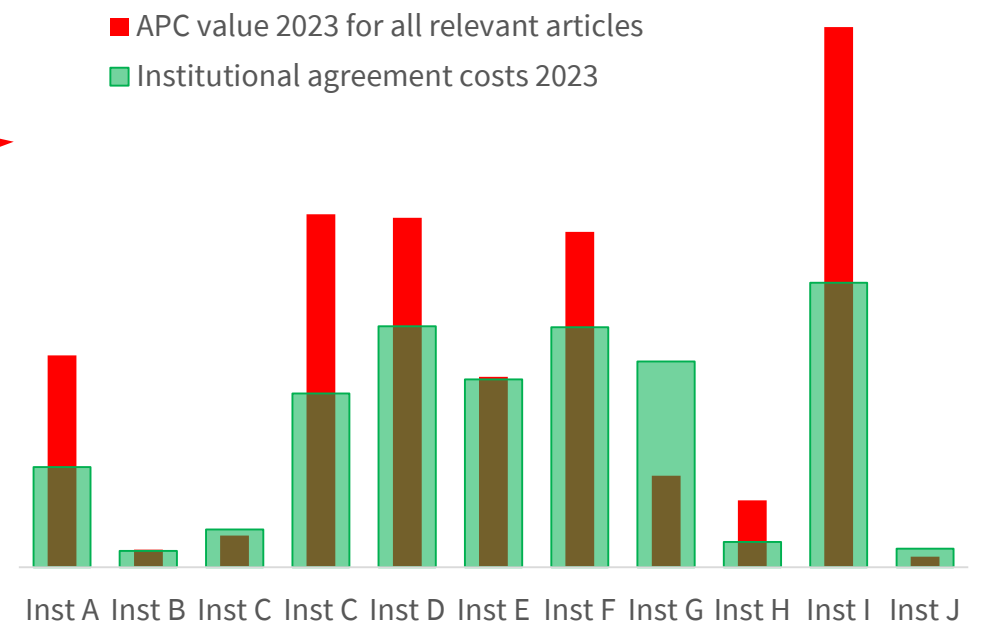
Agreement with publisher A



Too much money in the system

Additional funding required

Agreement with Publisher B



Need for the redistribution of costs on an international level



Unequal distribution on an **international level**



Countries with comparable GDP per capita should pay **comparable fees for comparable services**



Joint task for publishers + consortia / countries



- 1 Repurpose “surplus” in agreements where we “overpay” for agreements where we need additional fundig
- 2 Publishing in **fully OA journals**
- 3 **Building infrastructure** that removes author-facing charges

Thank you!

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