Transformative Agreements
The Italian Way
Summary

➢ CRUI-CARE: History, Structure, Mission
➢ The strategy of CRUI-CARE in Open Access negotiations
➢ The present of Transformative Agreements: achieved deals, negotiations in progress, future challenges
➢ The CRUI-CARE consortium approach: balanced partnerships, Sharing vs. Equity
CRUI and CARE

➢ CRUI is the Conference of the Rectors of the Italian Universities

➢ CARE was born in 2006 within the CRUI Library Commission

➢ CARE manages, controls and finalizes the negotiations for digital publishing contracts in the name and on behalf of Italian Universities and some public research bodies

➢ Essentially ALL Italian Universities are grouped under the CARE umbrella
CRUI and the OA Observatory

In 2020, the CRUI Libraries Commission set up the **Observatory on Open Science**. The Observatory:

- collects information about the changes going on in the market of scientific communication
- supports the roles of libraries in the Open Science environment.
- collects data on European and worldwide initiatives that promote Open Science and the present Open Science practices in Italian Universities and research bodies

In conjunction with the CARE Group, the Observatory also collects information on the cost of contract, APCs and other printing costs of both Italian Universities and single researchers.
Transformative Agreements

CRUI-CARE Meeting Open Access, May 21 2019

"We are living very intense days: we receive news on signed transformative agreements, broken up, failed, delayed negotiations. They all prove that many uncertainties are present and point out the need to work on a case-by-case basis. Each contract has its own peculiarities, environment, and no conditions can be transferred *tout court* from one case to another"
TA Strategy

Common strategy:

➢ Multiannual TA (3 – 4 – 5 years)
➢ Consortium Approach to both Subscriptions and APCs
➢ Compliant with standard public administration contracts

“Case-by-Case”:
➢ Subscription/APC balance
➢ APC management
➢ Contract evolution
Achieved Goals

- 7 negotiations under way: Oxford, IOP, AIP, APS, RSC, BMJ, Taylor&Francis (presently suspended)
- 2 negotiations of imminent start: IEEE, ASM
- 3 negotiations waiting for the end of the previous contract: Elsevier, Oxford, Nature
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**TA Monitoring – Achievements**

> OA articles **sky rocket** by orders of magnitude

> Thanks to TAs **Italian Open Access** is a reality
Some TA issues in Italy

➢ In some TAs, APCs are not “infinite”. **Extra-costs & University Budget**

➢ “Ghost funding”: APCs from TAs are used in place of specific, dedicated funds from research grants

➢ Multiple affiliations
The CRUI-CARE TA Management – Phase 1

➢ In the initial stages a pre-established distribution of open access publications among the institutions is not envisaged

✓ All institutions access APCs without limitations
✓ Non-unlimited open access publications

Sharing

Inequality
The CRUI-CARE TA Management – Phase 2

➢ A study of the progress of publications will verify the possible impact on individual costs, in two steps:
  ✓ Testing and monitoring of Universities behavior
  ✓ Corrections on individual spending

![Graph showing Inequality and Equality]
Conclusions

TAs are transformative under different perspectives:

➢ They transform the world of digital libraries from a pay to read to a pay to publish model

➢ They are different in terms of economical models, times of application, impact, thus producing a gradual (maybe long?) transformation of the digital publishing market

➢ The change from a “read more, pay more” model to a “publish more, pay more” model determines a transformation of the relation between partners, thus making life problematic, but very challenging and exciting for consortia