

# 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”:

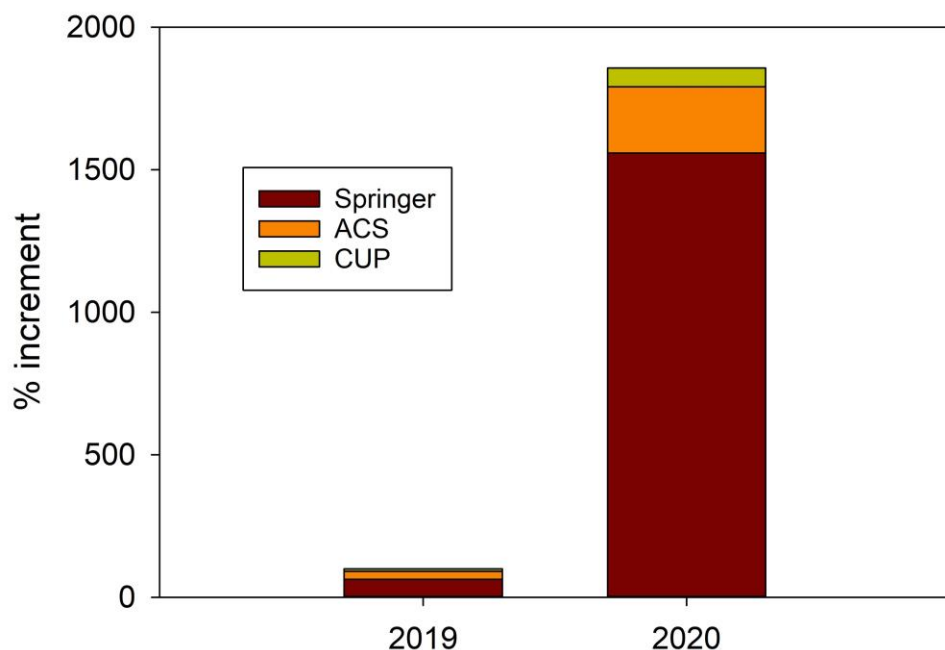
- **Subscription/APC balance**
- **APC management**
- **Contract evolution**

## Achieved Goals

- **7 operational agreements: Springer, Wiley, ACS, Emerald, Cambridge, De Gruyter, Lippincott, Annual Reviews** – about 8300 articles/year
- **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**

## TA Monitoring – Achievements

OA articles increment (Base: 2019=100)  
Springer+ACS+CUP



- OA articles **sky rocket** by orders of magnitude
- Thanks to TAs **Italian Open Access is a reality**



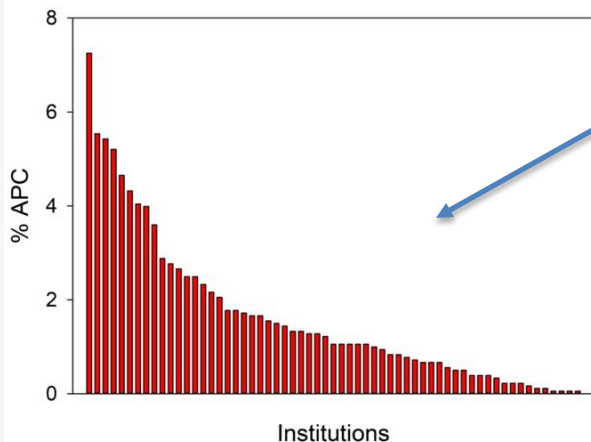
## Some TA issues in Italy

- 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

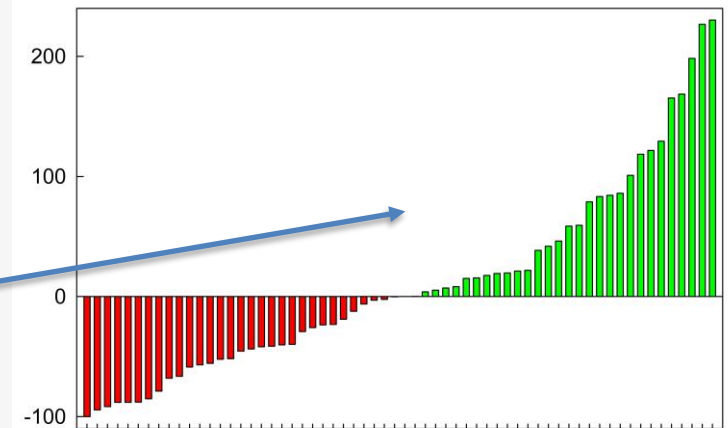
percentage APC used by Institutions



**Sharing**

**Inequality**

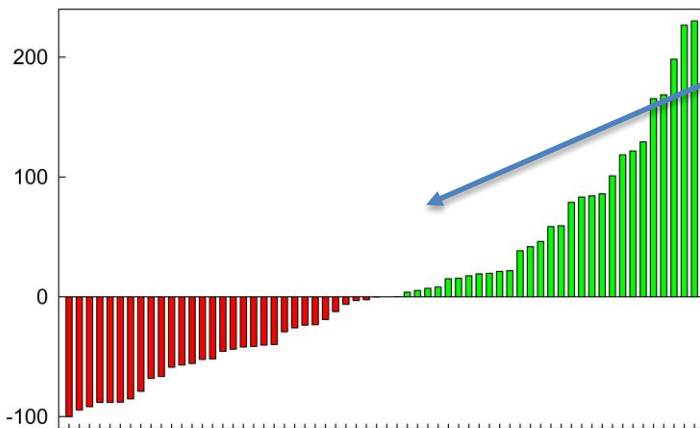
(Cost-Value)/Cost %



## 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

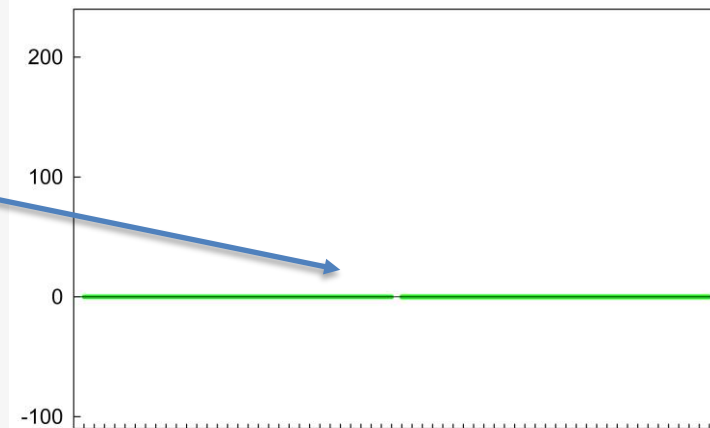
(Cost-Value)/Cost %



**Inequality**

**Equality**

(Cost-Value)/Cost %



# 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