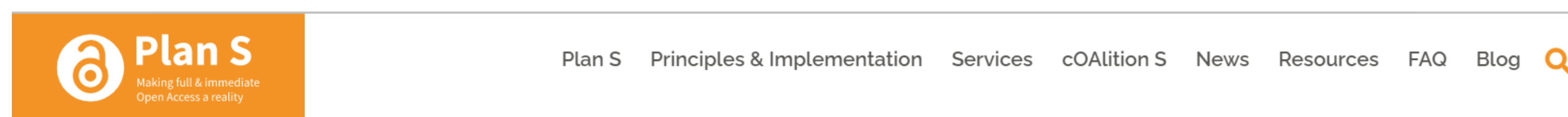


## BACKGROUND: PREPARATION OF THE 2022-2024 CONTRACTS NEGOTIATIONS

Until early 2021, FCT, the Portuguese national funder, had pursued a “green OA” policy, significantly hindered by the embargo periods imposed by most publishers.



### Portugal's national funding agency for science, research and technology joins cOAlition S

26/01/2021

In February 2021, FCT joined **cOAlition S**, bringing in a new paradigm for Open Access to Portuguese funded research.

This new reality also provided a new focus to b-on, the national consortium, shifting the negotiation goal to achieve **Transformative Agreements for the cycle 2022-2024**.

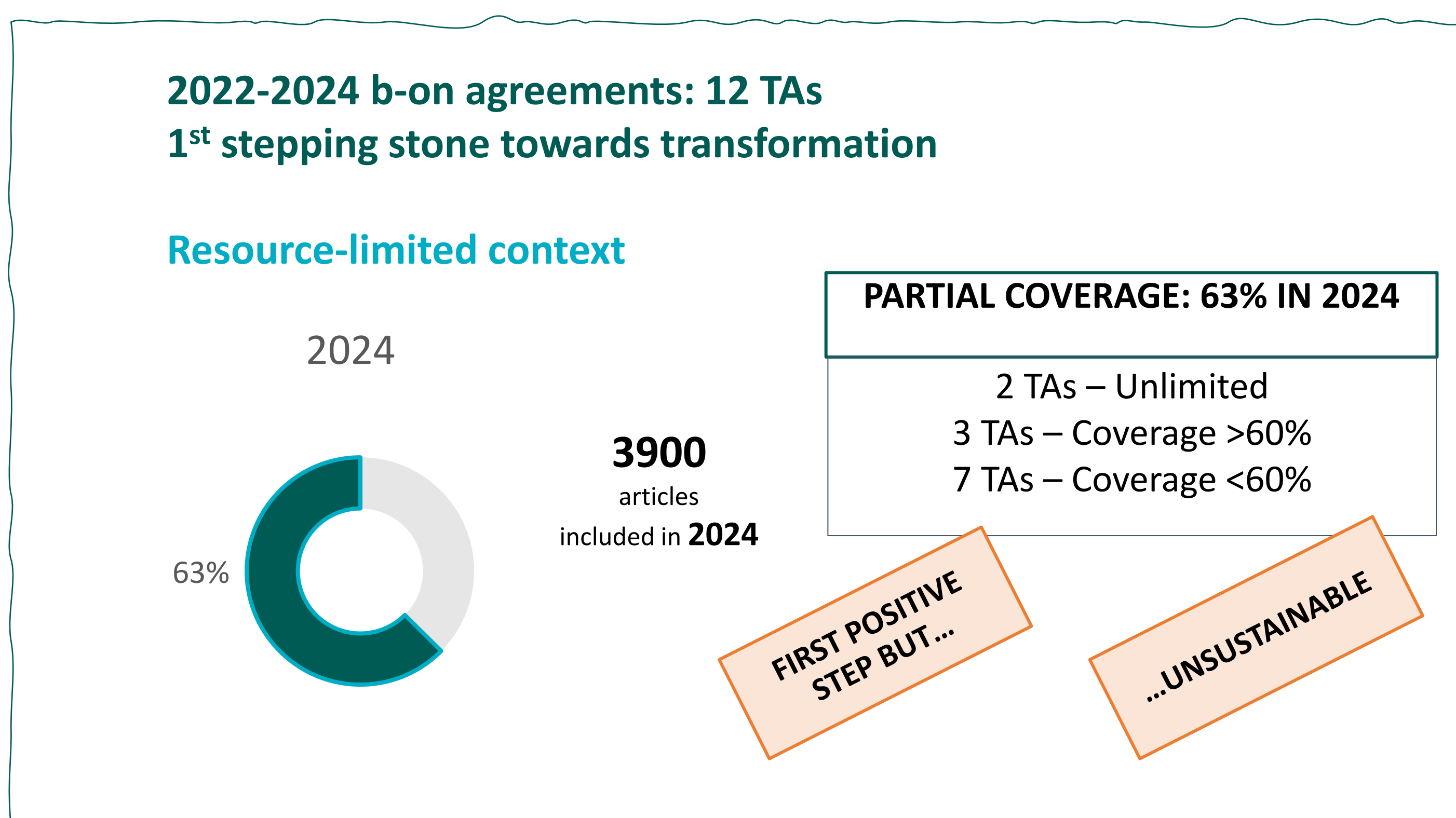
## THE RESULT: SUMMARY OF 2022-2024 B-ON AGREEMENTS

Throughout the negotiations of its first round of transformative agreements, **b-on** was faced with the high research output institutions paradox:

- limited funds (and historically substantiated);
- healthy publication pattern.

As a result, b-on was able to secure circa **60% coverage of the overall output** of its authors (in the 12 TAs negotiated).

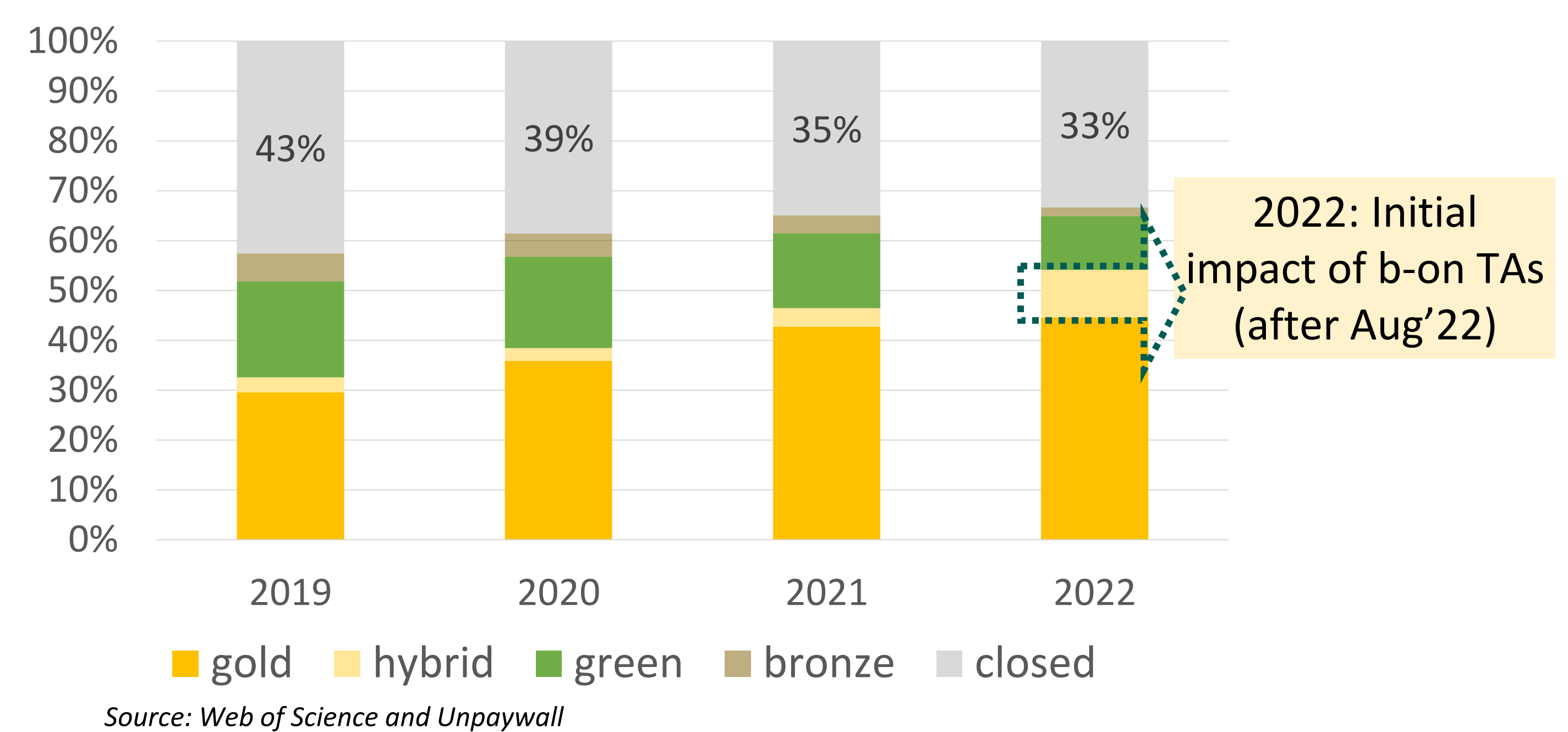
The 12 TAs represent 80% of the b-on output, *i.e.* in practice the **12 TAs cover around 50% of the publication needs**.



## EVOLUTION OF B-ON OUTPUT

B-on's own data (source: publishers and dashboards) indicates a **good uptake** by the community on the first year of the agreements, with a total of 2000 articles published OA in hybrid journals. This uptake corresponds to around 5 months of active agreements, due to belated procurement procedures.

## Publishing output - b-on



## THE GOLD SHARE

Analysis of the OA status trend of articles by b-on authors (source: WoS + Unpaywall), show a strong drive in the community towards **immediate Open Access**:

- In **2019**, **Gold** represented 30% of the b-on output, reaching **43% in 2021** (an **average annual growth of +37% in the volume of articles**).
- In **2022** the growth of the **Gold** share slowed down significantly (+3% in the volume of articles), reaching 45% of the overall output.

This slowdown possibly indicates that the Portuguese researcher community has reached capacity (in the ability to pay) and that **APCs constitute a barrier for further growth**.

## THE HYBRID SHARE

The **Hybrid share remained stable from 2019 to 2021 at 3-4%**. This may reflect a resistance to the higher APCs charged by hybrid journals, together with the Portuguese National Funder policy, which is to not support hybrid APCs.

In **2022**, the **Hybrid share jumped to 10%** reflecting the **usage of the b-on transformative agreements**.

## CONCLUSIONS

- ☀ There is a **strong interest** of the b-on community to publish in **immediate OA**.
- ☀ The recent drive towards **paid OA is reaching a plateau**, most likely due to **financial limitations**.
- ☀ Hybrid OA via **Transformative Agreements** helps complement the need of b-on researchers, but its **coverage will remain insufficient** over time due to **publishers' caps**.

## BEYOND 2024

The question now facing b-on is:

**How to continue to promote b-on author's work through immediate OA whilst maintaining financial sustainability?**

The goal of the next round of negotiations will have to **steer away from APC as "currency"** and move to **fairer and innovative approaches**.

Failing that, the focus should **shift towards new OA models such as diamond initiatives**.