

# FF Open Press : University of Zagreb Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences platform for OA books

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**Conference presentation / Izlaganje na skupu**

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# FF Open Press

University of Zagreb Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Platform for OA books (*<https://openbooks.ffzg.unizg.hr>*)

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Workshop: Innovative business models for open access book publishing in Europe, 7/4/2021





**AND NOW FOR SOMETHING  
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.**

# *FF Open Press* intro

- launched in 2019
- @Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (constituent of Uni Zagreb)
- collaboration of the FF Press (publishing department) and the Faculty Library
- FF Press was founded in 2002., it used to publish print-only books (≈30y: monographs, edited collections, conference proceedings, textbooks) and 10 OA journals
- using *PKP Open Monograph Press*

# Revenue – in context

- language of the publications:
  - mostly Croatian
  - English
  - other European languages (fr, it, es, hu, ru...)
  - some editions are bilingual
- limited readership!
- book publishing in Croatia (in general) is largely dependant on public subsidies and public purchases for libraries, by the Ministry of Science and Education and the Ministry of Culture

# Revenue – sources

- Selling print copies
  - Only textbooks can be commercially viable (not candidates for OA)
  - Edited volumes and conf. proceeding – small print runs, no author profits (perfect candidates for OA)
- Selling e-copies?
  - There never was a viable solution for selling e-books in Croatia
- System of public subsidies – not for OA books specifically!
  - Ministry of Science and Education (subsidies for scholarly books and journals)
  - Ministry of Culture
  - Croatian Academy, some local public funders...
- In-kind contributions (FF Press, the Library, editors)

# Revenue – OA books

- No public program of subsidies is dedicated to OA books specifically!
- Using open source free software
- In-kind contributions (library staff)
- OA editions as a supplement to print (pdf editions only)!
  - few books were published e-only, but the interest for that is slowly growing
- We need to think of additional revenue sources for e-only editions and more advanced functionalities!

# Governance and Personnel

- Publishing Council (6 members, approving yearly publishing plans)
- 6 subject editors (members of the Faculty)
- FF Press (5 permanent staff)
- Library staff (6 persons, part time, including IT support)

# Costs

- Costs are mostly tied to preparation and production of print books (some of those processes are outsourced):
  - Editing
  - Copyediting and proofreading
  - Translations
  - Design and typesetting
  - Printing and dissemination
- Costs related to OA editions (mostly covered by in-kind contributions)
  - Crossref membership (+ DOIs)
  - Preparation of online editions and metadata
  - Legal advice on copyright
  - IT support
  - Online dissemination

# Legal issues

- As much as possible – publishing under CC licences (currently: CC-BY-NC-ND)
- For authored monographs – copyright agreements with authors, signing to publish in OA, under CC licence
- For edited volumes
  - New volumes: author statements, CC-BY-NC-ND, copyright retention by authors
  - Older volumes: without CC licences, editor approvement, notice of copyright holders – authors (use of Rights Statements vocabulary - <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/>)

# Workflows

- Decision on OA option
  - Since 2021 – at the time of publishing plan approval (author's suggestions are generally approved)
  - Reasons for not choosing OA: copyright issues (translations, illustrations) or intentions to publish in English later
  - Possibility of embargo period (1-2 y)
- Dissemination & archiving
  - Own platform
  - Institutional repository
  - Croatian Web Archive (archival copy)
  - OA search engines (e.g. BASE)
  - DOAB (not up to date enough)
  - Google Scholar & Google Books (not yet)

# Future priorities

- More efficient dissemination
- Revising CC licence option
- Digitising older editions (in line with new Directive on Copyright and its provisions on out of commerce works)
- Revising platform choice (problem with chapter landing pages)

Questions?

Thank you!