



RI4C2
Research & Innovation
For Cities & Citizens



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Open Access Repository

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D4.7 Open Access Repository

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I. Introduction

This deliverable describes the implementation of a common Open Access repository for the EC2U Alliance. It outlines the rationale for choosing Zenodo as the platform, details the operational framework for managing the repository, and proposes additional measures to maximise its impact. The goal is to foster Open Science practices within the Alliance, enhance research visibility and collaboration, and ensure long-term preservation of research outputs.

II. The value of Open Access for EC2U Research

The EC2U Alliance, as a consortium of European universities, has a responsibility to promote Open Science principles. Open Access, in particular, aligns seamlessly with the Alliance's goals of fostering innovation, collaboration, and societal impact. By making research outputs freely available, EC2U researchers can:

- **Maximise research visibility:** Open Access increases the potential audience for research findings. Research published in Open Access journals is demonstrably cited more often, amplifying the global recognition of EC2U's academic contributions.
- **Facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration:** Open Access breaks down barriers between disciplines and institutions. When researchers across the EC2U network can easily access each other's work, new collaborations and cross-pollination of ideas are more likely to emerge.
- **Accelerate societal impact:** Open Access democratises knowledge. When research is readily available to policymakers, practitioners, and the general public, its potential to address societal challenges is vastly increased.
- **Ensure long-term preservation:** Digital repositories like Zenodo offer secure, long-term archiving of research outputs, ensuring that EC2U's scholarly contributions remain accessible.
- **Fulfil funder requirements:** Many research funders, including the European Commission, now mandate Open Access for funded projects. Adopting Open Access practices ensures compliance with these requirements.

III. Why Zenodo was chosen as the common repository

After a careful evaluation of various repository options, Zenodo emerged as the ideal platform for the EC2U Alliance due to a combination of factors:

- **Open Science ethos:** Zenodo is not simply a repository; it is a platform built on the principles of Open Science. Its commitment to free access, open data, and transparent research processes resonates with EC2U's values.
- **Technical robustness:** Zenodo's architecture is designed for reliability and scalability. It can handle large volumes of diverse research outputs and ensure their long-term preservation.
- **Community-building features:** Zenodo's community creation and management tools are suited for the EC2U Alliance's structure. Each EC2U Virtual Institute can have its own dedicated tag within the larger EC2U community, allowing the retrieval of the research published on a specific topic (see Figure1).

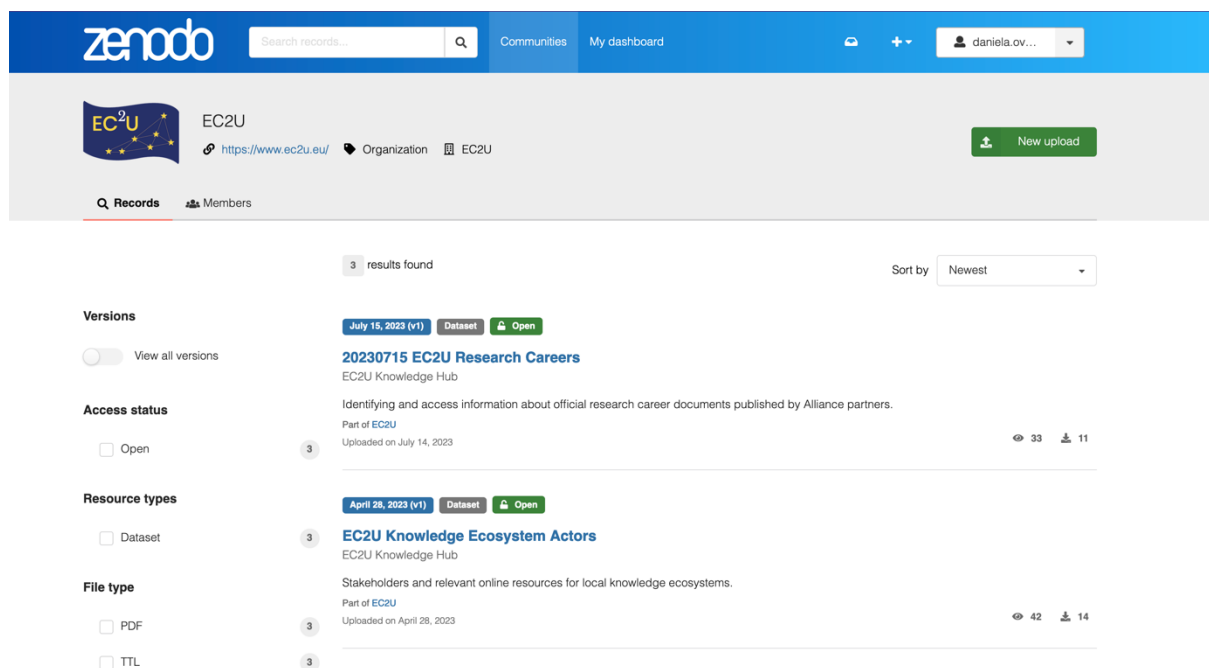


Figure 1: The EC2U Community on Zenodo

- **Integration and interoperability:** Zenodo works seamlessly with many existing research tools and platforms, minimising disruption to researchers' workflows.
- **Comprehensive support for research outputs:** Zenodo can accommodate a wide array of research outputs, from traditional journal articles and conference papers to datasets, software code, presentations, and multimedia. It generates a DOI, allowing to univocally identify not only the peer-reviewed literature but also the grey literature, including the RI4C2 and EC2U deliverables.

IV. Operational framework: detailed breakdown

To ensure the success of the Zenodo repository, a well-defined operational framework will be implemented:

- **Repository governance:** An EC2U Repository Group will be established during the consolidation phase of the EC2U Alliance, including at least one representative from each university and from the project coordination team. This committee will oversee the repository's overall operation, set policies, and address any issues that arise.
- **Repository managers (at university level):** Each university will appoint a Repository Manager. They will act as liaisons between their institution and the EC2U repository, providing support to researchers, ensuring timely deposits, and managing metadata.
- **Virtual Institute Coordinators:** Each Virtual Institute coordinator will ensure the feeding of the Zenodo subcommunity. They will curate content, foster community engagement, and promote their subcommunity's research outputs.
- **Researcher workflow:**
 - **Account creation and enrolment:** Clear instructions and support will be provided to all EC2U researchers on creating Zenodo accounts, joining the main EC2U community, and tagging the relevant Virtual Institute when uploading related contents. The Community management of the EC2U environment will be supported by the EC2U consolidation phase WP3 (Digital infrastructure, led by the University of Pavia).
 - **Deposit process:** Zenodo's user-friendly interface makes depositing research outputs straightforward. Researchers will be guided through the process, including metadata creation and licensing options by the already existing instructions available on [Zenodo](#). The decision about the level of dissemination of the content (public/restricted) will be left in the hands of the Zenodo managers on a case-by-case basis.
 - **Tagging process:** In order to be able to retrieve the scientific production of the Virtual Institutes within the EC2U community, a tagging system will be put in place. Each title will include the acronym of the related Virtual Institute. Example: [VIQE] Quality education development in the EC2U Alliance.

- **Versioning and updates:** Zenodo supports version control, allowing researchers to update their deposits as their work evolves.

V. Additional considerations for maximising the repository's impact

To ensure the widespread adoption and active use of Zenodo, the EC2U Alliance will implement a range of complementary initiatives as a legacy from the RI4C2 project:

- **Incentives for researchers:** The EC2U consolidation phase WP3 will include the management of the Open Access Repository in its current activities as a legacy of the RI4C2 project and will discuss with the Alliance Governance and the Virtual Institutes' coordinators a system of incentives to encourage researchers to deposit their work in the repository. This could include recognition in annual reports, highlighting impactful publications in the EC2U official communication plan, etc.
- **Data management planning:** A promotional activity will be conducted to integrate Zenodo into data management planning processes at each university and to ensure that researchers are aware of the opportunity to deposit relevant data and publications in the repository.
- **Open Science training:** the use and management of the Open Access repository will be part of the regular training sessions and workshops for researchers and staff on the use of the Alliance digital platforms. It will include a description of the benefits of Open Access, the features of Zenodo, and best practices for depositing and managing research outputs. The EC2U Zenodo repository is accessible through the EC2U tool page on the Alliance's [website](#) and through the Researchers' digital platform (a draft of this forthcoming deliverable of the EC2U consolidation phase is available [online](#)). Both digital infrastructures will be fully integrated in the new website the Alliance is developing.
- **Integration with Research Information Systems (CRIS):** As a legacy of the RI4C2 project, the EC2U Consolidation phase WP3 (Digital infrastructure) will explore the feasibility of integrating Zenodo with university CRIS to streamline the deposit process and automate metadata transfer.
- **Collaboration with libraries:** A copy of this deliverable will be distributed to the university libraries to make them aware of the EC2U community on Zenodo and to invite them to offer Zenodo support services, such as metadata creation assistance, copyright guidance, and preservation planning.

VI. Annex: Expanded instructions for joining the EC2U Zenodo Community

- **Go to Zenodo:** Visit the [Zenodo website](#)
- **Create an account:** Click "Sign Up" and create a free account using your institutional email address.
- **Join the main EC2U Community:**
 - In the top menu, click "Communities."
 - Search for "EC2U."
 - Click on the EC2U community and then click "Join."
 - Wait for approval from the community manager.



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