

KARMEN ŠTULAR SOTOŠEK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COSEC SLOVENIA

Karmen Štular Sotošek, EIFL's Country Coordinator in Slovenia, has been managing COSEC, EIFL's partner library consortium, for almost 20 years.

COSEC, which works within the framework of the National and University Library of Slovenia, has three overall goals: to save public money; to provide digital content for its network of 46 university, faculty, research and regional libraries, and to create a sustainable ecosystem for open access publishing.

"EIFL has played an important role in helping us to achieve our goals," says Karmen.

Karmen is part of the COSEC team that negotiates agreements with publishers for affordable licensed access to scholarly e-resources for member institutions. "We base our agreements on the EIFL model," says Karmen.

In 2022 COSEC negotiated agreements for access to 66 e-resources for universities, 22 for special research organizations and eight for public libraries. These e-resources include scholarly journals, databases and e-books.

"Savings in public money have been substantial. We estimate that on average, we are saving more than 50% in subscription fees," says Karmen.

In the context of Slovenia's open science policies and guided by EIFL's principles for negotiations, COSEC also enters into Read & Publish (R&P) agreements with publishers. These provide access to scholarly journals while at the same time allowing authors to publish articles in open access without having to pay Article Processing Charges (APCs). In 2022, COSEC had six R&P agreements providing authors with the opportunity to publish for free in 4,637 e-journals, resulting in a significant increase in the number of open access articles in hybrid journals.

"Thanks to these agreements, authors published 119 articles in open access in hybrid journals of these six publishers in 2022, compared with just 13 in 2019 before the R&P agreements."



Photo by Maj Blatnik (NUK)

"Read & Publish agreements are helping authors and institutions gradually to tip the balance of publishing output to open access, by making the publishing process easier and more financially viable."

– KARMEN ŠTULAR SOTOŠEK