

How Can We Get Beyond the Transformative Agreements: A Swedish Perspective

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In the middle of the transformation...

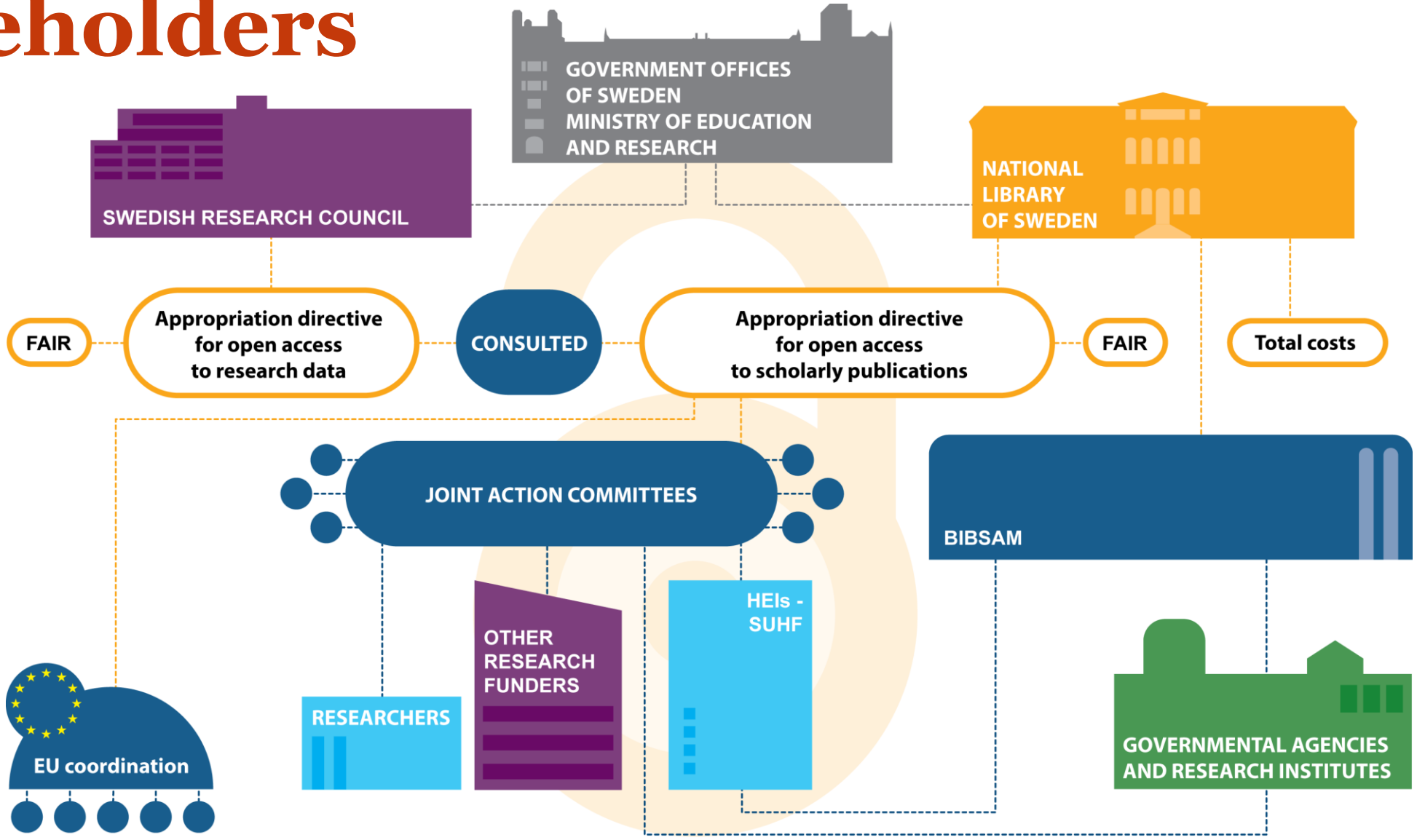
UNESCO

EU

Gouvernement

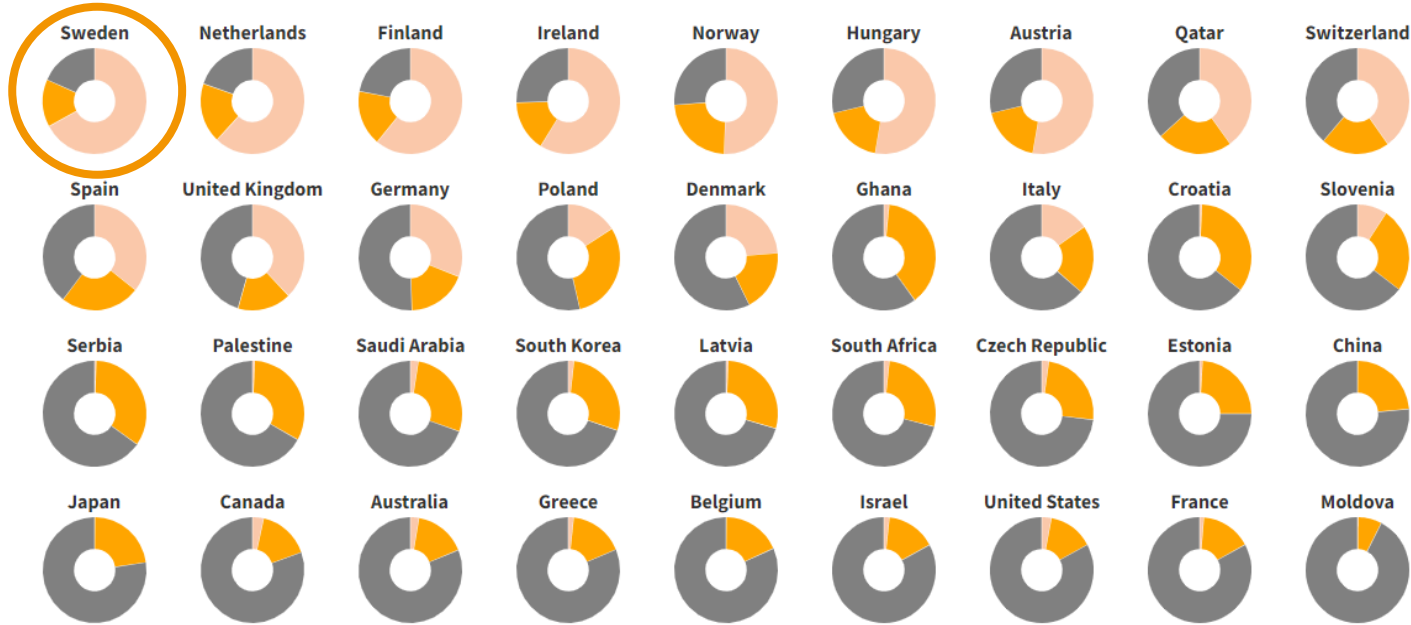


Swedish OA Landscape – Key Stakeholders



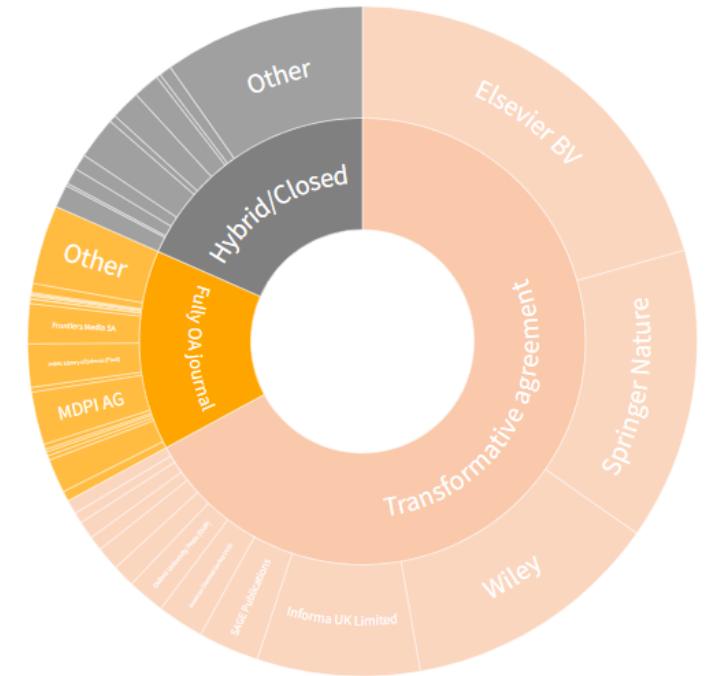
Sweden – international comparison

■ Transformative agreement
 ■ Fully OA journal
 ■ Hybrid/Closed



Source: <https://github.com/subugoe/oa2020cadata/>, ESAC Transformative Agreement Registry
Last updated: 11-01-2022

Sweden



• A Flourish chart



<https://esac-initiative.org/market-watch/>

Will there be any transformation?

- Very few publishers want to change their business models
- Many publishers start new journals behind the pay wall
- Business models built on print spend and APC-spend
- APC prices increase
- No transparency about what we are paying for
- Is the APC-model sustainable for the future?

How can we get a transformation

- International discussions and cooperation
- Cooperation with all stakeholders in the countries
- Don't just invest in transformative agreements
- Try to change the system to bring in competition and innovation
- Investigate and build alternative publishing routes
- RRS strategies
- Put pressure on the publishers to be transparent about their cost models
- Be ready to walk away from the negotiation table
- Take the ownership of the publishing system back to the academia
- It is the researchers behavior that can change the system
- If we don't act there will be no transformation
- Policy and implementation

Beyond the Transformative Agreements

- Aim

To work out a strategy for the consortia when negotiating new agreements after 2024. The strategy will be mandated from the management of the universities.

The group will also investigate alternative publishing routs and give suggestions on such.

- Time frame

From Mars 2021 till December 2023.

- Membership

University management, researchers, funders and negotiators



Recommendations – SUHF

- Recommendation from **the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions** regarding charting Sweden's path beyond the transformative agreements:
- that it is crucial that control over scholarly publishing remain within the academic community, but also that the **costs of publishing decrease**.
- that the Bibsam Consortium **should not primarily enter into agreements for reading and publishing in so-called hybrid journals** (i.e., it should not continue to sign transformative agreements). It should instead only negotiate agreements for publishing in open access journals. This approach should be implemented from 2026 and apply to all open journals, regardless of the publisher.
- that an aim should be to manage costs for academic reading and publishing at the national level as much as possible, in **collaboration between higher education institutions, funders, and the National Library of Sweden**, that is, within the framework of the Bibsam Consortium



The Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions - 38 universities and university colleges.

Supporting strategic initiatives/measures

- Agreements with publishers that exclusively publish open access journals should be developed.
- Provide an independent publishing platform that also includes peer review of published articles. One possible route could be to join the EU platform, Open Research Europe (ORE).
- The possibilities for migrating researcher-owned journals from traditional publishers to other platforms should be expanded and encouraged.
- Continuing work on copyright issues for open access is important but dependent on international developments in the copyright field, mainly within the EU.



Council conclusions– EU

- *High-quality, transparent, open, trustworthy and equitable scholarly publishing*
- Calls for **immediate and unrestricted open access** in publishing research involving public funds
- The **costs of paywalls to access** and publish articles are becoming **unsustainable**
- Calls on the member states to **support** policies towards a scholarly publishing model that is **not-for-profit**, open access and multi-format, with **no costs for authors or readers**
- Encourage member states to support the pilot programme **Open Research Europe** to create a large-scale open access research publishing service



Council of the European Union, Brussels 23rd May 2023

National guidelines – Swedish government

- On behalf of the **Swedish government**, the National Library of Sweden (Kungliga biblioteket, KB) has developed national guidelines for open science.
- Goals and priorities for open science in Sweden, divided into six areas:
 - Open access to scholarly publications
 - Open access to research data
 - Open research methods
 - Open educational resources
 - Public engagement in science
 - Infrastructures supporting open science
- Provides support and guidance to actors in Sweden, mainly research performing and research funding organisations.
- Aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.



Swedish government

Action plan – Bibsam Consortium

- The aim is to facilitate the open publication of scholarly results, to bring about a redirection of payment streams from a subscription-based to an open access publishing system and to achieve transparency, an overview of and reduced expenses for scholarly publishing.
- that the Consortium **should not sign agreements for reading and publishing in so-called hybrid journals**, and instead only negotiate for publication in open access journals; this approach should be implemented from 2026 and apply to all open journals, regardless of publisher
- that **new pathways to open publishing are promoted** and supported and alternative business models are developed, and that researcher-driven journals that want to migrate from traditional publishers to other platforms are supported
- that publication occurs under an **open license**, in accordance with the **FAIR principles**, and that copyright conditions to promote open access, for example via so-called **secondary publication rights**, are explored



Bibsam Consortium - The National Library of Sweden negotiates licence agreements on behalf of Swedish universities, university colleges, as well as public agencies and research institutes. 95 institutions are a part of the Bibsam Consortium.



Negotiation with Elsevier: Shared objectives

1. Piloting an agreement beyond a transformative agreement

Both parties agree to **move beyond** the current “transformative” agreement, to an agreement that is based on the services provided by the agreement (publishing, reading, platform), in particular publishing as a service.

2. Transparency

Both parties agree to work together to present information that explains **how prices are set for services**, and that helps the academic community make informed decisions.

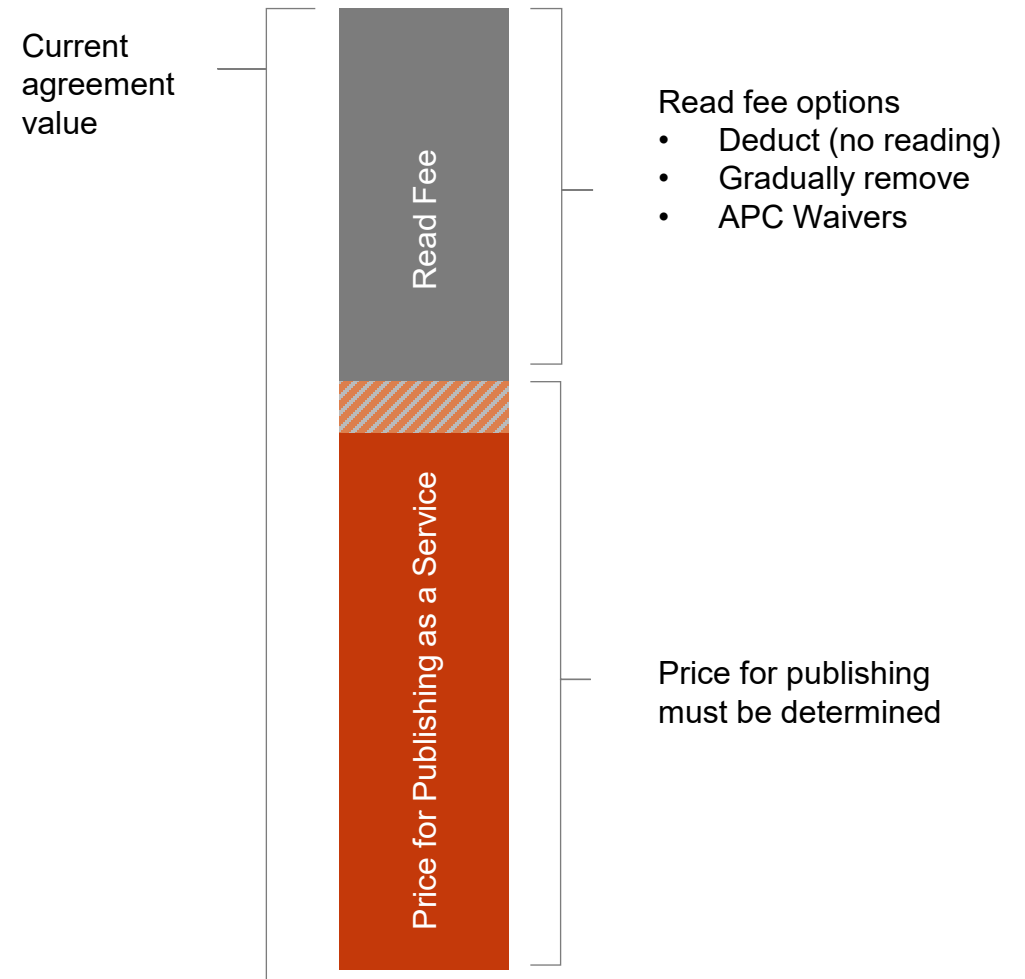
3. Sustainable Pricing

Both parties agree to negotiate with the aim to reach an equitable agreement before year end that will **reflect the value exchanged** when it comes to services granted by this agreement.



Brainstorming session

- Publish as a Service
 - Publishing Only
 - Post transformative model
- Transition to Publish
 - Publish as a Service – new baseline
 - Softer move into a publishing model
- Global Equity Model
 - Status Quo
 - Difference uses as “waivers”



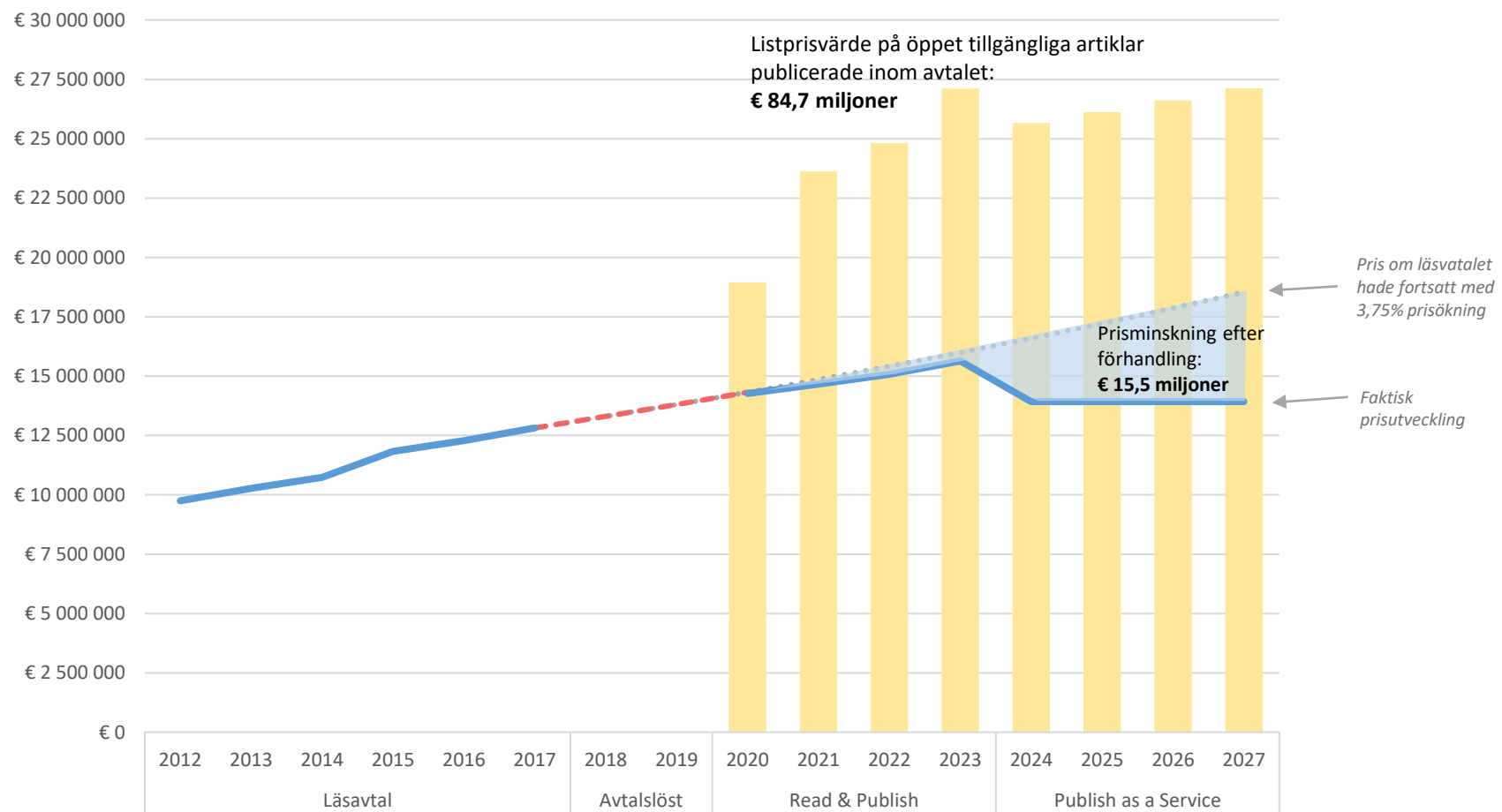
The result

- Four years **(2024-2027)**
- Remained content – **reading fee phased out to zero** 2027
 - ScienceDirect Complete Freedom Collection
 - Unlimited publishing
 - Core Hybrid Journals
 - Gold Open Access Journals (incl. OA journals from *Cell Press* and *The Lancet*)
 - Unlimited reading in *ScienceDirect Complete Freedom Collection*
 - Cell Press (add-on)
 - 100 OA articles plus unlimited reading
- **Total price down 11 procent for 2024**, remain on the same level 2025-2027
- Yearly fee: **approx. 14 m€**



Picture generated with DALL-E in ChatGPT

Elsevier tidskriftsavtal Prisutveckling Bibsam 2012-2027



Future work

- Continue to negotiate for “Publishing as a service” with other publishers
- Invest some of the money saved from deductions in alternative publishing models
- Start a nod for Diamond publishing in Sweden
- Engage in the discussion with the Commission on the future of ORE
- We can get beyond the transformation if we work together

Thank You!
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