Collaboration for sustainable open access publishing in Africa

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Diamond Open Access publishing in Africa is supported by African institutions and facilitated by continental publishing platforms, such as African Journals Online (AJOL). It is now discussed in the context of institutional and national open science policy developments aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

However, there are many challenges to its sustainability and quality:
- constant pressure of looking for funding to cover editorial, management, production and dissemination costs
- struggling to reconcile quality requirements and researchers’ wish to publish within reasonably short timelines;
- inability to provide sufficient compensation, incentives and motivations for editorial work and peer review
- infrastructure and network issues.

To address these challenges EIFL, AJOL and WACREN, with support from Wellcome, are launching a three-year project in November 2023 to empower African diamond OA community and offer funding and cost-efficient, open, public, shared infrastructures, while maintaining diversity of publishing.

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