

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUE OF RCAAP

Launched in 2008, RCAAP is Portugal's national repositories network aggregating and sharing scientific content from institutions across all fields

Free and global access to **full-text documents and metadata**, with minimal restrictions (e.g. embargoes)



Users mainly from Portugal (96%) and Portuguese-speaking countries

Free institutional repository hosting service with flexible customisation and integration options



Users typically from **academia and other higher education institutions (88%)**

Extra support for institutions: **from journal & data hosting, to usage statistics, and training services**



Broad use across **scientific disciplines**

MAXIMISING VALUE THROUGH OPEN SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE

Net gain: Benefits are higher than costs

RCAAP operates on a collaborative model, relying on staff contributions from participating institutions (85% of total resources).

Average annual costs (2006–2026):
€200,000

Benefits come from shared hosting infrastructure, pooled expert resources, and reduced duplication of efforts

Average annual benefits (2006–2026):
€285,000

ENHANCING ACCESS TO PORTUGUESE RESEARCH



Participating institutions grew from **14 to 121 since 2008**



Over **1 million documents** available



Access to **over 40% of Portuguese academic research**



Portal **usage has tripled** since 2008



Supported by **strong, regularly updated legal and policy frameworks**



RCAAP advances multiple SDGs by offering free access to scientific knowledge, with the greatest impact on **SDG 4, quality education and lifelong learning**, serving students as key users

IMPACT ON USERS IF RCAAP DID NOT EXIST

20% could not have carried out their work

39% would have faced reduced research quality

59% would not have used a paid alternative

Without RCAAP, fragmentation would likely have increased, significantly limiting the development of Institutional Repositories in Portugal



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101058728.

Powered by

Open Science | PathOS project | Horizon Europe

Factsheet prepared by the consortium partner CSIL



Pathos
pathos-project.eu

