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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).

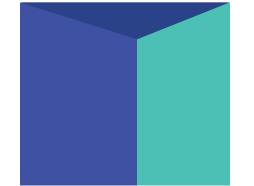
Average annual costs (2006–2026): **€200,000**

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

would not have used a paid alternative 59%

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











Horizon Europe