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Guidelines for communication, dissemination, scientific publication and exploitation in Pillar 2

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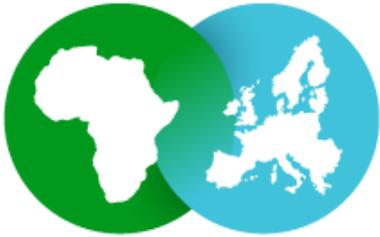
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Summary

D3.1 aims at providing Pillar 2 with a solid scientific dissemination strategy, able to identify and formulate proposals for scientific and open-access publications, special issues on international peer-reviewed journals or books or e-books, this document provides first an overview of the actual publishing practices currently adopted by Pillar 2 partners. Secondly it provides a set of detailed guidelines for publishing research outputs in international peer-reviewed journals, open/special issues or by editing books or e-books and/or attending international conferences. This D3.1 will serve as an input to WP4 and will support the identification of guidelines for Pillar 1 research and innovation projects.

Approval

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LEAP-RE

Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research
and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy

WP3

Pillar 2 Scientific Coordination

Deliverable D3.1

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Table of Content

1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION IN PILLAR 2	4
2.1. AFFILIATION OF PILLAR 2 MEMBERS WITH ORCID	5
2.2. ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES DATABASES	6
2.3. PRESENCE OF PILLAR 2 RESEARCH IN PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES DATABASES	7
2.4. PUBLICATION IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS	8
2.5. PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP	9
2.6. ATTENDANCE TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES	11
2.7. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ORGANIZATION BOARD MEMBERSHIP	11
3. MEASURING A JOURNAL IMPACT	13
3.1. CITESCORE METRICS	13
3.2. SCIMAGO JOURNAL RANK (SJR)	13
3.3. JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR (JIF)	13
3.4. H-INDEX	14
3.5. ARTICLE LEVEL METRICS	14
4. JOURNAL PUBLICATION GUIDELINES	14
4.1. FIND A JOURNAL	14
4.2. PREPARE YOUR PAPER FOR SUBMISSION	15
4.3. PAPER STRUCTURE	16
4.4. SUBMIT AND REVISE	18
4.5. OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION	18
5. SPECIAL ISSUES GUIDELINES	18
5.1. PREPARING A PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL ISSUE	19
5.2. PROPOSERS	19
5.3. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL	19
5.4. SELECTION OF PAPERS AND DECISION PROCESS	19
5.5. HOW TO PROMOTE/PUBLICIZE THE SPECIAL ISSUE BEFORE AND AFTER PUBLICATION	20
5.6. HOW REACH OUT PROSPECTIVE AUTHORS	20
5.7. SELECTION OF REVIEWERS	20
5.8. PUBLICATION PROCESS	21
6. PARTICIPATION TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES	21
6.1. PRESENCE OF PILLAR 2 IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES	21
6.2. HOW TO PARTICIPATE TO A CONFERENCE	24
7. E-BOOK PUBLICATION GUIDELINES	24
7.1. SPRINGER LECTURE NOTES IN ENERGY	24
7.2. SPRINGER RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT	25
7.3. SPRINGERBRIEFS IN APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY	25
7.4. SPRINGER BRIEFS IN ENERGY	26
8. FINAL TAKEAWAYS	26

Acronyms

ALM	Article level metrics
OA	Open Access
GA	Grant Agreement
MS	Milestone
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
O&F	Organizational & Funding
tbd	to be determined
WP	Work Package
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
UNIFI	Università degli Studi di Firenze
POLIMI	Politecnico di Milano
CNR	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
BRGM	Bureau de Recherches Geologiques et Minieres
UNIPI	Università di Pisa
MU	Moi University
LNEG	Laboratorio Nacional de Energia e Geologia I.P.
NARSS	National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences
UCT	University of Cape Town
SEPCO	Scientific and Engineering Power Consultants Limited
2iE	Fondation 2ie Association
TNO	Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek TNO
UU	Universiteit Utrecht
UBO	Université de Bretagne Occidentale
UNZA	University of Zambia
RLI	Reiner Lemoine Institut Ggmbh
ISDK	Institut Superieur Dale Kietzman
CNRS	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

1. Introduction

To provide Pillar 2 with a solid scientific dissemination strategy, able to identify and formulate proposals for scientific and open-access publications, special issues on international peer-reviewed journals or books or e-books, this document provides first an overview of the actual publishing practices currently adopted by Pillar 2 partners. Secondly it provides a set of detailed guidelines for publishing research outputs in international peer-reviewed journals, open/special issues or by editing books or e-books and/or attending international conferences

2. Overview of Current Scientific Dissemination in Pillar 2

To tailor the **Scientific Dissemination Guidelines for Pillar 2**, an in-depth analysis of the current scientific dissemination and publication practices among Pillar 2 partners was carried out.

The data utilized in this deliverable were collected by means of a **questionnaire spread among all staff members of each partner institutions within Pillar 2** (WPs from 9 to 16). The dissemination was performed at the end of M9 and data were collected and analyzed in M12.

To better understand the results, various classifications and aggregations were introduced:

- Geography. Responses were grouped in 'Africa' or 'Europe'.
- Institution type. Four categories, based on the responses, were used:
 - Research
 - 'University',
 - 'Research center',
 - Non-Research
 - 'Private player',
 - 'Public other than university and research centre'.

These classes are intended to simplify the analysis, increasing the coherence among results, which are reported below. Results are provided long with the respective question.

"Do you have an ORCID?" – This question is meant for understanding the presence of Pillar 2 community in the peer-community of researchers.

"Which of the following citation databases of peer-reviewed publications do you have free access to, via your institution?" – This question is meant for assessing the international databases, both subscription-based or free, the partners in Pillar 2 have access to

"Which of the following citation databases of peer-reviewed publications are your past publications available at?" – This question is meant for understanding the means used by the researchers within Pillar 2 to disseminate and publish their research

"Have you published in any international peer-reviewed journals?" – This question is meant for investigating the positioning of the researchers in Pillar 2 on the global market of research

"Are you a member of the Editorial Board of any international peer-reviewed journals?" – This question allows to grasp the recognition of the researchers in Pillar 2 within the international community and identify the more relevant journals for potential special issues focus on Pillar2 WPs.

“In the last five years, have you attended to any international scientific conferences?” – This question allows to map the conferences the themes of the Pillar are related to.

“Are you or have you been a member of the Organizational Board of any international scientific conferences?” – This question allows to identify the network of conferences in which Pillar members are involved, opening the possibilities to organize workshops and dedicated events.

2.1. Affiliation of Pillar 2 Members with ORCID

ORCID is a non-profit organization that provides researchers with a unique digital identifier. These identifiers can be used by editors, funding agencies, publishers, and institutions to reliably identify individuals in the same way that ISBNs and DOIs identify books and articles. Thus, the risk of confusing your identity with another researcher with the same name is eliminated. The ORCID website provides researchers with a page where your comprehensive research outputs can be stored.

Around two thirds of respondents, as shown in Fig. 1, declare to be in possession of an ORCID. As expected, results change sensibly considering the ‘Research’ or the ‘Not research’ category. The shift in the trend can be appreciated by looking at Fig. 2.

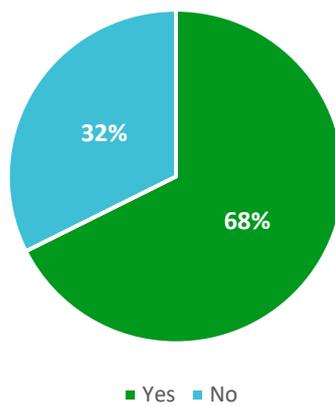


Fig. 1 ORCID possession



Fig. 2 ORCID possession in Research (left) and Non-Research (right) institutions

2.2. Access to international peer-reviewed articles databases

In this case as well two contrasting trends can be appreciated by looking at ‘Research’ and ‘Non-Research’ organizations, as it can be seen in Fig.3. For the second group, most members declares not to have free access, while this share is only 10% for universities and research centers.

Limiting the analysis to ‘Research’ institutions, the most accessed database is Elsevier-Science direct.

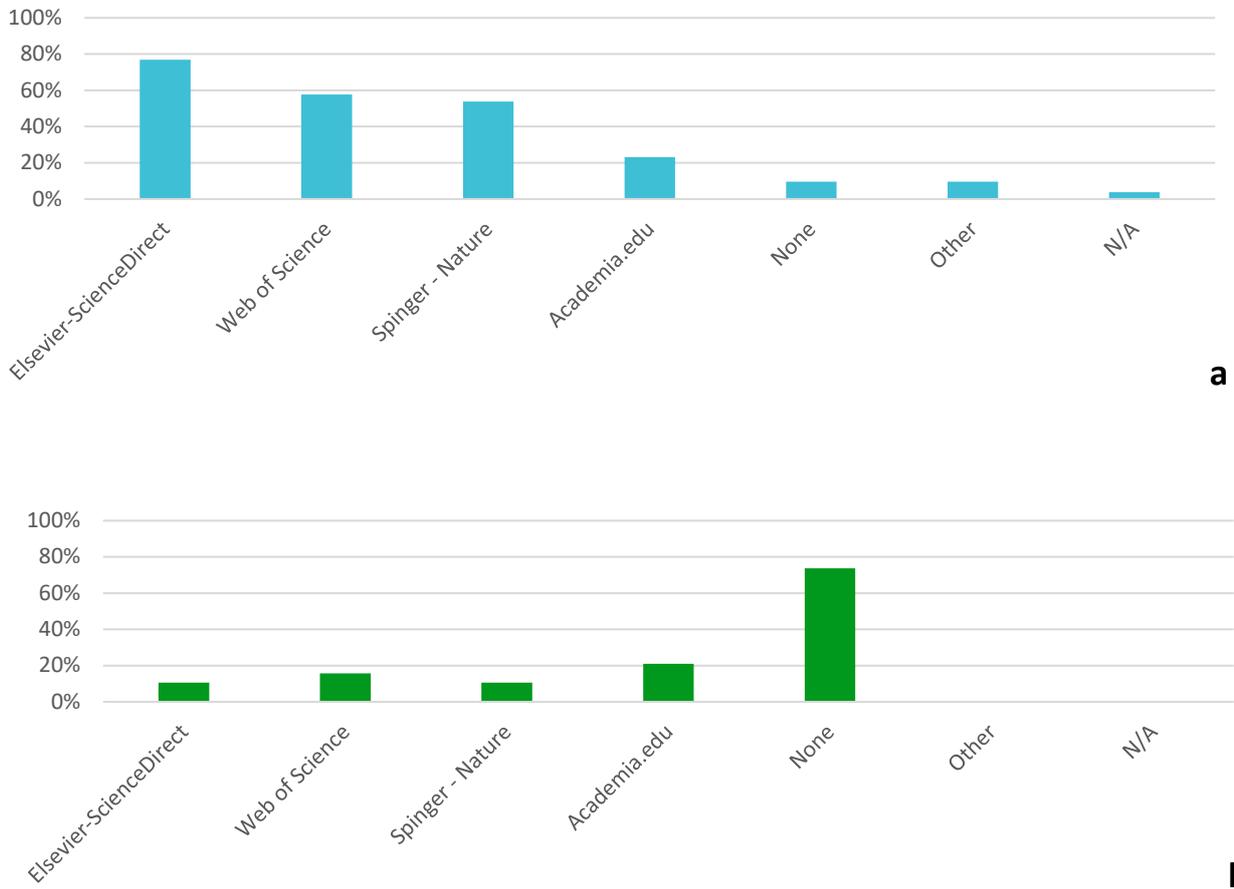


Fig. 3 Access to citation database in Research (a) and Non-Research (b) institutions

A difference is clear also comparing European and African research institutions, as it can be seen in Fig.4. Overall, it is possible to state that a lower number of respondents working in African institutions declares to have free access to citation databases with respect to Europe. Elsevier-Science direct remains the most utilized platform in both cases.

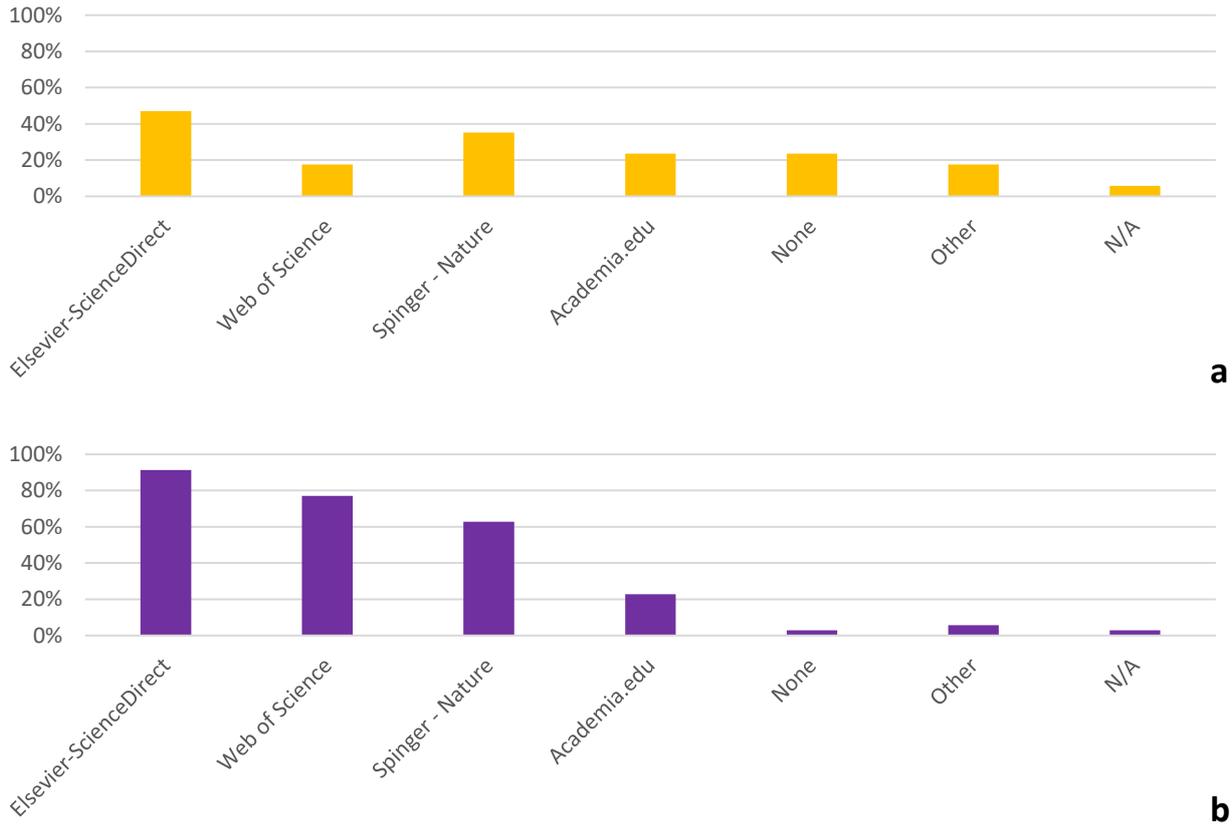
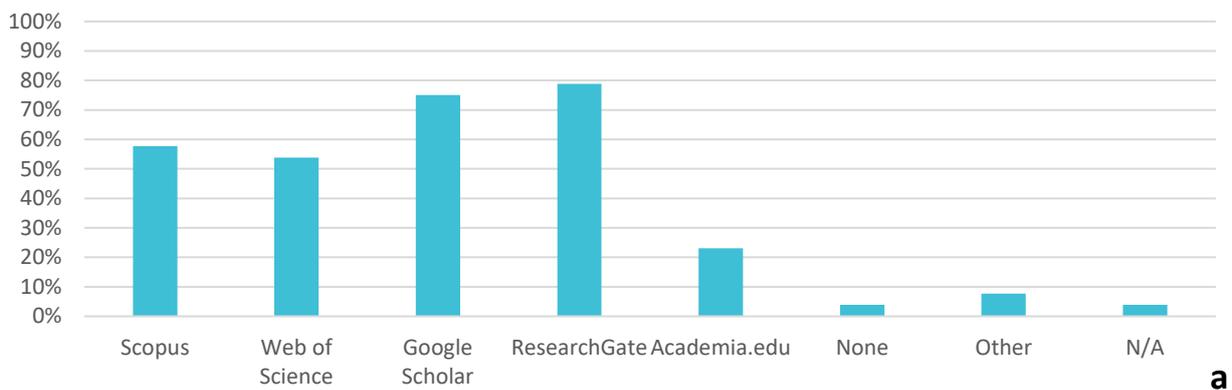


Fig. 4 Access to citation database in African Research institutions (a) and European Research institutions (b)

2.3. Presence of Pillar 2 research in peer-reviewed articles databases

The trends regarding publications availability presents relevant similarity to the previous ones. Universities and research centers present a good distribution of platforms, while in the ‘Non-Research’ category there is a dominance of ‘none’ (Fig.5). Looking only at Research institutions, most African and European publications seem to be available on non-peer-reviewed platforms such as Google Scholar and ResearchGate, presenting similar percentages between the two regions. On the other hand, different trends emerge for peer-reviewed platforms, notably for Scopus and Web of Science (Fig. 6): while for Europe the results are comparable to that of non-peer-reviewed databases, for Africa the share is sensibly lower.



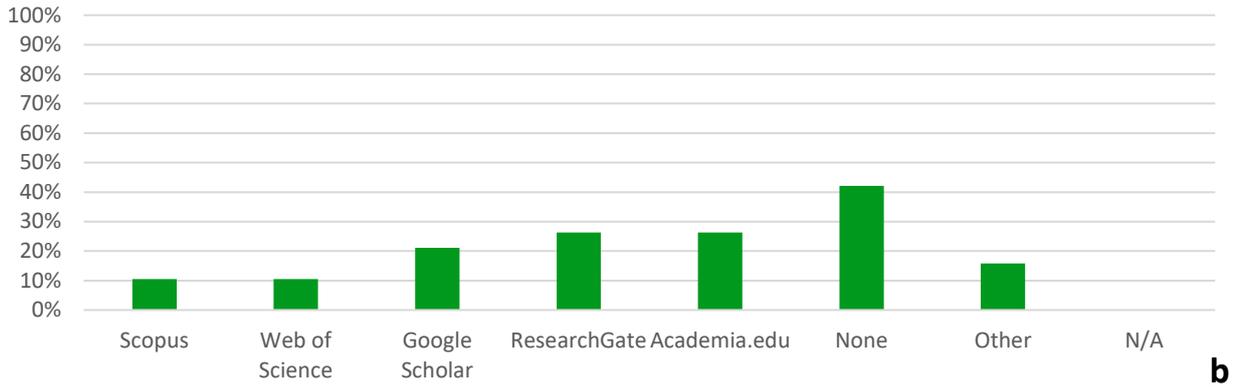


Fig. 5 Papers availability in citation database in Research (a) and Non-Research (b) institutions

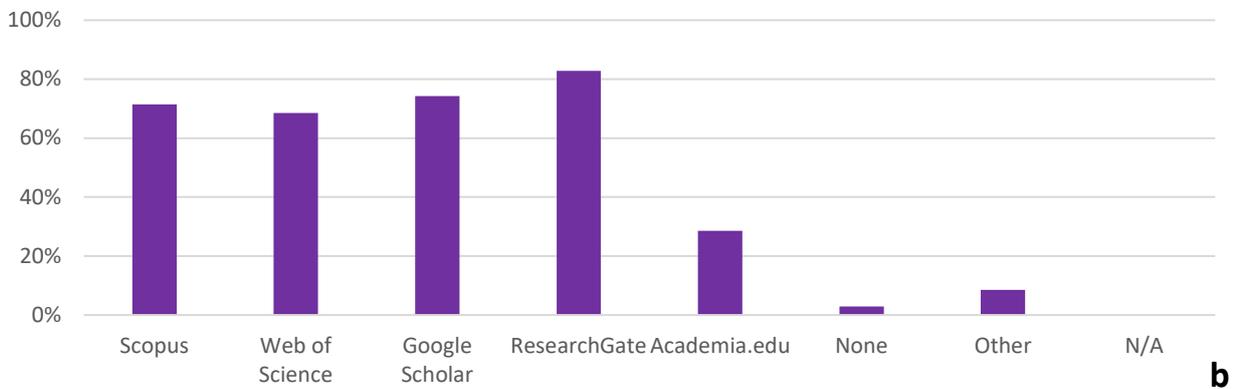
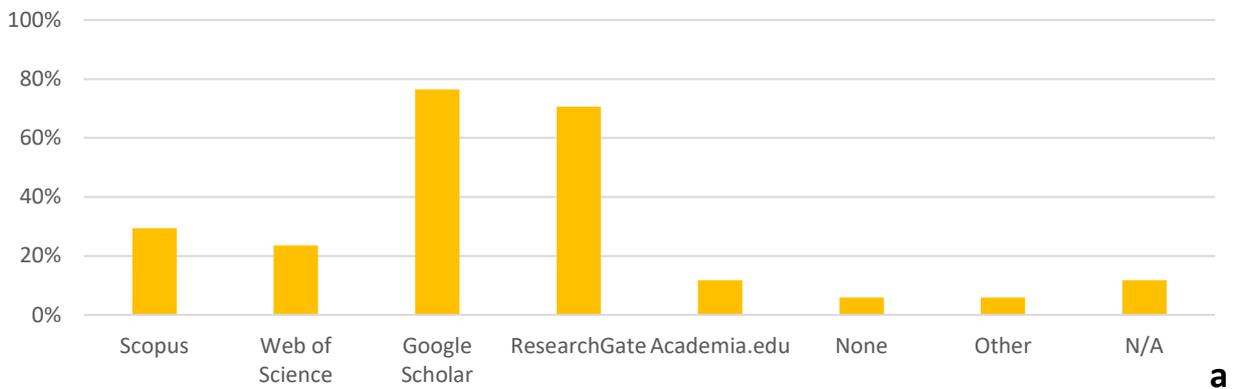


Fig. 6 Papers availability in citation database in African Research institutions (a) and European Research institutions (b)

2.4. Publication in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Data displays, as shown in Fig.7, that around three-quarters of the participants have published on peer-reviewed international journals. However, there is a huge distinction (Fig.8) between research and not research institutions, with a predominance of publications among research organizations.

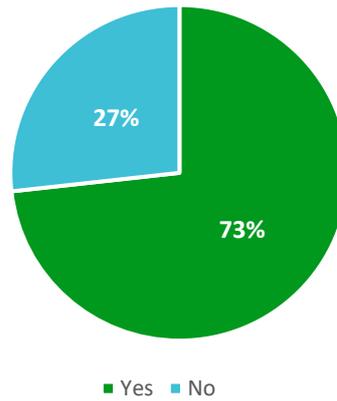


Fig. 7 Publication on international peer-reviewed journals



Fig. 8 Publication on international peer-reviewed journals in Research (left) and Non-Research (right) institutions

While if considering only Research institutions, there is no significant difference between Africa and Europe.

2.5. Peer-reviewed journals editorial board membership

Fig. 10 shows that a low but still appreciable number of participants declares to be part of an international editorial board.

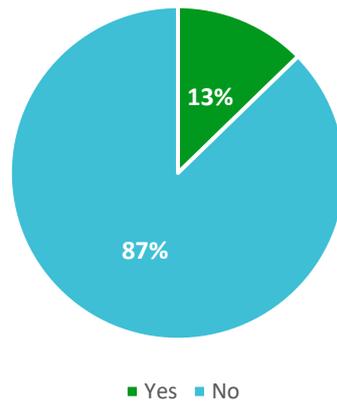


Fig. 10 Editorial board memberships

The list of editorial boards is reported in Tab.1. The journals websites and the institutions to which the respondents belong are also reported. These journals could be the ideal starting points for the scientific dissemination strategy.

TAB.1 EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Journal	Website	Institution
Climatic Change	https://www.springer.com/journal/10584	IIASA
Energies	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/energies	UNIFI
Energy Strategy Reviews	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/energy-strategy-reviews	POLIMI
Geosciences	https://www.springer.com/journal/12303	CNR
Geothermal Energy	https://geothermal-energy-journal.springeropen.com/	BRGM
International Journal of Electrical Power & Energy Systems	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/international-journal-of-electrical-power-and-energy-systems	UNIPI
Journal of Fluids Engineering	https://asmedigitalcollection.asme.org/fluidsengineering	POLIMI
Journal of Water and Health	https://iwaponline.com/jwh/	MU
Remote Sensing	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/remotesensing	CNR
Renewable and Sustainable Energy Transition	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/renewable-and-sustainable-energy-transition	POLIMI
Tectonophysics	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/tectonophysics	CNR

2.6. Attendance to international conferences

Looking at conference attendance, 85% of the respondents answered positively (Fig.11). However, a trend between ‘Research’ and ‘Non-Research’ group is evident. In Fig. 12 for ‘Research’ category, the share of conference attendance is very high, up to 90%. On the other hand, for ‘Non-Research’ the percentage is below 70%.

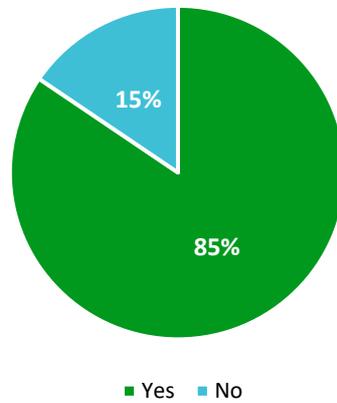


Fig. 11 International scientific conferences participation in the last 5 years



Fig. 12 International scientific conferences participation in the last 5 years in Research (left) and Non-Research (right) institutions

2.7. International conferences organization board membership

Around 30% of the questionnaire participants is or have been part of an organizational board, as visible in Fig. 13.

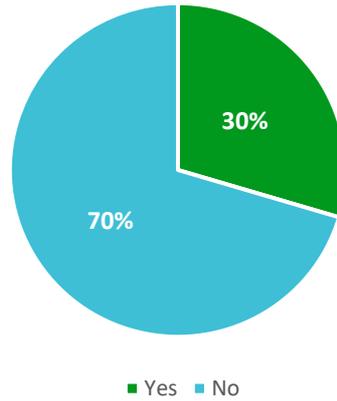


Fig. 19 Organizational board membership

In Tab.3 the list of conferences organized by LEAP-RE members is reported. These conferences could be as crucial as the Editorial Board memberships in designing the dissemination strategy.

TAB.3 ORGANISATIONAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Conference	Recurrency	Institution
<i>African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) Conference</i>	annual	NARSS
<i>Adaptation Futures - 2018, Cape Town, South Africa</i>	every 2 years	UCT
<i>African Rift Geothermal Conference - 2020, Nairobi, Kenya</i>	every 2 years	SEPCO
<i>Domestic use of Energy conference - 2018, Cape Town, South Africa</i>	no	UCT
<i>European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ECEEE) Summer Study – 2021, online</i>	annual	Next Energy Consumer
<i>European Geothermal Congress - 2022, Berlin, Germany</i>	every 3 years	TNO
<i>GeoMod - 2021, Utrecht, Netherlands</i>	every 2 years	UU
<i>Electromagnetic Induction in the Earth Workshop</i>	every 2 years	UBO
<i>IEEE PES PowerAfrica Conference - 2016, Livingstone, Zambia</i>	annual	UNZA
<i>International Conference on Thermochronology (THERMO) - 2014, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, France</i>	every 2 years (from 2021 on)	CNRS

3. Measuring a Journal Impact

The academic and scientific dissemination of research mainly takes place through publication of research articles in International Peer-Reviewed Journals. Different publishers and a huge variety of different journals are present in the market. To compare the impact that a given research might have if published in one journal compared to another, a set of Journal Impact Metrics has been developed.

In the main webpage of each journal, most - if not all - of the listed metrics are reported.

3.1. CiteScore Metrics

CiteScore metrics are a suite of indicators calculated from data in Scopus, the world's leading abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature. In any given year, the CiteScore of a journal is the number of citations, received in that year and previous 3 years, for documents published in the journal during that period (four years), divided by the total number of published documents (articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters, and data papers) in the journal during the same four-year period.

CiteScore is calculated for the current year monthly until it is fixed as a permanent value in May of the following year, permitting a real-time view on how the metric builds as citations accrue. Once fixed, the other CiteScore metrics are also computed and contextualise this score with rankings and other indicators to allow comparison.

3.2. SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)

The SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) indicator is a measure of the scientific influence of scholarly journals that accounts for both the number of citations received by a journal and the importance or prestige of the journals where the citations come from. A journal's SJR is a numeric value indicating the average number of weighted citations received during a selected year per document published in that journal during the previous three years. Higher SJR values indicate greater journal prestige.

The SJR indicator computation is carried out using an iterative algorithm that distributes prestige values among the journals until a steady-state solution is reached. The SJR algorithm begins by setting an identical amount of prestige to each journal, then using an iterative procedure, this prestige is redistributed in a process where journals transfer their achieved prestige to each other through citations. The process ends up when the difference between journal prestige values in consecutive iterations do not reach a minimum threshold value anymore. The process is developed in two phases, (a) the computation of Prestige SJR (PSJR) for each journal: a size-dependent measure that reflects the whole journal prestige, and (b) the normalization of this measure to achieve a size-independent measure of prestige, the SJR indicator.

3.3. Journal Impact Factor (JIF)

The impact factor (IF) or journal impact factor (JIF) of an academic journal is a scientometric index calculated by Clarivate that reflects the yearly mean number of citations of articles published in the

last two years in a given journal, as indexed by Clarivate's Web of Science. As a journal-level metric, it is frequently used as a proxy for the relative importance of a journal within its field; journals with higher impact factor values are given status of being more important, or carry more prestige in their respective fields, than those with lower values. While frequently used by universities and funding bodies to decide on promotion and research proposals, it has recently come under attack for distorting good scientific practices.

In any given year, the two-year journal impact factor is the ratio between the number of citations received in that year for publications in that journal that were published in the two preceding years and the total number of "citable items" published in that journal during the two preceding years.

3.4. *h-index*

Although originally conceived as an author-level metric, the h-index (and some of its numerous variants) have come to be applied to higher-order aggregations of research publications, including journals. A composite of productivity and citation impact, h-index is defined as the greatest number of publications h for which the count of lifetime citations is greater than or equal to h . Being bound at the upper limit only by total productivity, h-index favors older and more productive authors and journals. As h-index can only ever rise, it is also insensitive to recent changes in performance. Finally, the ease of increasing h-index does not scale linearly: an author with an h-index of 2 needs only publish a 3rd paper and have all three of them cited at least 3 times to rise to an h-index of 3; an author with an h-index of 44 must publish a 45th paper and have it and all the other attain 45 citations each before progressing to an h-index of 45.

3.5. *Article Level Metrics*

Article-level metrics (ALMs) is a tool used by multiple publishers. ALMs refer to a whole range of measures that can provide insights into the "impact" or "reach" of an individual article. Whereas the well-known Impact Factor measures citations at the journal level, ALMs aim to measure the research impact of an article in a transparent and comprehensive manner. They not only look at citations and usage but also include article coverage and discussions in the social web. For example, Springer in partnership with Altmetric can provide detailed statistics on each article's coverage and discussions in the media and on blogs; any bookmarking, ratings and discussions via bibliographic tools and sites such as Papers, Mendeley and ResearchGate; and social media sharing via platforms like Twitter or Facebook.

4. Journal Publication Guidelines

As main out-reach activity of LEAP-RE Pillar 2, it is envisaged the publication of 24 high level peer-reviewed journal articles. In this framework this section aims to give advice to Pillar 2 partners on how to identify the most suitable journal for their research and which steps to follow for delivering publication.

4.1. *Find a Journal*

Find out the journals to target before starting to edit the paper could be the best way to tailor the work on a specific audience, optimizing the research and the editing process. It is a good habit to

match the manuscript to the journal aim and to check the following parameters before starting writing:

- Read the journal's aims and scope to make sure it is a match
- Check if the journal provides a peer-review service
- Check if the journal has already published papers like the one you are preparing
- Check whether you can submit – some journals are invitation only or a publication charge could be asked
- Understand the impact of a journal looking at its reputation in your field. It could be useful to control the likelihood of the journal to be read and cited by researchers in your field
- Check the journal timeliness if fast publication is needed
- If available, check the journal at Journal Insights for additional info about impact, speed, and reach
- Control if a native English speaker check is needed for papers written in English

Some platforms have specific tools or programs to help in journal selection. They help in finding the right journal starting from the manuscript abstract, description of your research or a text sample. Like:

- 1 Springer Nature [Journal Suggester](#)
- 2 Elsevier [Journal Finder](#)
- 3 Wiley [Journal Finder beta](#)

You can refine the results based on requirements for Impact Factor or publishing model, including an option to match to journals that are fully open access or have open access options. Otherwise, if you're a postdoc you can check out Elsevier postdoc free access program to ease the publication process.

4.2. Prepare your paper for submission

Identify the paper type:

- Original Research Articles are original, high-quality, and high-impact papers presenting novel research findings.
- Review Articles are comprehensive overviews of relevant research in a specific area or topic that has experienced significant development or progress in recent years. Reviews should include a critical presentation of the state-of-the-art and are expected to extend well beyond summarizing the literature by discussing underpinning principles or concepts; presenting issues, approaches, or methods; current research gaps, challenges, and opportunities; and potential future developments in the field, amongst other. Review Articles are not expected to contain unpublished material.
- Short Communications are aimed at the rapid dissemination of recent research, and are more focused than Original Research Articles, without the completeness expected of a full-length research paper.

Download get published quick guide, which outlines the essential steps in preparing a paper. It is very important that you stick to the specific "guide for authors" of the journal to which you are submitting. This can be found on the journal's home page. You can find information about the publishing process in the understanding the publishing process guide. It covers topics such as authors' rights, ethics and plagiarism, and journal and article metrics. If you have research data to share, make sure you read

the guide for authors to find out which options the journal offers to share research data with your article.

Guidelines:

- Use an external editing service if you need assistance with language
- Free e-learning modules on preparing your manuscript can be found on Researcher Academy
- The originality of the paper needs to be stated clearly. It is of importance to have sufficient results to justify the novelty of a high-quality journal paper.
- It is required that a paper that has been presented at a conference should be extended by adding new content before submission as a manuscript and consideration for publication.
- Pay attention to plagiarism and self-plagiarism
- Pay attention to the selected journal aim and SCOPE

4.3. Paper structure

It is important to plan the paper structure before starting to write. Some journals have template available that can help in the structuring phase.

It is good practice to create subdivided numbered sections. Numeration should start from 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). This numeration could be useful also for internal cross-referencing, to provide a clear idea on where to find a specific information. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

Usually, manuscripts are structured following a specific order: Title, Author names and affiliations, Highlights, Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Methodology and Materials, Results and discussion, Conclusions, Acknowledgements, Appendix, References, Figure captions and tables. Do not import figures into the text - see Illustrations. A brief description of each section is given below.

- **Title.** Concise and informative, it is used to attract the attention of the desired public. An eye-catching title might help in attracting attention and engage as many readers as possible. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems, so they should include key terms, while abbreviations and formulae should be avoided where possible. On average only the first 55 characters (including spaces) will be shown in Google. So, use the most important words within the first 55 characters.
- **Author names and affiliations.** The given name(s) and family name(s) of each author should be indicated and correctly spelled. A Corresponding author should be specified, providing e-mail address and contact details. She/He is the person who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. Below the names it must be presented the authors' affiliation addresses, to be able to identify where the actual work was done. The affiliation address should be complete, also including the country name and the e-mail address of the author, if available. If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.
- **Highlights.** They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of the research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any).

- **Abstract.** It summarizes in a concise and factual way the paper contents. The abstract should briefly state the purpose of the research, the key results, and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone and help potential readers to decide whether. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard, or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself. The keywords should appear in the content of the abstract. Bear in mind that in most cases only the abstract will be visible for search engines. So, make sure to use the selected keywords in the abstract. Depending on the length of the text the keywords should occur at least once and preferably 3-4 times in a text of 200 words. Keep in mind to write for your audience. Make sure the text is still readable. Do not overuse keywords as this might have negative effects.
- **Keywords.** Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes. Some questions that could help you to decide which keyword use are: Who is the audience for the article? What is the main topic of the article? Which words would the audience use in search engines to find the information this article provides on this topic?
- **Acknowledgements.** Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance, or proofreading the article, etc.).
- **Introduction.** State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.
- **Experimental.** Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.
- **Theory/calculation.** A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis.
- **Results.** Results should be clear and concise.
- **Discussion.** This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.
- **Conclusions.** The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

For what concerns **MDPI** you could refer to the Layout style guide page¹ and Reference List and citation style guide page² on their website for a more precise description of each section and how to adopt them properly.

For what concerns **Wiley** there is a complete description of the Best Practice Guidelines on Research Integrity and Publishing Ethics³ that support all those involved in scholarly publishing with a summary

¹ https://www.mdpi.com/authors/layout#_bookmark38

² <https://www.mdpi.com/authors/references>

³ <https://authorservices.wiley.com/ethics-guidelines/index.html>

of best practice guidance with respect to research integrity and publishing ethics from leading organizations around the world.

4.4. Submit and revise

It is possible to submit to most journals using specific online systems, depending on the journal. Alternatively, it is possible to follow the instructions provided directly by the journal. Once submitted, the paper will be considered by the editor in a general suitability assessment. If deemed unsuitable for publication in the chosen journal, the editor may suggest transferring the submission to a more suitable journal, via an article transfer service. If it passes initial screening, it will be sent for peer review by experts in the research field. Read more on how to submit and revise

- Check the open access options on the journal's home page
- Consider the options for sharing your research data
- Be accurate and clear when checking your proofs
- Inform yourself about copyright and licensing

For the editorial systems you will have the option to include your ORCID iD.

4.5. Open Access Publication

From the conducted analysis 74% of the partners do not have access to subscription based scientific journals. Therefore, we suggest the pursual of Open-Access (OA) publications. Most of the scientific journals have OA publishing options.

Springer Nature and Digital Science have released a new comparative study of articles published in Springer hybrid journals. From the study conducted in 2018 [1] emerge that there is a significant advantage for OA articles:

- 4x more downloads of OA articles than non-OA articles
- 1.6x more citations of OA articles than non-OA articles across all subjects
- 2.5x more Altmetric attention (1.9x more news mentions and 1.2x more policy mentions)

Many funding agencies explicitly allow the use of research grants for the payment of Article Processing Charges (APCs) to publish in open access journals or of Book Processing Charges (BPCs) to publish open access books. In addition, numerous institutions have created central funds to cover APCs and BPCs. Make sure to check with your institution whether OA publication costs are supported or not. You could refer to different website that could help you to search for funding institutions:

- Sherpa Juliet⁴ is a searchable database of research funders' open access policies.
- The Open Access Directory⁵ maintains a list of institutional funds for open access publishing.

5. Special Issues Guidelines

As reported in the introduction of this document, the academic members of the Pillar 2 consortium are involved in the editorial board of several scientific journals. Therefore, the initiation of a special

⁴ <http://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/>

⁵ http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/OA_journal_funds

issue in one of the journals in which a LEAP-RE member is part of the editorial board could be considered for its coherence with the thematic.

As part of the scientific dissemination activity of the pillar, it is envisaged the publication of special issues, around the themes of the 8 WPs.

Follows a guideline for opening the call for papers to be included in a special issue of a scientific peer-reviewed journal.

Guest editors play a vital role in curating high-quality contributions on a particular topic and driving the editorial review process for special issue publications. You can become a guest editor in two ways:

The journal may invite you as an expert in your specific field of research. If you are an acknowledged expert on a particular theme with a wide network of potential authors and reviewers, don't be surprised if an editor approaches you to suggest your leading a new special issue on their journal.

You can submit a proposal for a special issue to a journal following – the senior editor will approve or reject it after consulting with the Editorial Board. If accepted, you (and any co-guest editors) will be responsible for developing the issue and leading the editorial review process.

Unless you have been approached directly by the Editor-in-Chief of a journal or another member of its editorial or publishing team, you will need to submit a proposal to guest edit a special issue to the relevant editorial office. If you are contemplating a special issue proposal, you might find the following recommendations helpful.

5.1. Preparing a proposal for a special issue

Working together with any other guest editors, you should prepare a proposal that, in addition to observing any special guidelines which are imposed by the journal's guide for authors or special issue guide (if any).

5.2. Proposers

- Proposed guest editors and other key people (internal and external)
- Includes a short biography of all authors and guest editors.

5.3. Details of the Proposal

- Proposed title of the Special Issue and the research topics that it will cover
- list of prevailing topics,
- Short description of the Special Issue
- if the papers fit the “Aims and Scope” of the selected journal, the proposed number of papers to be published in the Special Issue.
- timeframe in which the special issue could be produced (to include paper writing, reviewing and submission of final copy to the journal) assuming the proposal is accepted.
- Sets out the importance of the area on which the special issue will focus.
- Explains how the anticipated contribution of the special issue will advance understanding in this area.

5.4. Selection of papers and decision process

You are responsible, in cooperation with any other guest editor(s) for the special issue, for ensuring that the review process is conducted in an appropriate manner and in line with normal review

practices for the journal. You shall consult with the Editor-in-Chief about the refereeing procedure to be adopted.

This selection of papers should be based on the scientific quality of the content and the topic should clearly fall within the scope of the special issue and the journal hosting it.

You will typically make the preliminary decision on all manuscripts based on reviews, but all manuscripts (and revisions) will then be transferred to the Editor-in-Chief who normally has the sole right to review and/or reject any manuscript or arrange for any manuscript(s) to be independently peer reviewed prior to final acceptance for publication.

A special issue normally contains between five and 20 full-length articles, in addition to an editorial written by the special issue organizers. Because it is highly unlikely that all articles submitted for potential inclusion in a special issue will successfully pass the peer review process, it is wise to consider more papers than you anticipate as the upper limit. If fewer than three articles are accepted for publication, the articles will be published as stand-alone articles in the journal.

Solicitation: Review papers will be solicited through direct invitation of the prospective Authors identified by the Guest Editors. Open contributions will be instead solicited advertising the SI through a dedicated webpage in the Journal website. Furthermore, the Journal mailing lists could be used to announce the SI.

Review: The Guest Editors will perform a careful selection of reviewers for the manuscripts submitted and ensure that the peer-review process will be carried out fairly and timely but without discarding plagiarism or neglecting aspects that might compromise the Journal's and the Editors' ethics.

- Identifies papers and authors for possible inclusion in the special issue, with a brief description of each paper. (These papers do not need to have been written at this time, although it might be the case that work is already in progress.);

5.5. How to promote/publicize the Special Issue before and after publication

Before: The Guest Editors will publicize the SI through the websites and social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, ResearchGate) of their institutions, their funded research projects, the conferences they organize.

After: The communication strategies will be as for the "before" phase. Moreover, the authors will receive a link to promote their papers once published. A greater dissemination of the research works belonging to the SI will certainly be achieved should the authors decide to opt for gold open access publications.

5.6. How reach out prospective authors

The Guest Editors will encourage submissions to the SI through direct contact with the authors via email or phone. Prospective authors will be selected based on their track records as well as by looking at the latest international conferences on the topics covered by the SI.

5.7. Selection of reviewers

As guest editor, you should select reviewers who have suitable expertise in the field and must review all disclosures of potential conflicts of interest made by reviewers to determine whether there is any potential for bias.

Research articles must typically be reviewed by at least two external and independent reviewers, and where necessary you should seek additional opinion. The guest editor must follow best practice guidance provided by the Publisher on avoiding the selection of fraudulent peer reviewers.

5.8. Publication process

Guest editors and authors should be aware that most journals now publish special issues as virtual special issues (VSIs). A VSI is an online-only grouping of special issue articles traditionally assigned to a single special issue. Each article in a VSI is assigned a unique identifier and then published in a regular journal issue as soon as available. The unique identifier allows us to simultaneously add the article to a VSI on ScienceDirect which is gradually built up as individual articles are published online. Articles grouped together in a VSI retain their original citation details. On ScienceDirect, a VSI is listed alongside regular journal issues and is easily accessible and navigable. A VSI homepage includes a guest editor listing, table of contents and other data relevant to the VSI. A VSI speeds up the publication of individual articles as, unlike the publication process for conventional special issue articles, a VSI does not need to wait for the final article to be ready before publication.

The benefits of VSIs include:

- Reduced overall publication times
- Reduced waiting time & increased author satisfaction
- Lower risk of error for incorrect publication of SI content due to increased flexibility for moving/adding/removing items from VSIs, without affecting citation details

The implementation of a VSI has no impact in the editorial workflow for editors, guest editors and authors; the impact is simply on the way articles are displayed online and on the print version of the journal, where a special issue will not be clustered in one single issue.

6. Participation to International Conferences

6.1. Presence of Pillar 2 in International Conferences

As part of building a scientific network and increase visibility of research, attending international scientific conferences is indeed a fundamental action. Tab.2 reports the list of conferences in which LEAP-RE members participated as emerged from the conducted analysis. From this list emerges which conferences are most interesting in terms of related topics for the community of Pillar 2.

TAB.2 INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES PARTICIPATION

Conference	Recurrency	Institution
<i>European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly - 2020, virtual</i>	annual	CNR
<i>World Geothermal Congress - 2020+1, Reykjavik, Island</i>	annual	UL
<i>International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD) - 2019, Rome, Italy</i>	annual	CDER
<i>International Conference on Renewable Energy and Environment Engineering (REEE) - 2018, Paris, France</i>	annual	CDER
<i>International conference on Electricity Distribution (CIRED) - 2019, Madrid, Spain</i>	bi-annual	Odit-e
<i>Energy Conversion Congress and Exposition (ECCE) - 2019, Baltimore, USA</i>	annual	Nanoé
<i>Conference on Control Technology and Applications (CCTA) - 2020, Montreal, Canada</i>	annual	UPJV
<i>European Association for REsearch on SERVICES (RESER) - 2019, Ceuta, Spain</i>	annual	SSSA
<i>Virtual International Conference on Phytochemistry, Textile and Renewable Energy For Sustainable Development - 2020, online</i>	no	MU
<i>International Conference on Energy, Environment and Climate Change - 2017, Mauritius</i>	bi-annual	MU
<i>EuroSun - 2014, Aix-les-Bains, France</i>	bi-annual	LNEG
<i>International Conference on Perovskite Thin Film Photovoltaics and Perovskite Photonics and Optoelectronics (NIPHO) - 2020, Sevilla, Spain</i>	annual	UCO
<i>Interfaces in Organic and Hybrid Thin-Film Optoelectronics (INFORM) - 2019, València, Spain</i>	no	UCO
<i>African Rift Geothermal Conference (ARGeo) - 2020, Nairobi, Kenya</i>	bi-annual	Géo2D, DEKUT, SEPCO
<i>Conference on Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems (SDEWES) - 2020, online</i>	annual	2iE
<i>International Symposium on Earth Science and Technology - 2020, Fukuoka ,Japan</i>	annual	ODDEG
<i>Metrology for Agriculture and Forestry (Metro AgriFor) - 2020, Online</i>	annual	UNIBO
<i>International Seminar on ORC Power Systems - 2019, Athens, Greece</i>	bi-annual	UNIFI

<i>European Geothermal Congress - 2019, The Hague, Netherlands</i>	tri-annual	TNO
<i>European Geothermal Workshop - 2020, online</i>	annual	TNO
<i>International Energy Workshop - 2019, Paris, France</i>	annual	IIASA, UCT
<i>IEEE PES PowerAfrica Conference - 2016, Livingstone, Zambia</i>	annual	UNZA
<i>African International Telecommunication Society Conference - 2018, Lusaka, Zambia</i>	bi-annual	UNZA
<i>International Conference on Green Energy and Applications - 2018, Singapore</i>	annual	TFE
<i>IEEE PowerTech - 2019, Milan, Italy</i>	bi-annual	POLIMI
<i>ECOS - International Conference on Efficiency, Cost, Optimization, Simulation and Environmental Impact of Energy Systems - 2019, Wrocław, Poland</i>	annual	UNIFI
<i>SDEWES – Conference of the International Centre for Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems – 2019, Dubrovnik, Croatia</i>	annual	POLIMI
<i>International Conference on Applied Energy - 2020, online</i>	annual	UNIFI
<i>International Conference on Solar Technologies & Hybrid Mini Grids to Improve Energy Access - 2021, Palma de Mallorca, Spain</i>	tri-annual	RLI
<i>International Renewable Energy Storage Conference - 2017, Düsseldorf, Germany</i>	annual	RLI
<i>Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Knowledge Academy (INEKA) Conference</i>	annual	SSSA
<i>EUROMED Academy of Business (EMAB) conference</i>	annual	SSSA
<i>GRONEN Conference</i>	bi-annual	SSSA
<i>KAUST Research Conference: Maturing Geothermal Energy for Saudi Arabia - 2020, - Jedda, Saudi Arabia</i>	no	CNR
<i>EERA Deep Wind - 2019, Trondheim, Norway</i>	annual	LNEG
<i>AfricaGIS</i>	bi-annual	NARSS
<i>AARSE Conference</i>	bi-annual	NARSS
<i>IEEE Geoscience And Remote Sensing Society (IGARSS) Conference</i>	annual	NARSS
<i>Adaptation Futures - 2018, Cape Town, Southafrica</i>	bi-annual	UCT
<i>European Academy of Management (EURAM) Conference</i>	annual	POLIMI
<i>EU GEMex Final Conference - 2019, Potsdam, Germany</i>	annual	UU
<i>EU Integrated Methods for Advanced Geothermal Exploration (IMAGE) final conference - 2017, Akureyri, Iceland</i>	no	UU

<i>Impacts World</i> - 2017, Potsdam, Germany	no	IIASA
<i>Geothermal Resources Council Meeting</i> - 2018, Reno Nevada, USA	annual	SEPCO
<i>AGU</i> - 2019, San Francisco, USA	annual	CNR
<i>SolarPACES Conference</i> - 2018, Casablanca, Morocco	annual	LNEG
<i>EAGE Conference</i>	annual	UBO
<i>International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA) Conference</i>	bi-annual	UBO
<i>Goldschmidt Conference</i> - 2017, Paris, France	annual	BRGM

6.2. How to participate to a conference

Most conferences require:

- submission of the abstract,
- acceptance of the abstract by the organizational board,
- submission the full-length article,
- peer review of the article,
- acceptance of the article,
- subscription to the conference.

The author will be able to present their research in front of an audience of similar research authors, increasing their visibility among other researchers in the field and building a network of experts.

7. E-book Publication Guidelines

Part of the Pillar 2 scientific dissemination plan might be the publication of a peer-reviewed eBook around the theme of renewable energies in Africa. There is a long list of scientific publishers that offer options for eBook publishing, among others, one of the most known is Springer Nature, and it will be used as demonstrative example of the procedure for publishing high impact e-books. Springer Nature offers to researchers the possibility to publish different categories of books and e-books. In the field of energy, the following series have been identified:

7.1. Springer Lecture Notes in Energy

Lecture Notes in Energy (LNE) is a series that reports on new developments in the study of energy: from science and engineering to the analysis of energy policy. The series' scope includes but is not limited to, renewable and green energy, nuclear, fossil fuels and carbon capture, energy systems, energy storage and harvesting, batteries and fuel cells, power systems, energy efficiency, energy in buildings, energy policy, as well as energy related topics in economics, management and transportation. Books published in LNE are original and timely and bridge between advanced textbooks and the forefront of research. Readers of LNE include postgraduate students and non-specialist researchers wishing to gain an accessible introduction to a field of research as well as professionals and researchers with a need for an up-to-date reference book on a well-defined topic. The series publishes single- and multi-authored volumes as well as advanced textbooks.

Lecture Notes in Energy are indexed in Scopus.

The Springer Energy board welcomes your book proposal. Please get in touch with the series via Anthony Doyle, Executive Editor, Springer (anthony.doyle@springer.com)

7.2. Springer Research for Development

The series Research for Development serves as a vehicle for the presentation and dissemination of complex research and multidisciplinary projects. The published work is dedicated to fostering a high degree of innovation and to the sophisticated demonstration of new techniques or methods. The aim of the Research for Development series is to promote well-balanced sustainable growth. This might take the form of measurable social and economic outcomes, in addition to environmental benefits, or improved efficiency in the use of resources; it might also involve an original mix of intervention schemes.

Research for Development focuses on the following topics and disciplines: Urban regeneration and infrastructure, Info-mobility, transport, and logistics, Environment and the land, Cultural heritage and landscape, Energy, Innovation in processes and technologies, Applications of chemistry, materials, and nanotechnologies, Material science and biotechnology solutions, Physics results and related applications and aerospace, Ongoing training and continuing education.

Fondazione Politecnico di Milano collaborates as a special co-partner in this series by suggesting themes and evaluating proposals for new volumes. Research for Development addresses researchers, advanced graduate students, and policy and decision-makers around the world in government, industry, and civil society.

The series Research for Development is indexed in Scopus.

Reference Editor: marina.forlizzi@springer.com

7.3. SpringerBriefs in Applied Sciences and Technology

SpringerBriefs present concise summaries of cutting-edge research and practical applications across a wide spectrum of fields. Featuring compact volumes of 50 to 125 pages, the series covers a range of content from professional to academic.

Typical publications can be:

- A timely report of state-of-the art methods
- An introduction to or a manual for the application of mathematical or computer techniques
- A bridge between new research results, as published in journal articles
- A snapshot of a hot or emerging topic
- An in-depth case study
- A presentation of core concepts that students must understand in order to make independent contributions

SpringerBriefs are characterized by fast, global electronic dissemination, standard publishing contracts, standardized manuscript preparation and formatting guidelines, and expedited production schedules. On the one hand, SpringerBriefs in Applied Sciences and Technology are devoted to the publication of fundamentals and applications within the different classical engineering disciplines as well as in interdisciplinary fields that recently emerged between these areas. On the other hand, as the boundary separating fundamental research and applied technology is more and more dissolving, this series is particularly open to transdisciplinary topics between fundamental science and engineering.

Springer Briefs in Applied Sciences and Technology are indexed in Scopus.

Reference Editor: dieter.merkle@springer.com

7.4. Springer Briefs in Energy

SpringerBriefs in Energy presents concise summaries of cutting-edge research and practical applications in all aspects of Energy. Featuring compact volumes of 50 to 125 pages, the series covers a range of content from professional to academic. Typical topics might include:

- A snapshot of a hot or emerging topic
- A contextual literature review
- A timely report of state-of-the art analytical techniques
- An in-depth case study
- A presentation of core concepts that students must understand in order to make independent contributions.

Briefs allow authors to present their ideas and readers to absorb them with minimal time investment.

Briefs will be published as part of Springer's eBook collection, with millions of users worldwide. In addition, Briefs will be available for individual print and electronic purchase. Briefs are characterized by fast, global electronic dissemination, standard publishing contracts, easy-to-use manuscript preparation and formatting guidelines, and expedited production schedules. We aim for publication 8–12 weeks after acceptance. Both solicited and unsolicited manuscripts are considered for publication in this series. Briefs can also arise from the scale up of a planned chapter. Instead of simply contributing to an edited volume, the author gets an authored book with the space necessary to provide more data, fundamentals and background on the subject, methodology and so.

Springer Briefs in Energy are not indexed in Scopus.

Reference Editors: angeliki.athanasopoulou@springernature.com, kenneth.howell@springer.com, david.packer@springer.com

8. Final Takeaways

This document highlights strategies that might be followed to valorize research and innovation outputs within Pillar 2. The same indications are also valid for Pillar 1 projects that will come from the open calls by the funding agencies. As a general recap opportunity, from this guidelines two different level emerges and are below highlighted.

- Individuals or WP actions.

Within each WPs, each member or group of members can process with individual or WPs publications on international peer reviewed journals accordingly to their scheduling and timing. Same is for wide participation to international conferences based on institutional priority and or WPs topics. This phase has already started. This will be monitored at WP level first and coordinated at Pillar 2 level and with WP4 in Pillar 3 and WP1.

- Pillar level and LEAP-RE level

Within WP3 and in full synergies with WP4 the options to realized a LEAP-RE special issue(s) and/or LEAP-RE Book(s) seems the most appropriate strategies to valorize the LEAP-RE researches innovation outputs and outcome. This phase will be planned not earlier than Month 24, once first results will be published, and will be organized at Pillar 2 level and coordinate with WP4 in Pillar 3 and WP1.

Synergies with the incoming Research and Innovation project within Pillar 1 will be further detailed