

# UC Berkeley

## UC Berkeley Previously Published Works

### Title

Open Access in North Macedonia

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6p13g607>

### Journal

European Studies Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries Newsletter, 1(1)

### Author

Pendse, Liladhar Ramchandra

### Publication Date

2021-10-01

### Supplemental Material

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6p13g607#supplemental>

Peer reviewed

This website is under construction.



European Studies Section  
of the Association of College & Research Libraries

[Home](#) » [Newsletters](#) » [ESS Newsletter](#) » [ESS Newsletter 2021](#) »  
Open Access in North Macedonia

## Open Access in North Macedonia

By Liladhar R. Pendse, University of California-Berkeley (Lpendse@library.berkeley.edu)

### ESS Newsletter

**2021, Vol. 1**

---

#### Introduction

In 2019, a country formerly known as Macedonia agreed to change its name to North Macedonia. Since 1991, North Macedonia has continued to develop its open access infrastructure. This article provides a general overview of Open Access (OA) in North Macedonia (xn).<sup>1</sup>

North Macedonia is located in Southeastern Europe. Macedonia is the name of a geographical region, and some have defined this region as a [peripheral region of the Balkans](#) even though it encompasses today's nation-states of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia.<sup>2</sup> While a detailed discussion of the history and [complicated political trajectory of North Macedonia](#) and its often turbulent relationship with its neighbors is beyond the scope of this article, it is sufficient to note that it was after 1945 and until 1991, a constituent part of the Yugoslav Federation.<sup>3 4</sup> Below, in Image 1, is the Republic of Northern Macedonia map that the United Nations Cartographer's office created.



Image 1: Map of North Macedonia<sup>5</sup>

## The development of OA in North Macedonia

The development of OA in North Macedonia was delayed in comparison to other former Yugoslav republics. One can understand this delay by analyzing the North Macedonian OA journals indexed in the DOAJ. The official policy related to the text of the Protocol on Open Access Research in the Western Balkans ([текстот на Протоколот за отворен пристап до истражувачката инфраструктура во Западен Балкан](#)) was approved only on November 3, 2020.<sup>6</sup> Thus the publication timeline of OA journals in Northern Macedonia can explain the arc of OA development.

To gather the data on the chronology of OA journals, I used the following resources. One readily available resource is the [Directory of the Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#). At the time of writing this article, the DOAJ boasted 16,067 indexed journals from all over the world.<sup>7</sup> Image 2, below,

shows that in March of 2021, there were fourteen journals from Northern Macedonia that are indexed in the DOAJ. These journals represent 0.08 percent of the total OA journals in DOAJ.

The screenshot shows the DOAJ website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'DOAJ', 'SUPPORT', 'APPLY', and a search icon. Below the navigation bar, the main content area displays '14 indexed journals'. On the left side, there are several filter sections: 'Refine search results', 'SEE JOURNALS...' (with options for 'With a DOAJ Seal' and 'Without article processing charges (APCs)'), 'SUBJECTS' (with a search box and a list of subjects including Agriculture, Fine Arts, Education, Technology, Naval Science, General Works, and Geography. Anthropology. Recreation), 'LANGUAGES', 'LICENSES', and 'PUBLISHERS'. The main content area shows a list of journals. The first journal is 'Journal of Special Education and Rehabilitation' (JSER), published by the Faculty of Philosophy, Institute of Special Education and Rehabilitation in North Macedonia. It accepts manuscripts in Macedonian and English. The second journal is 'UTMS Journal of Economics', published by the University of Tourism and Management in North Macedonia, accepting manuscripts in English. Both journals are listed with their last update dates, website links, and license information (No charges, CC BY).

Image 2: North Macedonian OA journals in the DOAJ.

The earliest North Macedonian journal indexed in DOAJ is the [Journal of Special Education and Rehabilitation](#) (JESR). JESR was added on January 19, 2010. The newest indexed journal is [Bezbednosni Dijalozi / Security Dialogues](#). It was indexed in the DOAJ on March 24, 2021. I analyzed all of these fourteen journals by the dates they were indexed in the DOAJ. Image 3, below, shows the trajectory of the North Macedonian OA journal indexing in the DOAJ.

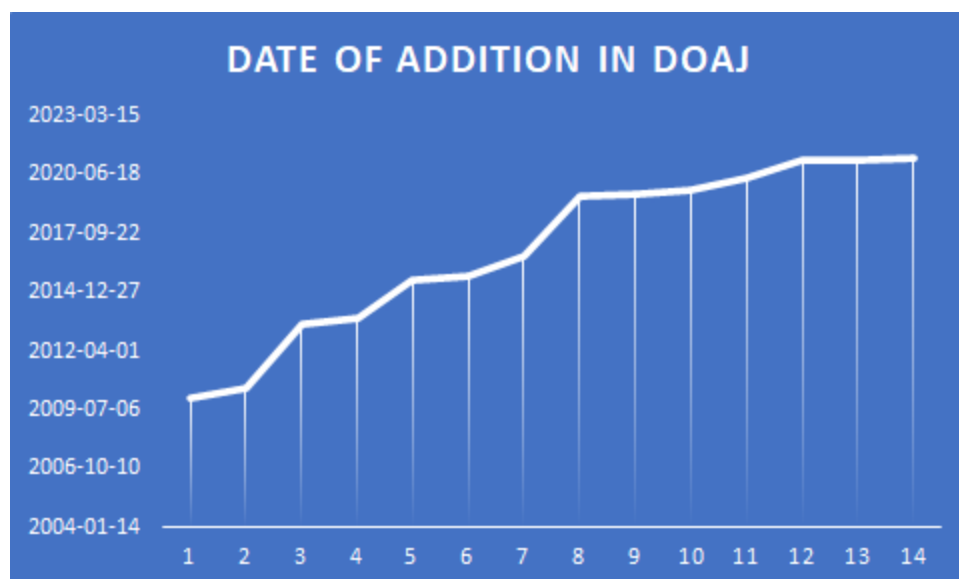


Image 3: The trajectory of North Macedonian OA journals (n=14) indexed in the DOAJ by date.

We can deduce that the evolution of the OA journals as they were indexed in the DOAJ was gradual and protracted over eleven years (from 2010-2021). The subject analysis of these journal titles provides the following distribution (see Image 4, below).

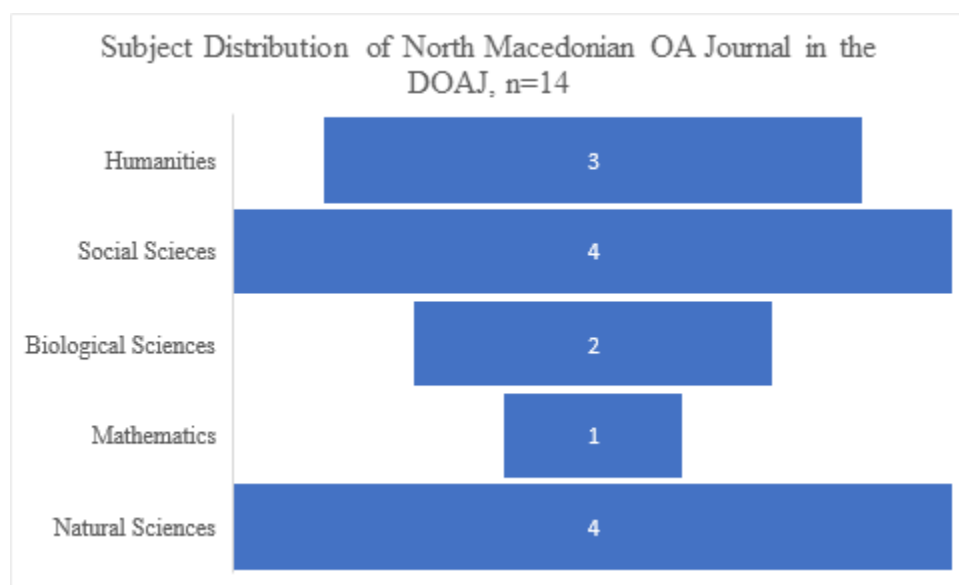
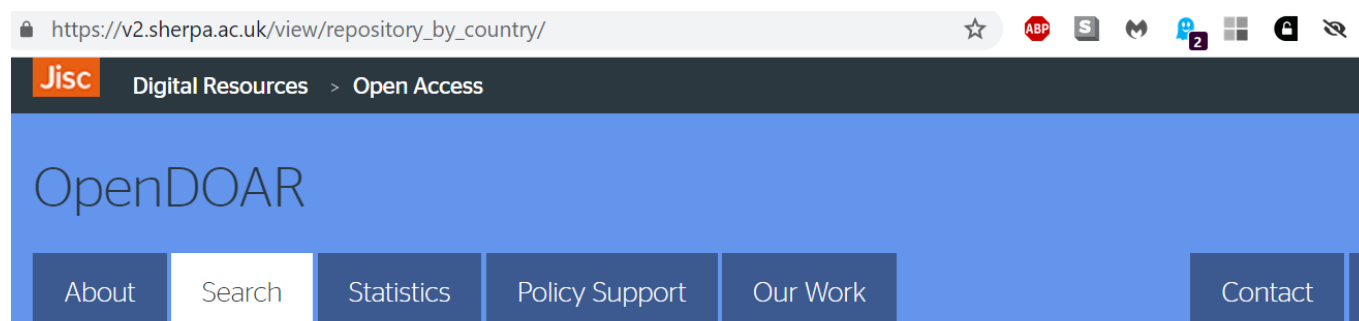


Image 4: Distribution of North Macedonian Journals by Subject

The distribution by subject for North Macedonian shows a 50-50 split between the OA journals that fall within the general sciences, mathematics, humanities, and social sciences.

## OpenDOAR

The following tool that we have to assess OA infrastructure development is to examine the presence of Open Access digital repositories in North Macedonia. To this end, I used the data from the [OpenDOAR](#). As of March 2021, in OpenDoar, as shown in Image 5, below, North Macedonia is still referred to as Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic).



## Browse by Country

<a href="#">Afghanistan (1)</a>	<a href="#">Lebanon (3)</a>
<a href="#">Åland Islands (1)</a>	<a href="#">Lesotho (2)</a>
<a href="#">Albania (1)</a>	<a href="#">Libya (3)</a>
<a href="#">Algeria (19)</a>	<a href="#">Lithuania (17)</a>
<a href="#">Andorra (1)</a>	<a href="#">Luxembourg (4)</a>
<a href="#">Argentina (71)</a>	<a href="#">Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic of) (5)</a>
<a href="#">Armenia (2)</a>	<a href="#">Malawi (1)</a>
<a href="#">Australia (90)</a>	<a href="#">Malaysia (25)</a>
<a href="#">Austria (44)</a>	<a href="#">Malta (1)</a>
<a href="#">Azerbaijan (2)</a>	<a href="#">Mexico (50)</a>
<a href="#">Bangladesh (15)</a>	<a href="#">Moldova (Republic of) (12)</a>
<a href="#">Belarus (37)</a>	<a href="#">Morocco (3)</a>

Image 5: The screenshot of OpenDOAR page showing North Macedonia as Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic of).

There are five OA digital repositories in the database, out of which four belong to academic institutions. And one is of the National Digital Library of Macedonia. The dates by which these were indexed and their accessibility are shown below in Table 1.

Name of the Repository	Date of Addition in OpenDOAR	Content Type	Platform	Accessible	Website Address

UGD Academic Repository	9/9/2013	Journal Articles	ePrints	Not accessible on 3/37/2021	<a href="http://eprints.ugd.edu.mk">http://eprints.ugd.edu.mk</a>
Digital Library of Macedonia	3/19/2015	Books, Chapters and Sections Other Special Item Types	DSpace	Yes, 3/27/21	<a href="http://www.dlib.mk/">http://www.dlib.mk/</a>
FIKT Repository	9/2/2016	Journal Articles, Bibliographic References	ePrints	No, 3/37/21	<a href="http://eprints.fikt.edu.mk/">http://eprints.fikt.edu.mk/</a>
Repository of SS Cyril & Methodius University in Skopje	1/2/2019	Journal Articles Conference and Workshop Papers Theses and Dissertations Reports and Working Papers Books, Chapters, and Sections	DSpace	Yes, 3/27/21	<a href="https://repository.ukim.mk">https://repository.ukim.mk</a>

UKLO repository	4/5/2019	Journal Articles Bibliographic References Conference and Workshop Papers Theses and Dissertations Reports and Working Papers Books, Chapters, and Sections	ePrints	Yes, 3/27/21	http://eprints.uklo.edu.mk
--------------------	----------	--	---------	-----------------	----------------------------

Table 1: [North Macedonian OA depositories in OpenDOAR](#)

At the time of writing this article, two of five OA repositories were inaccessible. The earliest repository was that of the [Goce Delcev University](#). However, it was not accessible at the time of writing this article in March 2021.

### The Digital Library of Macedonia<sup>8</sup>

It is part of the [National and University Library “St. Kliment Ohridski,”](#) and it is hosted on the DLib platform. It provides access to the digital collections of manuscripts, early printed books, music scores, maps, audiobooks, and a separate section of digitized Italian manuscripts and books. These are part of a project named, “[La Biblioteca digitale italiana in Macedonia del Nord.](#)” Below is the landing page of the Digital Library of Macedonia (see Image 6, below).



www.dlib.mk

Dlib.mk Почетна

## Дигитална библиотека на Македонија

Споделете

Прегледај

Сиот DLib.mk

- Колекции и збирки
- Година
- Автори
- Наслови
- Клучни зборови

Мој профил

Најава

Следете нè

RSS 1.0 RSS 2.0 Atom

Image 6: The Landing Page of the Digital Library of Macedonia

The library provides access to early printed books and Slavic manuscripts. One note that the use of Macedonian as the language of these books is purposefully avoided as Macedonian as there are multiple views on the status of Macedonian as a separate language and its relationship to both the Bulgarian and Serbo-Croatian languages. The discussion of linguistic relationships is beyond the scope of this article.<sup>9</sup> Eighty-nine individual early printed books have been digitized.

### Преглед: Старопечатени и ретки книги по година на издавање

Прескокнете до точка во индексот: (месец) (година)

Или внесете година:

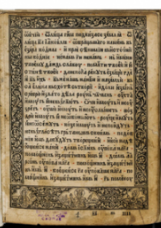
Подреди според: Година на издавање Редослед: Растечки Резултати: 20

Прикажани записи: 1-20 од 89

[Следна страница](#)



**Службеник**  
Непознат автор  
1519



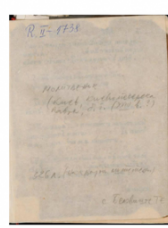
**Псалтир съ ...**  
Непознат автор  
1546



**Часослов**  
Непознат автор  
1566



**Животъ и чре...**  
Дефо, Даниел  
1799



**Молитвеник**  
Непознат автор  
1777

Споделете

Прегледај

Сиот DLib.mk

- Колекции и збирки
- Година
- Автори
- Наслови
- Клучни зборови

Оваа колекција

- Година
- Автори
- Наслови
- Клучни зборови

Мој профил

Најава

Следете нè

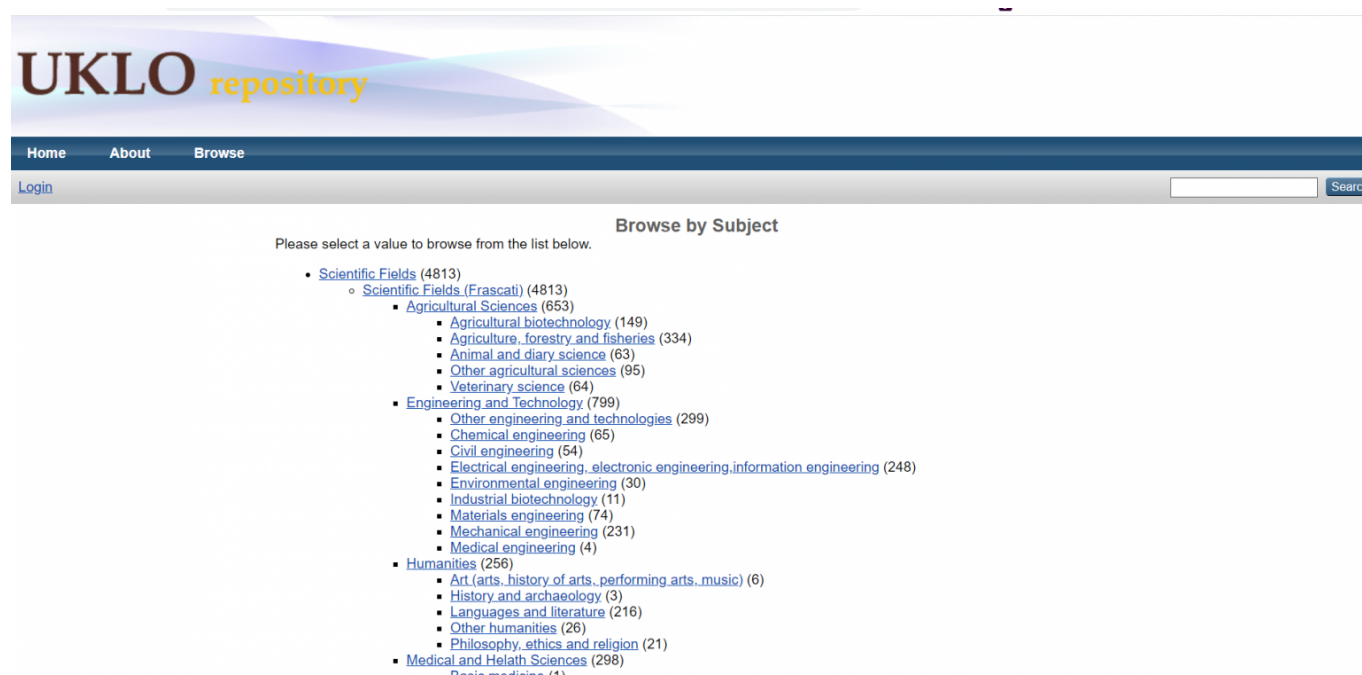


## Image 7: The digitized early book in the Macedonian Digital Library

The Digital Library of Macedonia thus serves as an aggregator of digital information on Macedonia from the National and University library collections. However, the Slavonic manuscripts component of the Digital Library of Macedonia was inaccessible.<sup>10</sup> On March 29, 2021, sites like that of the Virtual Library of Macedonia (vbm.mk) and Slavic Manuscripts component of the National Library of Macedonia were not accessible (<http://staroslovenski.nubsk.edu.mk/>).

## UKLO Repository

UKLO Repository is the institutional repository of the “[St. Kliment Ohridski](#)” University in Bitola. I have used it here as an example of the repository of an academic library. Below, in Image 8, is a screenshot of the landing page showing different aggregated resources.



## Image 8: The Landing Page of the UKLO Repository.

The UKLO database allows its users to [browse the contents by the years of publication](#), by subjects, by division (Agricultural Sciences, Engineering, and Technology, Humanities, etc.), and by authors. One feature that this repository lacks is the search functionality of the items by the dates of deposit. I believe this could have helped us assess the evolution of the rate by

which OA items were deposited in this repository. However, if one clicks on individual items, one can see the date of deposit. In some cases, these are not pre-prints, and the creator of the items, i.e., the author, is not the depositor, as shown in Image 9, below.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [prints.uklo.edu.mk/6207/](http://prints.uklo.edu.mk/6207/). The page title is "GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, UE AND MIGRATION PROBLEM". The author information is "Adamczuk, Artur and Ilik, Goran (2016) GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, UE AND MIGRATION PROBLEM. Yearbook of Polish European Studies. ISSN 1428-1503". There is a document icon labeled "Text" with the filename "Yearbook\_2.pdf" and a "Download (2MB)" link. The "Official URL" is <http://cejsh.icm.edu.pl/cejsh/element/bwmeta1.elem...>. The "Abstract" section contains the following text: "In 2015 the European Union was faced with a huge problem – the migration crisis, which saw more than a million migrants crossing the EU borders. Almost 900,000 came to the EU from Turkey. Migrants travelled from the Turkish Anatolian coast to the nearby Greek islands in the Aegean Sea. The Aegean has for decades seen territorial disputes between Greece and Turkey concerning delimitation of the boundaries of the continental shelf, territorial waters, airspace. Turkey also claims the right to the Greek islands at its shores. Mass migration of Muslims to Greek islands contribute to escalations of tensions between Athens and Ankara. Greece is getting increasingly concerned about the possibility of Turkey using the 'demographic weapon'." Below the abstract, the "Item Type" is "Article". The "Subjects" are "Scientific Fields (Frascati) > Social Sciences > Law", "Scientific Fields (Frascati) > Social Sciences > Political science", and "Scientific Fields (Frascati) > Social Sciences > Other social sciences". The "Divisions" are "Faculty of Law". The "Depositing User" is "Mrs Elena Tilovska-Kechedji". The "Date Deposited" is "10 Feb 2021 08:51". The "Last Modified" is "22 Mar 2021 08:09". The "URI" is <http://eprints.uklo.edu.mk/id/eprint/6207>. At the bottom, there is a section "Actions (login required)" with a "View Item" button.

Image 9: A screenshot of the individual record in the UKLO repository

## NOSCI.mk (National Open Science Cloud Initiative)

National Initiative for Open Science in Europe (NI4OS), by its self-description, aims to be a core contributor to the [European Open Science Cloud \(EOSC\)](#) service portfolio, commit to EOSC governance and ensure inclusiveness on the European level for enabling global Open Science.<sup>11</sup> The European Union sponsors this initiative, and the map of its stakeholders is in Image 10, below.



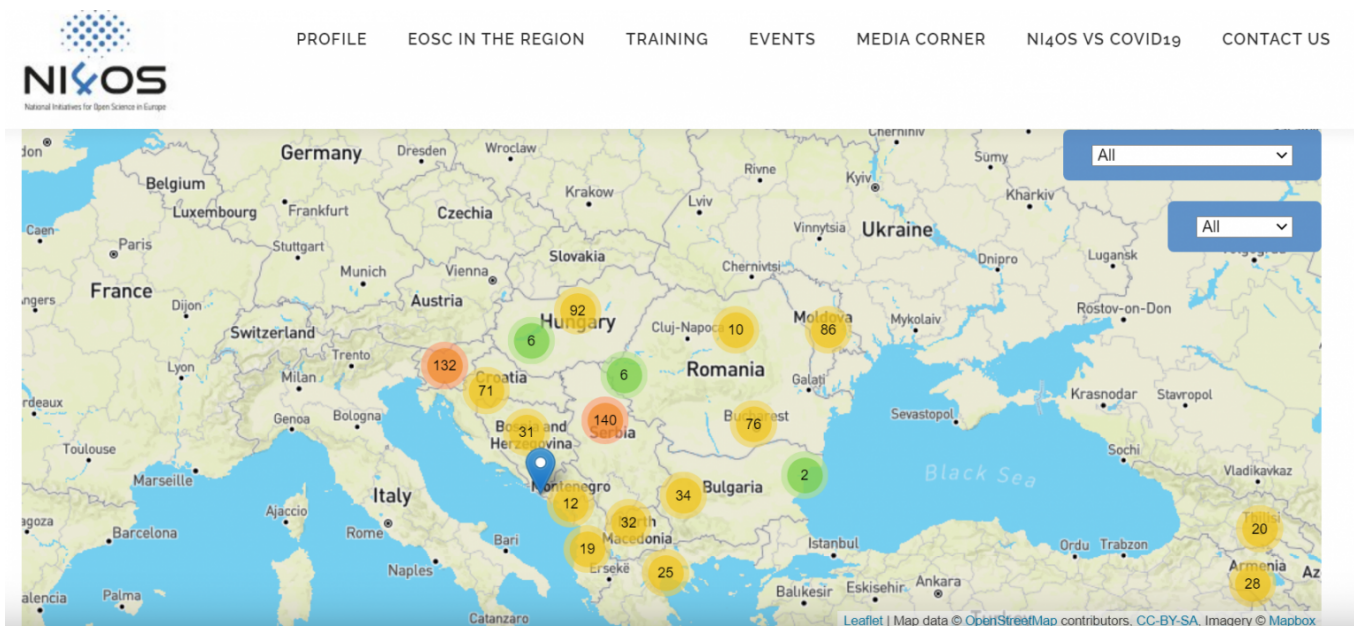


Image 10: National Initiative for Open Science in Europe's landing page.

One of the goals of this European Union-sponsored [Open Science Cloud Initiative](#) is to help develop the participant non- EU countries in developing their [national Open Science Clouds](#).<sup>12</sup> While Open Science Cloud can facilitate further evolution of Open Access, in North Macedonia, the inaugural meeting of Open Science Cloud only took place on March 16, 2021.

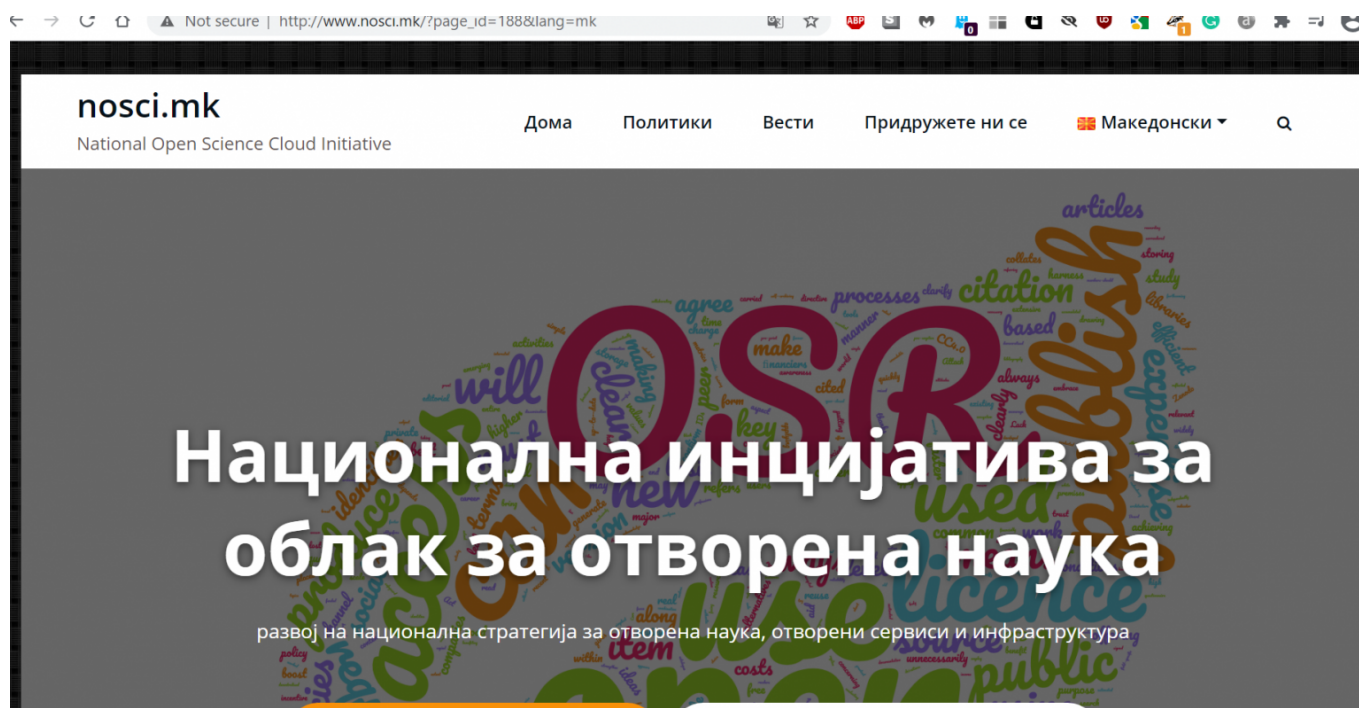


Image 11: National Open Science Cloud Initiative

The establishment of Open Science Cloud and related policies in North Macedonia means that the Open Access infrastructure is bound to improve as the collateral effect of the EU investments in the project and the development of OA infrastructure that will be sustainable.

As we can see from this survey article, it seems like the cohesive governmental policies to support the OA infrastructure are only recently evolving in North Macedonia. And many OA journals had already been around since as early as 2013. North Macedonia has come a long way since the dissolution of Yugoslavia. There is no doubt that OA will be a major policy stay that will empower knowledge creation for the future.

---

## About Us

[ACRL European Studies Section](#)

[Introduction to ESS](#)

[Join Us](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Subscribe to ess-l](#)

## Members

[Membership Directory \(opt in at ALA Connect\)](#)

[Templates](#)

## Meta

[Log in](#)

[Entries feed](#)

[Comments feed](#)

[WordPress.org](#)

## Related Organizations

[AIFBD \(Association internationale francophone des bibliothécaires et documentalistes\)](#)

ASEEES (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies)

CIFNAL (Collaborative Initiative for French Language Collections)

GNARP (German-North American Resources Partnership)

SALALM (Seminar for the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials)

WESLINE (West European Studies Library and Information Network)

## Social Media



Search ...



---

Copyright © 2021 European Studies Section | Powered by Astra WordPress Theme

