







# **Experiences from Ethiopia and Somalia**

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LIBSENSE Workshop on "ORCID-repository integrations" – 25 May 2021



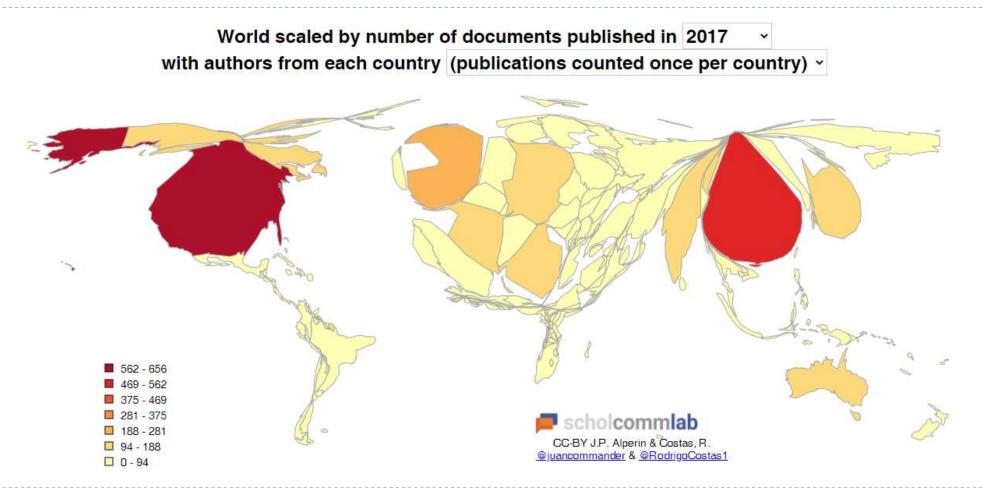
# Outline

- The context
- The "visibility problem" and how to tackle it
- Experiences and lessons learnt
  - The National Academic Digital Repository of Ethiopia
  - The Somali Research and Education Repository
- Summary and conclusions

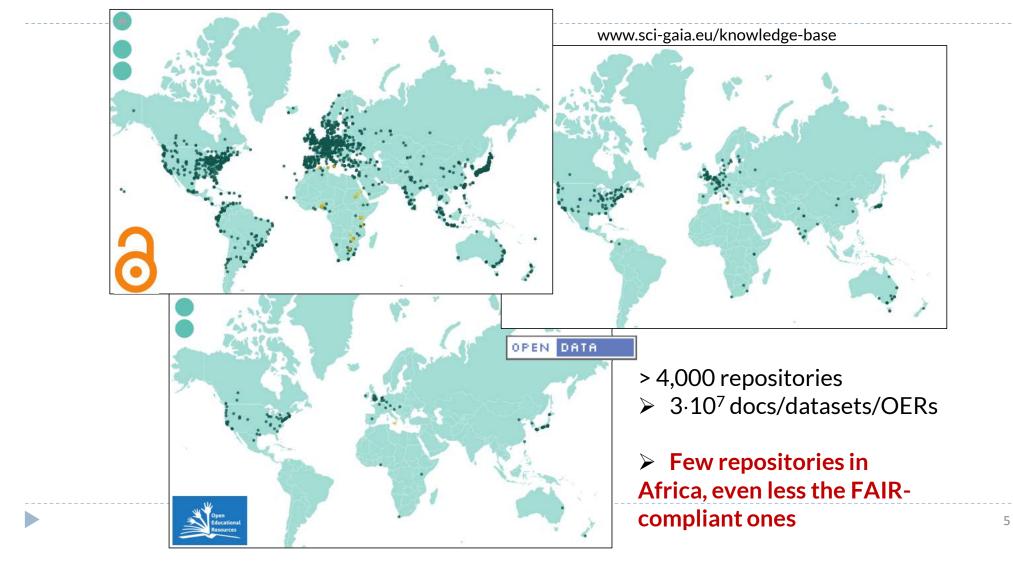
## The context (1/3)



### The context (1/3)

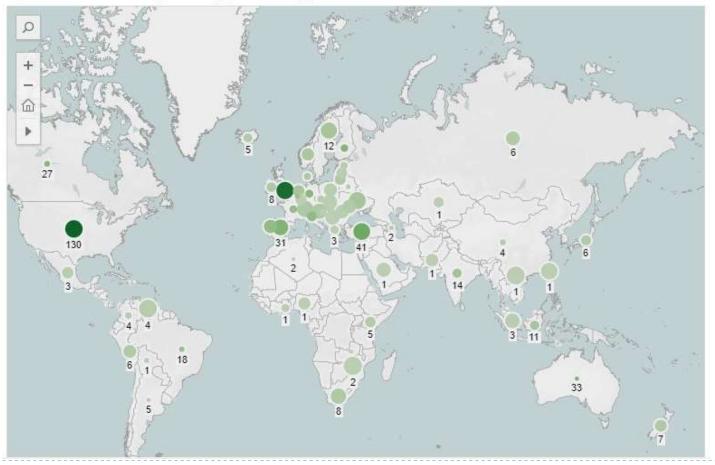


### The context (2/3)



### The context (3/3)

#### Open Access Policies by Country [world map]



http://roarmap.eprints.org/dataviz2.html

## The Africa visibility problem

- There's a problem of visibility of both African researches and African researchers
- How to tackle it? → Promote and spread a coherent use of persistent identifiers



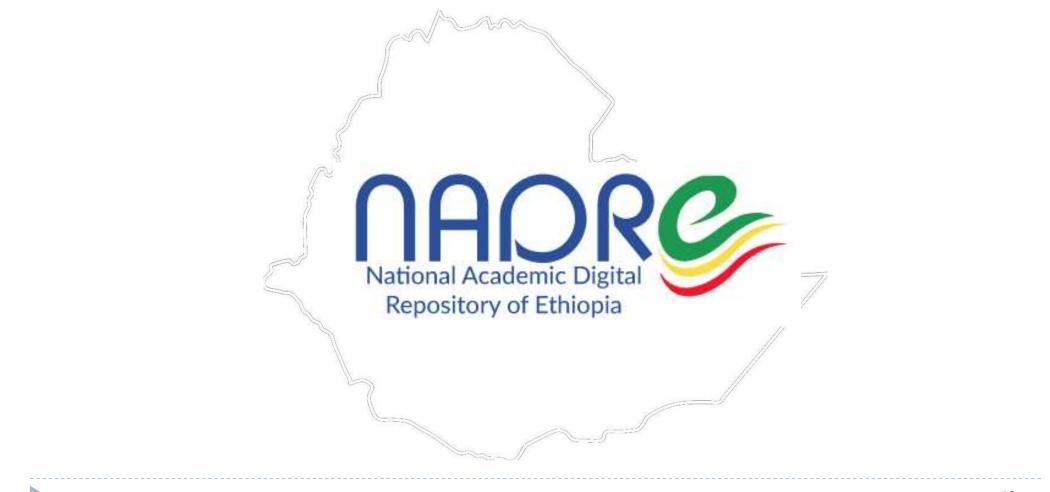
### **Opportunity #1: persistent identifiers for African research**

- In January 2017, an agreement was established between the University of Catania and the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI) to extend the possibility to provide DataCite DOI prefixes to African organizations wishing to deploy an institutional Open Access Repository
- 4 DOI prefixes were released:
  - The African Population and Health Research Centre (KE and Intl.)
  - The Eko-Konnect Research and Education Initiative (NG)
  - The Ministry of Education of Ethiopia, through EthERNet
  - The Ubuntunet Alliance (MW and Intl.)
- In 2021, the Ubuntunet Alliance has become a DataCite Member and all other organisations are directly supported by DataCite
  - (To become a DataCite Member, visit <u>https://datacite.org/become.html</u>)



### **Opportunity #2: the INFN Open Access Repository**

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Open Access Repository	Synthetic procedure to Access Repository (ba	New version Admin <del>-</del>	
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December 28, 2020 (v)         Software         Open Access           CovidStat project analysis code         View           Lista, Luca; O Menasce, Dario; Mezzetto, Mauro; Pedrini, Daniele; Spighi, Roberto; Varaschin, Antonella; O Zoccoli, Antonio         Zoccoli, Software to analyse the data of the CovidStat project. CovidStat is a project carried out by the CovidStat Working Group at INFN, whose creation was promoted within the Italian National Institute of Nuclear Physics with the aim of making a statistical analysis of the.	2) Department of Physics and Astronom	ry 'E. Majorana' of the University of Catania - Italy	INFN

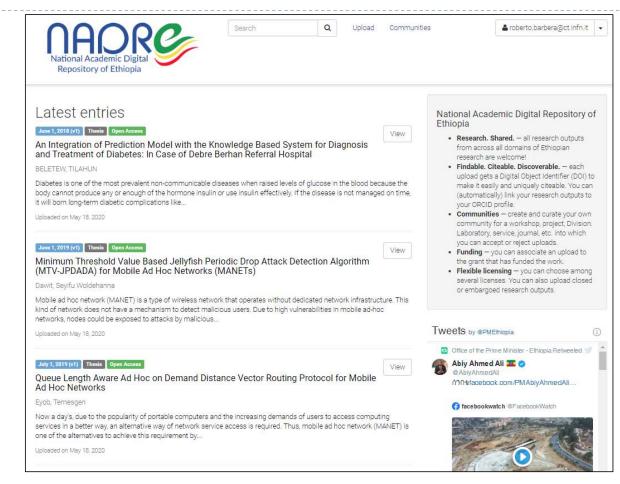


### **NADRE Objectives**

- To increase the access of academics and citizens in Ethiopia and worldwide to research works published by Ethiopian researchers at one of the Ethiopian universities or research institutions
- To foster the dissemination of research outcomes and make them, as well as their authors, more visible inside and outside the country
- To spread completed research to other corners of the country to allow other researchers to build on. For the time being, the NADRE will mainly include Master theses, dissertations, journals, articles, conference proceedings as well as all works published by researchers from Ethiopian universities and research institutions as well as from Ethiopian researcher living abroad. All artefacts will be published under open licenses (e.g., Creative Commons licenses) and will be tagged with Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

## NADRE

#### (https://nadre.ethernet.edu.et)



- Adopts leading-edge technologies in the domain of digital repositories
- Exploits the concept of "communities", which is central in the Zenodo architecture, to cope with several aggregation of contents: about 80 communities from many Ethiopian universities have already been created
- Supports DOI versioning
- Is compliant with FAIR principles
- Is compliant with Plan S requirements

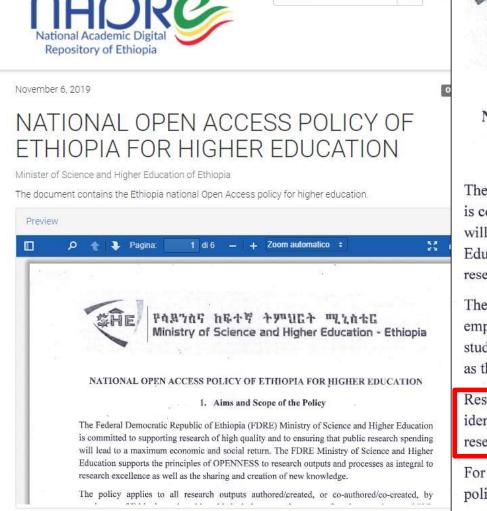
Based on the INFN Open Access Repository



### The National Open Access Policy of Ethiopia for Higher Education

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(https://doi.org/10.20372/nadre/4192)



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#### NATIONAL OPEN ACCESS POLICY OF ETHIOPIA FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

#### 1. Aims and Scope of the Policy

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) Ministry of Science and Higher Education is committed to supporting research of high quality and to ensuring that public research spending will lead to a maximum economic and social return. The FDRE Ministry of Science and Higher Education supports the principles of OPENNESS to research outputs and processes as integral to research excellence as well as the sharing and creation of new knowledge.

The policy applies to all research outputs authored/created, or co-authored/co-created, by employees of Ethiopian universities; this includes research outputs of graduate students and PhD students. It complements and does not override the Open Access requirements of research funders as they apply to their funded research.

Researchers and research students have to make themselves visible and findable, using persistent identifiers such as ORCID IDs, and their outputs available on an Open Access basis, if their research resulting entirely or partly from public funding.

For this purpose, the FDRE Ministry of Science and Higher Education has defined the following policy which must be observed by all recipients of public research funding as of June 17,2019.



# Some Background

- The Somali higher education sector has in the past 6 years accepted research as a critical output for international and national accreditation and started a trend of research production and management commitment
- SomaliREN's Digital Repository Services Initiative started as a response to this research focus of the member institutions
- Previous efforts to deploy DSpace as the platform for the repositories did not turn out as expected
  - A key challenge was the dependence on external resources to implement the system and provide support





# Motivations

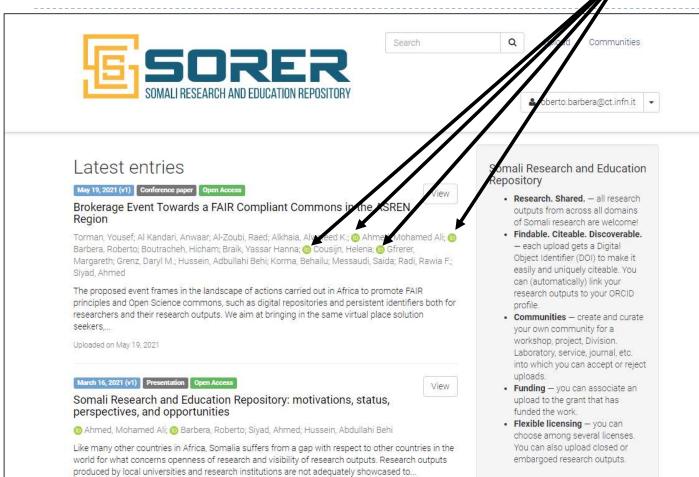
- Lack of localized open access research output
  - The limited research outputs produced by local institutions were not adequately showcased to interested constituencies and global citizens outside academic institutions
- Limited research output visibility
  - This has negatively branded the universities as in-competent to produce any form of research content
- Quality of the research output needed to be improved
- No measures against localized plagiarism that can severely impact academic integrity





# SORER

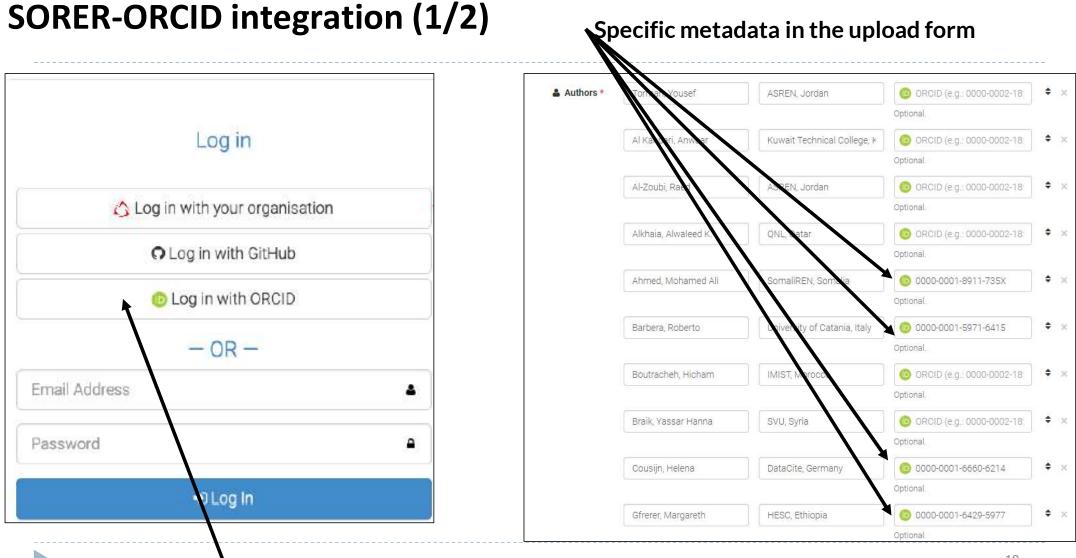
#### (https://sorer.somaliren.org.so)



#### Seamless integration with ORCID

- It's a NADRE twin
- Two Introductory workshops so far:
  - Workshop for Rectors, VCs and Heads of Member Institutions
  - SORER Technical Workshop for University ICT directors and librarians
- 10 different Communities already created
- Research outputs published on SORER get DataCite DOIs
  - (Thanks to UbuntuNet Alliance)
- SORER technical guide has been prepared and published on the repository
- Open to non-SomaliREN users (thanks to the Zenodo concept of "Communities")

#### **Based on the INFN Open Access Repository**



SSO with ORCID ID - Promote ORCID as an Identity Provider

### **SORER-ORCID** integration (2/2)

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# Summary and conclusions

- Persistent identifiers (DataCite, ORCID and ROR) can play a key role in increasing visibility of researchers and their research outputs (especially in Africa)
- From the technical point of view:
  - Deploy digital repositories and connect them to providers of persistent identifiers
- From the education point of view:
  - Promote Open Access/Open Science, digital repositories and persistent identifiers on the same basis and train researchers to use them
- From the policy point of view:
  - Make digital repositories and persistent identifiers sustainable in the long term by including them in national Open Access/Open Science policies

# Thank you!

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