

**Interview with Iryna Kuchma:**

**“Because everything we do is to make researchers’ lives easy”**

COAR Annual Meeting 2016 in Vienna, April 12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Interviewee: Iryna Kuchma (EIFL, Vilnius, Lithuania/Kiev, Ukraine)

Interviewer: Anna-Maria Finta (Vienna University Library)

Transcriber: Brigitte Semanek (*transcriber’s notes are set in brackets and italics*)

Anna-Maria Finta: Hello, I am Anna Finta, student at the University of Vienna studying Library and Information Studies. Next to me is Iryna Kuchma –

Iryna Kuchma: (*correcting*) Kuchma (*pronounced as [kutʃma]*).

AF: Kuchma, sorry – Thank you for –

IK: Yeah, that’s a problem because in German they read it as “h”.

AF: Welcome to Skylounge, you know, from the University of Vienna. This is our first day of COAR annual event. First of all, I want to welcome you.

IK: Thank you. Happy to be here, glad.

AF: Where are you from, if I may ask?

IK: So I work for EIFL – Electronic Information for Libraries, and we work with library consortia in over forty developing and transition countries in Africa, South-East Asia, Europe, Middle-East, and our office is in Vilnius, and I work from Kiev, Ukraine.

AF: Wow. A lot of places.

IK: Yeah.

AF: What is in your opinion – or what is your role in the COAR?

IK: We were one of the COAR founding members because we felt that it’s really important to have a collective voice of repositories, Open Access repositories, in current scholarly communication discussions.

AF: Okay. What is the added value of your participation in the COAR?

IK: Oh, it’s a great platform for us to meet with other repository organisations, repository managers, and learn from good practice experiences. Good practice experiences and also bad practice experiences, because sometimes people share good practices only, and it’s also important to share some – maybe not mistakes but some things others should be avoiding. And I am very happy to [share](#) [chair](#) [#R](#)epositories [#T](#)rainning and [S](#)upport [W](#)orking [G](#)roup where we are trying to provide good practice advice to other repositories, to COAR members, and with that improve visibility of research in universities, globally.

AF: So how do you see the further developments of your archiving infrastructure and your library in relationship with Open Access?

IK: Well, I am sure there will be new services. Because everything we do is to make researchers' life easy and also to make processes in universities more optimized. So I hope we'll be able to create an environment where Open Access will be embedded in researchers' workflows so they don't even need to think specifically about Open Access because that will be already part of their workflow. And the same for universities where repositories could be useful tools for managing universities' activities – showcase an impact.

AF: Thank you very much for your time, and we wish you a pleasant time here in Vienna at the COAR event. Would you like to say something?

IK: Well, thanks a lot, Anna, and I am happy to be here in University of Vienna and also in Vienna. It's a great city. Thank you.

AF: Just enjoy it.

IK: Thank you.

AF: Thank you.