Vanessa Proudman is Director of SPARC Europe where she is working to make Open the default in Europe. Vanessa has 20 years’ international experience working with many leading university libraries worldwide as well as research institutions, foundations, international policy makers, information- communication- and IT professionals and designers from over 20 countries. She has focused on supporting research, on open access, open science, open culture and open education and above all on facilitating improved access to Europe’s decentralised research results. She has done this through international and national policy-making, advocacy and knowledge exchange. At present, she is intent on exploring how to create – and above all sustain – an open science ecosystem. At the beginning of her career, she spent a decade heading information and IT at a UN-affiliated international research institution in Vienna. Vanessa is driven by change; she is a keen connector and collaborator, and strongly believes in contributing to the public good through her work.

Titre de l’intervention : Scoping the Open Science Infrastructure Landscape in Europe: What does it mean to be sustainable?

Summary: Europe has seen great advances made with Open Access / Open Scholarship or Open Science (OS) policy on international, national, regional and local levels. However, for the successful implementation of this policy to take place, it depends on infrastructure; infrastructure that has often been borne at Europe’s research institutions: services that serve users worldwide. What we need is a more durable, scalable, and long lasting open scholarly infrastructure that can emerge and thrive.

The presentation will shed light on the openness, governance and particularly on the financial sustainability of Open Science Infrastructure resulting from an international survey that was conducted by SPARC Europe in 2020 with over 100 of these: regional, national and international infrastructure reporting back to us. It is an Invest in Open Infrastructure project funded by the Open Society Foundations.

What have we learnt about how open European-based infrastructure is, what are the challenges of becoming or remaining open and what are the good practices? Furthermore, what do we know about the financial health of important OS infrastructure and how might this be sustained in the future? The session will provide answers to these questions and will also raise awareness of where we need to step up our open efforts when developing and sustaining infrastructure and how the broader OS community can help fund it since we depend upon it.