**Working Group to assess publishing during Horizon Europe – Part III**

**Friday 4th February 2022 (14:00-16:00 CEST)**

**Summary**

**Participants:** Egbert Westerhof, Kinga Gál, Paolo Ricci, Robert Wolf, Mihaela Ionescu-Bujor, Frédéric Imbeaux, Rolandas Urbonas, Silvano Tosti, Chris Ibbott

K Gal shared the information she collected since the last meeting.

She has found among the journals used by the community in FP8, 64 journals where authors can publish as before and respect the requirements of the EC. The above mentioned journals are published in US by AIP, APS (new), IEEE, but some in EU such as IOP (2), Elsevier (2), MDPI (9, predatory publisher), Frontiers (2, predatory publisher), Royal Society. Except PRL, the cost of those journals is 1200-3000 USD.

K Gal also assessed the journals/publishers whose policy is not in line with the requirements of the EC and authors can only publish if the open access costs are covered by funds which allow this (EC and some national funders will not reimburse those costs). Those are all journal from Springer, Cambridge (confusing information), Wiley (open access ~4000USD). Some journals are only subscription based and have an embargo period to make the peer reviewed manuscript open access. In those journal it seem to be no way to publish in line with the requirements of the EC. Such a journal is the IOP published journal Plasma science and technology.

Elsevier and Taylor and Francis seem to allow to publish the peer reviewed manuscript without embargo on the author’s personal website or even on (<https://arxiv.org/>, Elsevier).

In order to assess the cost expectations, the data regarding embargo and open access costs were collected in a table. The highest priced fusion related journals are:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nature Physics | Springer Nature | 11390 | USD |
| Nature Energy | Springer Nature Limited | 11390 | USD |
| Nature | Nature | 11390 | USD |
| Nature Materials | Nature | 11390 | USD |
| Nature Photonics | Springer Nature Publishing AG | 11390 | USD |
| Nature Communications | Nature Publishing Group  | 5790 | USD |
| International Journal of Energy Research | John Wiley & Sons Inc | 5100 | USD |
| Concurrency & Computation: Practice and Experience | John Wiley & Sons Inc | 4600 | USD |
| Plasma Processes and Polymers | John Wiley & Sons Inc | 4400 | USD |
| Physical Review X | APS | 4200 | USD |
| Nonlinear Dynamics | Springer | 4190 | USD |
| Energy Technology | John Wiley & Sons Inc | 4100 | USD |
| Physica Status Solidi | John Wiley & Sons Inc | 3900 | USD |
| Physical Review Letters | APS | 3675 | USD |
| X-ray Spectrometry | John Wiley & Sons Inc | 3650 | USD |

The open access prices for most fusion related journal articles (200 journals were analyzed) is below 3500 USD, which means that both predatory and classical journal article costs are in the same price range. Publishing in predatory journal has a very limited advantage. EUROfusion can only reimburse 40%+ costs, which means less than 1000 Eur/paper for most cases.

K. Gal also informed the WG, that she is in continuous contact with NF and she is hoping for a solution end of this year. If authors can publish in FED and NF, that would remove the pressure on the community during FP9. However, all the above mentioned results should be cross checked both with the legal advisor and with the EC.

The short term solution proposed by the WG was to follow the FP8 rules (including payments), if the work presented in the papers were fully or partially performed in FP8. The opinions regarding the eligibility under FP8 of the costs of papers published based on FP8 studies (fully or partially) diverge. Ch. Ibbott has recommended to discuss the question with Emilia Genangeli and Michael Erdmann (meeting is set up for 17th February 2022) and amend Annex 1b of the FP8 Grant Agreement.

While focusing again on the publications during FP9 S. Tosti emphasized that the research should be free and authors should be able to choose the journals where they can publish. This is indeed the case, however publishing under the same conditions as before implies the risk that the authors/beneficiaries do not comply with the EC rules. S. Tosti has emphasized the danger that in this case authors will try to avoid the rules. R. Wolf on the other hand believes that based on the acknowledgement one can identify the EUROfusion papers. M. Ionescu-Bujor has warned the WG, that there is a risks that the number of publication will reduce. However, also the institutes are judged based on their publications, which is reducing the risks.

R. Wolf suggested to assess to possibility of the redistribution of the funds if their eligibility is so reduced. Furthermore, the administrative processes in connection to these funds should be assessed. M. Ionescu-Bujor and K Gal explained that those processes are not yet in place.

Ch. Ibbott has explained that the EC is looking for 1000 papers/year. He emphasized as well, that the EC is happy how EUROfusion fulfils the open access requirement.

S. Tosti draw the attention that the rules are quite discriminative, forget about the researchers, especially young ones, and their interest. In his views: “The EUROFusion programme, in line with the rules for EU projects, is expected to exhibit a sound dissemination and communication plan. Such a kind of plan contains dedicated actions, e.g. number of qualified publications, participations to conferences, etc. Key performance indicators for these actions should also be defined: e.g., for publications a “quality indicator” is the impact factors of the Journals. The research programme should also define the resources allocated for these dissemination and communications actions, i.e. the money to be spent for paying the papers publication, participation to conferences, etc. The grant agreement, that is the “official contract” between the EU and the Eurofusion Consortium, should report all these details. If so, it should be enough easy to establish how many money are available for the “qualified” publications and who (and with which share) has to pay (PMU, HoRUs, national labs/institutes). If not, it could be an effective proposal to amend the grant agreement in order to include in detail all these aspects (number and performance indicators of publications, allocation of specific resources, rules for reimbursements, etc.).” K. Gal explained that the unified publication plan is difficult to be worked out due to the different requirements of the different beneficiaries. Also a financial plan can only be established for the eligible costs (this exists).

F. Imbeaux requested a clarification on the publication possibilities. He was confirmed, that authors still can publish their papers in hybrid journals, however the cost should be covered from funds which allow it. EC funds do NOT allow to cover cost in hybrid journals.

E. Westerhof has informed the WG the decision of DIFFER: they will comply with the requirements of the EC and will not respect the embargo of the publishers. This action is supported by their legal advisors.

F. Imbeaux has asked about Open Research Europe, but the information available is very limited. S. Tosti mentioned that so far ORE has no impact factor, while it is expected it will appear in the next years following the citations of the ORE papers that will be done in the literature.

R. Wolf suggested to make some guidelines where and under which conditions can one publish, how to deal with the journal embargo. It is also a question how to deal with co-funded publications. This is not straightforward, as each country has its national rules how to assess work: for example France will not take into account the impact factor any longer, while in Spain or Lithuania the IF still plays a decisive role when it comes to the distribution of funding. S. Tosti emphasized that the EC rules can only be followed if EC is making the funds available.

Ch. Ibbott informed, that the possibilities to change the rules and make funds available are very limited, owing the fact that the roots of the open access are in Plan S, which the EC endorsed. K Gal offered to try to invite Johan Roorick, the executive director of Plan S to the next meeting. S. Tosti and R Wolf were discussion also the quality of the publications: How we measure it; which are the terms for referees. F. Imbeaux draw the attention that each European country deals with the quality assessment differently and EUROfusion has very limited influence on it.

S. Tosti has expressed his disappointment that those rules are very unfavorable, especially for young students, whose carrier depends on the publications. They should work under better condition and should have possibilities to reach their goals.

K Gal summarized shortly the meeting actions:

K Gal offered to try to invite John Roorick, the executive director of Plan S to the next meeting.

K Gal has offered to contact PPCF, as soon as the NF are on track. P. Ricci requested, to negotiate also with JPP (Cambridge), as many theory papers are published there.