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

**Monday 14th November 2022 (9:00-11:00 CEST)**

**Summary**

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1. The Working Group (WG) on Publications is assessing the possibility of the development of a new journal for EUROfusion and preparing a business case. Options have been assessed as a special collection at Open Research Platform run on behalf of the EC, overlays journals etc. None of these options seem to be promising and sustainable.
2. Open access policy of other European institutions (ex CERN): institutions I have checked so far have fewer demanding policies on open access, therefore, these examples are not very useful to be taken as examples of good practice in our case.

**Exception:** SCOAP3 at CERN:

‘’The Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics (or SCOAP3) is an international collaboration in the high-energy physics community to convert traditional closed access physics journals to open access, freely available for everyone to read and reuse, shifting away the burden of the publishing cost from readers (traditional model) and authors (in the case of hybrid open access journals). Under the terms of the agreement, authors retain copyrights and the articles published under SCOAP3 will be in perpetuity under a CC-BY license. The initiative was promoted by CERN in collaboration with international partners.’’

**Question: Could an agreement as SCOAP3** **represent a long term option for EUROfusion?**

* USA (DOE) and China’s responsible persons could be contacted.

This option is encouraged by the WG.

1. Status of discussion with NF, EC and Elsevier
   1. **NF:** EUROfusion and NF have discussed several options on how to make the journal compliant with the requirements of the EC. These options have been analyzed and the best possible solution for EUROfusion was adopted by Nuclear Fusion. The journal will become a full open access journal at a very reasonable price around 2000 Eur/article.. This is considered as a success since it will enable the publications of physics and technology papers.
   2. **EC**: the EC is not flexible at all regarding the open access requirements; it is the aim of the EC to avoid publishing in hybrid journals. Costs are not eligible to pay articles in hybrid journals (only in full open access venues). EUROfusion being a co-funded action by the EC and the beneficiaries, therefore the Consortium is expected to follow the values defended by the Grant Agreement. This means that even if the beneficiary has a transformative agreement, a read&publish agreement or pays for gold open access costs, publishing in hybrid journals is not in line with the requirements of the EC;

**CONCLUSION:**

**There is no way to publish in hybrid journals without being in breach with the requirements of the EC. This affects all not only Elsevier journals, but other journals such IOP, Cambridge, AIP etc** Also please note that almost none of the publishers accepts green open access with CC-BY license (this is now stated on their webpage), therefore the discussions with the EC had priority over contacting the publishers

* 1. **ELSEVIER**

Elsevier has changed its open access policies and they publish more and more journals on gold open access bases, but fusion related journals are not foreseen to be published this way. Responsible persons seem not very keen to collaboration regarding this matter.

Considering points 3b and 3c the working group has concluded that even if payments are performed to publish gold open access, the EC can apply penalties as the requirements of the Grant Agreement were not followed. As there is anyway a risk to publish in hybrid journals the working group proposes to continue to publish in Elsevier journals on green open access basis, similarly to the previous years. This is not in line with the requirements of the EC, due to the following reasons:

1. One should avoid to publish in hybrid journals.
2. Elsevier allows green open access only if the peer reviewed manuscript is published under the CC-BY-NC-ND license, while the EC requests the CC-BY license.

Note:

1. Archiving: this should be continued to be done via the EUROfusion pinboard
2. Embargo: Elsevier allows the authors to make open their peer reviewed manuscript on their website or on arxive (on non-commercial platforms which do not belong to employer), therefore the author can comply with 0-period embargo if the peer review manuscript is made open on such a platform.

The open access will be done in two steps:

* 1. via personal or non-commercial, open repositories with no embargo
  2. via EUROfusion repository after embargo (all institutional repositories fall in this category)

Note 2: Art 17 of the Grant Agreement includes more requirements: archiving, providing open access, using given license, using given license for the open access server etc. If only the license is not in line with the requirements the beneficiaries are still compliant with the requirements at a quite high level.

Other options which the WG discussed:

- Finding an MDPI or Frontiers with whom EUROfusion agrees on the terms (editorial board, requirements for referees etc) of publishing, and the GA encourages the authors to publish in this given journal all papers on the given topic. This way the impact factor could increase quickly. However, the WG does not support this option because of the lack of good scientific practice used by these publishers.

- Journals of Academies of Sciences, for example a journal called Energy published by Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. We could check if they are open to collaborate with us, by extending the scope of the journal and, if yes, we would also need to convince the community to publish there. Advantage: they are in Scopus.

- Open Research Platform (ORE) -this platform is only available for EC funded research.

NOTE:

Authors are still free to choose the journal where they wish to publish, the recommendation above only aims to try to find a few journals where one can publish under the same conditions and with the same risks.

Long term goal could be the establishment of a SCOAP3 agreement for fusion as at CERN. However, this will imply manpower and costs.