**PUBLICATION PROCEDURES IN THE EUROfusion Consortium under Horizon Europe**

**Working Group to assess publishing during Horizon Europe**

***By the Programme Manager***

***Status:***

According to the [MGA, the Model Grant Agreement](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf) the requirement regarding open access and payment of peer reviewed papers are quite restrictive and not in line with the procedures applied in the community. The following two statements are of major concern:

1. ” at the latest at the time of publication, a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or the final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication, is deposited in a trusted repository for scientific publications.” In order to maintain their subscribers most of the publishers set up an embargo period before the peer-reviewed manuscript can be made free of charge open access. This embargo lasts for fusion related journals up to 24 month. In most cases the authors/beneficiaries cannot comply both with the requirements of the publishers and of the MGA.
2. ”Only publication fees in full open access venues for peer-reviewed scientific publications are eligible for reimbursement”

Most fusion related journals are so called hybrid journals, which means they have a subscription part, which only subscribers can read, but they have also an open access part, which can be read freely on the expenses of the authors. Those papers would comply with the open access restriction presented in point 1, but the costs are not eligible. Under those conditions it is not clear how can authors publish in a number of well-established journals, especially in Nuclear Fusion.

At its 35th meeting, the General Assembly (6-7 July 2021, Zoom Meeting) has approves the method presented in “Annex 2: Publication provisions for EUROfusion Consortium under Horizon Europe” to determine the publication budget per Beneficiary, which is calculated on the basis of the number of publications on the pinboard. Related to the concerns above, the rules were kept on hold informing the General Assembly at its 36th meeting (13-14 October 2021, Zoom Meeting) when a Working Group to asses publishing during Horizon Europe was agreed. The working Group has discussed different alternatives and accordingly:

***The General Assembly is invited to approve the following solutions:***

1. ***Short term solution:***

As most of the papers include studies which contain results from FP8 and one can use FP8 funds to pay the papers – mainly NF page charges – PMU should centrally pay the papers as previously. For open access EUROfusion should follow green open access as for FP8 papers. For solely FP9 papers one should handle the situation on a case by case basis. Cost are estimated to be in order of 350k€ and the availability of funds will depend on the final amount of costs declared under FP8 and on the remaining buffer.

1. ***Long term solution:***

**Nuclear Fusion**: the journal is very relevant for the community, therefore effort should be invested in order to keep the journal. This effort should be coordinated at the level of the EC and IAEA. Both institutions are open to discussions.

**Hybrid journals**, with non-zero embargo: the situation is quite difficult, and two far from ideal options are at hand:

1. Do not respect the embargo and comply with the requests of the EC, however this could be a high-risk option from a legal point of view
2. Try to negotiate with the EC, that the EUROfusion community will comply with the collection and storage of the manuscripts upon publication, but will only open them after 12, max 24 month embargo. This agreement should hold preferably up to the end of the grant, but nonetheless up to 2024, as Plan-S requires. Special attention should be dedicated to Fusion Engineering and Design and other Elsevier journals, because Elsevier is not planning to include the fusion related journals among the journals with transformative status.

During the negotiations, the EC should be informed that the publishers relevant for the fusion community, are not accepting to publish under the CC-BY license as Plan-S is suggesting/requiring. Furthermore, this license was only used about ~500 times which is negligible compared to the size of the whole European scientific community.

**Open Research Europe (ORE)**

When ORE becomes available some test submissions should be performed. The assessment of this system can only be done after the platform has been made available to EUROfusion.

Note: The documentation of the Working Group Activity can be found: https://indico.euro-fusion.org/event/1615/