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Information on open access publishing of research findings in NCN-funded research projects

To whom it may concern:

The National Science Centre (hereinafter also referred to as the “NCN”) supports the idea of open science according to which publicly funded research results must be accessible to the broadest possible audience. At the same time, recognising the complexity of OA-related issues and the diversity of practices across scientific disciplines, the NCN aims to increase the transparency and predictability of its open access requirements.

In response to the needs of the research community and the evolving landscape of scholarly communication, the NCN has adopted a more flexible approach to open access publishing of NCN-funded research results. Therefore, a new Open Access Publishing policy has been introduced, for research results generated by research projects, fellowships, scholarships, research activities and research components recommended for funding in the calls launched as of 15 September 2025 ([Order No 39/2025 by the NCN Director](#)).

The NCN has also decided to extend the relaxed open access provisions to include ongoing research projects, fellowships, scholarships, research activities and research components recommended for funding in the calls launched as of 15 June 2020, for which funding agreements have been signed after 1 January 2021.

This means that the new policy will also apply to the ongoing NCN-funded projects previously governed by the Open Access Policy adopted pursuant to Order No 38/2020 by the NCN Director of 27 May 2020, as amended by Order No 40/2020 of 31 May 2020.

However, the new policy does not apply to projects co-funded under international calls launched or co-launched by the NCN, such as POLONEZ BIS and calls launched by the CHANSE and CHIST-ERA networks that are subject to Order No 38/2020 by the NCN Director of 27 May 2020, as amended by Order No 41/2020 of 31 May 2020, where the previous provisions continue to apply. Furthermore, the new policy does not apply to the beneficiaries



of calls launched by the Biodiversa+ network, which are governed by the Horizon Europe's regulations.

I. SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

The rules of open access publishing set out below shall be recommended. Considering the diversity across scientific disciplines and specific nature of publication processes, the NCN shall permit closed access (subscription-based) publishing without required sharing of the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM¹) or preprint² in a repository.

1. Forms of Publications

Research papers financed by the National Science Centre may be published in:

- a) open access journals or
- b) closed access (e.g. traditional subscription) journals.

2. Open Access Publication Routes for Journals

The NCN shall accept three equivalent publication routes:

- a) Route 1: publication in journals registered, or with pending registration, in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ³), where the journal's DOAJ status at the time of manuscript submission is decisive;
- b) Route 2: Publication in subscription journals⁴ and/or hybrid⁵ journals.

When an article is published in a closed access journal, the authors are encouraged to deposit their manuscript version (e.g. a preprint or Author Accepted Manuscript) in an open repository registered in the Open Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR⁶). Failure to share the preprint / AAM shall not affect the project cost or project settlement; and

- c) Route 3: Publication in journals under transformative agreements (available for a limited time based on the applicable national publishing consortia arrangements)⁷.

¹ Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) is the final manuscript version created by the author, including all the revisions introduced after the peer review, and accepted for publication in the journal. Other terms: post print, accepted author manuscript.

² Preprint is a version of an article that precedes formal peer review and publication in a peer-reviewed scholarly or scientific journal. Other terms: submitted version, Author's Original Manuscript (AOM), Submitted Manuscript Under Review (SMUR).

³ Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is an international database of peer-reviewed open access journals, launched in 2003 (for more information, go to [link](#)).

⁴ Subscription journals are journals where articles are accessible through paid subscription.

⁵ Hybrid journals are journals that publish both open access and subscription-based articles.

⁶ OpenDOAR is a website that lists high-quality open access repositories (for more information, go to [link](#)).

⁷ Journals covered by Polish transformative agreements are listed on the website of *Wirtualna Biblioteka Naukowa* (Virtual Library of Science) (for more information, go to [link](#)).



3. Open Access Routes for Books, Chapters and Peer-Reviewed Collected Works Published in Open Access

Two Open Access models shall be recommended for monographs, monograph chapters and peer-reviewed collected works:

- a) Gold Open Access, where manuscripts are immediately available online, free of charge, and
- b) Green Open Access, where authors deposit their manuscripts in an open repository.

4. Open Access Licence

Open access publications shall be subject to a **Creative Commons⁸ licence** or equivalent open licence. The NCN shall recommend using the CC BY 4.0 licence, which protects the author's copyright, while allowing reuse with proper attribution.

5. Costs

Article Processing Charges (APCs) for the three publication routes specified in Point 2 and all types of Creative Commons licences (or other equivalent) shall be eligible and shall be covered from:

- a) indirect OA costs or
- b) other indirect costs.

APCs shall not be covered from direct costs.

The NCN shall not recommend paying APCs for papers published under Route 2, i.e. in subscription or hybrid journals, where AAM or preprint can be freely deposited in a repository.

Book Processing Charges (BPCs) for open access monographs shall be accounted for as direct costs only if a manuscript has been successfully evaluated by the NCN.

However, starting with the SONATA BIS 14 and MAESTRO 16 calls (launched on 17 June 2024), BPCs have been deemed ineligible for funding of this type of publication.

II. RESEARCH DATA

Research data sharing regulations shall be mandatory and shall apply to key datasets associated with scientific publications resulting from NCN-funded research projects.

⁸ For more information on Creative Commons licences, go to <https://creativecommons.org/>.



1. Research Data Sharing

Any data (basic datasets) underlying scientific articles (whether OA or closed access) shall be:

- a) well-documented in compliance with the principles of findability (machine-readable or manual search), accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR Data⁹) and
- b) shared in open repositories, if possible, under the terms of the Creative Commons Public Domain (CC0) or Creative Commons Attribution International (CC BY 4.0) licence or equivalent licences that ensures the same degree of data openness and reuse.

Exceptions to data sharing shall be allowed in well-justified cases (subject to a relevant justification), including:

- a) personal data protection;
- b) trade or industrial secret;
- c) national security;
- d) intellectual property rights restricting data sharing.

Any exceptions shall be duly justified.

2. Metadata

All published data shall include complete metadata in compliance with domain-specific requirements, including at least:

- a) dataset title,
- b) author(s) and their publications,
- c) date of data creation and/or collection,
- d) research methodology and tools used for data collection,
- e) data format and structure,
- f) terms of data sharing and licencing, and
- g) funding acknowledgement, and correct NCN project registration number (National Science Centre, project number).

⁹ FAIR Data principles define a number of dataset attributes that make it findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable. See: M. Wilkinson et al. (2016), The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship, Scientific Data 3, doi:10.1038/sdata.2016.18), and <https://www.force11.org/fairprinciples>.