

**Order No 38/2020**  
**of the Director of the National Science Centre**  
**on the OPEN ACCESS POLICY AT THE NCN**  
**of 27 May 2020**

Pursuant to Article 34 (2) (4) and Article 34 (2) (6) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (uniform text in Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1384), in conjunction with § 2 (3) of the Organisational Regulations of the National Science Centre's Office and according to the tasks of the Scientific Coordinators of the National Science Centre, the uniform text of which is set out in Annex 1 to Order No 26/2020 of the Director of the National Science Centre of 21 April 2020, it is hereby decided as follows:

§1

The Open Access Policy at the NCN is hereby established with regard to publications resulting from the research projects, scholarships and fellowships as well as research activities funded or co-funded by the National Science Centre.

§2

The Open Access Policy referred to in §1 applies to research projects, scholarships, fellowships and research activities recommended for funding starting from the calls for proposals announced on 16 June 2020, with respect to which funding agreements will be signed after 1 January 2021.

§3

The Open Access Policy referred to in §1 is attached hereto as Annex 1.

§4

The Order comes into force on the date of its signature.

Director of the National Science Centre

Annex 1  
to Order No 38/2020  
of the Director of the National Science Centre  
on the OPEN ACCESS POLICY AT THE NCN  
of 27 May 2020

## OPEN ACCESS POLICY AT THE NCN

The idea of universal open access to current knowledge is fundamental for the maintenance and development of democratic society. It involves publishing academic works and publicly funded research results online in a digital format so as to make them, free of charge, available for use by researchers, students, business people and society at large. Open access to research publications is also beneficial for researchers, because the immediate availability of digital data contributes to greater author recognition in any given discipline.

In accordance with the recommendations adopted by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in October 2015 and laid down in a document entitled *Kierunki rozwoju otwartego dostępu do publikacji i wyników badań naukowych w Polsce (Directions of the Development of Open Access to Research Publications and Research Results in Poland)*, as well as the provisions of [Plan S](#), signed by cOAlition S, to which the National Science Centre also belongs, we hereby outline the policy governing the open-access publication of research results (such as articles in peer-reviewed journals, but also peer-reviewed conference papers and original research data) obtained in research projects funded or co-funded from public research sources. At present, the policy does not cover the publication of monographs, monograph chapters and peer-reviewed collected works. It shall come into force as of the 37<sup>th</sup> edition of calls announced on 16 June 2020 and apply to projects based on funding agreements signed after 1 January 2021.

The NCN defines open access not only as free access to online publications, but also as the freedom to copy, disseminate and use them in any way in accordance with the conditions specified by a CC-BY copyright licence.

### Publication routes

Together with other European cOAlition S agencies, the National Science Centre has opposed the practice of double funding access to research results and publications (by subscription and publication fees). In accordance with its vision of open access to research

results and publications, the NCN requires that all research results should be made available in full and immediate open access (without any embargo period).

In accordance with the principles of Plan S, the National Science Centre recognizes the following publication routes as compliant with its open access policy:

1. Publication in open access journals and on open access platforms registered, or with pending registration, in the *Directory of Open Access Journals* ([DOAJ](#)).
2. Publication in subscription journals (hybrid journals<sup>1</sup>), as long as the Version of Record (VoR<sup>2</sup>) or the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM<sup>3</sup>) is published, by the author or publisher, in an open repository immediately upon the article's online publication (without any embargo period). The repository must be registered in the *Open Directory of Open Access Repositories* ([OpenDOAR](#)), while the VoR or AAM should have a unique persistent identifier (e.g. DOI, URN, UUID, Handle or other). If the version deposited in the repository and the published version are different (AAM and VoR), they should be tagged with different PIDs.
3. Publication in journals covered by an open access licence within the framework of so-called transformative agreements, inscribed in the *Efficiency and Standards for Article Charges* registry ([ESAC-registry](#)). The pilot programmes signed by the Polish Wirtualna Biblioteka Naukowa (Virtual Research Library) with various publishers are an example of such a national transformative agreement<sup>4</sup>.

In *transformative journals* (TJ<sup>5</sup>). Transformative journals must meet the criteria outlined in [Plan S](#) implementation guidelines and allow authors to publish their original research articles in open access.

This publication route is only available for articles published or accepted for publication before 31 December 2024.

Determined that from 1 July 2022, only those publishers which adhere to at least one of the approved Frameworks (the one developed by Information Power and the one developed by the FAIR Open Access Alliance (FOAA)); will be eligible to receive funds from NCN or other

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<sup>1</sup> **Hybrid journals** may contain articles available both in open access and via traditional paid subscription mechanisms.

<sup>2</sup> **VoR** is a manuscript version published in a journal with its own typeface and branding. Other terms: published version or publisher's pdf.

<sup>3</sup> **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.

<sup>4</sup> [Pilot open access publication program \(Elsevier\)](#)  
[Open access publication programme \(Springer\)](#)  
[Science Advances \(Science licence annex\)](#)

Transformative journals are journals whose publishers have expressed willingness to move all or some contents from the subscription mode to open access. A list of transformative journals can be found here: <https://www.coalition-s.org/plan-s-compliant-transformative-journals>.

cOAlition S members. This covers funder contributions to any model of financing open access publications mentioned above.

The choice of journal in which the results of research funded or co-funded by the NCN will be published is up to the author/authors. However, the NCN recommends that authors verify the quality standards of the journal in question before submitting the manuscript (e.g. <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/>). Expenses related to the publication fees charged by *predatory journals* may be considered as ineligible costs and may have to be reimbursed to the NCN.

### Costs

Fees related to the publication process, i.e. *Article Processing Charges (APC)*, are considered as eligible costs in the case of routes 1 and 3.

Publication fees charged by hybrid journals (under route 2) are not considered as eligible costs and cannot be covered from the funds granted by the National Science Centre.

For path 3, the publication fees of a certain number of articles will be paid by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education within the framework of the *Read and Publish* transformative agreement. Once the limit of articles in the programme is reached, open access publication will enjoy a 20% discount for the entity with which the corresponding author<sup>6</sup>, i.e. the principal investigator or research team member, is affiliated.

Funds slated for publication fees should be expended in a thrifty manner and thoroughly documented. Where possible, fee exemptions and discounts offered by some open access journals and publishers should be claimed. Any additional services commissioned by the author (copies, colour prints, etc.) are analysed separately from the APC and considered as ineligible costs by the NCN.

In order to implement the provisions of Plan S, the NCN dedicates an extra 2% of indirect costs for this purpose; these resources are left at the disposal of the principal investigator and should be used to ensure that the call for open access to research results is met, e.g. by result publication or long-term data storage after the end of the project.

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<sup>6</sup> A person affiliated with a given entity is to be understood as its student or employee at the time when the article is submitted to the programme, or a person otherwise associated with the entity, who affiliates the article with the institution, subject to the latter's approval.

## Copyright and licences

The NCN requires that the publications containing project results (also those in the form of AAM or VoR) should be available in open access, using the *Creative Commons Attribution* (CC BY) licence.

By default, the NCN recommends using the [Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 4.0](#) licence. Alternatively, articles may be published in journals under transformative agreements, using the CC-BY-SA licence. In individual cases approved by the NCN, the CC-BY-ND licence can also be used.

If a publication based on an open access licence creates a conflict between the researcher and the publisher, the NCN, as a member of cOAlition S, can act as a mediator.

Authors can find more information about journal self-archiving policies on the Sherpa/ROMEO website: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/search.php>.

Where possible, underlying data (basic data sets) related to the published articles should be placed in an open repository, based on a *Creative Commons Public Domain* licence (CC0 licence), data citation standards laid down in the [Declaration of Data Citation Principles by FORCE 11](#), as well as the principles specified in [TOP Guidelines](#). All published metadata must meet the guidelines laid down by OpenAIRE<sup>7</sup> (<https://zenodo.org/record/6918#.XqfeHf0zblU>) and include a note about project funding resources (National Science Centre, project number).

For research articles published in cooperation with authors funded by agencies other than those belonging to cOAlition S, publication fees (if applicable) may be considered as eligible costs if and only if the corresponding author of the article is the principal investigator or a research team member affiliated with the host institution for the project.

## Additional provisions

The open access requirement is an integral part of the provisions laid down in a funding agreement and a necessary condition for the publication to be recognized as an output of the project, including during the cost eligibility assessment of the concluded project.

Compliance with the above provisions will be verified by the NCN at the annual and final project report stage, during audits carried out in the host institution and the external audit of the project.

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<sup>7</sup>Available at: <https://guidelines.openaire.eu/en/latest/data/index.html>

Irrespective of the chosen publication route, all project publications must be made available in open access, based on a CC-BY licence (copyright preserved), and include a note about project funding resources (National Science Centre, project number), as well as a unique persistent identifier (PID) (e.g. DOI (preferred), URN or Handle).

In addition, publications placed by the author or publisher in an open repository, as well as all the corresponding metadata, must meet a machine-readable data standard such as JATS XML (or a level 5 equivalent).

As a signatory to the cOAlition S and the *San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)*, the National Science Centre undertakes to base its project funding decisions on the assessment of the results of previous research carried out by the principal investigator and their merit-based review, without prejudice to the publication venue, its impact factor (or other indexes) or publisher.

As a member of cOAlition S, the NCN will provide researchers with the means, i.e. the Journal Checker Tool, necessary to verify their compliance with the above provisions.