

News Service

News, updates & developments from DOAJ

A Funding Opportunity for APC-free Open Access Journals and Platforms

This is a guest post by **Pablo de Castro** (<http://orcid.org/0000-0001-6300-1033>),
Coordinator for the OpenAIRE FP7 Post-Grant Open Access Pilot.



The FP7 Post-Grant Open Access Pilot (<https://www.openaire.eu/postgrantoapilot>), as launched by the EC and OpenAIRE in May 2015, was mainly designed as a tool to fund Open Access publishing fees for publications arising from completed FP7 (7th Framework Programme (https://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/understanding/fp7inbrief/what-is_en.html) for

Research and Technological Development) projects. This is its main area of activity and this work is starting to bear fruit, with over 300 funded Open Access publications (<https://blogs.openaire.eu/?p=818>) after a year of operation.

However, *most of the journals in the DOAJ charge no APCs to their authors*. Moreover, lacking a proper business model, funding opportunities for these journals are scarce beyond governmental and/or institutional funding and specific calls such as the Canadian SSHRC's (<http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/scholarly-journals-revues-savantes-eng.aspx>).

This is why this pilot has extended its funding scope to also cover APC-free OA journals and platforms through an alternative funding mechanism (<https://www.openaire.eu/are-you-publishing-your-apc-free-oa-journal-on-a-shoestring>) released on May 3rd. This funding mechanism will allow journals *to collect support for the implementation of technical improvements on their publishing workflows*. Its features and requirements will be thoroughly discussed at an OpenAIRE webinar (<https://www.openaire.eu/webinar-funding-available-for-apc-free-open-access-journals-and-platforms>) on May 12th.

This initiative will specifically offer an opportunity to establish closer links between OpenAIRE and APC-free OA journals and publishers. While fully Open Access publishers like Ubiquity Press (<https://www.openaire.eu/prestigious-oa-publisher-openaire-compliant>) and Copernicus (<https://www.openaire.eu/copernicus-open-access-publisher-in-openaire>) are OpenAIRE-compliant, OpenAIRE's main focus has traditionally been—and will remain—on OA repositories and repository networks. Through this initiative, this will now be extended out to OA journals, allowing a deeper technical harmonization to take place in the APC-free OA publishing landscape.

One of the key technical improvements to be funded will be *having the journal's outputs regularly indexed at article level in DOAJ*. 69% of the OA journals currently listed in DOAJ are indexed at article level, which means there's room for improvement. OpenAIRE is eager to promote this article-level indexing in DOAJ as a standard that will result in more visibility for the global OA content production.

Another strongly recommended enhancement is *the systematic inclusion of the funding and project information in the article-level metadata within the publishing platform*. While this is already a requirement (https://guidelines.openaire.eu/en/latest/literature/field_projectid.html) for OpenAIRE-compliant repositories (at least for EC-funded projects, i.e. FP7 and Horizon 2020), it is only very rarely happening in APC-free Open Access journals at the time, even when it's a key aspect of the way the contextual information around a publication is collected and shared. This collection of funding and project information will in fact be key for identifying eligibility for this alternative funding mechanism.

We are very much looking forward then to collecting interesting funding proposals from APC-free Open Access journals and platforms in the next two months. Make sure to register for the May 12th webinar (<https://www.openaire.eu/webinar-funding-available-for-apc-free-open-access-journals-and-platforms>) if interested in this funding opportunity!



Posted on [11/05/2016](#) by [DOAJ](#) This entry was posted in [Author processing charges](#), [Funding](#), [Guest Post](#), [Open Access policy](#), [OpenAIRE](#) and tagged [APCs](#), [FP7](#), [Horizon2020](#), [noAPC](#), [open access](#), [OpenAIRE](#), [webinar](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

[CREATE A FREE WEBSITE OR BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#) | [THE TONAL THEME.](#)