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Communiqué on the relaxation of NCN's Open Access Policy

The National Science Centre introduced its Open Access Policy (hereinafter referred to as “the Policy”), applicable to all calls announced from 15 June 2020 onward, in order to:

1. emphasise that publishers cannot restrict authors' right to make free use of the results of their work;
2. strengthen the impact of research conducted at Polish research institutions;
3. increase the visibility and citation impact of researchers affiliated to Polish research institutions;
4. ensure wide-scale international access to the results of research funded from domestic public resources;
5. underscore its lack of tolerance for so-called *double-dipping* practices, i.e. publishers' deriving profit from two sources of public funds.

At the same time, our mission is to guarantee that the results of research funded by the NCN are published by international publishers applying top-quality publishing standards. The Policy has not affected this principle, which continues to be reflected in the provisions of all our project funding and implementation agreements.

The NCN has been monitoring changes in publisher policies and business models. Our analyses indicate a clear radicalisation of publisher practices, who increasingly restrict the freedom of authors to make use of the author accepted manuscript (AAM¹) versions of their work.

In relation with the above, as well as to address issues reported by the academic community, the NCN has decided to introduce a transition period, lasting until 31 December 2025 (for final reports submitted until 31 December 2025), during which the following changes to the Policy will apply:

- for research publications covered by the Policy and released via Route 1, all [CC 4.0 licences](#) will be accepted;

- for Route 2, embargoes will be accepted provided that:

immediately after its publication on the publisher's website, a preprint of the publication is released, subject to a CC BY license, in a repository from the [openDOAR database](#); the preprint must be given a valid PID number² (DOI or equivalent);

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, author accepted manuscript

²*Persistent Identifier* (PID) is a long-lasting identifier, sequence of characters permanently assigned to an object so as to enable its unambiguous identification (one such commonly used identifier is DOI).

and

once the embargo period has ended, the AAM version is published in an openDOAR repository.

The issue of APC³ cost eligibility remains unchanged. APC costs are eligible only for publications released via Route 1, as specified in the Policy, under a CC BY 4.0 or CC BY-ND 4.0 licence (in justified cases), and for Path 3, as specified in the Policy, under a CC BY 4.0, CC BY-SA 4.0 or CC BY-ND 4.0 licence (in justified cases).

For research data, a CC0 and CC BY 4.0 licence will be accepted.

These provisions apply to all the calls that fall under the Policy, except projects selected under the following international calls: POLONEZ BIS, calls launched by networks such as CHANSE, CHIST-ERA, ForestValue2 and Biodiversa+, as well as GRIEG, IdeaLab and POLS calls, funded from the Norway Grants within the framework of the Basic Research programme.

These changes enter into force on the signing date of this Communiqué.

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³*Article Processing Charges (APC)* are the costs of open access publication of articles.