

Instructions for scientific publication

These instructions have been created by the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas) on 15 December 2020 and apply to projects that have been awarded a grant in calls that open after 1 January 2021.

The instructions should be followed by anyone who receives a grant from Formas. They describe the different ways you can publish your project results using open access in accordance with Formas' general terms and conditions for research and innovation grants.

Background

Formas is tasked with funding research and innovation of the highest scientific quality, enabling real-world impact and promoting sustainable development. Critical to Formas' ability to carry out this mandate is ensuring that the research we fund undergoes the usual peer review and is published under immediate open access. Open access publishing enables additional quality review, since the results quickly become available for other researchers to review.

Open access to scientific publications is an essential tool for ensuring that research results benefit society as quickly as possible. It maximises the availability and usability of scientific results and ensures that the research Formas funds can be built upon. Scientific publications must also be published with open access in order to achieve the global sustainable development goals by 2030. Therefore, Formas requires that scientific articles resulting from projects which we fund be published with immediate open access.

Formas is part of an international network of research funders (Coalition S) which works to ensure that scientific articles based on publicly funded research are published immediately and are freely available. Formas' instructions for open-access publication of scientific articles follow the principles of the plan drawn up by the network and applied by several other research funding organisations both in Sweden and worldwide (Plan S).

Publications covered by the instructions

The instructions apply to peer-reviewed articles that have been accepted for publication in scholarly journals, conference reports or on publishing platforms. Other types of publications, such as monographs, book chapters, reports or articles in specialist and other journals that do not apply peer review, are not covered by the instructions.

The instructions apply to the publication of results from projects funded by Formas through calls that open after 1 January 2021.

How to publish your research

You can publish your results in any of the following ways:

1. *Open-access journals and platforms*

Publication can take place in open-access journals and on publicly available platforms. An article processing charge (APC) in such channels might be covered by Formas' project grants. Read more under "Publication costs".

2. *Parallel publication*

Publication in subscription journals is consistent with Formas' instructions, provided that the version of record (VOR) or author accepted manuscript (AAM) is simultaneously, and without delay, deposited in a publicly available repository.

3. *Publication in (a) a journal that is part of a transformative agreement or (b) a transformative journal*

(a) The national library consortium, Bibsam, has a number of so-called transformative agreements with various publishers. The cost of publication in journals which have such agreements is prepaid by the higher education institutions and institutes covered by the agreements.

(b) [Transformative journals](#) are journals that have committed to transitioning to an open-access journal.

Coalition S has developed a [Journal Checker Tool](#) that makes it easier for researchers to publish in compliance with the above requirements. The tool enables you to find information about which journals and channels you can use for publishing. It compiles the names of open-access journals and platforms, journals covered by transformative agreements and transformative journals. The tool also indicates whether publication in a particular journal requires parallel publication.

Publish using a public license

Scientific publication must take place with a public license so that you as an author do not forfeit the copyright to publishers who can then restrict use of the published article. This also provides a means to maximise the impact of the results.

Articles must be published with a public licence under which the creator allows others to freely share and adapt the article as long as the creator is credited at the time of dissemination and any changes to the original article are made clear. The Creative Commons [CC BY license is an example of such a public license](#).

The person who will publish project results funded by Formas must ensure that all future manuscripts approved by the author after peer review (author-approved manuscripts) are licensed under a CC BY licence or equivalent. The publisher of project results commits to approving all documents that are necessary to confirm or approve such a license.

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To clarify that the article is being published under a public licence, the following statement must be added to the manuscript:

This research was funded in whole or in part by Formas [grant number]. For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a CC BY public copyright license to any author accepted manuscript (AAM) version arising from this submission.

If you choose to publish your article with another public license with terms corresponding to CC BY, replace "CC BY" above with the name of the relevant license.

Publication costs

In Sweden, there are several agreements for publication in journals that are part of transformative agreements through the national library consortium, Bibsam. Publication in journals with such agreements does not incur any additional cost for the project if the organisation to which the article author belongs is included in the agreement. Such publication is prepaid by the organisations covered by the agreements.

If you intend to publish an article in a fully open access journal or a transformative journal, you can apply for a grant for the cost this might entail. You do this in the project application you submit. This is a cost that qualifies as an operating cost. The cost must be reasonable and be substantiated at the request of Formas.

A Formas grant does not cover the cost of publication in subscription-based journals where the author or institution can pay a fee to unlock the article, thereby making it available with delayed open access. Such publication is not compatible with these instructions.

Follow-up

If you have received a grant from Formas, you must, when you submit your project's financial and scientific final report, disclose whether the project's results have been published and whether they have been published with open access in accordance with these instructions.

Formas also intends to follow up on compliance with these instructions with the higher education institutions or research institutes at a central level.

More information

If you are affiliated with a higher education institution, you can contact the school's library for more information. The libraries have databases and staff who can give you practical tips and advice on questions concerning open access to scientific publications. Contact your institution for information on how to publish using open access.

As tasked by the government, the National Library of Sweden coordinates the implementation of open access to scientific publications. For more information, visit [their website](#).

Consult the links below for additional information and search tools

[Journal Checker Tool](#), a tool that compiles the names of open-access journals and platforms, journals covered by transformative agreements and transformative journals. The tool also indicates whether publication in a particular journal requires parallel publication.

[SciFree Journal Search Tool](#), a tool that compiles all journals that are part of transformative agreements, is used by Swedish universities that have agreements with the tool provider. Check with your institution.

Open-access journals and platforms are indexed in the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) (DOAJ)

Open-access repositories are indexed in the [Directory of Open Access Repositories](#) (OpenDOAR)

Read more about [Coalition S and Plan S](#)

Read more about Creative Commons licenses on the [National Library of Sweden website](#)