# Open Research Europe

## Question and Answer Document

February 2023

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Since September 2022 COST Actions have the opportunity to submit their scientific publications directly to Open Research Europe (ORE), the European Commission's Open Access publishing platform for research.

This Question and Answer document is a direct result of the COST-ORE webinar in November 2022. If you missed the ORE webinar COST play it back here: https://youtu.be/w8RbWGWiUds

If you have further questions that the webinar or this document does not sufficiently address please contact the ORE team directly and they will be able to assist:

publishing@open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu
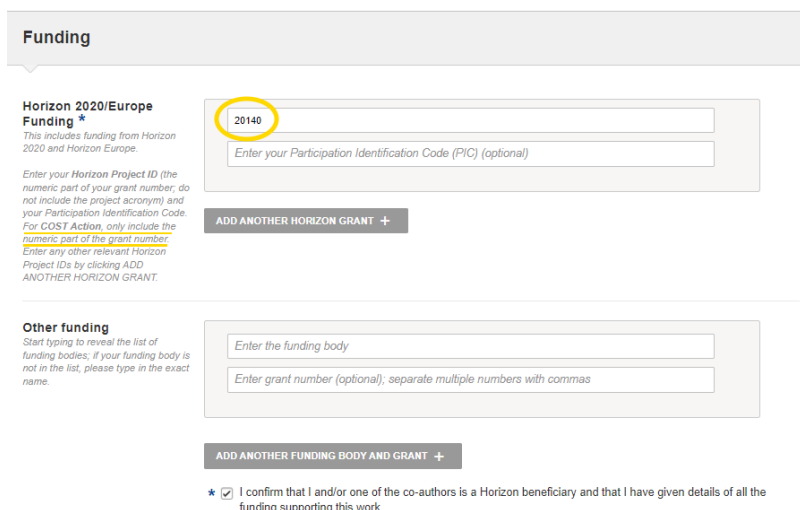
# 2. COST SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

## To publish on ORE, is it enough for an article to be authored by only a few COST Action members?

The requirements for publishing on Open Research Europe are as follows:

- One author should be registered as a COST Action member
- The research presented should be related to the topic of the COST Action

## Should all COST Actions should use the same grant number (861952) when finalising their submission?

Previously COST Actions were asked to use the same Horizon grant number (861952) when submitting however this has recently changed. COST Actions can now submit directly to ORE by using their CA number but without the letters CA in front (only numerical values). For example, members of the COST Action CA20140 should submit with the number 20140.



Don't forget to add the COST Action name and number to your acknowledgements to correctly reference the COST Action that you are a member of and that your research is related to. An example of a proper acknowledgement would be as follows:

This research was financially supported by the European Union's Framework Programme for Research Innovation as part of the COST Action [*insert the CA number for your individual COST Action and its full name*] as supported by COST [European Cooperation in Science and Technology].

## Is the Open Access cost associated to publishing on ORE deducted from the budget of the COST Action?

No, the payment for the article processing charge (APC) is directly between F1000 and the European Commission so there is no need to deduct it from the COST Action budget.

## We had been thinking about producing a special issue. We have one author who is not a member of our COST Action. For ORE, I understand that we will send individual papers. However, what would happen to our non-COST Action member? If we decide to publish with ORE, does this mean that this author cannot publish because she is not a member of our Action?

Only one person who authors the article needs to be a member of the COST Action, so there is no restriction on your colleague being named as an author.

## Is it possible to publish results from research, initiated during a COST Action, but completed already after the end of the Action?

Yes, COST members are eligible to publish research outputs developed through the Action after it has officially ended.

# 3. TYPES OF SUBMISSION

## Does ORE publish guest-edited special issues or only individual articles? Is it possible to publish entire reports and not only papers?

There are multiple options for submitting to Open Research Europe. You can submit individual articles but we also have Community Gateways, which operate as a subject-area level, and Collections, which focus on a specific topic like a special issue but which are not time-bound (i.e., there is no submission deadline). Collections are designed to act as hubs of knowledge where different projects can submit and add to the collective knowledge in this area. If you have an idea for a Collection, please feel free to get in touch at publishing@open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu

**COST**
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**Open Research Europe**

**ARTICLE TYPES by subject**

| | Natural sciences | Engineering and technology | Medical and health sciences | Agricultural and veterinary sciences | Social sciences | Humanities and the arts |
|---|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| Case Study | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Research Article | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Brief Report | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Data Note | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Method Article | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Open Letter | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Software Tool Article | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Review | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Case Report | ● | ● | ● | ● | | |
| Registered Report | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Clinical Practice Article | ● | ● | ● | ● | | |
| Study Protocol | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Systematic Review | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Essay | | | | | ● | ● |

European Commission

## What type of content is accepted? Does ORE accept working papers, review and/or concept articles, or textbooks?

Open Research Europe is designed for publishing scholarly articles. We have a broad range of different article types, which can be found here. If you are unsure about which article type to use, please feel free to get in touch at editorial@open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu. We do not publish textbooks.

## Is it possible, after publication and review on Open Research Europe, to submit the paper to another journal?

No, Open Research Europe performs the same function as a journal by publishing the article online, so you cannot submit to another journal once you have submitted to Open Research Europe.

## Does ORE have publishing templates? Is there a template that is not LaTeX or PDF?

ORE colleagues are working to develop templates and we hope that they will be available on the platform in the coming months.

## Would it be possible to publish case studies that have been finalised by a COST Action that are now published in their official websites?

Yes, you can publish case studies that have been made available on your official website. We use CC-BY licences for our articles so there are no restrictions on making articles available in other non-publishing contexts (what we would call Green Open Access).

## Can Collections be used for the workshop proceedings and who is in charge of reviews in this case?

Yes, Collections could be created for workshop proceedings if the outputs were turned into research articles. The review process would happen as normal from our perspective (i.e., led by the author and managed by our Peer Review Management team) but you might want to pre-screen submissions as a group beforehand.

# 4. PROCESS

## How long does it take to publish on ORE after article submission without peer review?

Our current time from submission to initial publication before peer review is 46 days on average, but we find that the majority of this time comes from the author making changes. Our own processes are quite quick. The editorial team will initially be checking things such as:

- Structure of article
- Quality and resolution of figures and tables
- Referencing
- Ethical consent (where applicable)

The editor will then supply authors with recommendations for changes, which need to be implemented before the article can be published. How quickly the article is then published depends on how quickly the author is able to revise the article accordingly.

# 5. REVIEW

## How do you check any conflict of interest between Authors and Reviewers?

Our Peer Review Management team are experts at this. They will primarily be checking the author's publication history for previous collaborators but will also check for institutional links. You can find more details about how the reviewer selection process works here.

## How does ORE ensure quality after peer review, if you can still publish new versions after indexing and putting it into repositories?

When the new version is published, reviewers who have previously provided a peer review report for the article will automatically be made aware of the updated publication. They will then have the option to re-review the paper and change their peer review status. Indexers can choose to be updated with each new version that is published and if the reader navigates to an old version of an article, there will be a pop up to inform them that there is a newer version, which will offer to take the reader there.

## Can you explain this point further "authors may continue to publish new versions, even once peer review ended"?

As an author you are available to continue making adjustments to your article after it has been published. All our articles are 'living', meaning that authors can revise or update their articles, either in response to reviewers' comments or if there have been small developments relevant to the initial findings. This helps to ensure that articles are always up to date and responsive to scientific discussions.

# 6. TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

### How is ZENODO (which is automatically feeding OpenAire) linked with Open Research Europe?

An article that has passed peer review (i.e., it has received at least two Approved peer review reports, or one Approved plus two Approved with Reservations reviews) will be indexed in bibliographic databases, once the platform has undergone a formal evaluation process by these indexing services. Our list of indexers (which can be found on our FAQ page) includes Zenodo.

### Under what circumstances would it be beneficial to use ORE instead of conventional journal publication routes?

There are lots of benefits to publishing on Open Research Europe, which include:

- Cost-free
- Rapid publication
- Post-publication peer review that facilitates open and constructive dialogue
- Inclusive of all research outputs with multiple article types, allowing grant holders to publish throughout the life cycle of their project
- Transparent, open access and fully compliant with the European Commission's publishing and data requirements

### Articles will only be available on the specific platform you mentioned but not on other very widely used platforms. Is that right? If so, is there a strategy in place to make the platform widely known to researchers within and outside of Europe?

Articles are initially available on Open Research Europe until they have passed peer review but can also be found on Google Scholar. After articles pass peer review, they are then distributed through normal indexing routes, such as Google Scholar, Scopus, etc. At that point, there is no difference in visibility to research from any other journal.

## 7. RANKING AND IMPACT FACTOR

### Do articles published on ORE have an Impact Factor?

Open Research Europe does not have an Impact Factor (IF) and will not have one in the future. We do not believe that IF and other journal-level metrics such as h-index are beneficial for research communities. They are metrics that are biased towards people in the global north and to people who are more advanced in their careers, as well as making novelty the driving force of impact. In collaboration with Science Europe and the European University Association, the European Commission has set up a body called the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment, which already has over 400 signatories who have pledged to follow their commitments. This includes stopping the inappropriate use of journal-level metrics to assess researchers but also taking a holistic view on the entirety of a researcher's role. Publishing is a small part of what most researchers do and it does not make sense to continue assessing them solely on this output. COST is also a member of the Coalition. Instead of IF, Open Research Europe tracks metrics at an article level to allow researchers to assess the impact of their individual article, which is a more accurate way of assessing impact.

## 8. MISCELLANEOUS

## Please, give some details about publishing nationally-funded research - is this option already open and what are the requirements about the time frame of the reported research (on-going or also already completed projects?)

At the moment, Open Research Europe is only available as a publishing venue for projects that have received Horizon Europe or Horizon 2020 funding, which includes COST Actions. The European Commission is exploring opening up the platform to projects with national funding but this is in the early stages. Researchers remain eligible to publish outputs from their Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects even after the project has closed.

## What about resubmission to other journals after it has been rejected by ORE, would this be possible?

Open Research Europe publishes articles before peer review and so there is no option to withdraw the article if it fails to pass peer review: the article is already published so it can't be "un-published". We assess research based on a sound science basis rather than on novelty i.e., we are assessing whether the research has been conducted and written up properly, so authors always have the opportunity to revise their article. There is no rejection on Open Research Europe in the traditional sense. If an author decides not to update their article, it will not be distributed to indexers and will remain on the Open Research Europe site as an article that has not passed peer review. However if the article fails pre-publication checks then the article can be withdrawn and sent to another journal before publication.