

swissuniversities

Call for Open Access Projects 2023: List of Approved Projects

Call Deadline: 31.05.2023

Decision by the Delegation Open Science: 25.10.2023

Overview Approved Projects

Submitted projects: 7

Approved projects: 3, of which 2 with conditions

Success rate: 43%

Short title	Full title	Action Line	Leading institution	Partner institution(s)	Project Manager	Total costs (CHF)	Funds Requested (CHF)
OAHealthPro	From OA flipping of scientific journal Mains Libres to OA health professions publishing platform	Alternative forms of publication	HES-SO Haute école spécialisée de Suisse occidentale	Université Libre de Bruxelles, University of Savoie-Mont-Blanc, and various physiotherapy and osteopathy professional associations	Laurence Robatto	227'600	80'000
AURORA	Automated research output retrieval and self-archiving notification service for authors	Setting up of shared services and e-infrastructures (secondary: Participation to international initiatives)	ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, University Library	FHNW University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, University Library	Nicolai Hauf	395'000	191'000
GLOBEQUITY	Funding extension - Promoting platinum open access for low and Middle-income country scientists: A publication fee waiver program for two Swiss society journals	Alternative forms of publication	Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute	Swiss School of Public Health	Christopher Woodrow	127'500	60'000

Short Summaries of the Projects

Abstracts by the applicants:

OAHealthPro

From OA flipping of scientific journal Mains Libres to OAhealth professions publishing platform

In the field of health, scientific journals published in national languages play a crucial role in the transfer of scientific knowledge to health professionals and in supporting the next generation of researchers. However, their transition to Open Access (OA) represents a financial challenge, as most of their authors cannot easily afford the Article Processing Charges (ACP), while the reliance on subscriptions is no longer sustainable due to the evolution of the policies of academic actors. Moreover, the small and medium size journals are strongly impacted by these changes, even though they play an essential role in the dissemination of scientific knowledge in the health professional community. In parallel, universities of applied sciences and arts have to improve their mission of knowledge transfer and to strengthen the links between research, education and professional practices. In this context, the Health Department of HES-SO (University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland) aims to take over and support the OA flipping of an existing journal, Mains libres, and to develop on this basis an interdisciplinary publishing platform to host a variety of scientific publications in the field of health, dedicated to scientific knowledge transfer to the community of health practitioners. Mains Libres is an interdisciplinary peer reviewed scientific journal for physiotherapists and osteopaths that has been distributed in French speaking Switzerland, Belgium and France for 40 years. The institutional anchoring to the HES-SO and the involvement of professional associations will enable a diamond OA model to be developed. Therefore, the first objective of the project related to action line 3 "Alternative forms of publication" - is to develop a platform for the transition of Mains Libres to Diamond Open Access. Once this infrastructure is in place, the second objective is to use it to host other publications with the same aim of disseminating scientific literature while promoting knowledge transfer between professionals. The technical aspects of the editorial work will be handled by Médecine et Hygiène, a well-established Swiss not for profit publishing house, reference in French speaking Switzerland for the production of quality health information for professionals and the general public.

AURORA

Automated research output retrieval and self-archiving notification service for authors

With the Swiss National Open Access (OA) Strategy's goal of all research publications from public funding being freely accessible by 2024 drawing closer, actions generating immediate impact are of utmost importance. We believe that encouraging authors to self-archive their publications in professionally managed institutional OA repositories is an effective, if so far underutilised approach on the way towards full OA. For instance, an internal analysis at the ZHAW has revealed that up to 30% of journal articles published from 2018 onwards are not openly accessible despite publisher policies allowing authors to self-archive the content in their institutional repositories (i.e., Green OA potential). Tackling this untapped OA potential will be at the core of the project. By teaming up once again, the ZHAW and FHNW university libraries will develop a highly automated workflow to increase the OA share at Swiss HEIs through targeted measures for Green OA, as already pioneered in the GOAL project that is co-funded by swissuniversities (2022-2024). An automated notification service will actively inform authors about their self-archiving options based on their publication data. Additionally, we aim to pilot an improved workflow for self-archiving, considerably reducing the efforts of authors by sending the full text document directly to the repository. We believe that this approach will proactively address the biggest concerns authors have when it comes to Green OA. By the end of the project, we will have developed an innovative feature in the DSpace repository software which will be reusable for other institutions. We will also have evaluated whether a simplified submission process is a useful incentive to foster OA publishing via the Green OA road. Our overall objective is to foster self-archiving of research publications at our institutions, making them easily discoverable and freely available for a broad audience, and so contributing considerably to the national OA goal.

GLOBEQUITY

Funding extension - Promoting platinum open access for low and Middle-income country scientists: A publication fee waiver program for two Swiss society journals

Since October 2021, the Swiss open access journals International Journal of Public Health (IJPH) and Public Health Reviews (PHR) have run a highly successful platinum publishing fee waiver program funded by swissuniversities (Globequity). The program has provided scientists with no access to APC funding from low/middle income countries and some countries in economic transition (LMIC+) with platinum open access (OA) by funding open access Article Processing Charges (APC). This updated proposal aims to extend the ability of the journals to provide fee waivers until September 2024 in the context of rapidly increasing numbers of submissions to our journals and by addressing two specific sources of increasing demand for APC waivers. First, it will enable the journals to fund a greater number of APCs relating to submissions from countries in economic transition or where access to APC funding is severely limited (termed LMIC+), from which we have seen strong demand. Second, it will enable the journals to support upcoming calls that will attract submissions from eligible authors, including two calls aimed specifically at scientists from low/middle income countries.

The program as a whole counters a rapidly increasing inequity where scientists in LMIC face discriminatory hurdles as they cannot acquire governmental or university funding for the Article Processing Charges (APC). Thus, OA amplifies global inequities given that governments, universities and research institutions in LMIC+ cannot fund the APC, and publisher deals to support OA are mostly signed with high income countries (HIC) and wealthy research institutions. These strong barriers force LMIC+ researchers to publish in closed access journals where their research does not receive the same reach. Alternatively, they must place HIC co-authors as first or corresponding authors to get APC funding which jeopardizes their career tracks.

IJPH and PHR have a pronounced global scope and are attractive for authors from LMIC+. Both journals provide thorough double-blind peer review and rank in Q1 of their subject categories in the last (2021) Journal Citation Report, and/or Scopus. These not for profit "society journals" are owned by the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) – a Foundation of 12 swissuniversities member Universities. The journals' scientific editorial office is mandated to Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH). As a not-for-profit Foundation, the SSPH+ core budget (covered by core contributions of the 12 universities) can only fund core operations of SSPH+. Projects such as the two journals are and must remain fully self-funded. The Editorial Office at Swiss TPH is able to manage the platinum program but it cannot fund it. Thus, provision of a platinum fee waiver program requires funding. GLOBEQUITY will continue to cover 85% of the APC for qualifying articles.