EC/OpenAIRE FP7 Post-Grant Open Access Pilot
Funding for post-grant OA publications

Check-list for submitting a successful funding request

This is a summary of the different aspects to consider for submitting a successful funding request to the EC FP7 Post-Grant Open Access Pilot

1.- Is the project eligible?
The project must have finished after the 1st of Jan 2014 – check eligibility at the CORDIS API built into the OpenAIRE system at https://postgrantoapilot.openaire.eu.

1b.- My project is eligible end-date-wise, but it's not in the system database
The FP7 calls are very complex, occasionally including partially-funded calls, and not every single project out there is in the system database, which is being periodically updated to include new calls when required. Please send us an email to postgrantoapilotinfo@openaire.eu to collect a case-specific advice.

2.- Is the publication eligible?
Articles must be published in a fully OA journal not a hybrid journal, see list of funded journal titles so far at https://blogs.openaire.eu/?p=586. Fully OA journals are usually included in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), https://doaj.org/. Book publishers need to be checked for technical requirements, a list of funded book publishers thus far will shortly be shared too.

3.- When should a funding request be submitted?
For journal articles, as soon as the manuscript gets accepted (but not before that moment). The acceptance date – which is a mandatory field in the system form – needs to be later than the project end-date for being eligible for funding. For books, the request can be submitted when a contract gets signed with the publisher, regardless of whether or not there's a final acceptance date yet. For books an estimated final acceptance date is acceptable.

4.- Can the original invoice issued by the publisher to the author's institution be filed into the system?
No. The invoice needs to be issued to Athena Research Centre, see https://www.openaire.eu/132-fp7-post-grant-open-access-publishing-funds/739-can-i-pay-the-apc-fee-myself. These details (incl ARC's address and VAT number) should ideally be provided to the publisher at manuscript acceptance time in order to avoid the need to ask for an updated invoice to be issued. This is clearly highlighted in the system workflow, but only a few funding requests have so far directly provided the appropriate invoice, while most of them have been forced to ask their publisher for an updated invoice.

5.-What if the invoice has already been paid for an eligible publication?
If the invoice has already been paid by the author's institution and the publication is eligible for funding, the APC fee expense can be reimbursed. In this case a 2-page reimbursement invoice needs to be produced and uploaded into the system, see an example invoice at https://www.openaire.eu/132-fp7-post-grant-open-access-publishing-funds/794-2015-08-20-09-47-40.

6.-What if the APC fee is above the €2,000 funding cap?
In this case, there are two options: either the invoice is split by the publisher and an €2,000 invoice is produced addressed to Athena Research Centre, or the full APC fee is paid upfront by the author's institution, which should subsequently apply for a reimbursement, see previous item.
When filling in the funding request form in the system, it's better to request €2,000 funding rather than to include the actual APC fee and provide the co-funding information.

Remember! Ask your library / research administrators for help with requesting funds. They can check if your publication is eligible, and apply any available discounts with publishers.