

# **COST Action CA22122 - Rethinking the Blue Economy: Socio-Ecological Impacts and Opportunities (RethinkBlue)**

## **Open Access Publications**

### **Publication of Action deliverables**

Action deliverables, such as books or journal articles, should be published with impactful and well-respected international publishers and journals. They must NOT be published in predatory journals or journals that engage in doubtful publishing practices.

Journal rankings, such as the registers established in Finland (<https://jfp.csc.fi/jufportal?lang=en>) and Norway (<https://kanalregister.hkdir.no/en>), contain useful information to inform authors' choice of journals, while the following information can be useful for recognizing predatory journals: <https://predatoryjournals.org/home>.

### **Open Access Requirement**

In line with COST principles, all Action products, including publications in journals and books, must be available Open Access. For journals / books, this means Gold Open Access.

### **Funding for Open Access publications**

The RethinkBlue COST Action has a limited amount of funding available to support open access publications.

The aim is to support the “Gold” Open Access publication of high-quality journal articles and books that are at the core of our Action’s goals and mission (deliverables), by author teams who do not have funding for open access publishing from their own countries, institutions or research grants.

#### What publications are eligible for funding?

1. All authors must be members of the RethinkBlue Action
2. In the author team, at least 3 COST countries must be represented (see Annotated Rules Level C, A3-3.1, p. 105 for details).
3. The publication relates to the core of our Action (e.g., it is a deliverable).
4. The authors do not have their own funding to support an open access publication.
5. Publications should be published with impactful and renowned international publishers and journals. Publications in predatory journals or journals engaging in doubtful publishing practices are NOT eligible to receive funding from our Action.

#### What author teams are expected to do

Teams of authors are required to

- use their own institutional or research funding to support Open Access publications, wherever this is possible.

- discuss the question of target journal / publisher as early as possible within the team (e.g. when starting to work on the publication) and discuss the options for Open Access funding that are available to them.
- Contact the leaders of their WG as soon as possible to discuss their plans for the publication, including target journal and Open Access funding plans.
  - Use the template below.
- After WG leaders consulted with the CG, author teams will then be informed by WG leaders whether funding will definitely or potentially be available.
- In some cases, it may not be clear at the start of the project if Open Access funding will be available. In those cases, author teams should have an alternative plan.
- Upon acceptance of their manuscript for publication by the book publisher / journal, authors will lay out the costs for Open Access publishing. They will then submit their receipts, together with a copy of the article, to the Core Group with a request for reimbursement.

#### What WG leaders are expected to do

WG leaders should

- Discuss and advise on publication options and Open Access funding options with author teams who work on deliverables in their WG. In doing so, WG leaders should support author teams in selecting impactful and well-recognized journals / publishers.
- Prioritize publications that need Open Access funding, and (depending on WG priorities and the available budget) select those that they wish to put forward to the CG for Open Access funding
- Liaise with the Core Group to plan the budget for Open Access funding
- Communicate CG decisions to authors

#### What the CG is expected to do

The CG should

- Plan the budget for Open Access publications
- Review and (with powers delegated from the MC) decide on awarding support for Open Access funding, taking into account the priorities of WGs as well as the balance between supporting different Action activities.
  - In some cases, no final decision may be reached, i.e. the CG can decide that a manuscript “may be” funded if there is sufficient budget available.
- After manuscripts are accepted: confirm the allocation of Open Access funding and take necessary steps to reimburse the Open Access fee.
- Inform the MC about decisions made

***This information outlines the planned criteria and decision processes. Please note that these may be subject to change without notice to take into account new insights and practical experiences with this process.***

# **Open Access publications – template**

Please submit the following information to your WG leaders.

## **About yourself**

Your name

Your email address

Your institution

Your country

## **About the publication**

Title

Names and affiliations (institution, country) of authors (in the order in which they appear on the publication)

Abstract

## **About the journal / publisher**

Name of journal / publisher

Reasons for selection of this journal / publisher

Amount of OA costs that you want to ask the RethinkBlue Action to cover

Which other OA funding options have you explored (e.g., one of the authors' institutions, research grants, institutional/national agreements with publishers, etc.)