NanoBio4Can: Publication Guidelines for Fellows and Supervisors

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Abstract

This guideline outlines the publication and dissemination procedures for the NanoBio4Can project, a Horizon Europe MSCA Cofund initiative supported by the EU and TÜBİTAK. It provides detailed instructions for fellows, supervisors, and institutional partners on complying with open access mandates, publication quality expectations, and financial responsibilities, including Article Processing Charges (APCs). The document outlines multiple routes to open-access publishing, including ANKOS transformative agreements, the Open Research Europe platform, and institutional or individual budget options. It also defines the requirements for APC reimbursement, outlines mandatory acknowledgement language, and describes the reporting process to TÜBİTAK for both publications and conference participation. The guideline supports responsible research practices by emphasizing FAIR data principles, ethical authorship, and transparent financial reporting, while ensuring alignment with EU and national funding obligations.

Keywords: Open Access; FAIR; APC Reimbursement; NanoBio4Can; Publication Guideline; MSCA Cofund

1 Introduction

This publication guideline outlines the principles and procedures for publishing scientific outputs under the NanoBio4Can project, funded by the Horizon Europe MSCA COFUND scheme and supported by TUBITAK. It has been designed to assist fellows, supervisors, and co-supervisors in navigating open access requirements, authorship responsibilities, and funding mechanisms related to Article Processing Charges (APCs).

All project participants are expected to uphold the highest standards of research integrity, authorship ethics, and responsible financial management. Submissions that misrepresent contributions, misuse project branding, or fall outside the scope of NanoBio4Can's scientific objectives may be subject to internal review and, if necessary, reported to relevant oversight bodies, including TUBITAK.

The coordination team reserves the right to request clarifications, decline APC funding, or escalate unresolved issues to the institutional ethics board.

Open Access (OA) is a foundational requirement under Horizon Europe and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Cofund programme. It ensures publicly funded research outputs are made freely available to the scientific community and the public, promoting transparency, collaboration, and accelerated innovation. Under the Horizon Europe Grant Agreement, beneficiaries must ensure that peer-reviewed scientific publications are openly accessible via trusted repositories, without embargo, in line with the EU's commitment to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI).

NanoBio4Can fully embraces the principles of Open Science as a core element of its research culture. Open Science is a legal obligation under Horizon Europe. All consortium partners are committed to the timely and open dissemination of project outputs in accordance with EU and national regulations. By adopting Open Access and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data practices, the project aims to enhance the visibility, reproducibility, and broader impact of its results across academia, industry, and society.

2 Publication Type and Quality Target

In line with project goals, scientific outputs are expected to be published in peer-reviewed, Q1/Q2 category journals indexed in Web of Science (WoS), Science Citation Index (SCI), Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Scopus, PubMed, or Medline. The journals' Q1/Q2 classification must be checked from the WoS or Scopus websites prior to submission.

Each fellow is expected to produce at least two publications, wherever applicable. Research articles are preferred over review articles and book chapters for scientific impact.

Fellows must take a lead authorship role (first or corresponding author or co-corresponding author) in at least one publication derived from the project.

3 Open Access Publication Mandate

All publications must be openly accessible, and the license must be a Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY), Creative Commons Zero license (CC0), or equivalent license.

Even for Gold OA publications, Horizon Europe requires that the full text be deposited in a trusted repository (e.g., Zenodo, institutional archive) at the time of publication. This is a non-negotiable compliance condition under Article 17 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

Below is a link for the OpenAIRE Webinar about “Horizon Europe Open Science requirements in practice” deposited to Zenodo.

Click: Open Access Requirements

Below is a link to the OpenAIRE Guides for Researchers on how to comply with the Horizon Europe mandate:

Click: How to comply with the Horizon Europe mandate

4 Open Access (OA) Fees or Article Processing Charges (APC)

There are multiple options for publishing open access under a CC BY or CC0 license, as required by both Horizon Europe and TUBITAK regulations:

4.1 ANKOS Transformative Agreements

ANKOS has signed transformative agreements (also known as “read-and-publish” deals) with major international publishers. These agreements allow researchers affiliated with Turkish institutions to publish open access under a CC BY or CC0 license that is fully compliant with Horizon Europe and TUBITAK requirements.

If a fellow or supervisor is the corresponding author and affiliated with a participating Turkish university, they may publish open access free of charge or at a significant discount in eligible journals covered by ANKOS. All our implementing partners are currently members of ANKOS.

ANKOS operates on a first-come, first-served basis, and quotas are limited per institution and reset annually. We strongly recommend that fellows plan to submit manuscripts in the first half of the calendar year to maximize the chances of benefiting from these free quotas. Please contact your university library for specific procedures, eligibility, and a list of covered publishers and journals.

4.2 Open Research Europe Platform

Researchers funded by MSCA or similar fellowships and grants are eligible to publish their research outputs on Open Research Europe (ORE), the European Commission's open-access publishing platform. ORE offers a fast, transparent, and cost-free (no APC or OA payment) route to publishing scientific articles that comply fully with Horizon Europe open-access requirements. Articles that pass peer review are indexed in external databases such as PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar.

Fellows are encouraged to consider this platform, particularly for outputs directly resulting from the NanoBio4Can project. More information is available at:

Click: Open Research Europe platform

4.3 Publisher Invitations, Waivers, or Discounts

Some publishers offer APC waivers for authors affiliated with certain institutions or countries and may also provide discounts for authors without sufficient funding. Waivers may also be available for invited articles or those submitted to special issues. Fellows and supervisors pursuing this option must ensure that the publication uses a CC BY or CC0 license to comply with the rules.

4.4 Fellow's Individual Research & Networking Budget

Fellows may use their individual research & networking budgets (800 EUR/month) to cover APC or OA costs when necessary. Planning ahead and using ANKOS or publisher waivers is strongly encouraged to preserve this budget for broader research needs.

APCs for papers accepted after 30 June 2028 will not be eligible for payment or reimbursement from any project-related budget. Fellows are strongly advised to factor in potential delays in peer review and editorial workflows when selecting journals and planning submission timelines.

5 Institutional APC Support (Conditional)

In some cases, APC or OA costs may be covered by the NanoBio4Can project, given that all the following conditions are appropriately met:

1) The output is derived from the fellow's project,
2) The output is a research article (not a review, book chapter, conference proceeding, or conference abstract),
3) The fellow is listed as first or corresponding author or co-corresponding author, or holds both roles (e.g., first, and corresponding author)
4) The main supervisor must be included as a co-author and may also serve as corresponding or co-corresponding author,
5) The journal is categorized as Q1/Q2 in WoS or Scopus in the publication year,
6) The article is the fellow's second, third, or fourth research output from the MSCA Cofund NanoBio4Can project. APC costs for the "first research article" should ideally be covered using previous options.
7) Each fellow can benefit only once from this option. This support is limited and prioritized for publications representing the fellow's scientific maturity and strategic alignment with project deliverables, which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
8) APCs for papers accepted after 30 June 2028 will not be eligible for payment or reimbursement from any project-related budget. Fellows are strongly advised to factor in potential delays in peer review and editorial workflows when selecting journals and planning submission timelines.

6 TUBITAK Notification Mandate (for publications and conference attendance)

All publications, conference abstracts, and proceedings must be reported to the relevant division at TÜBİTAK—via the coordinating institution (SUNUM)—at least 15 days prior to initial submission. The report must include the full manuscript or abstract, as applicable. This step ensures transparent coordination and supports accurate project-level reporting to TÜBİTAK.

Fellows must also ensure that the required acknowledgement statements and applicable invoice documentation are correctly included for both publications and conference attendance, in accordance with project and funding authority mandates.

7 Acknowledgement Mandate

All publications, conference abstracts, proceedings, or similar project outputs must include the following acknowledgement (text-only):

"This publication was created by benefiting from the 2236-B Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Cofund Scholarship Programs Contribution Fund Program (TUBITAK project ID: 123C460) and Horizon Europe MSCA Cofund Postdoctoral Program (EU project ID: 101126492). Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or TUBITAK. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them."

8 APC Invoice Requirements

Note: The following APC invoice requirements apply to fellows who request APC payments/reimbursements from their "research & networking budget" or "Institutional APC support". No invoice submission is required if the publication is fully covered by ANKOS agreements, ORE, or waivers.

Fellows attending a conference through their "research & networking budget" must also implement the following invoice rules for a successful payment/reimbursement.

All relevant APC invoices must include the following details:

1) Invoice must be addressed to:
Sabancı University Nanotechnology Research and Application Centre (SUNUM)
Orta Mah. University Cad. No: 27/1, 34956 Tuzla, Istanbul, Türkiye
Tax Office / Tax Number: TUZLA / 7360955929

2) Invoice must include the following project information:
Project Title: Nanobiotechnologies for Innovative Therapeutic Approaches for Cancer,
EU Project Number: 101126492, TUBITAK Project Number: 123C460

3) For international vendors, a Tax Residence Certificate must be provided along with the invoice, as required for foreign transactions.

If relevant APC payments are made in advance by fellows, departments, or institutions, reimbursement may be possible under the following conditions:

1) Original invoice with the required details (given above)
2) Original proof of payment (bank receipt and wire transfer document)
3) Any other required exemption documentation (e.g., KDV certificate for domestic vendors)

APC reimbursements will not be processed if these criteria are not met fully in the documents. APCs for papers accepted after 30 June 2028 will not be eligible for reimbursement from any project-related budget. Fellows are strongly advised to factor in potential delays in peer review and editorial workflows when selecting journals and planning submission timelines. Double funding is not allowed: the APC must not be claimed elsewhere (e.g., another grant, university fund, or similar).

9 Publication Incentive Programs

9.1 TUBITAK Incentive Program for International Scientific Publications

TUBITAK Incentive Program for International Scientific Publications (UBYT) aims to increase the impact and visibility of international publications originating in Türkiye. Researchers affiliated with Turkish institutions may be eligible for publication incentives through TUBITAK ULAKBİM's UBYT Program, which supports articles published in Web of Science and Scopus-indexed journals.

UBYT incentives are independent of NanoBio4Can project funding and can be applied for by the authors independently through ULAKBİM's web system. Authors are encouraged to check UBYT's official page (below) for eligibility criteria and the most up-to-date list of supported journals.

Click: TUBITAK Incentive Program for International Scientific Publications

9.2 Other Publication Incentives Available from Institutions

In addition, some host institutions may offer their own publication incentives, subject to internal policies. These incentives are independent of project funding. Fellows are encouraged to consult their institution's research office or human resources for availability, eligibility conditions, or application details.

10 Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Acceptance Date	The official date on which a journal confirms that a manuscript has passed peer review, is accepted, and will be published. Used to determine APC eligibility within project timelines.
ANKOS	A consortium of Turkish university libraries that provides open-access publishing deals through transformative agreements.
Article Processing Charge (APC)	A fee paid to a publisher to make an article freely available under an open-access license. Not all journals charge APCs (e.g., Diamond OA journals).
CC BY License	A Creative Commons Attribution license that allows others to share, adapt, and reuse the work—even commercially—as long as the original author is credited.
CC0 License	CC0 (aka CC Zero) is a public dedication tool that enables creators to give up their copyright and put their works into the worldwide public domain. CC0 allows re-users to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, with no conditions.
Corresponding Author	The author is responsible for manuscript submission, peer review communication, and often represents the publication publicly.
FAIR Data	Data principles ensuring it is Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable. Required under Horizon Europe.
First Author	The primary contributor to a publication, typically responsible for drafting the manuscript and leading the work.
Gold Open Access	A publishing model where the article is made immediately available by the journal upon publication, often in exchange for an Article Processing Charge (APC).
Open Access (OA)	Free and unrestricted online access to research outputs, such as publications and data. Must meet Horizon Europe conditions for visibility and licensing.
Open Research Europe (ORE)	The EU's free publishing platform for Horizon-funded research ensures compliance with OA policies.
Publisher Waiver / Discount	An APC reduction or exemption granted by journals, often for invited articles, special issues, or under-funded researchers.

Term	Definition
Q1/Q2 Journal	A journal ranked in the top 25% (Q1) or top 50% (Q2) of its field according to impact factor metrics from Web of Science (Journal Citation Reports) or Scopus.
Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)	A Horizon Europe principle promoting transparent, ethical, and socially responsive research.
Trusted Repository	A repository that ensures long-term preservation, assigns persistent identifiers (e.g., DOI), supports open licensing (e.g., CC BY), and enables metadata sharing. Examples include Zenodo, institutional repositories, or discipline-specific repositories like Europe PMC.
UBYT	A national TUBITAK program offering monetary incentives for international journal publications by Turkish-affiliated researchers.
Work Package	A defined component of the fellow's research proposal, outlining specific activities, objectives, and deliverables to be achieved during the project.

11 Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Term
ANKOS	Anatolian University Libraries Consortium
APC	Article Processing Charge
CC BY	Creative Commons Attribution License
CC0	Creative Commons Zero License (Public Domain Dedication)
FAIR	Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable
KDV	Value-Added Tax (Katma Değer Vergisi)
MSCA	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
OA	Open Access
ORE	Open Research Europe
Q1/Q2	Quartile rankings of scientific journals (top 25% / top 50%)
RRI	Responsible Research and Innovation
SCIE	Science Citation Index Expanded
SUNUM	Sabanci University Nanotechnology Research and Application Centre
TUBITAK	Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye
UBYT	Incentive Program for International Scientific Publications
WoS	Web of Science

12 Publication Compliance Checklist

General Requirements (All Fellows)

- ☐ The publication/abstract/proceeding draft is reported to SUNUM/TUBITAK at least 15 days before submission.
- ☐ The publication/abstract/proceeding is derived from the fellow's NanoBio4Can or a side/joint project.
- ☐ The journal is Q1/Q2 in WoS or Scopus at the time of publication.
- ☐ The mandatory acknowledgment text is included in the manuscript and the conference abstract.
- ☐ The APC invoice requirements are fully met.
- ☐ The article is published under a CC BY, CC0, or equivalent open license.
- ☐ The final manuscript is deposited in a trusted repository (e.g., Zenodo).

Additional Requirements for APC Support Requested from Fellow's Research & Networking Budget or Institutional APC Support

- ☐ The article is a research article.
- ☐ The article is the fellow's 2nd, 3rd, or 4th NanoBio4Can publication.
- ☐ The fellow is the first and/or corresponding author.
- ☐ The supervisor(s) is included as a co-author
- ☐ The APC invoice requirements are fully met.
- ☐ The APC reimbursement requirements are fully met.
- ☐ All reimbursement documents are submitted before 30 June 2028.
- ☐ APC funding has not been previously received by the fellow under this support scheme.

13 Version History

Version	Date	Authors	Changes
1.0	16.05.2025	Project Management Team	Initial public release on the website
2.0	24.07.2025	Project Management Team	Abstract and keywords were added to the document to make it suitable for uploading to Zenodo.

14 Contact

If you have any questions, please email the coordination team. Discussing your publication plans with the team in advance will support your research goals and the project's compliance. We would also appreciate any feedback from you on how to improve this guideline throughout the lifetime of the NanoBio4Can project.

Email: info@nanobio4can.net

15 References

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Open Access Requirements

https://www.openaire.eu/how-to-comply-with-horizon-europe-mandate-for-publications