

ECDC CORPORATE DOCUMENT

ECDC Policy on open access publication of scientific content, including articles submitted to peer review journals

ECDC/POL/06

1. Introduction

As a publicly funded agency of the EU, ECDC has an obligation to ensure that published work generated by the Centre is disseminated and is easily accessible to all EU citizens. The Centre should also adhere to principles of transparency and equitability of access to its work and ensure that its outputs are available to all in a timely fashion.

One mechanism to disseminate ECDC work is through peer review publication in scientific journals. Publication in peer review journals can ensure that relevant stakeholders are made aware of the technical outputs from the Centre, and also enhances the scientific reputation of the Centre.

Increasing numbers of peer review journals are adopting options for 'open access' (OA) publication. This ensures work can be available without cost to the reader, and where applicable publications costs (commonly referred to as Article Processing Charges (APCs)), are met upfront by the author(s). As such OA offers a transparent model that ensures peer review articles can be immediately accessible to all interested readers.

This document sets out a clear open access policy for the Centre. The policy states that as a principle all publications, including articles published in peer review journals, arising from work produced or contracted by the Centre should be published as open access with no embargo period before access is granted, and without cost to the reader; so-called 'gold standard' open access.

The policy will ensure that all publications, including peer review articles produced by ECDC are readily available to all, and support adherence to ECDC's Founding Regulation by ensuring that ECDC shall 'serve as a Community source of independent scientific advice, assistance and expertise' and 'that the public and any interested parties are rapidly given objective, reliable and easily accessible information with regard to the results of its work'.

2. Scope and applicability

This policy applies to all ECDC outputs as defined in the ECDC Policy on Authorship (ECDC/POL/07).

The policy applies to all ECDC staff, non-permanent personnel working at ECDC (e.g. trainees, interims and seconded national experts), as well as external experts and contractors engaged by ECDC for the development and publication of an ECDC output with scientific content.

ECDC staff contributing – during their official duties for the Centre – to outputs with scientific content developed under the responsibility of another organisation or institution fall within the scope of this policy. For ECDC staff

contributions outside of their official duties for the Centre, staff members shall refer to Article 12b of the Staff Regulation in terms of the permission to be obtained, and to the ECDC Policy on Authorship (ECDC/POL/07).

3. Governance

Open access availability in disseminating publications shall be governed by the key principles of transparency and independence. For every activity or project performed on behalf of ECDC that results in the publication of scientific work, there shall be an assigned ECDC expert with overall responsibility to ensure compliance with this policy.

4. Open access requirements

4.1 Open access publication of ECDC scientific content

All ECDC output with scientific content produced by, or on behalf of, the Centre shall adhere to the principles of open access. This requires that all scientific content intended to be placed in the public domain should be:

- made available immediately to all on publication; and
- available without cost to the reader.

4.2 Open access publication in peer review journals

In order to comply with the guiding principles on open access publication, all articles published in peer review journals from work generated, funded, or otherwise supported by ECDC should:

- be published as open access; and
- have no embargo period applied that prevents immediate public access to the published work (i.e. work should be published as so called 'gold-standard' open access).

By exception, ECDC staff members can be listed as authors in publications arising from collaborative work led by other partner organisations/third parties whose open access policy or practice does not conform to the ECDC open access policy. However, in order to avoid any perception that publications with prominent ECDC staff involvement may not conform to open access requirements, this exception does not apply to publications where ECDC staff are listed as either corresponding, first or last author.

4.3 Costs and liability

APCs or other similar costs applied by the publisher to provide for open access publication will be met by the Centre for publications arising from work initiated, led, or funded by ECDC.

4.4 Requirements for contractors and other third parties

All third parties producing articles for peer review journals arising from contracted ECDC work, or other work arising from other scientific engagement that is supported by the Centre, shall be required to conform to this policy.

By exception to paragraph 4.3, third parties are responsible to meet all costs associated with compliance to this policy, including the APCs or other similar costs applied by the publisher, and any associated costs related to open access publication. These requirements should be clearly specified in all contractual arrangements made between ECDC and contracting parties.

Where publications arise from collaborative work between ECDC and other organisations, the costs and liability of publication will rest with these organisations, unless alternative approaches have been mutually agreed in advance of article submission between the collaborating organisation(s) and ECDC.

5 Publication of this policy

As this policy is of general public interest, and in the interest of transparency, it shall be published on the ECDC website following its adoption.