



cOAlition S:

## Making full and immediate Open Access a reality

---

### cOAlition S publishes updated criteria for Transformative Journals

**(Strasbourg, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020) Following a public consultation cOAlition S announces updated criteria for Transformative Journals**

cOAlition S endorses several strategies to encourage subscription publishers to transition to full and immediate Open Access (OA), with a business model where fees are levied for providing publishing services rather than subscription fees for reading. Under this model all published research articles can be freely accessed, read and built upon.

Referred to as “*Transformative Arrangements*” these approaches include *Transformative Agreements* (typically Read & Publish or Publish & Read agreements), *Transformative Model Agreements* and *Transformative Journals*. In this framework, cOAlition S defines a *Transformative Journal* as “*a subscription/hybrid journal that is committed to transitioning to a fully (OA) journal. In addition, a Transformative Journal must gradually increase the share of Open Access content and offset subscription income from payments for publishing services (to avoid double payments)*”.

Following a review of the responses to a public consultation, and cognisant of the ambition to provide researchers funded by a member of cOAlition S with the opportunity to continue publishing results in a wide variety of journals, whilst ensuring that the version of record is fully Open Access, we have made several changes and simplifications to the way we define a Transformative Journal. Specifically, we have:

- **changed** the threshold when a journal must flip to full Open Access from **50% of to 75%** and **removed** the commitment to flip by December 2024. In making these changes, however, we have stressed that publishers must explicitly state their commitment to transition to full Open Access and that our support for this model (in terms of paying for publishing services in subscription journals) will cease at the end of 2024;
- **reduced** the annual growth target for the proportion of content which must be published in Open Access from 8% to **at least 5% in absolute terms** and **at least 15% in relative terms, year-on-year**;
- **simplified** the guidance and removed all the “recommended additional criteria”. As such, the guidance is now expressed in just six paragraphs.

#### cOAlition S

Hosted by European Science Foundation  
1, Quai Lezay-Marnésia  
67080 Strasbourg  
France

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 00  
Fax: +33 (0)3 88 37 05 32  
[info@coalition-s.org](mailto:info@coalition-s.org)  
[www.coalition-s.org](http://www.coalition-s.org)

Other criteria which a Transformative Journal must adhere to include:

- implementing transparent pricing for the OA content published under this model and ensure that institutions purchasing a subscription to a TJ will pay only for remaining subscription content and
- agreeing to provide an annual public report to cOAlition S, reporting on progress and demonstrating compliance with the requirements for TJs. This report must provide information on the usage – including downloads, citations, altmetric data – of OA articles compared with the subscription content.

Prof. John-Arne Røttingen, Chief Executive of the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and co-chair of the cOAlition S Implementation Task Force commented: *“We believe Transformative Journals, along with other Transformative Arrangements, provide a means by which subscription publishers can develop Open Access models which adhere to the requirements of Plan S, in a cost-neutral, sustainable way. We hope that subscription publishers will consider using this model”.*

Publishers who wish to develop a Plan S compliant Transformative Journal should complete the form at: <https://www.coalition-s.org/tj-forms>

### Notes to Editors

Plan S is an initiative for Open Access publishing that was launched in September 2018. The plan is supported by cOAlition S, a group of national research funding organisations and charitable foundations. Plan S requires that, with effect from 2021, all scholarly publications on the results from research funded by public or private grants provided by national, regional, and international research councils and funding bodies, must be published in Open Access Journals, on Open Access Platforms, or made immediately available through Open Access Repositories without embargo.

### For more information

- [Addendum to the cOAlition S Guidance on the Implementation of Plan S](#)
- [Rationale for the Transformative Journals](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for the Transformative Journals](#)

### Contact information

Maria Karatzia, European Science Foundation, Communication Officer  
Tel: +33 (0) 7 66 84 26 69, E-mail: [mkaratzia@esf.org](mailto:mkaratzia@esf.org) or [info@coalition-s.org](mailto:info@coalition-s.org)

### cOAlition S

Hosted by European Science Foundation  
1, Quai Lezay-Marnésia  
67080 Strasbourg  
France

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 00  
Fax: +33 (0)3 88 37 05 32  
[info@coalition-s.org](mailto:info@coalition-s.org)  
[www.coalition-s.org](http://www.coalition-s.org)