

REPORT ON IARC OPEN ACCESS POLICY

1. The Agency's Open Access (OA) Policy went into effect on 1 January 2015. The policy applies to peer-reviewed journal articles in which the lead or corresponding author is an Agency author or the Agency takes a lead role in the project (e.g. funds the research).
2. Baseline data is limited to 2014; a review of publication data from 2014 to 2017 inclusive suggests that the OA policy has had a positive effect on the proportion of articles being made available free immediately through the payment of article processing charges (APC).

Proportion of immediate open access to total journal output*

	Gold (Fully journal) OA	Hybrid (APC payment in subscription journal)	Immediate OA total	Standard publication	TOTAL
2014	78 (21%)	27 (7%)	105 (28%)	269 (72%)	373 (100%)
2015	77 (21%)	50 (13%)	127 (34%)	248 (66%)	375 (100%)
2016	93 (25%)	51 (14%)	142 (39%)	226 (61%)	370 (100%)
2017	110 (29%)	50 (13%)	160 (43%)	216 (57%)	376 (100%)

*data as of 9 March 2018

3. At its 57th Session, the Governing Council through its Resolution [GC/57/R11](#) approved funding support from the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF) to cover article processing charges for open access publishing in journals up to a maximum of €50 000 per annum for three years from 2015 to 2017.
4. Given the strategy of the Agency to continue to promote open access publishing and recognizing that the funds approved under Resolution GC/57/R11 were considered sufficient to cover 2017 and 2018, the Secretariat decided not to request additional funds from the GCSF for this purpose at this time, on the understanding that the available funds from 2017 could be carried forward to 2018 (Document [GC/59/4](#), page 4).
5. As of 31 December 2017, €93 141.99 or 62% of the approved budget was utilized to fund a total of 39 articles—6 in 2015, 10 in 2016 along with support for a series of OA articles on Cancer in Central and South America, and 23 in 2017—a notable increase in the recent year. Overall 9% of the total 429 gold and hybrid articles published from 2015 to date have been funded through the GCSF; viewed on an annual basis, the figures are 5% of OA articles in 2015 funded through GCSF, 7% in 2016 and 14% in 2017.

6. While the balance of funds approved under Resolution GC/57/R11 is considered sufficient to cover 2018, additional funds will be required to maintain open access publishing to further the Agency's goal of disseminating its knowledge widely.
7. The Governing Council is requested to approve the use of up to a maximum of €50 000 per annum for two years (2019 and 2020) from the GCSF for open access publishing.
8. The Scientific Council supported the above request (see Document [GC/60/4](#)).