

Open Access Publications - EU/FCT Projects

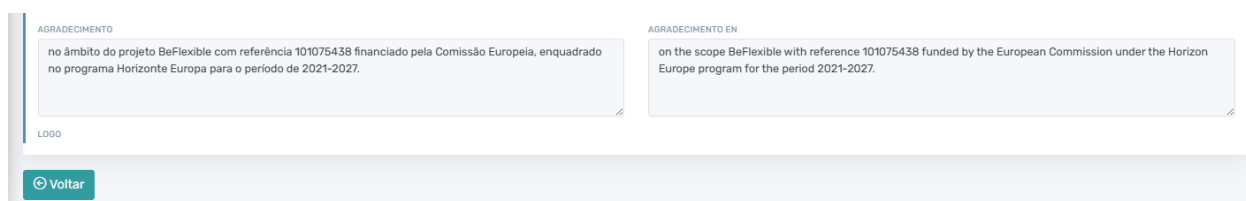
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For a paper to be considered an output of a project funded by the European Union or the FCT, two main requirements must be met:

- The paper needs to have the proper **acknowledgements**
- The paper must be made **publicly available**. This last step depends on the journal or conference policies and on the institution's agreements.

1 Acknowledgements

The paper must include the appropriate **acknowledgements** to the project. Key information can be found in the project record in the IRIS information system, for example:



Typical acknowledgement could be:

This research is being carried out as part of the BeFlexible (European Union's Horizon 2020, No. 101075438) project. The sole responsibility of this publication lies with the authors. The European Union is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

In some cases, it may be of interest to include acknowledgments to more than one project, for example:

This research is being carried out as part of the BeFlexible (European Union's Horizon 2020, No. 101075438) and of the ENPOWER (European Union's Horizon 2020, No. 101096354) projects. The sole responsibility of this publication lies with the authors. The European Union is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

However, if more than one project is acknowledged, publication-related costs, such as open access publication fees or conference presentation costs, may need to be allocated

across the budgets of the corresponding projects. Therefore, budget availability should be confirmed in advance.

2 Making the paper publicly available

2.1 Definitions

Pre-print is a version of the manuscript before peer review.

Post-print is the final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication before the publisher's final formatted version.

Green open access refers to the practice where authors deposit a version of their work (typically the post-print version) in an institutional or subject repository, making it freely available, often after an embargo period set by the publisher.

Gold open access means that the final published version of the article is made freely available by the publisher immediately upon publication, usually under an open license. This often involves an article processing charge (APC) paid by the author or their institution/funder.

2.2 Green Open Access

In case of green open access, for a paper to be considered an output of a project funded by the European Union or the FCT

"- at the latest at the time of publication, a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or the final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication, is deposited in a trusted repository for scientific publications

- immediate open access is provided to the deposited publication via the repository, under the latest available version of the Creative Commons Attribution International Public Licence (CC BY) or a licence with equivalent rights; for monographs and other long-text formats, the licence may exclude commercial uses and derivative works (e.g., CC BY-NC, CC BY-ND)"

- More information from the EC here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf (annex 5)
- FCT projects info here: <https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Politica-Acesso-Aberto-FCT.pdf>

In practical terms, this generally means that the accepted manuscript (post-print), or where permitted the published version, should be deposited in trusted repositories, that support these licenses. Uploading the paper only to personal websites or to repositories that do not meet the applicable funder requirements does not satisfy the Open Access

requirements of the European Commission and FCT (which also requires that the repository is part of RCAAP - <https://www.rcaap.pt/>).

In simple terms: The accepted manuscript (post-print), or where permitted the published version, of conference papers and journal articles arising from EU/FCT funded projects must be deposited in a trusted public repository and made available immediately under a CC BY license. Public repositories like arXiv and Zenodo already support these requirements. However, publisher self-archiving policies vary and should always be verified to ensure compliance with the applicable EU/FCT open access requirements. Authors should confirm which manuscript version may be deposited, where it may be deposited, and under which conditions. This information can be found through the Jisc Open Policy Finder (<https://openpolicyfinder.jisc.ac.uk/>) or directly on the publishers' websites.

Example for an IEEE submission:

- When a paper is accepted in a conference or journal, and if the work was made in the framework of an EU/FCT project, you should answer YES to the question if the work was developed in the framework of an EU project.
- After completing the copyright, this goes to a payment session, and the invoice should be sent to the secretary, ensuring that INESC TEC and the corresponding VAT (504441361) are included. Note that this requires an additional payment, \$400 for conferences and \$1275 for journals (2025 rates), so that it is allowed to upload the accepted manuscript to suitable repositories, like Zenodo or Arxiv, with a CC BY license.
- Only after this can you upload the paper to a repository with the CC BY license.
- Detailed context is here: <https://open.ieee.org/repository-license-fee/>.

For Elsevier, the following process should be followed according to this guide: [Brochure OpenAccess 2 web.pdf](#). In many Elsevier journals, you must include the pre-print from the very beginning in one repository, and you can update it up to the post-print version.

Important: Publisher policies vary and should always be verified before publication to ensure compliance with the applicable EU/FCT open access requirements. Authors should confirm which manuscript version may be deposited, where it may be deposited, and under which conditions.

2.3 Gold Open Access

2.3.1 Within the b-on agreement

INESC TEC participates in the [b-on consortium](#), which has transformative agreements with several publishers. These agreements may allow eligible authors affiliated with INESC TEC to publish in *Gold Open Access* without direct APC costs, provided the applicable eligibility criteria and annual quotas are met

Details and eligibility requirements are available at: <https://www.b-on.pt/en/open-access/>

To benefit from these agreements, researchers should verify the publisher's eligibility criteria before submission.

Depending on the publisher, eligibility may require, for example, that the corresponding author is affiliated with INESC TEC, or other institution participating in the relevant agreement.

Note: If the first author is not affiliated with INESC TEC, or another institution participating in the relevant agreement, it may be appropriate for the INESC TEC co-author to act as the corresponding author, where permitted by the publisher's eligibility criteria.

In simple terms: If you are publishing a paper in one of the participating publishers (and the annual quota is still available) or in a journal with a hybrid Open Access option (note: this does not apply to fully open access journals), you can select the Gold Open Access option without paying the APC during the application (important: double check that the total amount to pay goes down to zero).

2.3.2 Outside the b-on agreement

Some projects may include a budget for Gold Open Access publication costs, and in this case, the budget can be used. In Hybrid journals covered by the b-on transformative agreements generally do not require the use of project budget for eligible Gold Open Access publications. Therefore, project budget should be saved for fully open-access journals or journals outside the b-on agreement (e.g., IEEE journals).

Nevertheless, it is important to remember that Green Open Access is generally sufficient to comply with EU/FCT requirements, provided all policy requirements are met, and thus **Gold Open Access** should only be used **if no additional costs are incurred or if a project budget is available**.

2.4 What should researchers do when choosing an Open Access route?

- Even if opting for the Green Open Access option, authors should consider including a budget during proposal preparation for this option if IEEE conferences or journals are a target.
- Evaluate the costs and benefits of the Green vs Gold Open Access options. This is a case-by-case decision; thus, there are no specific recommendations. However, in general, Green Open Access is well accepted by the scientific community.
- Make sure you comply with the fundamental rules of open science from EU/FCT-funded projects regarding open access, as described at the beginning of this document.
- In case of doubt, contact your supervisor and/or the Centre's Coordination first. The Management Support Service (ag@inesctec.pt) is also available to provide further guidance and support, if needed.

3 Quick checklist before submitting a publication

Make sure to:

- ☐ Include the correct project acknowledgements (see Section 1).
- ☐ Verify whether the selected publication venue supports compliance with the applicable EU/FCT Open Access requirements (see Sections 2.2 and 2.3).
- ☐ Verify whether the publication is covered by the b-on Transformative Agreements and whether the applicable eligibility criteria are met (see Section 2.3.1).
- ☐ Identify the appropriate Open Access route (Green or Gold) (see Sections 2.2 and 2.3).
- ☐ Verify the publisher's self-archiving policy, including which version of the manuscript may be deposited, where it may be deposited, and under which conditions (see Section 2.2).
- ☐ Confirm whether a publication budget is required and available (see Sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2).

4 Useful resources

- **European Commission - Open Science (Horizon Europe)**

Overview of the Open Science requirements applicable to Horizon Europe projects, including Open Access requirements for publications and research data, with links to additional guidance and support resources.

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science_en

- **FCT - Open Access to Scientific Publications**

Official FCT policy, FAQs and guidance on Open Access requirements for FCT-funded research projects.

<https://www.fct.pt/en/sobre/estudos-e-planeamento-estrategico/politicas-de-ciencia-aberta/acesso-aberto-a-publicacoes-cientificas/>

- **b-on Transformative Agreements**

Information on participating publishers, eligibility criteria, journal coverage, and annual quotas for publishing under the b-on Transformative Agreements.

<https://www.b-on.pt/en/open-access/>

- **Jisc Open Policy Finder**

Search tool to verify publishers' Open Access and self-archiving policies, including permitted manuscript versions, repositories, and publication conditions.

<https://openpolicyfinder.jisc.ac.uk/>

- **RCAAP - Repositórios Científicos de Acesso Aberto de Portugal**

National infrastructure providing access to trusted Portuguese Open Access repositories for depositing research outputs.

<https://www.rcaap.pt/>