



MDPI Institutional Open Access Program (IOAP) Agreement 2026 – 2027 with CSAL

Parties

Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries, with its registered address at c/o SLSP AG, Kasernenstrasse 77 A/B, 8004 Zurich, Switzerland, acting on behalf of its member institutions listed in Annex 1 (hereinafter “Participating Institutions”)

and

MDPI AG, Grosspeteranlage 5, 4052 Basel, Switzerland (hereinafter „MDPI“).

1. Definitions

Affiliated authors	Any author of a manuscript who is an employee of or holds a research position at the Institution. This includes university staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students, those on temporary or permanent research contracts, lecturers, and full professors. Those granted an emeritus title are also included. Those with a temporary status (e.g., visiting researchers) qualify as affiliated authors if the research in the manuscript was partially or wholly conducted at the Institution. Affiliated authors must include the Institution address in their affiliation listed on the manuscript and be authorized to do so by the Institution. Affiliated authors are eligible to receive discounts described in this agreement.
Article Processing Charge (APC)	A per-article fee that covers the cost of administration of peer review, professional production (including copy-editing, language editing, and preparation of final published versions in PDF, XML, and other formats), journal management (including communication with the editorial board, development of editorial strategy, dissemination of published research), and other tasks necessary to maintain an academic publishing house.
Central payment	A process whereby invoices for APCs are sent to a single recipient based at the institution for payment rather than individual authors. Invoices related to central payment may be collated and issued on a regular basis (e.g., monthly or quarterly) rather than for each individual manuscript.
Manuscript	A piece of research with identified authors submitted to an MDPI journal with the aim of publication as a research paper. All submitted manuscripts containing original research undergo a rigorous peer review process following the norms for research journals.



Non-central payment	A process whereby invoices for APCs are sent to individual authors for payment.
Susy	MDPI's online submission system, used to manage the editorial process for manuscripts and handle the administration of APCs through the institutional account.

2. Purpose and Duration

This document sets out arrangements for how the IOAP operates. This agreement is effective as of 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2027.

The contracting parties shall enter into discussions on a possible extension, renewal or amendment of the contractual conditions no later than (2) two months before the end of the Agreement.

Participating institutions in options 1, 2 and 3 may change their funding option during the contract term.

To ensure financial stability and streamline invoicing processes, institutions must commit to a minimum service period of 12 months under Option 2. At the end of Year 1, after evaluating publication data and cost efficiency, institutions may opt to switch between Option 1 and Option 3.

3. Program Description

Institutional Open Access Program (IOAP) is operated by MDPI to facilitate the sharing of information, provide discounts, and support the scientific community within participating institutions.

MDPI shall grant the Institution access to a dedicated account on Susy where the Institution will be able to view manuscripts and associated metadata. For central payment purposes, relevant information including APCs, eligible authors, and invoices will be made accessible.

The Institution will have access to their IOAP Dashboard and is responsible for verifying the accuracy of the identification of affiliated authors.

A list of member institutions can be found at <https://www.mdpi.com/ioap>. For clarity and consistent communication, the Institution must inform its research community about its participation in IOAP.

A list of current APC charges is available at <http://www.mdpi.com/about/apc>.

Archiving

The Institution can choose to enable auto-archiving. In this case, all manuscripts published in MDPI journals by authors affiliated with the Institution will be deposited to the institution's internal repository on the issue release date of the journal using the SWORD 1.3 protocol, or an alternative mechanism at the discretion of MDPI.

MDPI automatically submits its content to various third-party repositories. To some repositories all peer-reviewed content is submitted; for example, the full text of all articles is submitted to CLOCKSS for long term archiving and preservation. Abstracts and metadata of all MDPI journals are deposited in the DOAJ. The repositories in which this content is deposited are dynamic, and no repository gives any guarantee that it will maintain its relationship with any publisher, but MDPI strives to ensure that all its journals, including new journals, are referenced in all major repositories, and in particular the

DOAJ. Furthermore, all MDPI journals are digitally preserved cover-to-cover, by the Swiss National Library ensuring long-term archival of all publications.

If any journal is removed from, or not included in the DOAJ, the Institution may, for itself, remove that journal from the scope of this arrangement.

Depending on the journal, where relevant, content is also submitted to (or is indexed by) other repositories, such as PubMed Central, EuropePubMed Central, Google Scholar (all journals, crawled by Google), CAS, OpenAIRE, Web of Science, Scopus, Embase, Ei Compendex, Semantic Scholar, PsychINFO, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, etc.

All content and article metadata is submitted to CrossRef and other relevant third parties and published with a DOI, which creates a durable link to the content.

Annual Account Performance Reports

MDPI shall provide annual report detailing the total number of articles published in accordance with this agreement. This report will cover the entire consortium and be broken down by each Institution. This list shall be provided both in machine readable format (XLS) and shall include the following details:

- Name of the publisher
- Bibliographic metadata (Journal title, journal abbreviation, journal ISSN, volume, issue, pages, article title, authors' names)
- DOI
- Link to the published Article
- Affiliated author, incl. ORCID
- Affiliated author's institution
- Affiliated authors's Corresponding E-Mail
- Date of submission
- Date of acceptance
- Publication date
- Amount due
- Discount
- Invoice date
- Invoice number
- Funding Information (Grant ID)
- Paying institution
- CC license
- "processed via dashboard" (yes/no)
- APC list price
- invoice amount
- apc_currency

The annual report shall cover the time span of the previous calendar year and shall be delivered in the first quarter of the following year.

4. Financial Terms

Authors affiliated with the Institution will receive a discount on the APC for any paper published in an MDPI journal. Only the IOAP discounts associated with Option 1 and Option 3 may be combined with

other discounts available, including reviewer vouchers and editorial office discounts, whereas the IOAP discount associated with Option 2 shall not be combined with any other discount except in cases where the Author is affiliated with an institution covered under a flat-fee option and that institution declines to cover the Author's article processing charges due to the Author not meeting the institution's internal eligibility criteria for central payment, in which event the Option 2 IOAP discount may be combined with other applicable discounts.

Participating institutions will select between the following three options:

Option 1- Central Payment

MDPI will provide a **30% discount** to the Institution for central coverage where the affiliated author is the corresponding author on the manuscript. For any non-central manuscript, MDPI will grant a **20% discount** on the published APC for the journal.

The discount will be confirmed by MDPI upon submission and the Institution may disavow an author at any time before the acceptance of the manuscript.

MDPI reserves the right to ask the Institution for evidence of affiliated author status before granting a discount.

The Institution has opted into central payment and takes the responsibility of paying invoices for any affiliated authors that identify themselves as the corresponding author on a manuscript.

MDPI does not set the criteria for central payment eligibility but can automatically enroll authors for central payment based on their email address. MDPI can, upon request, enroll authors for central payment based on whether they are identified as a corresponding author.

The Institution will have access to the IOAP Dashboard and shall confirm the author's eligibility upon notification of submission, but no later than five (5) working days after the paper's acceptance. The invoice status (central or non-central) at that time shall be deemed accurate and final by MDPI and will not be subject to modification.

Institutions using central payment may choose a prepayment account to pay for APCs. If the institution has agreed to pay an invoice centrally the total will be deducted from the deposited funds.

Option 2 – Subscribe to Open Access

Institutions can subscribe to publish a **number of articles** across all of MDPI's open access journals.

MDPI will provide historical data on the number of papers published by corresponding authors across MDPI journals, and the **institution determines the quantity** of open access publications they would like to cover during the term of this agreement. Once the proposed quantity is consumed, MDPI will switch to an author pays model providing author a **20% discount**, unless the institution opts to increase the quantity further during the term.

The Subscribe to Open Access option is priced at a per paper rate (APC) as follows:

For 2026: Quantity x **1,700 CHF**

For 2027: Quantity x **1,800 CHF**

Payment for the “Subscribe to Open Access” option can be made in either a single or in multiple installments. The funding for the year **2026** shall be paid in full by **28 February, 2026**. Consequently, the funding for the year **2027** shall be paid in full by **28 February, 2027**.

In the unlikely case of underconsumption in 2026, any unused credit will be carried forward to the following year.

For tracking purposes, an invoice will still be issued and made available in the dedicated IOAP Dashboard.

The Institution will have continuous and unrestricted access to the IOAP Dashboard, and shall confirm the author’s eligibility no later than five (5) working days after paper’s acceptance. The invoice status (central or non-central) at that time shall be deemed accurate and final by MDPI and shall not be subject to modification.

For any manuscript not eligible for the Subscribe to Open Access where at least one author is an affiliated author, MDPI will grant a **20% discount** on the published APC for the journal.

Option 3 – Author pays

Authors affiliated with the Institution will receive a **20% discount** on the APC for any paper published in an MDPI journal.

Additional Discounts

All affiliated authors also receive a **10% discount** on charges associated with open access book publishing with MDPI Books (i.e., book processing charges: BPCs), 10% discount on JAMS (journal management system), and a **15% discount** on the language editing services provided by MDPI Author Services. The additional discounts are available for every one of the offered options.

5. Invoicing Information

MDPI will issue invoices to the Institution in CHF (Swiss Francs).

Payments shall be made via credit card or bank transfer to the account details provided (see also: <https://www.mdpi.com/about/payment>).

The issuer’s details are as follows:

MDPI AG
Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel
Switzerland

Email: billing@mdpi.com (Note: Valid emails sent from MDPI will have the email domain @mdpi.com.)

Either party shall notify the other in writing of any changes to their address or contact information in a timely manner.

Invoices are payable within 30 days of the invoice issue date. Failure to remit payment within the specified period may result interest charges, suspension of services, or other remedies available to

MDPI, including referral to a debt collection agency. Any costs arising from late payment shall be the responsibility of the Institution.

Any applicable taxes, including Swiss VAT, shall be added to the invoice at the statutory rate in effect at the time of invoicing. Such taxes shall be the sole responsibility of the Institution (see also: <https://www.mdpi.com/about/terms-and-conditions>).

6. Confidentiality

The terms of this document are not confidential.

However, the Institutions must treat with strict confidence any manuscript and associated metadata provided by MDPI, and any details shared about the editorial process.

7. Data protection

The parties must comply with the applicable data protection law, especially the Swiss Data Protection Act ("FDPA"), the General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") and all relevant data protection and privacy legislation in other relevant jurisdictions. If applicable, the parties agree to implement a data processing agreement compliant with applicable data protection law.

8. Miscellaneous

Basel, Switzerland shall be the place of jurisdiction for all legal disputes arising of this agreement, even if the Institution has their domicile outside of Switzerland.

Swiss law applicable at the place of jurisdiction of MDPI shall apply exclusively, excluding the conflict of law's provisions, the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods of 11 April 1980 ("Vienna Sales Convention") and any other international conventions.

In the event that any one or more of the provisions contained herein shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this agreement, but to the extent permitted by law, this agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein

No modification, amendment or waiver of any provisions shall be valid unless in writing. Any waiver in one or more instances by either of the parties of any breach by the other of any terms or provisions contained in this Agreement shall not be considered a waiver of any succeeding or preceding breach.

Appendix 1 is an integral part of this agreement.

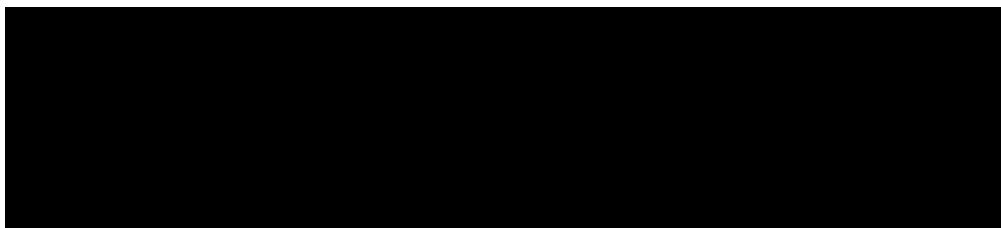


For MDPI

For the Consortium

Place, date: Mar 4, 2026

Place, date: Mar 4, 2026



Appendix 1 – Participants list

Institution name	Option	Fee in CHF
Universität Basel (incl. University hospitals)	Option 3	
Universität Bern (incl. Inselspital and PH Bern)	Option 3	
Université de Fribourg	Option 3	
Université de Genève (incl. University hospital)	Option 3	
Université de Lausanne (incl. University hospital and HEP Vaud)	Option 3	
Università della Svizzera italiana	Option 3	
Universität Luzern (incl. PH LU/SZ/ZG)	Option 3	
Université de Neuchâtel	Option 3	
Universität St.Gallen	Option 3	
Universität Zürich (incl. University hospitals)	Option 3	
EPF Lausanne	Option 3	
ETH Zürich	Option 2	
Lib4RI	Option 1	
BFH Berner Fachhochschule	Option 3	

Institution name	Option	Fee in CHF
FHNW Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz	Option 3	
HES-SO Haute école spécialisée de Suisse occidentale	Option 3	
HSLU Hochschule Luzern	Option 3	
SUPSI Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana	Option 3	
ZHAW Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften	Option 1	
PHZH	Option 1	
PH-Konsortium	Option 1	
Agroscope	Option 3	
CERN	Option 1	

Note: The fee stated above is exclusive of VAT.