


Publication Policy

BBMRI-ERIC

Document information

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Director General BBMRI-ERIC

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1. SCOPE


This policy addresses authorship, the associated responsibility and accountability for published research outputs by or in collaboration with BBMRI-ERIC Headquarters staff. Its main intention is to ensure fairness among co-authors in conceptualizing, writing, and publishing work. It aims to provide the basis for mutual agreement of sharing work, costs, and academic credit. It commits to the EC's open access policy.

2. CRITERIA FOR AUTHORSHIP

2.1. Vancouver Recommendations

BBMRI-ERIC commits to follow the recommendations of [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#) in its most current version, also known as "[Vancouver Recommendations](#)" that base authorship on the following 4 criteria:

1. *Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND*
2. *Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND*
3. *Final approval of the version to be published; AND*
4. *Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.*

 Authors should meet all four criteria for authorship. Contributors who meet fewer than all four of the above criteria should be acknowledged. Examples of activities that alone (without other contributions) do not qualify a contributor for authorship are acquisition of funding; general supervision of a research group or general administrative support; and writing assistance, technical editing, language editing, and proofreading.

These recommendations should be followed in addition to journal specific instructions.

For IT-related publications the [ACM](#) and [IEEE](#) authorship rules should be followed in their latest versions.

3. INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION

3.1. BBMRI-ERIC

The BBMRI-ERIC affiliation must be included in the publication if research outputs that have been supported by BBMRI-ERIC resources (core or project related). Using a BBMRI-ERIC affiliation is only legitimate if an existing working contract with BBMRI-ERIC has been in place (e.g., secondment) at the time of the contribution to the article.

3.2. Dual Affiliation

In case of an additional affiliation relevant for the publication, both affiliations may be included.

4. OPEN ACCESS

BBMRI-ERIC aligns with the EC's open access policy in its latest version¹ and encourages open access publications derived from its core activities wherever possible. While peer-reviewed scientific publications are the most widely accepted forms of sharing research results, there is a strong urge to consider, where appropriate, other forms of scientific publications such as books, conference proceedings, or research data repositories.

Authors can freely choose between the most appropriate route towards open access for them:

- peer-reviewed scientific publications (primarily research articles published in academic journals)
- scientific research data: data underlying publications and/or other data (such as curated but unpublished datasets or raw data)

Specific open access rules may apply according to the respective funding scheme (e.g. Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe).

4.1. Limits of Open Access for Research Data

BBMRI-ERIC acknowledges the limits of open access for research data in cases where research integrity and/or the privacy of the research subject is concerned. Most notably, the publication of research data cannot be in contradiction to or conflict with the competent Ethics Committee's Requirements.

4.2. Project Deliverables

BBMRI-ERIC commits to publish project deliverables with a dissemination level PU (public) on [Zenodo](#).

5. ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGES

Article Processing Charges (APCs) are eligible to project funding if the publication resulted from a project. The eligibility of costs differs depending on the funding programme under which you obtained funding (e.g. [Horizon Europe, H2020](#)).

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/open-science/open-access_en (last accessed 23.02.2022)

APCs shall be covered by BBMRI-ERIC core funding if the manuscript is in line with the core activities of BBMRI-ERIC (e.g. Work Programme).

If the manuscripts result from a collaboration of partners and projects, a sharing of APCs shall be discussed and agreed on in writing upfront and as early as possible.

Before an manuscript is submitted, internal proofreading should be consulted to ensure the linguistic quality of the article. If internal proofreading is not available, external proofreading services can be used following internal procurement rules.

Availability of partial or entire coverage of APCs by BBMRI-ERIC needs to be clarified on a case-by-case basis with the respective unit head.

6. DISCLAIMER

Authors, when publishing with the BBMRI-ERIC affiliation may include the following disclaimer in the manuscript:

Where authors are identified as personnel of the Biobanking and BioMolecular resources Research Infrastructure (BBMRI-ERIC), the authors alone are responsible for the views expressed in this article and they do not necessarily represent the decisions, policy or views of BBMRI-ERIC.

Whether such a disclaimer is required needs to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. For scientific publications, the decision is taken on the level of the unit heads. In case a publication concerns the strategic orientation of the research infrastructure, the decision is taken on the level of the Director General (DG).

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1. Acknowledgement of Contributions

BBMRI-ERIC commits to acknowledge and provide credit to projects, groups, meetings and/or individuals relevant to the manuscript (e.g., working groups, workshop participants, reviewers of earlier drafts) that have contributed to the manuscript in a relevant way (e.g., providing a critical comment to an earlier draft) but do not qualify as co-authors. They should be acknowledged by name, affiliation if any and contribution.

Example:

The idea for this publication was conceived during the [conference/workshop/expert meeting/working group]. Critical reading of an early manuscript benefited of the input by [name, affiliation].

7.2. Acknowledgement of Funding

Besides following the requirements to acknowledge funding as specified by the funding institution, BBMRI-ERIC commits to acknowledge which outcome was funded partly or entirely by its core budget and/or in-kind contribution by one or several of its National Nodes and collaborators.

Example:

This publication was [co-]funded within [project acronym], a project that has received funding from the European Union's [Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe] research and innovation programme under grant agreement No [xxxx].

In addition, it benefited from in-kind contributions from BBMRI-ERIC and the National Nodes [xy].

8. AUTHOR REQUIREMENTS

8.1. Corresponding Author

If the corresponding author is an employee of BBMRI-ERIC, they are responsible for following the recommendations of the Vancouver Recommendations. In addition, the corresponding author is responsible for communication among the co-authors but also the editors and the journal, and for fulfilling administrative requirements of manuscript (re)submission.

If APCs apply, it should be the responsibility of the corresponding author to clarify upfront with the co-authors how the costs are covered.

Agreements among the co-authors need to be kept on file by the corresponding author.

8.2. Contributing Author

If the contributing author is an employee of BBMRI-ERIC, but not a corresponding author, they shall encourage to follow the recommendations of the „Vancouver Recommendations“.

9. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

In case a publication stems from project work, the respective Consortium Agreement (alongside the requirements of Article 29.1 of the Grant Agreement) specifies the obligations of partners to inform each other in a given time frame (e.g., 30 days prior publication) about a publication. Any other consortium partner may object within a certain period (e.g. 15 days) on legitimate grounds. It is the responsibility of the authors to ensure that the specific requirements laid out in the respective Consortium Agreement are adhered to.

In case a publication stems from core activities of BBMRI-ERIC, the units shall inform each other about planned manuscripts exploring cross-unit contributions. Active contribution in publication should be communicated within a week's notice.

10. REFERENCES

- ACM, <https://www.acm.org/publications/policies/roles-and-responsibilities#authorship> (last accessed on 25.02.2022)
- International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, www.icmje.org (last accessed on 25.2.2022)
- IEEE, <https://journals.ieeeauthorcenter.ieee.org/become-an-ieee-journal-author/publishing-ethics/ethical-requirements/> (last accessed on 25.02.2022)
- Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals, Updated December 2021, <http://www.icmje.org/icmje-recommendations.pdf> (last accessed on 25.02.2022)
- European Research Council, Open Science, <https://erc.europa.eu/managing-your-project/open-science> (last accessed on 25.02.2022)

11. TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACM - Association for Computing Machinery

APC - Article Processing Charges

CorA - Corresponding Author

ConA - Contributing Author

CA - Consortium Agreement

DG - Director General

HQ - Headquarters

IEEE - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers