

# Panel (16) meeting 3.11.2025

**Place:** Teams

**Present:** Paavo Ritala (chair), Kirsi Aaltonen, Anna Aminoff, Jose-Carlos Garcia-Rosell, Ville Hinkka, Elina Jaakkola, Mika Kortelainen, Olli Kuivalainen, Juuso Liesiö, Pauli Murto, Niku Määttänen, Terhi Ravaska, Katri Valkokari, Sami Vähämaa

**Absent:** Dandison Ukpabi, Markku Vieru

**Secretariat:** Leena Wahlfors and Anna-Kaarina Linna

## 1. Opening

The Chair opened the Meeting at 13.04, and thanked the Panelists for a great work they have done.

## 2. Introduction of the New Panelist

The new Panelist Olli Kuivalainen introduced himself. The Panel welcomed him to the Panel.

It was noted that the fields covered in the Panel are listed in appendix 1.

## 3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

## 4. Announcement of engagements

Panelists must always disclose any potential conflicts of interest, especially when the panel is discussing a publication channel with which the panelist has had – or continues to have – close ties in the form of publication, editorial work, financial interest, or other influence. These ties include, at a minimum, the panelist having, within the last five years:

- published in the channel in question more than once,
- served as an editor or member of the editorial board of the channel,
- owned shares in the publishing company or a comparable organization, or
- held another position that could cause financial or interest conflicts.

Disclosure does not automatically prevent participation in decision-making, but the panel must take the ties into account in the evaluation process.

([Handbook 2025 - 2028.](#))

Please find the list at the end of the document (Appendix 1).

It was noted that it is logical that panelists publish in the same channels that they also evaluate, and that it is not a problem as such. The purpose of the statement is to increase transparency. The Secretariat will bring the item to

the steering group meeting of 27.11.2025, and proposes the wording “if the panelist has published in the channel concerned more than once” to be changed to: “if the channel has exceptional significance for the panelist’s publication activity (the panels determine, based on the premises of their discipline, in which cases a panelist reports their publication activity)”.

## 5. The Development of JUFO Classification

The development of the Publication Forum classification is part of the Forum’s long-term operational and development plan. As part of this work, the Publication Forum Steering Group decided at its meeting on 8 September 2025 that:

### A. Structure of the Classification

- In the Publication Forum (JUFO) classification, the designation “*Level 0*” will be discontinued. Instead, the category “*other identified publication channels*” will be used for scholarly publication channels that are not classified at Levels 1, 2, or 3, and that are not designated as professional or popular publication channels.
- From the beginning of 2026, evaluation panels will no longer assign publication channels to Level 3. Information on Level 3 will be removed from the JUFO portal at the beginning of 2027, when the updated classification is published.

Implementation:

- Update the website and the Panel Member’s Handbook by the end of 2025.
- Apply the necessary changes to the panel-specific Excel templates used in the evaluation update at the beginning of 2026.
- Apply the necessary changes to the publication channel database and JUFO portal by the end of 2026.

### B. Classification Criteria

Changes to level 1 criteria:

- Criterion 2 (Transparency):  
Current wording: “The publication channel’s website provides a transparent description of the editorial board and the peer review process. (A book publisher may meet Level 1 criteria even if the editorial board and peer review process are not described on the website.)” -> Revised wording: “The publication channel’s website provides a transparent description of the editorial board and the peer review process. This applies also to book publishers.”
- Criterion 7 (Relevance) will be divided into two separate criteria:
  - 7. Relevance: The publication channel is central from the perspective of its discipline’s international or Finnish research community.

- 8. Thoroughness: The primary objective of the publication channel is to promote and ensure scholarly quality, and its editorial and peer review practices are careful and reliable. A [checklist](#) of practices identified as problematic may be used as a support tool in the assessment.

Changes to Level 2 criteria:

- A new (fourth) criterion will be added: The publication channel enables immediate open access (either via the service itself or through self-archiving).
- From the specific criteria for Finnish- and Swedish-language publication channels, the criterion “Research questions are strongly contextualised within Finnish society or Finnish- and Swedish-language culture” will be removed.

Implementation: Update the website and the Panel Member’s Handbook by the end of 2025.

#### C. Quotas and Calculation of Publication Volume

Quotas for publication series and book publishers will no longer take Level 3 into account. Consequently:

- The combined publication volume of series classified at Level 2 may amount to no more than 25% of the total publication volume of all series within the panel (Levels 1–2 combined).
- The list of book publishers is shared across all panels. Selections for Level 2 are made jointly by the panel chairs. Approximately 100 publishers across all fields may be classified at Level 2. Quotas are thus determined by the number of publishers, not by their publication output.

Implementation: Update the website and the Panel Member’s Handbook by the end of 2025.

#### D. Aspects to be Considered in Evaluation

In the Panel Member’s Handbook, Chapter 3.6 *Aspects to be considered in evaluation* will be updated as follows when there are equally influential and respected publication channels in the same field under consideration for level 2:

3.6.6 Publication channels of scholarly societies (formerly “Closed society publication channels”):

- The title will be changed to “*Publication channels of scholarly societies*”.
- If there are equally influential and respected publication channels under consideration for Level 2, preference will be given to those published by scholarly societies. Publication channels that require society membership in order to publish (closed society journals) cannot be accepted at Level 2.

Implementation: Update the website and the Panel Member’s Handbook by the end of 2025.

## Discussion:

The secretariat explained the ground for the Change of level 0: The new designation is considered to be more neutral way to communicate in different contexts about identified publication channels that have not been approved to level 1. Level 0 channels are generally associated with the perception that they are of poor quality in one way or another, or have characteristics of predatory journals. In fact, the Level 0 is very heterogeneous. It includes channels that are properly peer-reviewed but local, new, or located at the interface between scientific and general audience publishing. Originally, JUFO classification did not have level 0 but this name was introduced by the Ministry in the Universities Act in 2014.

It was noted that there has long been a debate for and against maintaining level 3. The following reasons were given by the Steering Group for abandoning the Level 3 and merging it with the Level 2:

- Originally, JUFO classification had only levels 1 and 2. Level 3 was introduced in 2011 because level quotas were based on number journal titles, wherefore in some fields it was felt that level 2 was too broad and further differentiation was needed in form of level 3. Since 2014, level quotas have been calculated based on publication volume, which made levels 2 and 3 more exclusive and difficult to balance with journal quality and size across various subfields. This means that in many panels level 3 involves unhappy compromises.
- From the perspective of panelists and stakeholders, the distinction between levels 2 and 3 is the least important and credible according to surveys of panelists and stakeholders.
- Level 3 treats main field more unequally than combined level 2 and 3.
- Level 3 plays an important role when JUFO classification is misused for assessing individuals, which is not appropriate. In that sense it has been well-founded to reduce the hierarchy of the structure to reduce anxiety related to producing level 3 publications.
- Abandoning level 3 will reduce the work of the panels in the four-yearly update assessment, so more effort can be put on assessment on levels 1 and 2.

It was also mentioned that the removal of level 3 will not effect the current universities' funding model for 2025-2028. Funding for the year 2028 will be calculated in June 2027 based on the combined results of the previous three publication years (2024–2026).

It was clarified that in the new level 2, panels may not include so many series that their combined number of publications (publication volume) would exceed 25 % of the total (number) volume of publications of all level 1 and 2 series in

the panel's list. This level quota restriction ensures that level 2 represents only the top of the field, and that not too large a share of publications can be placed on level 2 compared to other panels.

The panel held discussion on changes to the level 1 and level 2 criteria and considered the additions to the level 1 criteria to be good and justified. The Panel noted that abandoning level 3 will result in the loss of information on the highest-level publications and the opportunity to encourage publication at the highest level. It was also asked if the level history remains visible in Jufo portal.

Particular attention was also paid to the new (fourth) criterion in level 2: "The publication channel allows immediate open access." It was clarified that self-archiving should be allowed or that the article could be made openly available – if necessary, by paying an article processing charge (APC). It was noted that this criterion should, however, be brought up for discussion at the steering group meeting and, if necessary, further clarified. This applies in particular to the meaning of immediacy since the panel was unsure if all highest quality channels allow immediate openness.

## **6. Preparation for the Spring 2026 evaluation round**

In the evaluation round of 2026, the panels can classify leading publication channels in different fields into level 2. This level is reassessed every four years.

The scientific community as well as panelists themselves, are invited to submit proposals for classification to support the evaluation work of the panels: downgrades and upgrades to level 2. Proposals should be submitted via the JUFO portal by end of February 2026.

In June 3, the panels will prepare a new preliminary level classification proposal, which will be finalized during the fall.

The required data materials for the panels are produced before the panel evaluations, including panel-specific Excel sheets that contain the channels to be evaluated, publication volume data, and statistics by scientific discipline classification.

More information at latest after Panel Chair Meeting of 27.11.2025

### **Discussion:**

The chair recommend panelists to pay particular attention to two issues: the quota and the balance between different fields. It was also pointed out that the research community, at least in previous re-evaluations, has been quite

unaware of the possibility to influence the re-evaluation. Therefore, the scientific community can also be invited to submit collective proposals. The secretariat clarified, that joint proposals should also be submitted via Jufo portal, so that the data is stored directly in the database. All proposals should also include grounds based on Jufo criteria.

## **7. Evaluation of grey area publication channels in the Publication Forum**

Within the Publication Forum, there has long been discussion about so-called grey zone journals, which are not outright predatory journals, but which seek to maximise publication output with the least possible investment in editorial work and quality assurance. This business model is designed to maximise financial returns from article processing charges (APCs).

The Secretariat has continued work on clarifying assessment of grey zone channels by developing the [Checklist](#) to support the documentation and coherent consideration of problematic practices.

In line with a decision of the Steering Group, **panels are asked to give their views on whether there is a need to establish an Ethics Expert Group of the Publication Forum to promote coherent identification and treatment of grey zone and predatory journals across panels.** The group would be composed primarily of panel members, but external domestic and international experts could also be invited if needed.

The task of the Expert Group, in collaboration with the JUFO Secretariat and the panels, would be to:

- Develop the checklist of problematic publishing practices and the documentation of such practices,
- Clarify how problematic practices should be considered in the assessment of channels and in the justifications for decisions, and
- Compile and provide information on problematic practices in publication channels for the panels, the Steering Group, and the research community.

The Expert Group would not evaluate individual publication channels assigned to the panels, but the panels could, if necessary, consult the group on individual cases. The responsibility for classification decisions would remain with the panels.

The JUFO Secretariat would coordinate and facilitate the group's work by providing background information and by relaying observations and experiences received from the research community, for example through the address [saalistajat@julkaisuforum.fi](mailto:saalistajat@julkaisuforum.fi).

The panel did not support the establishment of an ethical expert group, but encouraged the secretariat to take the opportunity to conduct a Nordic exercise on the subject in the steering group of the publication forum.

## **8. The use of AI in scientific publishing**

In its meeting on May 5, 2025, the Publication Forum Steering Group decided that the secretariat will prepare a study on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the scientific publication process. Based on this decision, a [survey](#) has been sent to panelists to assess the utilization of AI in scientific publishing, including related practices, experiences, and perspectives.

Panel members had the opportunity to pose questions and share comments on the topic. The study, which will be based on survey responses, panel discussions, and a literature review, is scheduled for completion in early 2026. All data used in the study, including the content of panel discussions, will be anonymized.

## **9. Other**

The final supplementary assessment for 2025 will be carried out in November: For the panel members 1. - 20.11.2025, and the panel chair should confirm the evaluations by 30.11.2025.

## **10. Closing**

The Chair closed the meeting at 15.02.

# **Appendix 1**

## **Panel's MinEdu fields**

511 Economics

512 Business economics

- Business and management
- Industrial management
- Economic history

## **List of panel members' expertise**

**Paavo Ritala:** Information management; BUSINESS; Strategic Management, Innovation and Technology Management, Sustainable Business

**Kirsi Aaltonen:** Industrial engineering; ENGINEERING, INDUSTRIAL; BUSINESS; MANAGEMENT; Project management, project business, temporary organizations, inter-company relations and networks, stakeholder theory complex systems

**Anna Aminoff:** Industrial engineering; OPERATIONS RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT SCIENCE; BUSINESS; TRANSPORTATION; Supply management, sourcing, sustainable business and circular economy

**Jose-Carlos Garcia-Rosell:** Management; MANAGEMENT; EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH; ETHICS; Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainability, Business Ethics, Stakeholder theory, responsible tourism business, tourism and hospitality, marketing, experiential learning, action research, ethnography

**Ville Hinkka:** Logistics; MANAGEMENT; ENGINEERING, INDUSTRIAL; ENGINEERING, CIVIL; logistics, supply chain management, transport, information systems

**Elina Jaakkola:** Marketing; MARKETING; Service business, Customer experience, Customer/actor engagement, Value creation, Service innovation, B2B marketing

**Mika Kortelainen:** Economics; ECONOMICS; OPERATIONS RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT SCIENCE; HEALTH CARE SCIENCES & SERVICES; Health economics, economics of education, operations research

**Olli Kuivalainen:** BUSINESS; MANAGEMENT; MARKETING, Management of Technology and Innovation, Business and International Management, International Business, Entrepreneurship, Strategic Management

**Juuso Liesiö:** Operations research; OPERATIONS RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT SCIENCE; MATHEMATICS, APPLIED; Management Science, Operations Research

**Pauli Murto:** Operations research; ECONOMICS; OPERATIONS RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT SCIENCE; Applied Microeconomics, Information Economics, Game Theory

**Niku Määttänen:** Economics; ECONOMICS; Makroeconomics

**Terhi Ravaska:** Economics; ECONOMICS; public economics, economic inequality, microeconometrics

**Dandison Ukpabi:** Marketing; BUSINESS; Marketing, Tourism, consumer behaviour

**Katri Valkokari:** Information Management; MANAGEMENT; Networked Business, Innovation and Information Management

**Markku Vieru:** Business; BUSINESS, FINANCE; ECONOMICS; HOSPITALITY, LEISURE, SPORT & TOURISM; accounting, stock market, finance, tourism research



**Sami Vähämaa:** Accounting and finance; BUSINESS, FINANCE; BUSINESS; ECONOMICS; Finance, Accounting, Corporate Governance, Banking; Corporate Social Responsibility

## List of engagements

The panel members are asked to disclose their engagements with publication channels in which they have been an editor or a member of the editorial board in the past five years.

<b>Panellist</b>	<b>Publication channel</b>
Anna Aminoff	Journal of Business Logistics, special issue editor (2024)
Terhi Ravaska	Member of the editorial board of the book publishing company Vastapaino since 2020
Ville Hinkka	Supply Chain Management: An International Journal (Editorial Advisory board member)
Kirsi Aaltonen	Project Management Journal (Editorial Board Member), Project Leadership and Society (Associate Editor), International Journal of Project Management (Guest Editor) and member of International Editorial Board)
Paavo Ritala	R&D Management (Editor-in-Chief); Journal of Product Innovation Management (Editorial Board Member)  Organization & Environment (Guest editor); International Journal of Management Reviews (Guest editor); Long Range Planning (Guest editor); International Marketing Review (Guest editor); Business & Society (Guest editor)
Dandison Ukpabi	Spanish Journal of Marketing-ESIC (Editorial Board Member), Journal of Global Hospitality and Tourism (Editorial Review Member)
Elina Jaakkola	Associate editor: Journal of Service Research, Industrial Marketing Management Member of Editorial Review Board: International Journal of Research in Marketing, Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science, Journal of Service Management, Journal of Services Marketing,, AMS Review Guest editor in two special issues: Journal of Business Research
Pauli Murto	Associate editor: Journal of the European Economic Association (2015 - 2020)

Juuso Liesiö	Associate editor for Omega - International Journal of Management Science (2025->)
José-Carlos García-Rosell	Editorial board member: Business & Society, Journal of Vacation Marketing, and Finnish Journal of Tourism Research. Journal of Business Ethics (guest editor), special issue editor. Guest editor N
Sami Vähämaa	Editor-in-Chief: Nordic Journal of Business Associate Editor: Emerging Markets Review Editorial Board Member: Corporate Governance: An International Review
Mika Kortelainen	Editor: Journal of the Finnish Economic Association (2020-2024), Associate Editor: Health Care Management Science, Nordic Journal of Health Economics (2020-2024)
Olli Kuivalainen	Associate Editor, International Marketing Review, Series editor of the AIB United Kingdom and Ireland Chapter book series, published by Palgrave Macmillan, Guest Editor of Special Issue: European Journal of International Management, Critical perspectives on International Business, Industrial Marketing Management

## Meeting minutes 4.2.2025

**Place:** House of Science and Letters, room 207

**Present:** Paavo Ritala (chair), Kirsi Aaltonen, Anna Aminoff, Jose-Carlos Garcia-Rosell, Ville Hinkka, Elina Jaakkola, Juuso Liesiö, Pauli Murto, Niku Määttänen, Terhi Ravaska, Dandison Ukpabi, Katri Valkokari

**Absent:** Mika Kortelainen, Sami Vähämaa, Markku Vieru

**Secretariat:** Elina Pylvänäinen and Anna-Kaarina Linna

### 1. Opening

The panel chair opened the meeting at 13.07.

### 2. Introductions

### 3. Panel

#### **a. Panel composition**

The fields covered in this panel are listed in appendix 1. The panel went through the list and discussed if there is a need to supplement the panel composition.

##### **Discussion:**

- It was discussed that the panel could be complemented with an expert of entrepreneurship and international business. The panel prepared a list of candidates and the secretariat will contact them. New members are appointed by the steering group.
- It was discussed that it is more important to cover all the main fields of the panel. It is not possible to have an expert from all subfields.

#### **b. Selecting the vice-chair of the panel**

A vice-chair was selected for the panel. The vice-chair stands in for the panel chair when they are absent. The vice-chair also has a right to confirm evaluations in the JUFO portal on behalf of the panel chair.

##### **Decision:**

- Niku Määttänen was selected as a vice-chair of the panel.

#### **4. Orientation to the panel work**

The secretariat introduced the Publication Forum, its aims and purpose as well as the evaluation criteria.

#### **5. Level 1 and 0 evaluations in the JUFO portal**

The deadline for the first set of level 1 and 0 evaluations is 26.3.2025 for the panel members and the panel chair needs to confirm evaluations at latest on 1.4.2025. More information will be sent by email.

#### **6. Conflicts of interest**

The panel members were asked to disclose their engagements with publication channels in which they have been an editor or a member of the editorial board in the past five years.

#### **7. Other**

The date of the spring meeting will be set by Doodle.

#### **8. Closing**

The panel chair closed the meeting at 15.54.

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