

# Panel (19) meeting 12.11.2025

**Present:** Marianna Muravyeva (chair), Emma Hakala, Kirsi-Maria Halonen, Emilia Korkea-aho, Anna Kronlund (from 9.07), Visa Kurki, Mikko Mattila, Jukka Mähönen, Henrik Serup Christensen

**Absent:** Juha Hiedanpää, Harri Jalonen, Jan-Erik Johanson, Johanna Lammintakanen, Elina Pirjatanniemi, Rune Saugmann

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

## 1. Opening

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.00.

## 2. Announcements

New panel member Visa Kurki introduced himself, and he was welcomed to the panel.

## 3. The Panel Composition

At the spring panel meeting, it was noted that the panel does not have expertise in artificial intelligence legislation and policy. These areas were described as relatively narrow, so it was agreed that the panel could continue without an expert for the time being and add one later if necessary.

The fields covered in the Panel are listed in appendix 1.

## 4. Announcement of engagements

It was noted that the 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).

## 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.

**The ground for the Change of level 0 by the Jufo Steering Group:**

- The new designation is considered to be a 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. 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.

**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.

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).

## 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. The panel held discussion on changes to the level 1 and level 2 criteria.

### 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 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 Panel stated that the changes to the structure of classification do not make the Panels work any easier. Abandoning the level 3 may also jeopardize channels classified to level 2, meaning also good channels may drop to level 1. It was also asked if it is possible to clearly distinguish those channels that cannot even be considered to the "Other identified channels". It is not feasible, as all peer-reviewed publications reported in the Ministry of Education and Culture's publication data collection must be classified within the Publication Forum.

The panel held discussion on changes to the level 1 and level 2 criteria. Particular attention was 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).

The panel expressed its concerns about interpretation and implications of the criterion of openness: whether the openness policy supports an open publishing business model in which high APC fees are a condition for openness. The openness criterion has also been criticized for ignoring high-quality domestic and international publishers who have not switched to open publishing but continue to publish printed material. The panel expressed concern that openness may take precedence over scientific excellence as a criterion.

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.

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

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

The scientific community is invited to submit proposals for classification to support the evaluation work of the panels. Members of the scientific community can influence the evaluation of publication channels by submitting proposals for changes to the current levels of publication channels. Proposals should be submitted via the JUFO portal.

The JUFO panelists evaluate the channels within their area of expertise and submit their key proposals for changes (downgrades and upgrades) to level 2 in the JUFO portal by the end of February.

Proposals made by the end of February 2026 will be taken into account in the first phase of the evaluation. In May Meeting (4.5.2026) the panel 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 after Panel Chair Meeting of 27.11.2025

The matter was recorded for information.

## 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@julkaisufoorumi.fi](mailto:saalistajat@julkaisufoorumi.fi).

### Discussion:

The panel did not reach a unanimous decision on whether an ethics group should be established. On the one hand, it could be a good idea, but on the other hand, there are such large differences between scientific disciplines that a single multidisciplinary group would not be able to serve the panels adequately.

## 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's deadline for the panel members is 20.11.2025, and the panel chair should confirm the evaluations by 30.11.2025.

## 10. Closing

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.30.

# Appendix 1

## Panel's MinEdu fields

517 Political science

- Political science
- Administrative sciences
- Organisation theory
- International relations

513 Law

- Law
- Criminology
- Penology

## List of panel members' expertise

**Marianna Muravyeva:** History; LAW; HISTORY; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; human rights of women, violence against women, legal history, gender and law

**Emma Hakala:** Political history; INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; POLITICAL SCIENCE; ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES; environmental security, geopolitics of climate change

**Kirsi-Maria Halonen:** Law; LAW; public finance law, legal economics, public procurement, competition law, state aid regulation, security of supply, contract law

**Juha Hiedanpää:** Environmental policy; PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; POLITICAL SCIENCE; Natural resource policy, environmental policy, nature policy

**Harri Jalonen:** Information management; PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION; POLITICAL SCIENCE; Public management and administration; public services; complex systems; knowledge management and value creation

**Jan-Erik Johanson:** Public administration; PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION; POLITICAL SCIENCE; SOCIOLOGY; Public Administration, Public Management, Public Policy

**Emilia Korkea-aho:** Law; LAW; POLITICAL SCIENCE; PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION; European Law, Regulatory Research, Governance Research, Legislative Research

**Anna Kronlund:** Policy research; POLITICAL SCIENCE; INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; Political Studies, U.S. Politics, UN Legitimacy

**Visa Kurki:**

**Johanna Lammintakanen:** Health Management Science; HEALTH POLICY & SERVICES; MANAGEMENT; PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION; Social and Health Services Management, Effectiveness

**Mikko Mattila:** Policy research; POLITICAL SCIENCE; SOCIAL ISSUES; Comparative policy research, political participation, European Union decision-making, health and policy

**Jukka Mähönen:** Law; LAW; MANAGEMENT; ECONOMICS; Sustainability law, corporate law, accounting, finance

**Elina Pirjatanniemi:** Criminal law; LAW; CRIMINOLOGY & PENOLOGY; INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; fundamental and human rights, environmental criminal law, the relationship between national and international law, foreign law issues

**Rune Saugmann:** International relations; INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; POLITICAL SCIENCE; Security studies, security governance, visual social science

**Henrik Serup Christensen:** Political science; POLITICAL SCIENCE; PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; Political behaviour, comparative politics



# 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.

Panellist	Publication channel
Jukka Mähönen	International and Comparative Corporate Law Journal, Journal of Co-operative Organisation and Management, Nordic Journal of Commercial Law, Retfærd.
Emma Hakala	Idäntutkimus, <a href="https://politiikasta.fi">Politiikasta.fi</a> , Futures
Jan-Erik Johansson	Journal of public budgeting accounting and financial management, Australian journal of public administration
Kirsi-Maria Halonen	Journal of Public Procurement, European Procurement Law Series (kirjasarja, julkaisija Edward Elgar Publishing), Liikejuridiikka, Edilex, Oikeustiede-Jurisprudentia,
Harri Jalonen	Hallinnon Tutkimu; Public Money & Management
Elina Pirjatanniemi	Tampere University Press, Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights, Nordic Journal of Human Rights, Oikeustiede/Jurisprudentia
Mikko Mattila	European Union Politics, EPS European Political Science, Contemporary European Studies, Electoral Studies
Marianna Muravyeva	Aspasia; Journal of Women History, Palgrave series editor (World Histories of Crime, Culture and Violence); Kriminologijos studijos; ELTE Law Journal; Continuum book series History of crime, deviance and punishment; Crime, Histoire & Societies
Henrik Serup Christensen	Journal of deliberative democracy, <i>Frontiers in Political Science</i> , <i>European Political Studies Review</i> ,
Visa Kurki	Oxford University Press

# eting minutes 11.2.2025

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

**Present:** Marianna Muravyeva (chair), Emma Hakala, Kirsi-Maria Halonen, Jan-Erik Johanson, Mikko Mattila, Jukka Mähönen, Elina Pirjatanniemi, Rune Saugmann, Henrik Serup Christensen (from 14.07)

**Absent:** Juha Hiedanpää, Harri Jalonen, Emilia Korkea-aho, Johanna Lammintakanen, Anna Kronlund

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

## 1. Opening

The panel chair opened the meeting at 13.00.

## 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:

- There is no expert in animal law and the panel proposed an expert for this field. The secretariat will take the proposal to the steering group.
- Also expertise in AI law and policy are missing. There are some AI professorships open at the moment so the panel can be complemented later. It was also pointed out that these are relatively small fields so the panel could start without one and be complemented later if needed. This discussion will be re-visited at the autumn meeting.

### 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:

- Jan-Erik Johanson 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 autumn meeting will be set by Doodle during spring.

## **8. Closing**

The panel chair closed the meeting at 15.25.

# **Appendix 1**

## **Panel's MinEdu fields**

### 517 Political science

- Political science
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- Organisation theory
- International relations

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- Penology