Panel meeting (11) 13.5.2026

Place: House of Sciences and Letters, Kirkkokatu 6, Helsinki (Room Borg)

Present: Anna-Liisa Levonen-Harju (chair), Dario Greco, Mikko Finnilä, Reetta Hinttala, Pasi Liljeberg, Mataleena Parikka, Jukka Partanen, Eija Pirinen, Emma Raitoharju, Timo Roine, Helder Santos, Alejandra Sierra Lopez, Pasi Tavi

Absent: Eero Castren, Susanna Miettinen, Mikko Niemi

Secretariat: Anna-Kaarina Linna, Leena Wahlfors

1. **Opening**

The Chair opened the meeting at 13.00.

2. **Announcements**

It was noted that the panel members may submit their assessments for the complementary evaluation until 18 May. The deadline for the Chair's evaluations is 25 May 2026.

3. **The Evaluation of level 2 Publication Channels**

The Panel identified the needs for revising the level classifications and prepared a preliminary proposal for the new Level 2 classification.

The preliminary new classification will be open for consultation within the scientific community throughout the summer, after which the panel will decide on its final classification proposal at its autumn meeting. The JUFO Steering Group will confirm the panel's proposal at the end of the year. The new classification will enter into force on 1 January 2027.

It was decided to find out whether it would suit the chair of Panel 21 if channel 89663 were transferred to the above-mentioned panel.

4. **Complementary evaluation: the level "other identified publication channels"**

In complementary evaluation, upgrades i/n level classification take effect immediately once the panel chair has confirmed the evaluation ("other identified evaluation channels" -> 1).

By contrast, downgrades from level 1 (or level 2) to the category "other identified evaluation channels" are decided at the spring panel meetings on the basis of the evaluations made in the JUFO portal by the chair and the panel members. Channels

whose level the panel has decided to lower at its meeting are confirmed after the meeting by the secretariat. This is because the lowered level will only take effect at the beginning of the following year (2027).

The panel decides on proposals to lower the levels of publication channels. List of channels under consideration:

Jufo_ID	Level	Name	Grounds	Decision
88070	1	American journal of translational research	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2021. Publisher E-Century Publishing Corporation is listed on Beall's list of potential predatory publishers.	other identified publication channel
75860	1	Experimental and therapeutic medicine	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2018. Concerns with quality control, for example https://scienceintegritydigest.com/2020/08/11/the-spandidos-menage-a-trois/	other identified publication channel
77928	2	Theranostics	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2025, reason outlier behaviour; rapid metric changes and questionable editorial consistency.	other identified publication channel
59897	1	Journal of clinical engineering	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2016. Also information about editorial board is insufficient.	other identified publication channel

Key indicators that a journal is not adhering to DOAJ best practices include:

- Weak Peer Review: Signs of poor or non-existent peer review processes.
- Transparency Issues: Opaque or unclear information regarding the editorial board, article processing charges (APCs), or copyright/licensing terms.
- Editorial Misconduct: Suspected misconduct, such as plagiarism, citation manipulation, or data falsification.
- Operational Failure: Lack of a clear digital archiving policy or failure to comply with DOAJ guidelines during reapplications.
- Misleading Information: Claiming to be in DOAJ or using its logo when they are not, or for journals that have been removed.

Scopus re-evaluation criteria are identical to the Scopus content selection criteria for newly suggested titles. Titles can be flagged for re-evaluation in different ways: concerns about the journal's publication standards or the journal shows outlier or unexpected publishing performance. Journal change policy include, but are not limited to, changes to the title name, ISSN, ownership, or editorial oversight of the journal.

Scopus content selection criteria

- Journal policy: Convincing editorial policy, type of peer review, broad geographical distribution of editors, broad geographical distribution of authors

- Content: Academic contribution to the field; clarity of abstracts, quality of and conformity to the stated aims and scope of the journal, readability of articles
- Journal standing: citedness of journal articles in Scopus, editor standing
- Publishing regularity: no delays or interruptions in the publication schedule
- Online availability: full journal content available online, english language journal home page available, quality of journal home page.

Discussion: The panel discussed the proposed level changes and the grounds for them.

Decision: The panel decided to lower the classification of the channels as listed above.

5. Reform of the JUFO evaluation process

On 13 February 2026, the secretariat proposed to the JUFO Steering Group for consideration that, beginning in 2027, some of the panels' complementary evaluation tasks should be transferred to the secretariat, following the Norwegian JUFO model. The criteria for level 1 are very clear, which would make it possible for the secretariat as well to carry out high-quality evaluation work.

The panels would continue to be responsible for:

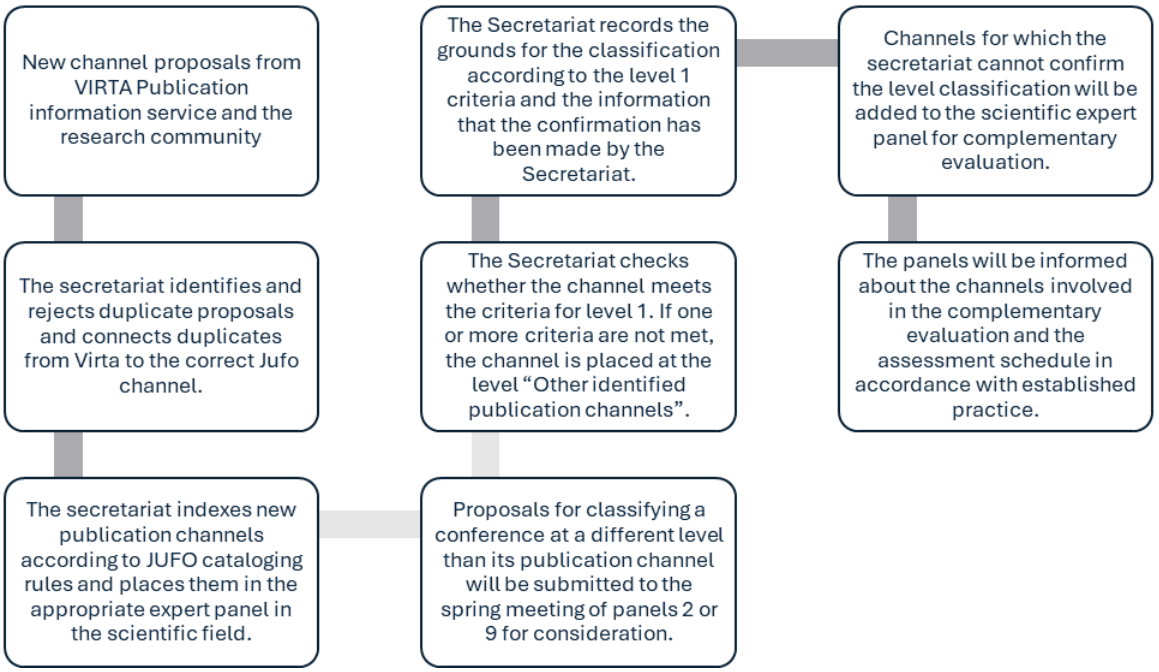
- channels that are already indexed and for which the scholarly community proposes a change in level, either upward or downward; and
- cases which, in the secretariat's view, require in-depth knowledge of a specific field of science and its publishing practices (including update evaluations every four years).

Each year, Publication Forum carries out four supplementary evaluations in which the panels assess channels to be added to level 1 or lowered from level 1 to the category "other identified publication channels." In 2025, the panels evaluated a total of 658 publication channels that had not previously been classified in JUFO. Of these, 312 journals/series and four book publishers were accepted at level 1. In addition, the panels considered 145 justified proposals for level changes submitted by the scholarly community through the JUFO portal (proposals to raise channels from the category "other identified publication channels" to level 1, or proposals to lower channels from level 1 to the category "other identified publication channels").

Transferring routine and technical tasks to the secretariat would save a significant amount of panel working time. The panels could then focus on identifying the highest-level publication channels and devote more attention to other tasks requiring particular scholarly expertise. As a result of the change, from 2027 onward panel meetings would be held only once a year instead of twice. This would reduce the workload of panel members. Correspondingly, secretariat time would be freed up from one annual round of panel meetings. This time could instead be used for

evaluating level 1 channels and channels in the category “other identified publication channels,” for developing the new JUFO evaluation portal that is to be introduced, for identifying so-called grey-zone journals, and for the further development of the JUFO classification. In addition, it would make it possible to implement separate development projects, including measures to develop the assessment of the societal impact of publishing activities and to support the publishing activities of learned societies.

Proposed new evaluation process:



The secretariat requests the panel’s view on the following proposal:

From the beginning of 2027, the secretariat will assume responsibility for checking whether new publication channels received from the VIRTA publication information service and proposed by the scholarly community for inclusion meet the criteria for level 1, and will confirm them either at level 1 or place them in the group “other identified publication channels.” The panels will continue to be responsible for channels that are already indexed and for which the scholarly community proposes a change in level, either upward or downward, as well as cases which, in the secretariat’s view, require in-depth knowledge of a specific field of science and its publishing practices (including update evaluations every four years).

The matter will be brought to the Steering Group meeting of 7 September 2026 for decision. Feedback received from the panels will be taken into account in the decision-making.

Discussion:
The panel unanimously supported the secretariat’s proposal.

Decision:
In accordance with the proposal.

8. Closing
The Chair closed the meeting at 16.00.