

Panel (15) meeting 17.6.2026

Place: Teams

Present: Johanna Björkroth (chair), Kirsi Mikkonen (until 10.00), Pirjo Mäkelä, Pekka Uimari, Anssi Vainikka, Antti Lajunen, Anna Valros (from 9.33)

Absent: Tarja Pääkkönen, Miina Rautiainen, Mari Pihlatie, Eeva-Stiina Tuittila, Xavier Irz

Secretariat: Anna-Kaarina Linna, Leena Wahlfors

1. Opening

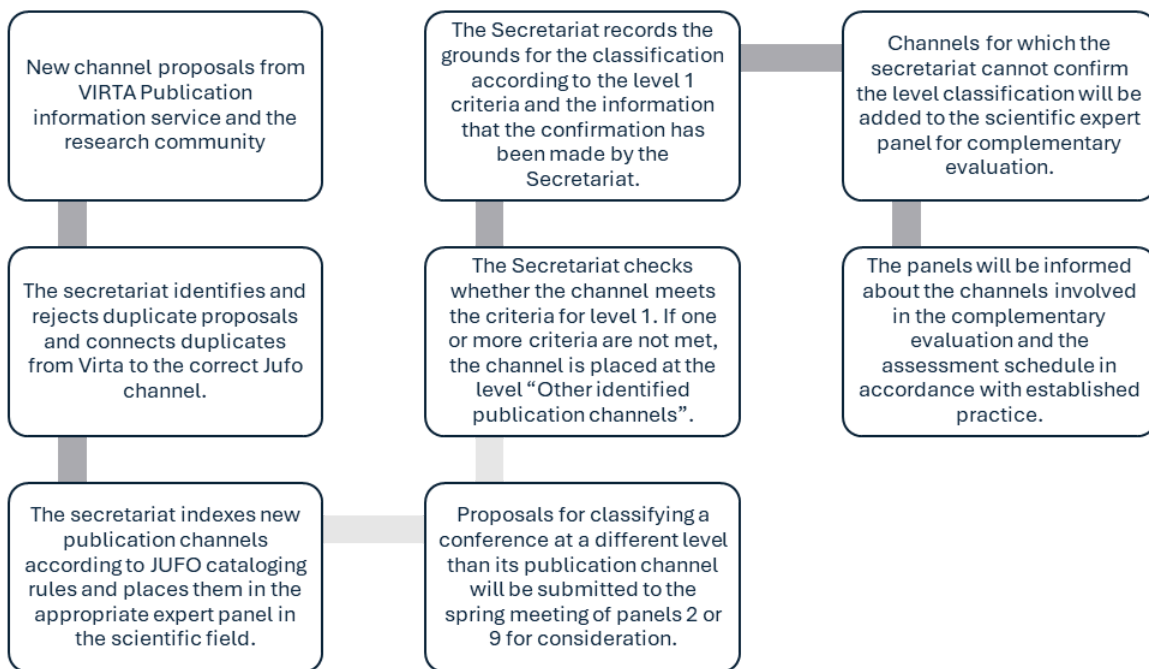
The Chair opened the meeting at 9.00

2. Announcements

Noted for information: Jufo steering group has made a decision on June 8, that 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).

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 will be held only once a year instead of twice. See the figure 1.

Figure 1.



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.

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

In complementary evaluation, upgrades in 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
50693	1	Agro food industry hi-tech	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2018.	Other identified publication channels
50360	1	Acta scientiarum-agronomy	The publication channel has been removed from DOAJ in 2025, reason journal not adhering to best practice.	Other identified publication channels
84174	1	Organic farming	The publication channel has been removed from DOAJ in 2025, reason journal not adhering to best practice.	Other identified publication channels
53464	1	Ciencia e tecnologia de alimentos	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2023. The journal publisher has changed and the new website is available at https://fstjournal.com.br/revista .	Other identified publication channels
50659	1	Agbioforum	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2025, reason journal change policy, however, the journal states on its website that it is indexed in the Scopus database.	Other identified publication channels
61887	1	Journal of the faculty of agriculture kyushu university	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2020.	Other identified publication channels
92486	1	Advancements in life sciences	The publication channel has been removed from WOS database in 2025, reason editorial de-listing.	Other identified publication channels

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. Closing

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.00