

Panel meeting (9) 7.5.2026

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

Present: Heikki Handroos (chair), Jussi Kangasharju, Ville Kyrki, Elena Simona Lohan, Matti Mäntysalo, Janne Nerg, Jari Nurmi, Jani Peräntie, Ville Pulkki, Yancho Todorov

Absent: Filip Elvander, Atanas Gotchev, Sayani Majumdar, Juha Plosila

Secretariat: Janne Pölönen, Leena Wahlfors

1. Opening

The Chair opened the meeting at 13.30.

2. 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.

3. Proposals to classify conference by its established name

The JUFO Steering Group decided in its meeting on 27 November 2025 that conferences classified under an established name (those with ISSN information available and those without, channel type "conference") will be removed from the quota calculation of journals/series in the 2026 re-evaluation.

Regarding conference quotas, the steering group specified that the panel will prepare a moderate representation of conferences that meet the criteria for level 2 which means that the panel can classify the same number of conferences as currently in level 2 + 3 combined. Currently, there are a total of 66 conferences classified under established names in Panel 2 at levels 2 and /3, and 2 conferences at level 2 in Panel 9.

In the meeting at 2.10.2023 the panel decided to discuss the proposals for level 2 and 3 upgrades during the next level 2 and 3 re-evaluation. The table below summarizes the proposals of conferences that belong to panel 9 by their main discipline received since the end of 2022.

Only those conferences should be classified by their established name where the level of the conference differs from the level of the current publication channel. If the level of the conference would be the same as the level of its current publication channel, the conference shouldn't be classified by its established name. The current publication channel is available at the table below.

Conference name	Proposed level	Grounds	Link	Current publication channel	Decision
Workshop on Predictive Control of Electrical Drives and Power Electronics (PRECEDE)	2	Workshop on Predictive Control of Electrical Drives and Power Electronics (PRECEDE) is a leading international conference focused on model predictive control for electrical drives and power electronics, bringing together global researchers and industry experts; 2) PRECEDE serves as a well-recognized dissemination platform where conference papers are frequently extended into high-impact journals, including IEEE TPEL and IEEE TIE.	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/conhome/1800554/all-proceedings	Not indexed, series has ISSN, and IEEE conf. series are usually rated at level 1.	1
IEEE ICMA	2	ICMA has been organized annually for more than two decades, with events documented from 2004 onwards in IEEE Xplore. The consistent yearly organization, rotating host institutions, and international participation show well-established scientific continuity. A stable, recurring conference with a long historical record is typically treated as a distinct academic forum, not merely as a sub-component of a publisher's series. ICMA maintains its own fully independent peer-review system, conducted separately from the general editorial workflow of IEEE publication series. Each year: All submitted papers undergo technical peer review performed by domain experts appointed specifically for ICMA. Only accepted papers following this conference-specific review cycle are included in the proceedings. IEEE conferences are known to use structured review processes aligned with IEEE standards for peer-reviewed publication channels. This demonstrates that ICMA's scientific quality is determined at the conference level, not purely at the level of its publisher's series	http://2026.ieee-icma.org/Home/Home.aspx	Series International Conference on Industrial Mechatronics and Automation, Jufold 73186, level 1.	1
IEEE Navigation Conference	2	Published in IEEE very famous conference deserves jufo 2	https://iee-nav.org/2026	Not indexed, no information about a series; Publisher IEEE.	1

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

Decision: The panels decided on the level changes in accordance with the list above.

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
91474	1	International journal of electrical and computer engineering	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2025. The journal has also been removed from DOAJ because of the suspected editorial misconduct by publisher.	other identified publication channels
58498	1	International journal of high speed electronics and systems	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2025.	other identified publication channels
87437	1	International journal of engineering & technology	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2018. The journal states that it is indexed in the DOAJ but it is not.	other identified publication channels
90338	1	IEEE International Conference on Smart Communities	Conference series, grounds not available.	other identified publication channels
92134	1	Indonesian journal of electrical engineering and computer science	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2025.	other identified publication channels
57587	3	IEEE transactions on wireless communications	Proposal from the scientific community: Voisi ihan ottaa tiukempaan tarkasteluun. linkedinissä tuli seuraava juttu vastaan (https://www.linkedin.com/posts/publishing-with-integrity_for-another-project-we-are-working-on-the-activity-7427032953148383232-gKqv :Publishing with Integrity) "We noticed that this year (up to the end of January 2026) it has published 682 articles. Last year, it published 708 articles. Looks like 2026 will easily surpass 2025 and, perhaps, even 2024 when it published 1,323 articles." , liekköhän lehden taso enää sitä mitä se on joskus ollut...	not to do anything
55275	1	Engineering intelligent systems for electrical engineering and communications	The publication channel has been removed from Scopus in 2017.	other identified publication channels

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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.

6. 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.

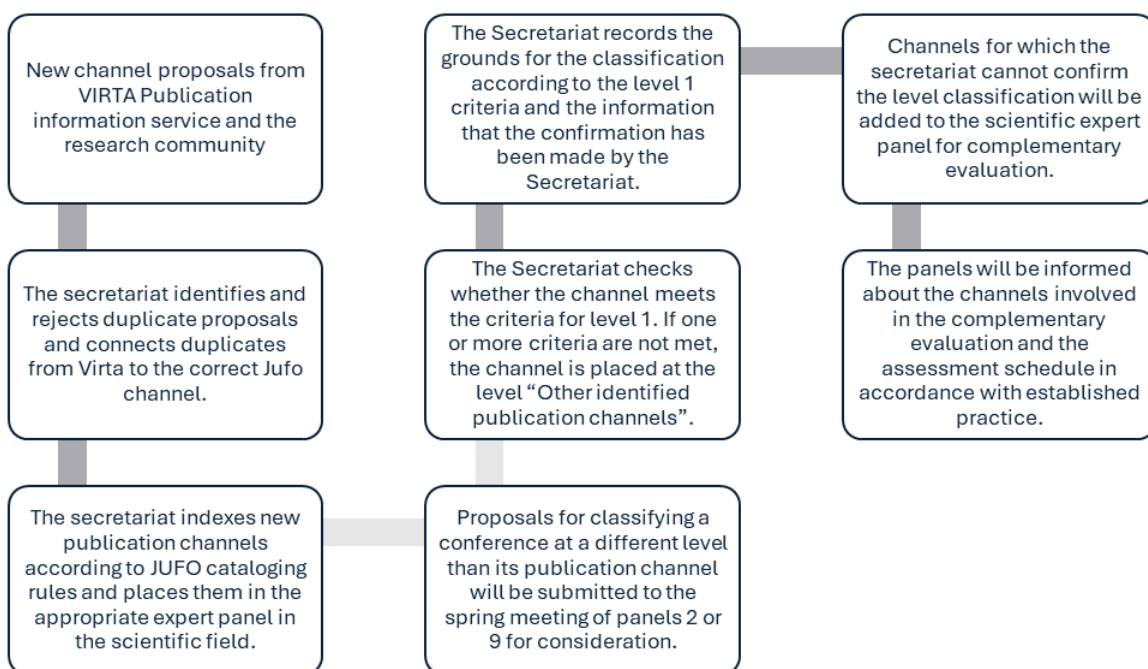
The panels would continue to be responsible for:

- 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 VIRTAPublication 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:

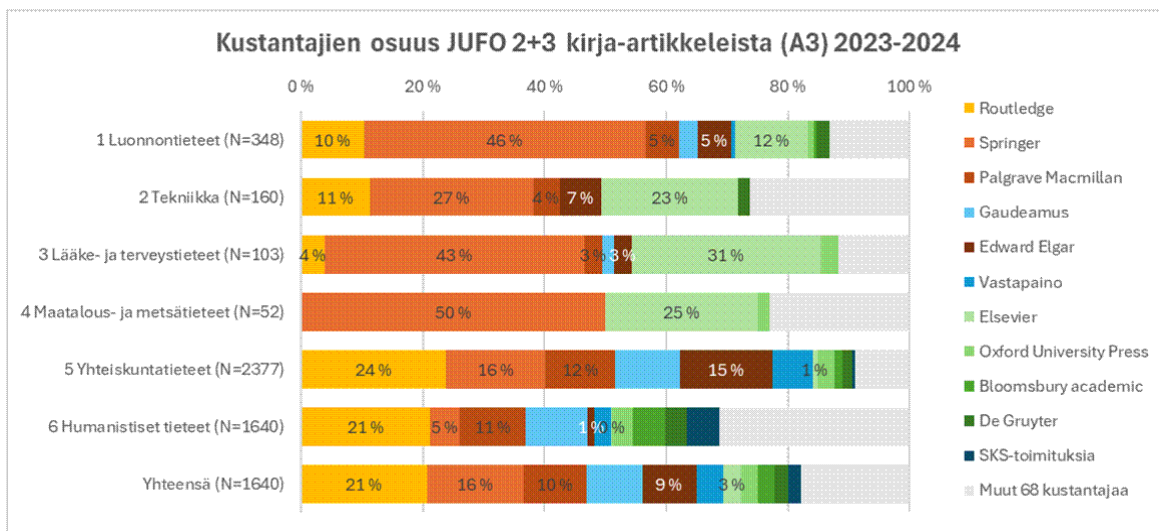
The panel unanimously supported the secretariat’s proposal.

Decision:

In accordance with the proposal.

7. Steering Group Proposal on the Reclassification of Book Publishers

At its meeting on September 8, 2025 the Jufo steering group drew attention to the fact that the majority of level 2+3 book articles are published by a few very large international publishers. These channels should be examined in light of the updated level 1 criteria (Figure 1 in Finnish).



It is to be discussed whether the Panel considers that:

- a) Book publishers Springer and Elsevier should be downgraded to level 1; or
- b) All book publishers should be downgraded to level 1, but they can be proposed again on a case-by-case basis for level 2 (panels reassess channels based on documented evidence and feedback from the research community).

Discussion: The panel supported the option b.

8. Other

9. Closing

The Chair closed the meeting at 16.00.