AJEE CHARGES POLICY: Updated Version

Adopted on 5 November 2021
Amended on 17 November 2026
Effective from 1 January 2027

1. Open Access Philosophy and Transparency

Access to Justice in Eastern Europe (AJEE) is a fully Open Access journal supported by Academic Insights Press (AIP). VD Dakor is the co-publisher, responsible for part of publishing services.

To cover the costs associated with peer review administration, editorial preparation, production of articles in various formats (PDF, HTML), indexation, and long-term archiving, AJEE applies an Article Processing Charge (APC).

Our charges policy is founded on two principles:

> *Transparency*: Our rates are clearly differentiated by publication type. In accordance with best practices and the requirements of the COPE, we openly publish full details regarding all rates, discounts, and conditions for their application.
>
> *Fairness*: We offer a robust and clear system of discounts and waivers to support authors, taking into account their geographic location and career stage.

2. Updated APC Rate Schedule

To ensure the long-term sustainability of our Open Access model and to further invest in quality, global visibility, and the improvement of author services, AJEE is implementing a planned rate indexation of 5%.

The new APC rates (in Euros, VAT excluded) are as follows:

Research Article: €2116

Review/Opinion Article: €1712

Case Study/Reform Forum's Note: €1491

Book Review/Commentary: €1160

Please note, the publication of specific content types, such as "Editorial Notes," "Corrections," and "Retractions," is always free of charge. Authors from eligible countries remain entitled to our discount and waiver programs in accordance with the criteria detailed in Section 3.

3. Discount and Waiver Policy

Discounts and waivers apply to the base cost of the article type listed above.

3.1. Mandatory Declaration Upon Submission

When submitting a manuscript through our system, the corresponding author must make a mandatory declaration regarding the charges policy. This step requires the author to confirm that they have reviewed the AJEE rates and waiver policy.

The author will be asked to confirm one of two options:

1. Confirm that they are familiar with the AJEE Charges Policy and do not claim a discount or waiver; OR
2. Confirm that they are familiar with the AJEE Charges Policy and are submitting a request for a discount/waiver based on one of the valid grounds (detailed in the request).

Declaring this at the submission stage is a strict condition for considering a waiver request. Requests received after the completion of the peer review process will not be considered.

3.2. Support for Authors Based on Primary Affiliation

AJEE utilizes the World Bank country classification by income level to ensure equitable access. This classification is updated annually (July 1).

The full and current list of countries is available on the official World Bank website.

Our policy is based on these lists:

- *100% Waiver (Full Discount):* Granted to corresponding authors with a primary affiliation at a university or organization in Low-Income Countries.
- *50% Discount:* Granted to corresponding authors with a primary affiliation at a university or organization in Lower-Middle-Income Countries.

Examples of countries in this category falling within the journal's scope: *Ukraine, Moldova, Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan.*

Exceptions to the Waiver and Discount Policy:

Please note that waivers and discounts are not granted in the following circumstances:

- *Institutional Support:* The author is affiliated with an institution, organization, or university that provides dedicated funds, directly covers Open Access Article Processing Charges (APCs), or offers reimbursement or other financial remuneration for publishing.
- *Grant Funding:* The research underlying the article is supported by a grant, funding agency, or project that includes provisions for Open Access fees, publication costs, dissemination budgets, or any other form of financial support allocated for publishing research outputs.
- *Co-authorship:* Waivers and discounts apply strictly to the entire author team. If the article is co-authored, every contributor must individually meet the eligibility criteria. If any single co-author is ineligible for the discount for any reason (e.g., affiliation with a non-eligible country, access to grant funding, institutional support, or commercial practice), the standard APC must be paid in full.
- *Multiple/Dual Affiliations:* If any author (whether the corresponding author or a co-author) holds multiple affiliations, all of their declared affiliations must independently meet the discount eligibility criteria. If even one affiliation is linked to a non-eligible country, institution, or commercial entity, the discount is void.
- *Commercial or Private Legal Practice Affiliations:* Our support program is designed specifically to assist scholars in purely academic roles. Therefore, authors who hold

concurrent affiliations with commercial entities or private legal practices (e.g., private law firms, private advocacy) are not eligible for the discount program and are expected to cover the standard APC.

3.3. Support for Early Career Researchers (ECR)

AJEE strives to actively support the next generation of scholars.

100% Waiver (Full Discount): Granted to authors, provided they are the **sole author** of the publication, do not have and cannot obtain funding from their organization or university, and meet one of the following criteria:

- Are current PhD students;
- Are researchers within 5 years of receiving their highest academic degree (PhD or equivalent).

Important Note - Exceptions to the ECR Waiver:

If the PhD program is funded and the researcher or PhD student has access to publication funds, or if their affiliated institution provides dedicated budgets, directly covers, or reimburses Open Access Article Processing Charges (APCs), they are **not eligible** for this waiver. In such cases where institutional or program funding for publishing is available, the standard APC must be paid.

3.4. Waiver for At-Risk Researchers

We understand the challenges faced by scholars in extraordinary circumstances:

100% Waiver (Discretionary): May be granted to corresponding authors who fall into the "at-risk" researcher category, provided there is a lack of institutional support (e.g., refugees, displaced persons, researchers located in active conflict zones or under confirmed threat).

Requests are reviewed by a committee comprising the Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, and one Editorial Board member on a confidential, case-by-case basis.

3.5. Benefits for Reviewers

As a token of appreciation for their contribution to the journal's quality, reviewers who provide timely and high-quality reviews receive a 20% discount on their next publication in AJEE.

3.6. Benefits for the Editorial Team and Board

Managing Editors, Editorial Board members, and Section Editors are entitled to one (1) free publication per year in AJEE.

To avoid any conflict of interest, manuscripts submitted by editorial team members undergo a particularly rigorous and independent peer review procedure. The review process for such articles is managed by an Editorial Board member who has no relation to the submitted manuscript, ensuring complete objectivity (for more details on this procedure, please see our Editorial Process Policy).

4. Institutional Agreements

AJEE is actively developing partnerships with universities, libraries, and research institutions. We offer institutional agreements that allow all affiliated authors from a given institution to publish in AJEE without paying an APC (100% waiver) in exchange for a fixed annual fee from the institution.

We invite library and faculty representatives to contact us to discuss partnership terms: info@academicinsightspress.com.

5. Important Policy Clarification

Our discount and waiver system is clearly structured to support the specific categories listed above (geographic, career-based, and humanitarian).

Please note that AJEE does not grant fee waivers based on a general lack of grant or project funding.

We believe that securing and planning funds for publication is an integral part of the research process. Our waiver resources are purposefully directed toward the equity support programs described in sections 3.2 – 3.4.

Important Notice on Waiver Availability

To maintain a sustainable Open Access model for the journal's functioning, the Publisher reserves a maximum quota of 20% of total publications per year for waivers and discounts. Consequently, all waiver and discount requests are subject to availability, evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and granted at the Publisher's discretion.

6. Funding Sources and Payment Methods

The APC may be covered through various channels. To ensure transparency and determine waiver eligibility, authors are required to declare their funding sources at submission:

1. Institutional agreements: (where the university has a pre-existing arrangement with the Publisher).
2. Third-party funding: (research grants, funding agencies, or donors).
3. Direct author or institutional payment: (where no external support is available, paid directly by the author or their affiliated institution).

Please note: All payments are processed via bank transfer based on an official invoice issued by the Publisher after the manuscript is accepted.

7. Additional Publishing Services & Options

To meet diverse author needs, we offer the following specific options and services.

7.1. Fast Track Option

For accelerated review, authors may request the Fast Track option. The editorial office commits to providing a first decision within 20 working days. This option is subject to availability and incurs an additional fee equivalent to 50% of the standard APC.

Important Note

The Fast Track fee must be paid in advance. However, this payment does not guarantee acceptance. If the manuscript is rejected following the peer review process, the Fast Track fee will be fully refunded to the author (excluding any applicable bank fees).

7.2. Online First Option

Accepted articles are published online immediately after proof corrections, ensuring prompt visibility and citation before inclusion in a regular issue.

7.3. Additional Length

There are no additional charges based on standard article length. However, publishing extended articles beyond typical word limits may be permitted upon request and prior agreement with the author.

7.4. Language Support

AJEE requires submissions to be written in high-quality academic English. For authors who need assistance, we offer professional legal English copyediting and proofreading services prior to final acceptance. This service is strictly optional, does not guarantee acceptance of the manuscript, and incurs a separate fee based on the total word count.

7.5. Reference and Citation Formatting

AJEE strictly adheres to the OSCOLA citation standard. We understand that adapting to specific legal citation styles can be time-consuming. Therefore, we offer a dedicated technical formatting service for authors who require assistance in bringing their footnotes, references, and bibliography into full compliance with OSCOLA guidelines. The fee for this service is calculated based on the number of references.

7.6. Hard Copy Orders

Authors may wish to have a physical record of their work. Printed hard copies of the specific journal issue containing your article are available upon request. Printing and international shipping costs are calculated individually based on the destination.

8. Quality Assurance, Marketing, and Support

The APC covers a comprehensive suite of value-added services provided by AJEE and Academic Insights Press to ensure the highest publishing standards:

Editorial Excellence: Our team provides professional copyediting and typesetting to ensure that the final published content is structurally polished, coherent, and strictly adheres to our formatting guidelines.

Marketing & Impact: We proactively promote published work through targeted social media campaigns (including LinkedIn), scholarly newsletters, and academic webinars. Each article is assigned a dedicated landing page integrated with Dimensions metrics to allow authors to track their real-time research impact.

Staff Expertise: The AJEE editorial team and Publisher maintain the highest industry standards, guided by active participation in and strict adherence to the best practices of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the European Association of Science Editors (EASE).

Production & Metadata: We conduct rigorous quality control checks on citations, FAIR data compliance, and the assignment of persistent identifiers (Crossref DOIs). Articles are published simultaneously in PDF and HTML formats, ensuring immediate and unrestricted Open Access.

9. Indexing Disclaimer

AJEE is committed to maximizing the global discoverability of your research. Upon publication, all article metadata and full texts are systematically deposited to major bibliographic databases and indexers, including Scopus, Web of Science, HeinOnline, and DOAJ.

Disclaimer

While AJEE is actively indexed and tracked by these prestigious databases, the indexing processes and timelines are governed entirely by independent, third-party organizations. Therefore, indexation cannot be guaranteed as an inherent condition of the publication

process or the APC. Neither AJEE nor Academic Insights Press assumes responsibility for the internal processing timelines, coverage decisions, or potential indexing delays of external platforms.

Note

This updated version applies to all manuscripts submitted on or after 1 January 2027, as published on the journal's official website.

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