

# About SciPost



SciPost is a complete online scientific publication portal managed by the [SciPost Foundation](https://scipost.org/).

Being managed by professional scientists, its Journals aim at the highest achievable editorial quality standards and provide freely, openly, globally and perpetually accessible science.

Our [business model](#) offers an affordable and equitable antidote to profitmaking alternatives.

[Frequently asked questions](#)

## Guiding principles

## Built on the principles of **Genuine Open Access**

### Copyright to Authors

Creative Commons  
license for content



### Community Ownership

Community steering  
Collegial policymaking



### Non-Profit

Genuine  
Diamond



### Open Infrastructure

Free and Open Source  
Community project



### Two-way Open Access

Free for readers  
Free for authors



### Peer-witnessed Refereeing

Publicly visible refereeing process  
Invited and Contributed reports



### Collegial Decisionmaking

Collective editorial decisions  
by community of experts



- *Two-way open access*

Publicly-funded science should be openly accessible to scientists and the general public, perpetually, worldwide. Conversely, scientists should not have to pay publishing charges to disseminate the fruits of their research efforts.

- *Non-profit*

Academics do not perform research for profit, and by extension the publication of their scientific results should not involve commercial profit-making.

- *By Professionals*

Scientists should carry the final responsibility for all stages in the scientific publishing process.

- *Peer-witnessed refereeing*

Scientific publications should undergo the strictest possible peer refereeing process, witnessed by the community instead of hidden behind closed doors.

- *Accountable and credited refereeing*

Peer refereeing should be accountable, and should be incentivized by being credited.

- *Post-publication evaluation*

Peer evaluation does not stop at the moment of publication.

The first principle is reflected in the fact that all publications and related content on SciPost.org are accessible to anybody with an internet connection. Moreover, publishing in SciPost entails no author charges.

The second principle is reflected in SciPost's not-for-profit status. SciPost is financially backed by national granting agencies, universities, foundations and individuals.

The third principle is implemented by having only active scientists involved in SciPost's decision-making and editorial processes.

The fourth and fifth principles are implemented using SciPost's maximally stringent peer-witnessed refereeing process.

The sixth principle is implemented in the form of Commentary Pages associated to publications. These can either be SciPost Publications, or papers published elsewhere.

As an organization, and for all its Journals, SciPost follows the [Genuine Open Access Principles](#):

|      |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [CO] | <b>Community Ownership</b> | The Journal has a transparent community-anchored ownership structure, and is controlled by and responsive to the scholarly community.                                                                                           |
| [OI] | <b>Open Infrastructure</b> | The infrastructure for operating the Journal belongs to, and is open sourced to the community. The entire technological stack and all operating protocols are documented and made easily transferable between community owners. |
| [CA] | <b>Copyright to</b>        | Authors of articles in the Journal retain copyright. The Journal assists authors in protecting their rights in                                                                                                                  |

|      |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | <b>authors</b>          | case of infringement.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| [OA] | <b>Open Access</b>      | All articles are published open access and an explicit open access licence is used which is preferably <a href="#">Approved for Free Cultural Works</a> .                                        |
| [OC] | <b>Open Citations</b>   | The Journal makes its citation metadata openly accessible by actively participating in the <a href="#">Initiative for Open Citations</a> .                                                       |
| [FF] | <b>Fee Free</b>         | Submission, peer evaluation and publication are not conditional in any way on the payment of a fee from authors or their employing institution, or on membership of an institution or society.   |
| [NP] | <b>Non Profit</b>       | The Journal publisher's operations are entirely non profit.                                                                                                                                      |
| [OF] | <b>Open Finances</b>    | The Journal's finances are openly published and available for public scrutiny.                                                                                                                   |
| [AE] | <b>Academic Editing</b> | The editorial processes of the Journal are run by the community, and all editorial decisions are taken by active professional scientists, using exclusively academic scholarship-based criteria. |

These principles are an extension and sharpening up of the Fair Open Access Principles, the most important difference being the insistence on the non profit business model.

## Our Infrastructure: 3 Pillars

At SciPost, we believe that the only realistic way to reform publishing is to build new infrastructure implementing things as academics, not corporations, want them. In this day and high-tech age, communities equipped with purpose-built systems and workflows are entirely able to independently take care of all their publishing needs. Our purpose is to empower such communities.

We implement this through a triad of pillars, each providing a different level of support:

- **In-house Journals**

The first pillar consists of field-scoped journals implementing SciPost's [open editorial procedure](#) and run by [Editorial Colleges](#) of reputed specialists. Building up on our template in Physics, our vision is to extend our Genuine Open Access services to many other fields (with a portfolio of field-scoped Journals) and install a multi-field overarching journal called [Selections](#) highlighting the very best science from all fields and targeted towards a much broader readership (from non-specialists to journalists/press agencies all the way to the general public).

- **Hosted Journals**

The second pillar complements the field-scoped in-house journals by providing more specialized field/specialty-targeted publishing venues run by independent Editorial Colleges. These journals make full use of SciPost's editorial, publishing, production and maintenance systems, and are fully embedded into (and thus supported by) SciPost's [business model](#). An example of Hosted Journal is [Migration Politics](#). Our vision is to upscale use of these facilities by supporting the creation and maintenance of a large portfolio of community-run but SciPost-hosted specialized journals (and thus naturally complementing the field-scope in-house journals of the first pillar).

- **Affiliate Journals**

The third pillar empowers independently-run Diamond-class journals to make use of our financial [information system for organizations](#) linking publishing activities (via authors and their affiliations) with institutional support, enabling complete transparency in expenditures and returns on investment using our business model's PubFracs concept. Our vision is to upscale use of these [facilities](#) by onboarding a large family of existing Diamond journals, and by extension to

effectively form a strong federation able to act synergetically as lobbying group for Diamond sustainability.



## Our Business Model: PubFracs

Open Access has led to the burgeoning of a plethora of different business models, all too often characterized by inflated costs, inequity and lack of financial transparency. Few knowledgeable people doubt that researchers and academic institutions are currently being fleeced by publishers. The only way to stop this is to provide an alternative.

We propose a business model which is cost-slashing, equitable, and completely transparent. You will find a detailed explanation at our [business model](#) page, but the idea is rather simple to understand.

- **Publishing and interlinking**

Organizations (author affiliations, funding agencies, ...) are interlinked with each Publication to which they are associated.

- **Determining PubFracs**

Upon publication, we compute our PubFracs (a fraction of a unit representing an Organization's "affiliations weight" for a given Publication).

- **Compiling operational costs**

On a yearly basis, we determine and make publicly known: our total expenditures, and an average expenditure per publication ([APEX](#))

- **Information display**

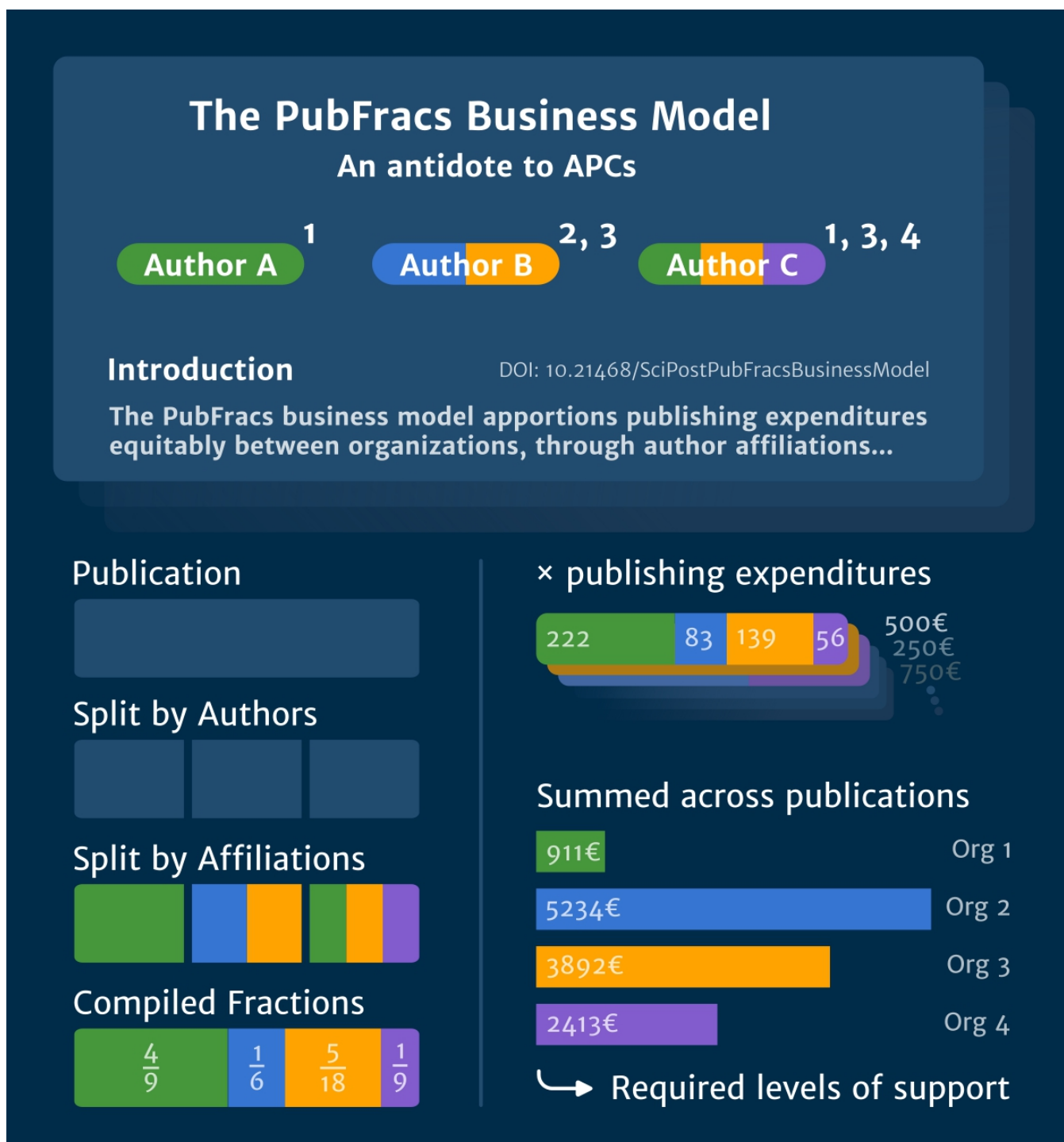
We publicly display relevant information on expenditures and support received:

- [subsidies we have received](#)
- [organizations](#) listing and [country-level](#) summaries
- an assessment of our [current state of viability](#)

- **Sustaining**

We liaise with Organizations benefitting from our activities, who can inspect all the data and independently determine to which level they choose to support our activities. Generosity is appreciated, bearing in mind the proportion of non-supporting bystanders. We scale up, maintain or wind down our operations depending on how much support we can gather.

See full details at our [business model](#) page



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## Editorial Colleges

Please visit our [Editorial Colleges page](#) to view the list of our current Editorial Fellows in all our fields of activity.