ECTRI and Springer have agreed that Article Processing Charges (APC) should be introduced for the European Transport Research Review (ETRR) from 1st January 2015. The current rate is €1050. On the same date we will be introducing Continuous Article Publication, which will enable accepted articles to be published online immediately, rather than waiting for a slot in the next available issue. These two steps are designed to allow ETRR to expand its coverage and to take advantage of emerging arrangements in which the publication of articles is being funded by the submitting institution or the research sponsor. At the same time we do not want to discourage submissions by authors who cannot benefit from these sources of funding.

ETRR is very fortunate in being sponsored by ECTRI, and this sponsorship allows us to waive APCs for up to 30 published articles in each year. Given current rejection rates, this equates to around 60 submitted articles. This sponsorship is confirmed for 2015, and we expect to be able to attract sponsorship, from ECTRI and others, for similar numbers in future years. At current submission rates, this should allow us to treat the majority of articles submitted, and for which APCs cannot be funded from other sources, as sponsored.

We are therefore adopting the following procedures:

1. All articles submitted in 2014 will be treated under current practice; neither they nor any articles already in the editorial process will be subject to APCs.
2. From 1st January 2015 authors submitting articles will be alerted to the requirements for APCs and given access to information on sources of funding for APCs.
3. They will be encouraged to check whether their institution is a member of SpringerOpen. Where it is, they will be encouraged to apply for a waiver or discount for the APC, based on the terms of their institution’s membership.
4. Authors from low income countries will be assigned a waiver from Springer’s open access waiver fund.
5. All other authors will be encouraged to make use of available sources of funding for APCs (such as H2020, RCUK) following the guidance at (2); where such sources are available to them, they should specify them when submitting the article.
6. Where authors are not eligible for funding under (3, 4, 5) above, we will assign them a code for funding under ECTRI sponsorship. This will mean that, if their article is accepted, it will be sponsored by ECTRI.
7. We will keep the number of articles sponsored in this way under regular review. Once we reach a given threshold, we will have to require a commitment to paying the APC.
from those authors who are not members of an institution which is a member of ECTRI or a sponsor of the journal.

8. We do not expect to have to impose this requirement until September 2015 at the earliest, and will offer authors the alternative of delaying submission until January 2016. At the same time, we hope to be able to negotiate discounted APCs for those who still wish to submit in 2015.

9. We will continue to apply the same editorial standards to all articles submitted, however they might be funded. Only once an article has been accepted for publication will the appropriate source of funding be applied.

10. We expect to operate the same process in 2016, but will keep the situation under careful review, and provide updated advice as soon as we are able.

I hope that this message is sufficiently clear. If you have any queries, please email me at the address above, and I will pass your query to the relevant authority at Springer.

Finally, it will be clear from the above that these arrangements are dependent on continued sponsorship of the journal. If you know of any institution which might be willing to sponsor articles in the journal, please let me know.

We look forward to continuing to receive high quality submissions to the journal.