ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGE (APC) POLICY

Version 2.0 | Approved by the ASTES Board: 1 November 2026 | Effective date: 1 November 2026

1. Open Access and Publication Costs

AJTES is an open-access journal. Articles published under the current AJTES Copyright and Licensing Policy are freely and immediately accessible to readers under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (CC BY 4.0). No subscription or access fees are charged to readers.

An Article Processing Charge (APC), payable after editorial acceptance, contributes to editorial administration, coordination of peer review, similarity assessment, copy-editing, typesetting, DOI registration, online hosting and digital preservation, where these services are provided. Payment does not purchase acceptance, preferential review or indexing in any bibliographic database.

2. Fees and Payment Conditions

Fee category	Amount
Submission fee	None
Standard APC	EUR 200 (taxes excluded, where applicable)
APC for eligible ASTES members	EUR 150 (taxes excluded, where applicable)

The ASTES membership rate is subject to verification of current membership eligibility by the journal administration. The applicable tax treatment and total invoiced amount will be communicated before payment. The journal will issue appropriate payment documentation in accordance with applicable legal and accounting requirements.

No APC is due at initial submission or during peer review. Following formal acceptance, the corresponding author or designated payer receives payment instructions and an invoice or equivalent legally required document. The payment deadline is indicated in that notice. Authors should contact the editorial office promptly if payment cannot be completed by the deadline.

3. Editorial Independence

Editorial decisions are based on scientific merit, methodological validity, ethical compliance, peer review and relevance to the journal. Authors' ability to pay, ASTES membership and payment status must not influence the assessment or acceptance decision. Financial administration must be separated from scientific decision-making; editors and reviewers must not be asked to decide based on authors' financial circumstances.

4. Reduced Rate

The only reduced APC is the rate for ASTES members set out in Section 2.

5. Payment Information

Field	Details
Beneficiary / account name	AJTES JOURNAL
Bank	OTP Bank Albania
IBAN	AL56 9021 1364 0191 2300 3047 8030
SWIFT/BIC	PUPPALTRXXX
Currency	EUR
Payment reference	Manuscript ID and corresponding author surname

Pay by bank transfer in EUR after receiving the invoice issued on acceptance, quoting the manuscript ID and the corresponding author's surname as the payment reference. Bank transfer charges are borne by the payer (instruct your bank to use charge option OUR), so that the full amount reaches the journal.

6. Manuscript Withdrawal and Post-Publication Actions

A manuscript may be withdrawn before formal acceptance without a withdrawal fee upon written notice from the corresponding author, with confirmation from all co-authors where required. Following acceptance, a substantiated request must be reviewed by the editorial office, taking into account publication ethics, any applicable contractual terms and costs already incurred.

After acceptance, withdrawal is possible only for justified reasons and with the approval of the Editor-in-Chief; a fee of up to 30% of the applicable APC may then be charged to cover costs already incurred. Any charge is proportionate, and financial charges are never used to prevent correction of the scholarly record.

Published articles are subject to corrections, expressions of concern or retractions under the AJTES Research Integrity policy and applicable COPE guidance; they are not simply deleted or withdrawn from the scholarly record on request.

7. Refunds, Transparency and Contact

If an APC has been paid in error or in excess, the editorial office will examine reimbursement in accordance with applicable law and the journal's financial procedures. Any other refund eligibility, including cancelled production or withdrawal after payment, is assessed individually under terms disclosed before payment. Billing or withdrawal enquiries: editorial@journal.astes.org.al.

8. Governance, Effective Date and Related Policies

This policy was approved by the ASTES Board and takes effect on 1 November 2026. It applies prospectively to manuscripts covered by its stated terms. Changes to fee amounts, eligibility or withdrawal conditions should be communicated clearly and should not be imposed retrospectively on authors without a valid legal basis.

Read together with the AJTES Author Guidelines, Copyright and Licensing Policy (CC BY 4.0), Author Declaration Form, Peer Review Policy, Editorial Workflow and Research Integrity policy. Information shown in the journal's OJS submission pages must be consistent with the approved version.

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