

EDITORIAL POLICY, PUBLICATION ETHICS AND PUBLICATION MALPRACTICE STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

ECONOMICS – Innovative and Economics Research Journal is an international, peer-reviewed scientific journal dedicated to publishing original and methodologically sound research in economics and related social sciences. The Journal is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity, editorial independence, transparency, fairness and responsible scholarly publishing. This policy applies to all content published by the Journal, including regular articles, review articles, special issues, invited papers, editorials, corrections, retractions and other scholarly material. The Journal follows the principles and recommendations established by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), including the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing:

<https://publicationethics.org/guidance/guideline/principles-transparency-and-best-practice-scholarly-publishing>

The Journal also follows relevant COPE guidance when addressing allegations of misconduct, authorship disputes, conflicts of interest, complaints, appeals, corrections, expressions of concern and retractions. Compliance with this policy is required from authors, reviewers, editors, Editorial Board members, guest editors and the Publisher.

1. EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE AND EDITORIAL DECISIONS

The Editorial Board operates independently, professionally and impartially throughout all stages of manuscript evaluation, peer review and publication.

Editorial decisions are based exclusively on:

- scientific quality and academic relevance;
- originality and contribution of the research;
- methodological appropriateness and reliability;
- clarity and completeness of reporting;
- consistency with the aims and scope of the Journal;
- compliance with the Journal's ethical and editorial standards.

Editorial decisions must not be influenced by commercial interests, advertising, sponsorship, institutional relationships, political considerations, personal relationships or the author's ability to pay an Article Processing Charge. Manuscripts are evaluated without discrimination based on the authors' race, ethnicity, nationality, citizenship, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, political views, disability, age, institutional affiliation, academic status or country of origin. The Editor-in-Chief has final responsibility for editorial decisions. The Editor-in-Chief may consult associate editors, Editorial Board members, independent reviewers or external experts when necessary. Editors must recuse themselves from handling manuscripts in which they have an actual or potential conflict of interest. Such manuscripts will be assigned to another qualified and independent editor. Submissions authored by editors, Editorial Board members or persons affiliated with the Publisher are subject to the same editorial criteria and independent peer-review procedures as all other submissions.

2. PEER-REVIEW POLICY

The Journal applies a double-blind peer-review process, in which the identities of authors and reviewers are concealed from each other.

Before peer review, each manuscript undergoes an initial editorial assessment to determine whether it:

- falls within the Journal's aims and scope;
- meets minimum scientific and methodological standards;
- complies with the Author Guidelines;
- satisfies applicable ethical requirements;
- contains sufficient originality;
- is suitable for external peer review.

Manuscripts that do not meet these requirements may be rejected without external peer review. Manuscripts that pass the initial assessment are normally sent to at least two independent reviewers with relevant expertise. Reviewers provide recommendations, but the final decision rests with the responsible editor and the Editor-in-Chief.

Editorial decisions may include:

- acceptance;
- acceptance subject to minor revisions;
- reconsideration following major revisions;
- rejection with the possibility of a new submission;
- rejection.

Revised manuscripts may be returned to the original reviewers or evaluated by the responsible editor, depending on the nature and extent of the revisions. The Journal does not guarantee acceptance of any submission. Payment of an APC, institutional cooperation, previous publication in the Journal or personal contact with an editor does not guarantee or influence acceptance. Special issues, invited papers and manuscripts handled by guest editors are subject to the same standards of editorial independence, peer review and publication ethics as regular submissions.

3. CONFIDENTIALITY

All submitted manuscripts are treated as confidential documents. Editors, reviewers, Editorial Board members and editorial staff must not disclose information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than persons directly involved in its legitimate evaluation and processing. Unpublished data, arguments, interpretations, methods or ideas obtained through editorial work or peer review must not be used for personal research, professional advantage or any other purpose without the explicit written permission of the authors. Reviewers and editors must not upload manuscripts, supplementary materials or confidential author information to publicly accessible generative artificial intelligence platforms or other external services that do not guarantee confidentiality and data protection. Information may be disclosed when necessary for investigating suspected misconduct, complying with a legal obligation or protecting the integrity of the scholarly record.

4. AUTHORSHIP AND CONTRIBUTORSHIP POLICY

Authorship must be limited to individuals who have made a substantial scholarly contribution to the work.

An author should normally have contributed significantly to one or more of the following:

- conception or design of the study;
- acquisition, collection or generation of data;
- analysis or interpretation of data;
- development of the methodology;
- drafting the manuscript;
- substantial critical revision of the manuscript.

All authors must:

- approve the final version of the manuscript;
- agree to its submission and publication;
- accept responsibility for their own contribution;
- be able to identify the contributions of their co-authors;
- cooperate in resolving questions concerning the accuracy or integrity of the work.

The corresponding author is responsible for ensuring that:

- all eligible authors are included;
- no ineligible authors are listed;
- the order of authors has been approved by all authors;
- all authors have reviewed and approved the submitted version;
- all authors are informed about editorial decisions and required revisions;
- accurate names, affiliations and contact information are provided.

The Journal encourages authors to provide a contributorship statement describing each author's role, preferably using the CRediT Contributor Roles Taxonomy where appropriate. Individuals who contributed to the work but do not meet the criteria for authorship should be acknowledged, subject to their permission. Ghost authorship, guest authorship, gift authorship, honorary authorship, purchased authorship and the omission of eligible authors are prohibited.

Artificial intelligence tools and language models cannot be listed as authors because they cannot assume responsibility for the work, approve the final manuscript or respond to questions concerning research integrity.

Requests to add, remove or rearrange authors must be submitted in writing and must include:

- a clear explanation for the requested change;
- written agreement from all listed and affected authors;
- any additional documentation requested by the editor.

Authorship changes after acceptance are permitted only in exceptional and fully justified circumstances. Authorship changes after publication will be considered only when necessary to correct the scholarly record and will normally require a formal correction notice. The Journal does not adjudicate complex authorship disputes that cannot be resolved through documented evidence. Such disputes may be referred to the authors' institutions for investigation.

5. AUTHORS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND REPORTING STANDARDS

Authors are responsible for the originality, accuracy, integrity and completeness of their work.

Authors must:

- present an accurate and objective account of the research;
- describe methods in sufficient detail to permit evaluation and, where possible, replication;
- report results honestly and without inappropriate omission, manipulation or distortion;
- distinguish clearly between findings, interpretations, assumptions and opinions;
- provide appropriate references to relevant previous research;
- disclose all sources of funding and support;
- disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest;
- obtain all required ethical approvals and permissions;
- respect privacy, confidentiality, copyright and intellectual property rights;
- retain relevant research records and provide them when reasonably requested;
- cooperate with editorial investigations, corrections or retractions.

Fraudulent, deliberately misleading or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical publishing behaviour and are unacceptable. Authors must ensure that the manuscript has not been published previously and is not simultaneously under consideration by another journal. Submission of substantially the same manuscript to more than one journal at the same time is prohibited. Secondary publication, translation or republication may be considered only when legally and academically justified, transparently disclosed, approved by the relevant copyright holders and clearly identified for readers.

6. ORIGINALITY, PLAGIARISM AND DUPLICATE PUBLICATION

The Journal has zero tolerance for plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct.

Prohibited practices include:

- direct plagiarism;
- mosaic or patchwork plagiarism;
- inappropriate paraphrasing;
- unattributed use of ideas, data, methods, tables, figures or text;
- self-plagiarism and excessive text recycling;
- duplicate or redundant publication;
- fabrication or falsification of data;
- manipulation or selective omission of results;
- inappropriate image manipulation;
- citation manipulation;
- peer-review manipulation;
- undeclared use of third-party material;
- unethical authorship practices.

All manuscripts may be examined using similarity-checking software and other editorial screening procedures before, during or after peer review. Similarity reports and automated screening results are interpreted by qualified editors. A numerical similarity score or automated flag will not, by itself, constitute conclusive evidence of misconduct. When overlap is detected, the Journal will consider its nature, extent, source, context and effect on the originality and integrity of the manuscript.

Depending on the seriousness of the issue, the Journal may:

- request clarification or correction;
- require proper citation or rewriting;
- reject the manuscript;
- suspend editorial consideration;
- contact the authors' institutions, funders or other journals;
- publish a correction or expression of concern;
- retract a published article;
- impose proportionate restrictions on future submissions.

7. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

Artificial intelligence tools may be used as supporting instruments, but they cannot replace the authors' scientific judgement, intellectual contribution or responsibility. Generative AI tools may be used for language improvement, translation assistance, technical editing or improvement of readability, provided that the authors carefully review and verify the resulting text. Where generative AI has been used in a substantive manner during manuscript preparation, data analysis, coding, image production, literature processing or another part of the research process, authors must disclose:

- the name and version of the tool;
- the purpose for which it was used;
- the manner in which the output was reviewed and verified;
- the relevant part of the manuscript or research process in which it was used.

AI-based methods used as part of the research methodology must be described in sufficient detail to permit evaluation and, where possible, reproduction.

Authors remain fully responsible for:

- the originality and legality of the content;
- the scientific validity of the work;
- the accuracy of facts, data, calculations and references;
- the absence of fabricated or non-existent citations;
- possible bias or errors introduced by AI tools;
- compliance with confidentiality and data-protection requirements;
- the complete content of the submitted and published manuscript.

Authors must not enter confidential, personal, copyrighted, embargoed or otherwise protected information into an AI system unless they have the legal right and appropriate safeguards to do so. AI-generated or AI-modified images, figures, data or other research materials must not be presented as authentic research evidence unless their use is scientifically justified, transparently explained and ethically permissible. The Journal may use similarity-checking and other editorial screening tools. Automated outputs will not be used as the sole basis for rejecting a manuscript or making an allegation of misconduct.

8. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors, reviewers, editors, Editorial Board members and the Publisher must disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest that could influence, or reasonably be perceived to influence, their judgement or actions.

Conflicts of interest may be:

- financial;
- institutional;
- academic;
- professional;
- personal;
- political;
- ideological;

- contractual;
- related to intellectual property;
- related to research competition.

Authors must include a conflict-of-interest statement in the manuscript. When no conflict exists, authors should state that they have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Authors must also disclose all funding sources and explain the role of the funder, if any, in:

- study design;
- data collection;
- analysis and interpretation;
- manuscript preparation;
- the decision to submit the work for publication.

Reviewers must decline an invitation when a conflict of interest could compromise their independence or create a reasonable perception of bias. Editors must not handle manuscripts involving close collaborators, recent co-authors, members of their institution, family members, personal associates, direct competitors or persons with whom they have another relevant relationship. When an undisclosed conflict of interest is discovered after publication, the Journal will assess its effect on the integrity of the article and may publish a correction, editorial notice, expression of concern or retraction.

9. DATA SHARING AND REPRODUCIBILITY POLICY

The Journal supports transparency, responsible data management, reproducibility and verification of published research. Authors should preserve the data, materials, code, instruments, questionnaires, models and documentation necessary to understand and verify the reported findings.

For original empirical research, authors must include a Data Availability Statement explaining:

- whether data were generated or analysed;
- where the data, code or materials can be accessed;
- the name of the repository and persistent identifier, where applicable;
- whether access is open, restricted or available upon reasonable request;
- why data cannot be shared, where sharing is not possible;
- the conditions that apply to access.

Where legally, ethically and technically possible, authors are encouraged to deposit research data, analytical code and supplementary materials in a recognised and trustworthy repository. Data should be cited appropriately and treated as a legitimate research output.

Restrictions on data sharing may be justified when data contain:

- personal or identifiable information;
- confidential commercial information;
- information protected by law or contract;
- sensitive information relating to vulnerable populations;
- third-party data that the authors are not authorised to redistribute;
- information whose disclosure could cause harm.

When data cannot be made publicly available, authors must clearly explain the restriction and, where possible, describe a controlled or conditional access procedure. Authors must provide sufficient information about sampling, variables, analytical procedures, software, model specifications and research materials to enable qualified readers to evaluate the study. Editors and reviewers may request access to underlying data, code, questionnaires, calculations or other relevant materials for the purpose of evaluating the manuscript. Unjustified refusal to provide necessary supporting material may result in suspension of peer review, rejection of the manuscript or, after publication, an editorial investigation and appropriate correction of the scholarly record. The Journal recognises that exact replication may not be possible in all disciplines or for all forms of research. Authors must nevertheless provide the highest degree of transparency reasonably possible.

10. ETHICAL OVERSIGHT POLICY

All research published in the Journal must comply with applicable ethical, legal, institutional and professional standards.

Ethical oversight includes, but is not limited to:

- research involving human participants;
- surveys, interviews, experiments and behavioural studies;
- research involving personal or confidential data;
- research involving vulnerable individuals or communities;
- research involving animals;
- informed consent;
- consent for publication;
- privacy and confidentiality;
- protection from harm;
- research conducted under conditions of unequal power;
- responsible management of sensitive information;
- compliance with relevant legislation and institutional requirements.

For research involving human participants, authors must state:

- whether approval was obtained from an appropriate ethics committee or institutional review board;
- the name of the approving body;
- the approval or reference number, where available;
- whether informed consent was obtained;
- how participants' privacy and confidentiality were protected.

When formal ethical approval was not required, authors must provide an appropriate explanation or evidence of exemption in accordance with applicable institutional or national rules. For studies involving identifiable personal information, photographs, recordings, case details or quotations that could identify an individual, authors must obtain appropriate consent for publication. Consent to participate in research does not automatically constitute consent to publish identifiable information. Research involving children, vulnerable adults, displaced persons, marginalised communities, employees, students, dependent persons or other potentially vulnerable groups must include appropriate safeguards against coercion, exploitation, discrimination and harm. For research involving animals, authors must confirm compliance with relevant institutional and national standards for animal welfare and provide details of ethical approval where required. Authors must identify any unusual hazards associated with chemicals, equipment, procedures,

technologies or research environments. Editors may request additional documentation relating to ethics approval, informed consent, data protection or research permissions. The Journal may reject or retract work where ethical requirements were not satisfied, approval was misrepresented or the research presents an unacceptable risk of harm.

11. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

Authors must respect copyright, database rights, moral rights, trademark rights, contractual restrictions and all other applicable intellectual property rights.

Authors are responsible for obtaining written permission to reproduce or adapt third-party:

- text;
- tables;
- figures;
- photographs;
- maps;
- questionnaires;
- scales;
- datasets;
- software;
- illustrations;
- other protected material.

Evidence of permission must be provided to the Journal upon request. Material taken from other sources must be accurately cited, regardless of whether formal permission is required. Authors must not submit material whose publication would infringe copyright, violate confidentiality, breach contractual obligations or misappropriate another person's ideas, data or unpublished work. Unpublished information obtained through peer review, editorial work, private correspondence or confidential professional activity must not be used without explicit permission. Authors retain copyright in their published work and grant the Journal the right of first publication and the right to publish, distribute, preserve and identify the official Version of Record. Articles are published under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International licence: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/> Under this licence, readers may share the published work for non-commercial purposes, provided that appropriate credit is given, the original source and DOI are identified, and the work is not modified or adapted. Licence information must be clearly displayed on the full text and PDF version of each published article.

12. ALLEGATIONS OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT

The Journal takes seriously all allegations of research and publication misconduct, whether they concern a submitted manuscript or published article and whether they are raised by an identified or anonymous person. Research and publication misconduct may include:

- plagiarism or misappropriation of ideas;
- fabrication or falsification of data;
- manipulation of images or results;

- deliberate omission or distortion of relevant findings;
- duplicate or redundant publication;
- citation manipulation;
- peer-review manipulation;
- fraudulent authorship;
- undisclosed conflicts of interest;
- unethical research;
- false statements regarding ethical approval or consent;
- breach of confidentiality;
- misuse of unpublished material;
- interference with an editorial investigation;
- other conduct that compromises the integrity of the scholarly record.

Concerns should be submitted in writing to the Editor-in-Chief through the Journal's official Contact page or editorial contact address. The submission should identify the manuscript or article concerned and provide specific information or evidence.

When an allegation is received, the Journal will normally:

1. conduct a preliminary assessment of the allegation;
2. determine whether the allegation falls within the Journal's responsibility;
3. preserve confidentiality and relevant documentation;
4. appoint an editor without a conflict of interest to handle the matter;
5. inform the person whose work or conduct is questioned and provide an opportunity to respond;
6. seek additional documentation or independent expert advice when necessary;
7. contact the relevant institution, employer, ethics committee, funder or another journal when appropriate;
8. take interim action, including suspension of review or publication of an expression of concern, when necessary;
9. determine the appropriate editorial outcome;
10. communicate the outcome to the relevant parties, subject to confidentiality and legal limitations.

Anonymous allegations will be assessed on the quality and specificity of the evidence provided rather than solely on the identity of the complainant. The Journal is responsible for protecting and correcting the scholarly record. Institutions and other authorised bodies are normally responsible for formal investigations into individual research misconduct and disciplinary measures.

Possible editorial actions include:

- requesting an explanation or supporting documentation;
- requiring correction of the manuscript;
- rejecting the manuscript;
- terminating the review process;
- notifying relevant institutions or authorities;
- publishing a correction;
- publishing an editorial notice or expression of concern;
- retracting the article;
- imposing proportionate restrictions on future submissions.

All parties are expected to cooperate honestly and promptly with an investigation.

13. EDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Editors are responsible for:

- protecting the integrity of the scholarly record;
- making fair, independent and evidence-based decisions;
- maintaining the confidentiality of submitted manuscripts;
- selecting qualified and independent reviewers;
- avoiding and disclosing conflicts of interest;
- protecting authors and reviewers from discrimination and inappropriate conduct;
- responding to ethical concerns and allegations of misconduct;
- correcting, clarifying or retracting published material when necessary;
- ensuring that commercial considerations do not affect editorial decisions;
- applying the Journal's policies consistently;
- maintaining appropriate records of editorial decisions.

Editors must not use unpublished information obtained through a manuscript or review process for their own research or personal advantage. Editors must take reasonable action when credible ethical concerns are raised and must not reject or disregard allegations solely because they are submitted anonymously or after publication.

14. REVIEWERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Peer review assists editors in making decisions and helps authors improve the quality, clarity and reliability of their manuscripts.

Reviewers must:

- accept assignments only when they have appropriate expertise;
- notify the editor promptly if they cannot complete the review within the required period;
- assess manuscripts objectively and constructively;
- support criticisms with clear and academically relevant arguments;
- avoid personal, hostile, defamatory or discriminatory comments;
- maintain strict confidentiality;
- disclose all actual or potential conflicts of interest;
- identify relevant uncited research where appropriate;
- alert the editor to suspected plagiarism, duplication, data problems or ethical concerns;
- refrain from using unpublished information for personal or professional advantage.

Reviewers must not contact authors directly concerning a manuscript without the editor's permission. Reviewers must not delegate a review to another person without prior approval from the Journal. Reviewers must not require authors to cite the reviewer's own publications unless those citations are genuinely relevant and academically necessary. Suspected reviewer misconduct, including breaches of confidentiality, appropriation of ideas, coercive citation, undisclosed conflicts of interest or intentionally obstructive reviewing, will be investigated and may result in removal from the reviewer database and notification of relevant institutions.

15. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS POLICY

Authors, reviewers, readers and other interested parties may submit complaints concerning:

- editorial procedures;
- unreasonable delays;
- reviewer or editor conduct;
- breaches of confidentiality;
- undisclosed conflicts of interest;
- possible discrimination;
- publication ethics;
- published content;
- corrections or retractions;
- administrative or communication problems.

Complaints must be submitted in writing through the official Journal Contact page or editorial contact address and should contain:

- the complainant's name and contact information, unless anonymity is necessary;
- the manuscript identification number, article title or DOI, where applicable;
- a clear description of the concern;
- relevant dates, correspondence and supporting evidence;
- the outcome or remedy being requested.

Complaints will be handled confidentially, professionally, fairly and without retaliation. A complaint against an editor will be considered by the Editor-in-Chief or another editor who was not involved in the matter. A complaint against the Editor-in-Chief will be referred to the Publisher or an independent senior member of the Editorial Board who has no conflict of interest.

Appeals against editorial decisions

Authors may appeal an editorial decision when they believe that:

- a significant factual or procedural error occurred;
- relevant evidence was overlooked;
- the review process was materially compromised;
- the decision involved an identifiable conflict of interest;
- the Journal's stated procedures were not properly followed.

An appeal must:

- identify the manuscript and editorial decision;
- provide specific and evidence-based grounds;
- respond clearly to the relevant editorial or reviewer concerns;
- avoid personal criticism of editors or reviewers.

A simple disagreement with reviewer comments or dissatisfaction with rejection is not, by itself, sufficient grounds for an appeal. Appeals will be reviewed by the Editor-in-Chief or an independent editor who was not materially involved in the original decision. Additional expert review may be requested when necessary. Submission of an appeal does not guarantee that the original decision will be changed.

Normally, only one appeal will be considered for each manuscript. The decision following the appeal is final within the Journal's internal process.

16. POST-PUBLICATION DISCUSSIONS

The Journal supports responsible scholarly discussion after publication.

Readers, researchers and authors may submit:

- letters to the Editor;
- comments on published articles;
- post-publication critiques;
- alternative interpretations;
- replication findings;
- notifications of possible errors;
- evidence relevant to the reliability or integrity of published work.

Post-publication comments should:

- identify the relevant article and DOI;
- address specific scientific, methodological or ethical issues;
- be supported by evidence and appropriate references;
- use professional and respectful language;
- avoid defamatory, discriminatory or personal allegations.

Submissions may be editorially assessed and, where appropriate, independently reviewed. Authors of the original article will normally be given a reasonable opportunity to respond. The Journal may publish a critique and author response as linked correspondence, a commentary, an editorial note or another appropriate publication format. Post-publication discussion will not be suppressed merely because it challenges the findings, methods or interpretations of a published article. The Journal may decline or remove content that is abusive, defamatory, repetitive, irrelevant, unsupported, unlawful or inconsistent with research confidentiality. When post-publication discussion reveals a material error or integrity concern, the Journal will consider whether a correction, expression of concern, retraction or other editorial action is required.

17. CORRECTIONS, EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN, RETRACTIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The Journal is committed to preserving the accuracy and integrity of the scholarly record. Editorial action after publication will be proportionate to the nature and seriousness of the issue.

17.1 Corrections

A correction may be published when an error:

- affects the interpretation, presentation or accuracy of the article;
- does not invalidate the principal findings and conclusions;
- results from an author or production error;

- concerns authorship, affiliations, acknowledgements, funding or conflicts of interest;
- requires clarification for the scholarly record.

Corrections will be clearly identified, dated and electronically linked to the original article. When appropriate, the article itself will also contain a notice linking to the correction. Minor typographical or formatting errors that do not affect meaning or the scholarly record may be corrected without a separate notice.

17.2 Expressions of concern

An expression of concern may be published when:

- credible concerns exist regarding the integrity or reliability of an article;
- an investigation is incomplete or inconclusive;
- an institutional investigation is pending;
- evidence is unavailable or conflicting;
- immediate notification to readers is necessary.

An expression of concern is an interim notice and may later be replaced or supplemented by a correction, retraction or notice that the concern has been resolved.

17.3 Retractions

An article may be retracted when there is clear evidence that:

- the findings are unreliable because of misconduct or major error;
- data were fabricated, falsified or seriously manipulated;
- plagiarism or substantial unauthorised duplication occurred;
- the article reports unethical or unlawful research;
- required informed consent or ethical approval was absent or misrepresented;
- the article was published elsewhere without appropriate justification or disclosure;
- the peer-review or publication process was manipulated;
- copyright or another serious legal right was infringed;
- authorship was fraudulent and the integrity of the article cannot be corrected;
- another serious issue makes continued reliance on the article unsafe or misleading.

Retraction does not necessarily imply misconduct by every author.

Retraction notices will:

- be clearly identified as retractions;
- state the reason for the retraction;
- identify who is retracting the article;
- distinguish misconduct from honest error where possible;
- be linked to the original article and vice versa;
- remain freely accessible;
- preserve the original bibliographic record.

Retracted articles will normally remain available and will be clearly marked as retracted. Removal of the full text will occur only in exceptional circumstances, such as a legal requirement, serious privacy violation or substantial risk of harm.

Retractions are handled in accordance with the current COPE Retraction Guidelines:

<https://publicationethics.org/guidance/guideline/retraction-guidelines>

17.4 Withdrawal before publication

Authors may request withdrawal of a manuscript before publication by providing a written explanation. The Journal may decline immediate withdrawal while an allegation of misconduct, duplicate submission or another serious ethical concern is being investigated. Once an article has been formally published as the Version of Record, it cannot be withdrawn as though it had never been published. Any necessary action will be taken through a correction, expression of concern, retraction or, in exceptional cases, removal with an explanatory notice.

18. FUNDAMENTAL ERRORS IDENTIFIED BY AUTHORS

When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in a submitted or published work, the author must promptly notify the Editor-in-Chief and cooperate with the Journal.

Authors must provide:

- a clear description of the error;
- an explanation of its effect on the findings;
- corrected information or data;
- any additional documentation requested by the Journal.

Failure to disclose a known material error may constitute a breach of publication ethics. The Journal will determine whether the appropriate action is a correction, expression of concern, retraction or another editorial notice.

19. OPEN ACCESS POLICY

ECONOMICS – Innovative and Economics Research Journal is an Open Access journal.

All published articles are made permanently and freely accessible online without subscription, registration, institutional or financial access barriers. Readers may access and share articles in accordance with the applicable Creative Commons licence. Open Access supports the international dissemination of knowledge, wider visibility of research and accessibility of scientific results to researchers, institutions, policymakers, practitioners and the general public.

20. COPYRIGHT, LICENSING AND SELF-ARCHIVING

Authors retain copyright in their articles. By accepting publication, authors grant the Journal and Publisher the right of first publication and the right to publish, distribute, reproduce, preserve and make the official Version of Record available. Published articles are distributed under the CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 International licence. Authors may deposit the accepted manuscript and the final published PDF in institutional, subject-based or non-commercial repositories, provided that:

- the original publication is fully acknowledged;
- the article title, Journal name and bibliographic information are included;
- the original DOI is provided;
- the Version of Record is not altered;
- repository use complies with the applicable licence.

Commercial reuse, adaptation, translation or modification of the published Version of Record requires appropriate permission when it is not permitted by the applicable licence.

21. DIGITAL PRESERVATION AND ARCHIVING POLICY

The Journal is committed to maintaining the long-term accessibility and integrity of its published content.

Digital preservation and continuity measures include:

- publication through the Open Journal Systems platform;
- maintenance of regular backups of journal files and metadata;
- assignment of persistent Digital Object Identifiers;
- registration of article metadata through Crossref;
- dissemination through indexing and bibliographic databases;
- support for deposit in institutional and non-commercial repositories;
- preservation of corrected and retracted records with appropriate notices.

The Journal will make reasonable efforts to ensure continued access to published content in the event of technical interruption, platform migration or cessation of publication. Metadata and persistent identifiers will be maintained wherever reasonably possible to preserve the integrity and discoverability of the scholarly record.

22. ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGES

ECONOMICS – Innovative and Economics Research Journal applies an Article Processing Charge for manuscripts accepted for publication.

The standard APC is:

500 EUR per accepted article.

No submission fee is charged when a manuscript is submitted.

The APC is payable only after:

- completion of the peer-review process;
- fulfilment of all required revisions;
- a formal editorial decision accepting the manuscript for publication.

The APC covers:

- manuscript administration;
- editorial processing;
- management of double-blind peer review;
- similarity checking;
- DOI assignment;
- technical editing and formatting;
- language and style checking within the Journal's standard service;
- preparation of article metadata;
- online publication and hosting;
- indexing-related technical processing;
- digital preservation and platform maintenance.

Payment of an APC does not guarantee acceptance and has no influence on editorial decisions, peer-review reports or the application of ethical standards.

The Journal may approve waivers or discounts in exceptional circumstances, including:

- authors from low-income countries;
- early-career researchers without institutional funding;
- invited articles;
- institutional cooperation agreements;
- special issues;
- strategic academic collaborations;
- other justified circumstances approved by the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher.

Requests for waivers or discounts should be submitted before the final invoice is issued. Decisions regarding waivers and discounts are made separately from the scientific evaluation of the manuscript and do not affect editorial decisions. Any exceptional service outside the standard APC coverage must be communicated and agreed in writing in advance and must not be made a condition of manuscript acceptance. Detailed payment instructions are provided only after formal acceptance.

23. PUBLISHER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Publisher supports the editorial independence of the Journal and does not interfere with individual editorial decisions.

The Publisher is responsible for:

- supporting the integrity and continuity of the Journal;
- maintaining the publishing platform and technical infrastructure;
- protecting copyright and intellectual property;

- supporting investigations into alleged misconduct;
- cooperating with editors in issuing corrections, expressions of concern and retractions;
- maintaining transparent information regarding ownership, fees and contact details;
- ensuring that commercial considerations do not compromise editorial standards;
- supporting preservation and accessibility of published content.

In cases of alleged or proven misconduct, fraudulent publication, plagiarism or serious error, the Publisher will cooperate with the Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Board, authors, institutions and other relevant parties to clarify the matter and correct the scholarly record.

24. POLICY REVIEW AND FINAL PROVISIONS

The Journal may amend this policy in response to:

- revised COPE recommendations;
- developments in international publication ethics;
- legal or regulatory requirements;
- requirements of indexing and abstracting databases;
- developments in research methods and publishing technology;
- identified needs for greater transparency or protection of research integrity.

The version published on the official Journal website is the applicable version. Any matter not expressly addressed in this document will be considered by the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher in accordance with the principles of fairness, transparency, due process, academic integrity and relevant COPE guidance. This policy enters into force upon publication on the Journal website.