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Article Processing and Publication Charges (APCs)

Dear Authors,

ECONOMICS – Innovative and Economic Research Journal applies an Article Processing Charge (APC) to manuscripts that successfully complete the editorial and external peer-review process and are ultimately accepted for publication. The Editorial Board is committed to ensuring that the entire process is transparent and that every author is clearly informed before detailed editorial processing and external peer review begin of all financial and procedural conditions applicable to their manuscript.

Standard APC

The standard APC for manuscripts accepted for publication is **EUR 500**.

For certain manuscripts, the applicable APC may differ if, based on its initial assessment, the Editorial Board determines that the manuscript requires a substantially greater amount of editorial, technical, or production work. In such cases, the author will be informed in advance of the exact APC that will apply if the manuscript successfully completes the entire editorial and peer-review process and is ultimately accepted for publication. Further processing of the manuscript will begin only after the author confirms that they have been informed of all applicable conditions and accept the stated APC. The APC previously accepted by the author will not subsequently be increased during the editorial and peer-review process.

Initial Editorial Assessment

Upon receipt of a manuscript, the Editorial Board conducts an initial editorial assessment. At this stage, the following aspects are evaluated, among others:

- the manuscript's alignment with the aims and scope of the Journal;
- its basic scientific quality and relevance;
- the structure and technical preparation of the manuscript;
- the quality of the language and academic style;
- the extent of the editorial and technical corrections required;
- the extent of any additional work required before the manuscript can be submitted for external peer review.

If the Editorial Board determines that the manuscript meets the requirements for further consideration, the author will be notified and, at the same time, informed of the exact APC applicable to that particular manuscript in the event of its final acceptance for publication. At the same stage, the author will also be informed in advance of the mandatory professional English-language proofreading and screening for AI-generated content, which are carried out by an independent external professional service provider. Only after the author confirms that they have been informed of and accept all the stated conditions will the Editorial Board proceed with the detailed editorial and technical processing of the manuscript and its preparation for external peer review. If the author does not accept the stated conditions, the procedure will not continue and the author will have no obligation to pay the APC. Acceptance of the financial and procedural conditions does not mean that the manuscript has been accepted for publication and does not guarantee its publication.

Editorial Processing and External Peer Review

Once the author has accepted the conditions, the manuscript enters the next stage of the editorial process. Depending on the specific requirements of the manuscript, editorial processing may include:

- editorial and administrative processing of the manuscript;
- technical alignment with the Journal's guidelines and template;
- verification of the manuscript's structure;
- examination of tables, figures, charts, and other manuscript elements;
- similarity and plagiarism screening;
- a preliminary editorial review of language and style;
- verification and technical editing of bibliographic references;
- verification of DOI identifiers and bibliographic information;
- preparation of the manuscript for external peer review.

Following completion of the required editorial preparation, the manuscript is submitted to an external double-blind peer-review process. Reviewers independently assess the manuscript's scientific quality, originality, methodology, results, relevance, and contribution. The final decision to accept or reject the manuscript is made on the basis of the external reviewers' reports, the revisions completed by the authors, and the final assessment of the Editorial Board. The amount of the APC has no influence whatsoever on the scientific assessment of the manuscript, the reviewers' opinions, or the final editorial decision.

When the APC Is Payable

The Journal does not charge a manuscript submission fee. The APC is not payable during the initial editorial assessment or before completion of the external peer-review process. Payment of the APC is required only after the manuscript has successfully completed the external peer-review process, the authors have made all required revisions, and the Editorial Board has issued its final decision accepting the manuscript for publication. The author will then pay the same APC that was previously communicated to and accepted by them before detailed editorial processing and external peer review began. If the manuscript does not receive positive reviews or is not ultimately accepted for publication, the author will have no obligation to pay the APC.

Why the APC May Vary

Manuscripts differ substantially in their level of technical and editorial preparedness. Some manuscripts require minimal additional processing, while others require considerably greater involvement by the Editorial Board and publishing team before they can be prepared for external peer review and possible publication.

For this reason, a different APC may be established for individual manuscripts where a substantially greater amount of the following work is required:

- editorial processing;
- technical editing and formatting;
- editing of tables, figures, charts, and other manuscript elements;
- verification and technical processing of bibliographic references;
- verification of DOI identifiers and other bibliographic information;
- preparation of metadata;
- production preparation for publication;
- other justified publishing and technical activities required by the particular manuscript.

The author will be informed of any APC that differs from the standard amount before detailed editorial processing begins and before the manuscript is submitted for external peer review. The author may then decide whether to accept these conditions before the procedure continues.

What the APC Covers

The APC covers activities related to the editorial, peer-review, technical, and production processing of the manuscript, including:

- editorial processing and manuscript administration;
- organisation and management of the double-blind peer-review process;
- plagiarism and similarity screening;
- technical editing and formatting;
- preliminary editorial review of language and style;
- technical verification of bibliographic references;
- DOI registration;
- metadata preparation;
- technical preparation of data for indexing and relevant bibliographic services;
- online publication and hosting;
- long-term digital archiving and preservation of content;
- maintenance of the Journal's publishing platform and technical infrastructure.

Mandatory Professional English-Language Proofreading and Screening for AI-Generated Content

To maintain high standards of linguistic quality, academic integrity, and the credibility of published research, the Journal requires all manuscripts to undergo professional English-language proofreading and professional screening for AI-generated content before final publication.

These services are provided by an independent external professional service provider, separately from the Journal's Editorial Board. The professional screening is conducted using specialised software tools designed for the assessment of academic and scientific texts.

The cost of professional English-language proofreading and screening for AI-generated content is not included in the APC and must be paid separately by the author.

The total cost of these external services will not exceed **EUR 120**.

The exact amount will be communicated to the author in advance, together with information concerning the applicable APC and all other conditions, before the author confirms that the editorial and peer-review procedure may continue. This ensures that, before the process begins, the author is aware of all financial obligations that may arise if the manuscript successfully completes the procedure and is prepared for publication.

Upon completion of the professional assessment, the author will receive the relevant proofreading report and AI-generated content screening report.

Journal Policy on AI-Generated Content

ECONOMICS – Innovative and Economic Research Journal accepts for final publication only manuscripts for which the professional screening report indicates 0% detected AI-generated content. If the professional report indicates the presence of more than 0% AI-generated content, the manuscript cannot proceed to final production and publication in its existing version. In such cases, the author will be informed of the screening results and may be invited to make the necessary revisions independently and resubmit the manuscript for further screening. For final publication, the final screening report must indicate 0% detected AI-generated content. The screening report will be provided to the author to ensure full transparency throughout the procedure. This policy is intended to protect the originality of scientific work, authorial responsibility, academic integrity, and readers' confidence in the content published by the Journal. Authors bear full responsibility for the originality, authenticity, scientific content, and authorship of the submitted manuscript.

Special Financial Arrangements

Any special financial arrangements may be approved exclusively by a specific decision of the Editorial Board and the Publisher. Such arrangements constitute exceptions and do not create an automatic entitlement to a reduction of or exemption from the APC. Any special financial arrangement is entirely separate from the scientific assessment of the manuscript, the external peer-review process, and the decision to accept or reject the manuscript.

Payment and Transparency of Costs

All APC-related fees are stated and calculated in euros (EUR). Detailed APC payment instructions will be provided to the author only after the manuscript has received final acceptance for publication. Professional English-language proofreading and screening for AI-generated content are separate external services and are not included in the APC. The author will be informed of the existence of these services, their maximum cost, and the applicable APC before detailed editorial processing and external peer review begin. Our objective is to ensure that every author is aware in advance of all financial and procedural conditions applicable to their manuscript and that no unexpected or subsequently introduced costs arise during the process. Acceptance of any financial condition does not constitute acceptance of the manuscript for publication. The publication decision is made exclusively on the basis of the manuscript's scientific quality, the results of the independent peer-review process, completion of all required revisions, and compliance with the Journal's academic integrity policies.