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PUBLICATION ETHICS AND MALPRACTICE STATEMENT

of the Scientific Journal

EcoSoEn

Economics and Social Sciences

GENERAL PROVISIONS

This Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement establishes the principles, standards, and procedures governing ethical conduct in the publication activities of the Scientific Journal “Economics and Social Sciences (EcoSoEn)” (hereinafter referred to as “the Journal”).

The Policy is developed in accordance with international best practices and recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

All participants in the publication process (editors, authors, reviewers, and publishers) are required to comply with this Policy.

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board are responsible for:

- ensuring academic quality and integrity of published materials;
- maintaining editorial independence;
- guaranteeing fair and impartial peer review;
- preventing conflicts of interest;
- protecting confidentiality of submitted manuscripts;
- responding to allegations of misconduct.

Editorial decisions are based exclusively on scholarly merit.

PEER REVIEW POLICY

All manuscripts submitted to the Scientific Journal “Economics and Sciences (EcoSoEn)” are subject to a rigorous double-blind peer review process, in which the identities of both authors and reviewers are concealed from each other.

Each manuscript is evaluated by at least two independent reviewers who are recognized experts in the relevant field and are selected based on their academic competence and professional experience.

The peer review process is conducted in accordance with international standards of academic evaluation and is based on the following main criteria:

- the degree of scientific originality and scholarly contribution of the manuscript;
- the validity and appropriateness of the research methodology;
- the relevance of the topic to the Journal’s scope and aims;
- the coherence of structure and clarity of presentation;
- the quality of academic language and argumentation.

Reviewers provide detailed comments, constructive recommendations, and well-founded conclusions aimed at improving the scientific quality of the manuscript.

Based on the evaluation reports and reviewers' recommendations, the Editor-in-Chief, in consultation with the Editorial Board, makes the final decision regarding:

- acceptance of the manuscript for publication;
- conditional acceptance subject to revisions;
- request for major revision;
- rejection of the manuscript.

Editorial decisions are made exclusively on academic and scientific grounds, without external, commercial, or institutional influence, and in accordance with the principles of impartiality, transparency, and academic integrity.

AUTHOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Authors submitting manuscripts to the Scientific Journal "Economics and Social Sciences (EcoSoEn)" are required to comply with high standards of academic integrity and professional ethics.

Authors are obliged to:

- submit original, unpublished work that has not been previously published in any form and is not under consideration by another journal or publisher;
- ensure accurate and appropriate authorship attribution, reflecting the genuine intellectual contribution of all listed authors;
- avoid all forms of plagiarism, self-plagiarism, and redundant or duplicate publication;
- cite all sources, data, and materials accurately and in accordance with the Journal's editorial standards;
- fully disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may influence the interpretation or evaluation of the research;
- clearly indicate all sources of financial support, grants, or institutional funding related to the research;
- obtain all required ethical approvals, permits, or consents for studies involving human participants, animals, sensitive data, or other regulated materials, where applicable.

Authors must ensure that all co-authors have reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript prior to submission and agree to its submission for publication.

Simultaneous submission of the same or substantially similar manuscript to more than one journal is strictly prohibited and constitutes a serious breach of publication ethics.

Failure to comply with these obligations may result in rejection of the manuscript, retraction of published articles, and notification of relevant institutions.

REVIEWER RESPONSIBILITIES

Reviewers involved in the evaluation of manuscripts submitted to the Scientific Journal are required to adhere to the highest standards of academic ethics, objectivity, and professionalism.

Reviewers shall:

- maintain strict confidentiality regarding all information related to the manuscripts under review and shall not disclose their content to third parties;
- provide objective, fair, and well-reasoned evaluations based solely on the scientific merit and quality of the manuscript;
- promptly declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may compromise the impartiality of the review process;
- refrain from using unpublished materials, data, or ideas obtained through peer review for personal, professional, or commercial purposes;
- immediately notify the editors of any suspected ethical issues, including plagiarism, data manipulation, authorship disputes, or other forms of academic misconduct.

Reviewers are encouraged to provide constructive feedback and clear recommendations aimed at improving the scientific quality of the submitted manuscripts.

Failure to comply with these responsibilities may result in removal from the reviewer pool and the application of appropriate measures in accordance with the Journal's policies.

PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT

The Journal strictly prohibits:

- plagiarism;
- self-plagiarism;
- data fabrication;
- data falsification;
- citation manipulation;
- redundant publication;
- unethical research practices.

All manuscripts submitted for publication in the Scientific Journal "Economics and Social Sciences (EcoSoEn)" are subject to mandatory and systematic plagiarism screening using the specialized platform **sistemantiplagiat.ro**, as well as other recognized tools when necessary.

The screening process aims to identify:

- unjustified similarities with previously published works;
- direct or indirect plagiarism;

- self-plagiarism;
- improper use of sources.

Manuscripts that exceed acceptable similarity thresholds or show evidence of academic misconduct are rejected or returned to the authors for revision, clarification, and correction, as appropriate.

The Editorial Board reserves the right to apply additional measures in accordance with the Journal's ethical policies and COPE recommendations.

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING MISCONDUCT

In cases of suspected misconduct, the Journal applies the following procedure:

1. Preliminary evaluation by the Editor-in-Chief;
2. Notification of authors;
3. Internal investigation;
4. Consultation with institutions, if necessary;
5. Adoption of corrective measures.

In cases where ethical misconduct is confirmed, the Editorial Board adopts corrective measures proportionate to the severity of the identified violation, in accordance with applicable legislation and international academic ethics standards.

Such measures may include, but are not limited to:

- rejection of the manuscript prior to publication;
- requesting revisions and publishing a correction or erratum;
- retraction of an already published article;
- notification of affiliated institutions, funding bodies, or other competent authorities, where appropriate.

The implementation of these measures is carried out in compliance with the principles of fairness, transparency, and the authors' right to respond.

COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Authors have the right to submit written complaints, claims, or appeals regarding editorial decisions, the peer review process, or other matters related to manuscript publication, via the official journal email address.

Complaints and appeals must be well-reasoned, clearly formulated, and accompanied by relevant supporting documentation where applicable.

All cases are registered and reviewed impartially by the Editorial Board, in accordance with the principles of confidentiality, objectivity, and transparency.

The Editorial Board may request additional information from authors, reviewers, or other involved parties in order to clarify the situation.

Following the examination, one of the following decisions may be adopted:

- maintaining the initial editorial decision;
- requesting an additional evaluation;
- re-evaluating the manuscript by independent reviewers;
- revising the editorial decision in justified cases.

The final decision is communicated to the authors in writing and is considered final.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

All participants involved in the editorial process of the Journal (authors, reviewers, editors, and members of the Editorial Board) are required to fully and transparently disclose any personal, professional, institutional, or financial interests that may actually or potentially influence the objectivity of their activities.

Conflicts of interest may include, but are not limited to:

- professional or personal relationships with other authors or reviewers;
- affiliation with institutions directly involved in the research;
- financial interests, grants, contracts, or sponsorships;
- participation in competing projects.

Conflict of interest declarations must be submitted at the time of manuscript submission or prior to accepting a review assignment, in the case of reviewers.

The Editorial Board examines all declarations and adopts appropriate measures to prevent undue influence on editorial decisions, including appointing independent reviewers or recusing individuals with conflicts of interest from decision-making.

Failure to disclose or incomplete disclosure of conflicts of interest may result in:

- rejection of the manuscript;
- retraction of a published article;
- notification of affiliated institutions;
- restriction of future participation in the editorial process.

DATA POLICY AND REPRODUCIBILITY

Authors are encouraged to ensure transparency, accessibility, and integrity of the data used in the research submitted for publication in the Journal.

Where possible, primary data, datasets, supplementary materials, research instruments, and protocols should be deposited in recognized national or international digital repositories that ensure long-term preservation and public or controlled access.

Authors must clearly indicate in the article the location of the stored data (link, DOI, repository reference), as well as access conditions, in accordance with legal and ethical requirements regarding data protection and confidentiality.

The data and materials used should, where possible, enable verification of results and reproducibility of research by other scholars.

Proper citation of datasets, electronic sources, and supplementary materials is mandatory and must comply with the Journal's editorial standards.

In cases where data cannot be made publicly available for justified reasons (confidentiality, intellectual property rights, contractual restrictions), authors are required to explicitly state these limitations in the manuscript.

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All published articles are fully available on the official journal platform: <https://ecosoen.ulim.md/corporate-creative-landing/scientific-journal/>

In addition, the journal content is archived and accessible through the Scientific Electronic Library of the Republic of Moldova (IBN): https://ibn.idsi.md/ro/vizualizare_revista/455

Long-term digital preservation is ensured through the institutional repositories of the Free International University of Moldova, as well as through regular backup systems that guarantee the integrity, security, and continuous availability of publications.

The Journal applies technical and organizational measures to prevent data loss, file deterioration, or unauthorized access, thereby ensuring the continuity of access to published scientific content.

PUBLICATION FEES

The Scientific Journal “Economics and Social Sciences (EcoSoEn)” does not charge any fees for manuscript submission, peer review, processing, or publication.

All editorial, administrative, and technical costs are covered by the institutional resources of the Free International University of Moldova (ULIM), as part of its commitment to supporting scientific research and open access to academic results.

The Journal does not apply Article Processing Charges (APCs) and does not request any payments from authors at any stage of the editorial process.

Any changes to the publication fee policy will be publicly announced in a transparent manner on the official Journal website and will enter into force only after approval by the competent authorities.

ADVERTISING POLICY

Advertising activities conducted within the Scientific Journal “Economics and Social Sciences (EcoSoEn)” do not influence editorial processes, evaluation decisions, or the selection of materials for publication in any way.

All advertising materials are clearly distinguished and visually and functionally separated from scientific content, in order to prevent any confusion between advertising and editorial activities.

Decisions regarding the acceptance or rejection of advertisements are made independently from the peer review process and do not affect the Journal’s relationship with authors, reviewers, or readers.

The Journal does not accept advertising that contradicts ethical, legal, or academic standards.

DIRECT MARKETING

The Scientific Journal “Economics and Social Sciences (EcoSoEn)” does not engage in commercial marketing activities or aggressive advertising practices and does not use intrusive promotional methods.

Communication with authors and readers is limited exclusively to providing relevant academic information regarding calls for papers, editorial policies, scientific events, and journal activities.

Manuscript solicitations and collaboration invitations are addressed in a responsible and professional manner, without exerting pressure on potential authors.

The use of practices that may mislead authors or create false expectations regarding the evaluation, publication, indexing, or impact of the Journal is strictly prohibited.

All information provided about the Journal, publisher, editorial process, and publication status is accurate, up-to-date, transparent, and verifiable.

OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The Scientific Journal “Economics and Social Sciences (EcoSoEn)” is printed by PRINT-CARO Printing House and published in cooperation with the Free International University of Moldova.

Ownership structure, administrative organization, and management responsibilities are transparent and publicly available on the official Journal website.

No names, symbols, or information that may mislead authors, reviewers, or readers regarding the legal, institutional, or editorial status of the Journal are used.

The Journal’s management adheres to principles of good academic governance, institutional accountability, transparency, and editorial independence.

Management activities are focused on ensuring scientific quality, compliance with ethical standards, and the sustainable development of the Journal.

EDITORIAL BOARD AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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FINAL PROVISIONS

1. This Publication Ethics and Malpractice Policy enters into force on the date of its approval by the Editorial Board of the Scientific Journal “Economics and Social Sciences (EcoSoEn)”.
2. The Policy becomes binding for all participants involved in the editorial process, including authors, reviewers, editors, and administrative staff.
3. Any amendments, additions, or updates to this Policy may be initiated by the Editorial Board in response to legislative changes, international recommendations, or external evaluation processes, and shall be approved through the same official procedure.
4. Updated versions of the Policy are published on the official Journal website and communicated to all relevant stakeholders.
5. Compliance with this Policy contributes to ensuring transparency, credibility, and the academic reputation of the Journal at national and international levels

Editor-in-Chief / Publisher



Ilian GALBEN, PhD, Associate Professor

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