

Scientific Works of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria - Plovdiv

PUBLICATION ETHICS AND PUBLICATION MALPRACTICE STATEMENT

Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement

I. Rules before Publishing (during Research)

1. The authors should have a written agreement by the sponsor of the study (either in the contract of assignment or in another document).
2. The study should be performed in compliance with the following ethical rules applied to the subject of the study:
 - A. without causing any damage to the animated and the unanimated nature, cultural and historical heritage and sites, and excluding any future negative consequences.
 - B. using contemporary and well-established methods and equipment. The author/s should be sure that no errors or failings have occurred during the study.
 - C. The author/s should be sure that the results are reliable and the conclusions are accurate.
 - D. The author/ s should have verified the originality of the results and conclusions and should be sure that they have not already been known or published. If some results and conclusions still repeat already known ones, it should be explicitly stated in the article that they are of a confirmative nature.

II. Rules during the Preparation of the Publication

1. The authors should be only scientists who have real contribution and essential role in carrying out the study. The individual share (percentage) of each author should be determined in accordance with an explicit protocol that is signed by all of the authors. In absence of such a document it should be considered that the shares of co-authors of an article are equal.
2. The articles should be verified in terms of:
 - Falsification - distorted presentation of the results, fraudulent or inaccurate statements;
 - Fabrication - reports of theoretical and experimental studies that were not performed;
 - Plagiarism - misappropriation of texts and ideas of another person and presentation of them as own, copying or paraphrasing substantial parts of another's paper (without attribution) or claiming results from research conducted by others.

III. Citation Rules

1. Citation should not be too much but it should be sufficient, adequate to the study topic and ethical, i.e. all facts, analyzes and results belonging to other scientists should be accompanied by a literary reference source (printed or digital).
2. Due to the small length of the articles (up to 4 pages) they should meet at least the minimal citation requirements that include:
 - A. Citing the original authors who discovered and established the basic facts on which the publication has been developed.
 - B. Citing the facts, analyzes and interpretations, respectively the publications that contain these, which are denied in the article (if any).
 - C. Citing the authors whose ideas and interpretations are accepted according to the article.
3. When unpublished data/ materials are cited, written permission expressing the consent of their authors should be explicitly provided.

4. When any assistance or support (financial, material, moral, etc.) is provided, it is ethical that gratitude should be expressed in the appropriate place in the article; the people should be acknowledged or listed as contributors. Such an act will be encouraged in evaluating and reviewing the publication.

IV. Peer Review Ethics

1. The issue has accepted the principle of "blind" peer review, i.e. the selection of the reviewers is completely anonymous and the anonymity remains throughout the period of publishing.
2. The selection of the reviewer is done by the responsible editor-in-chief and by a member of the editorial board. Until and after the publication the names of the reviewers are not disclosed.
3. The appointed reviewers are leading and well-established specialists in the relevant scientific fields. By the acceptance to evaluate the article, the reviewer takes full scientific and ethical responsibility for providing an objective and impartial review.
4. When the review is positive the article (the report) is published.
5. When the review is negative the publishing material is returned to the author who himself/ herself has to decide its fate.
6. When there are substantial remarks concerning the content and/ or its technical layout, the article is returned to the author to be re-worked before being accepted for publication.
7. In all three cases above, the author and the remaining scientific community (with the exception of the editorial board) are unaware of the identity of the reviewer.

V. Ethics after Publishing

1. When errors and inaccuracies in already published materials are discovered, the responsibility lies mainly with the author of the article and in some cases, if it is concluded that they occurred due to incorrect reviewing - with the reviewer.
2. Errors and inaccuracies in the articles are considered only after a written and not anonymous signal is sent to the editorial board.
3. If the question concerning the material is controversial, the author of the signal is allowed to publish in the issues his/ her analysis and considerations.
4. The author is given the opportunity to respond to the questions raised by the author of the signal.
5. The scientific discussion that has arisen in such a way must be completed with the final material on behalf of the editorial board, prepared by a leading and competent enough specialist in the relevant scientific field.

From the Editorial Board.