

## **Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement**

The Hungarian Educational Research Journal (HERJ) is an international online, peer-reviewed Open Access academic journal. All papers submitted for publication will be subject to rigorous blind peer-review. We apply the highest standards in each step of the publication process in accordance with the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)'s Core practices](#). Our, editors, guest-editors, authors, peer-reviewers and publisher should adhere to the following principles.

### ***Duties of editors***

Editors are requested to follow the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)'s [Code of Conduct for Journal Editors](#).

### ***Responsibility for the quality and research ethics***

Driven by the readers' and authors' needs, the editors establish procedures that ensure the quality of the published material; maintain research integrity; preclude business needs from compromising intellectual and ethical standards. The highest expectations are to be met regarding the availability of research data, registration of clinical trials and other study designs, publication on vulnerable populations, research using animals or human subjects, handling of confidential data and business/marketing practices. Editors should endeavour to ensure that the research they accept for publication was carried out according to internationally accepted guidelines such as the Declaration of Helsinki.

### ***Publication decisions***

The Editors ensure that all submitted articles are evaluated for publication and reviewed by at least two referees who are experts in this field. The Editors are responsible for deciding which manuscripts to publish, its approval, its importance for researchers and readers, comments by reviewers, and other legal requirements. Final decision is made by the Editor-in-Chief who may consult with other editors, guest editors or referees when making this decision.

### ***Data sharing and reproducibility***

Data should be available upon reasonable request from the authors as long as this does not violate the protection of human subjects or raise other valid privacy concerns.

### ***Fair evaluation***

Editors' decisions to accept or reject a paper for publication should be based on the paper's importance, originality and clarity, the study's validity and its relevance to the scope of the journal. Editors ensure that peer review in HERJ follows the announced scenario, it is fair, unbiased, timely, and carried out by suitable expert reviewers.

### *Guidance to Guest Editors*

Editors provide guidance to Guest Editors in written form and in regular meetings during their tenure to ensure that they apply the ethical and professional standards and policies of HERJ.

### *Confidentiality*

All material submitted to HERJ must and shall remain confidential while under review. Editors and editorial staff will not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher, as appropriate.

### *Disclosure and conflicts of interest*

Editors are free to make autonomous decisions on a purely professional basis, not affected by any commercial considerations. Editors and Editorial Board members are welcome to submit their own papers to HERJ. Declaring here and not repeating elsewhere, these submissions – as well as any other submission with which they have any kind of conflict of interest, e.g. those by their students – must be handled by other Editors. Such submissions must be peer reviewed and evaluated as any other. Possible conflicts of interests (such as previous co-authorship or working in the same department) should be considered when choosing peer reviewers.

### *Corrections*

Errors, inaccurate or misleading statements must be corrected promptly and with due prominence. Mistakes introduced by the publisher are corrected in an Erratum. For a correction of material from the authors, a Corrigendum should be submitted to the Editors as a separate submission. Any necessary changes will be accompanied by a post-publication notice permanently linked to the original article, ensuring the integrity of the scholarly record. The detailed correction policy can be found at: <https://akjournals.com/page/correction-policy-2023-01-30/correction-policy>.

### *Misconducts and complaints*

All forms of misconduct are taken seriously and will result in necessary action in accordance with COPE guidelines. Examples of misconduct include (but are not limited to) affiliation misrepresentation, breaches in copyright/use of third-party material without appropriate permissions, citation manipulation, duplicate submission/publication, avoiding international standards of research ethics, image or data manipulation/fabrication, peer review manipulation, plagiarism, text-recycling/self-plagiarism, undisclosed competing interests and/or unethical research. The Editorial Board conducts any investigation guided by the [COPE flowcharts](#).

### *Appeal*

Authors can appeal against a decision rejecting their manuscripts during the review process in a formal appeal via email to [herj@ppk.elte.hu](mailto:herj@ppk.elte.hu) in 30 days after the rejection. The appeal must be written by the corresponding author and supported by all authors. In their letter they should give reason and evidence why the assessment of the Editors/reviews might be erroneous or biased. The appeal will be considered by the Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board in 30 days.

## ***Duties of authors***

### *Originality*

Only original research work can be submitted, that has not been published before (except in the form of non-peer-reviewed material such as preprints, theses, lectures, reports, etc. publicly posted on institutional or community repositories, and not subject to any copyright protection); that it is not under consideration for publication, and will not be published, in any other refereed publication. When using work or written text of other authors, appropriate references must be given. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behaviour and is unacceptable. Use of Generative AI must be disclosed and explained.

### *Prohibition of multiple publication*

Simultaneous submission of manuscripts, essentially describing the same subject matter, to multiple journals is unacceptable. Re-submission of any published result is considered as self-plagiarism and will not be tolerated.

### *Open communication of support and competing interest*

All sources of (financial or material) support must be explicitly indicated in each paper. Possible conflicts of interest must be declared.

### *Compliance with ethical standards*

Studies submitted must have been conducted in accordance with the [Declaration of Helsinki](#) and according to requirements of all applicable local and international standards. Authors should disclose, when applies, information on the ethical approval of their study by the Institutional Review Board and the informed consent given by the participants of the study.

### *Authorship*

All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the content. Those who have contributed significantly to the research should be listed as co-authors. The corresponding author should list all co-authors with their email addresses in the electronic submission system and ensure that all co-authors have affirmed the final version of the paper and have agreed on its final publication. Changes in authorship after acceptance of a manuscript are not allowed, only in exceptional, well-grounded cases, supported with a declaration signed by all interested authors. Acknowledgements should be given to all of those who had contributed to the research but do not qualify for authorship.

### *Responsibility for corrections*

Should any mistake, inaccuracy, deficiency or research misconduct be discovered after publication, the author must promptly inform the journal. When the problem is realised by the author or any other party, the authors are expected to cooperate earnestly in correction or, when necessary, retraction of the paper.

### ***Duties of reviewers***

Reviewers are encouraged to follow the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)'s [COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers](#).

### ***Competing interests***

All possible competing or conflicting interests between authors and reviewers must be revealed to the Editors. These can be personal, financial, intellectual, professional, political or religious in nature. Fellow researchers currently employed at the same unit as any of the authors or who have been recent (e.g., within the past 3 years) mentors, mentees, close collaborators or joint grant holders should not be considered as reviewers.

### ***Confidentiality***

Reviewers must treat manuscripts under their review confidentially prior to publication.

### ***Professional responsibility***

Invitation to review should only be accepted if the recipient has the necessary expertise to assess the manuscript and can be unbiased in his/her assessment. Reviews must be unbiased by considerations related to the nationality, religious or political beliefs, gender or other characteristics of the authors, origins of a manuscript or by commercial considerations.

### ***Timeliness***

Reports should be prepared within the proposed or mutually agreed timeframe.

### ***Appropriate feedback***

Reviews should be objective and constructive, providing feedback that will help the authors to improve their manuscript. Critique should be specific and provide supporting evidence with appropriate references to substantiate general statements, to help Editors in their evaluation.

### ***Suspicion of ethics violations***

Suspecting any kind of ethical violation, reviewers should contact immediately the handling Editor or the Editor-in-Chief to conduct all necessary investigations.