Tourism and Rural Development Studies

Tourism and Rural Development Studies | Publication Ethics

ETHICAL GUIDELINES

The Tourism and Rural Development Studies is committed to publishing the results of quality research in accordance with the ethical expectations and norms of the professional-scientific community. The manuscripts received are published based on their significance, originality, the expectations of our readers and quality. Commercial or political gain does not influence the editorial decisions. This statement is based on the Code of Ethics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) which can be downloaded from the Publication Ethics menu of our journal. Adherence to the ethical rules of scientific research is a requirement for all participants in the publication process (editorial board, editors, reviewers, authors and publishers). In particular, the responsibilities of each stakeholder are the following:

THE TASK OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The members of the editorial board are renowned researchers in their respective fields. They are experts with scientific degrees and publishing in internationally recognized journals. Their role is primarily of an advisory nature, but at the same time they help during the review and publication process with their experience and expertise.

DUTIES OF THE EDITORS

Duties of the editor-in-chief

The editor-in-chief of the journal decides which of the submitted manuscripts that will be published. The editor-in-chief ensures that each manuscript is judged by at least two researchers with expertise in the given subject, based on double-blind peer review. The editor-in-chief decides on the timeframe for publishing the manuscripts, the content of the issues, and whether he or she supports or rejects them is in accordance with the applicable legislation and ethical standards.

Ensuring equal opportunities

The content of the received manuscripts is always evaluated based on the described scientific results and evaluated according to their fit within the profile of the journal, regardless of the authors' origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion or political views.

Source designation and plagiarism

Manuscripts are subject to plagiarism review by the editorial board before being submitted for review (using Turnitin for detecting similarity index). In doing so, the editors check whether the manuscripts have been published previously, and if so, the manuscript is rejected. By submitting the manuscript, authors agree that their paper may be subject to Turnitin.com's text similarity check for plagiarism detection. All submitted manuscripts are entered into the Turnitin.com reference database as a source document for the sole purpose of filtering possible plagiarism in them. The Turnitin.com service is subject to the "Usage Policy" posted on Turnitin.com.

Confidentiality

The editors do not pass on any information about the manuscript submitted for publication, except for the stakeholders involved in the publication process.

Disclosure and conflict of interests

The journal editors and members of the editorial board may not use the unpublished materials of the submitted manuscript for their own research without the written consent of the author. Information obtained during the review will be treated confidentially and may not be used for personal gain.

Participation and cooperation in the investigations of research misconduct

All reported irregularities will be investigated by a panel of members of the editorial board, chaired by the chairman of the editorial board, within 30 days. The editors are also involved in investigating ethical issues related to submitted or published research papers. Responses include contacting the author on ethical issues, but also communicating with concerned institutions as well as various scientific bodies. If the ethical concerns raised during the investigation are substantiated, a correction, revocation of publication, or other comments will appear in the journal.

Plagiarism and research misconduct

Authors, editors and reviewers should follow guidelines and standards developed by the *Committee on Publication Ethics* (COPE). The journal or its editors do not encourage any research misconduct, or knowingly allow misconduct. In the event that the publisher or editors are made aware of any allegation of research misconduct the publisher or editor shall deal with allegations appropriately, according to COPE.

The responses and sanctions of Tourism and Rural Development Studies to research misconduct:

1. The Editor-in-chief is responsible for investigating all alleged unethical practices or research misconduct. In case of an alleged unethical practice, the Editor-in-chief informs the authors of the manuscript, provides the necessary evidence and invites the authors to provide

explanation. A letter of explanation (and education) is written to the authors, where there appears to be a genuine misunderstanding of principles.

2. Concerns about unethical practices can be expressed by the Editor-in-chief, the Deputy Editor-in-Chief, the Editorial Board members, manuscript reviewers, authors, readers and other people who have encountered such practices.
3. If an unethical practice is identified during the review process, the review process is stopped until the case is clarified. The review process continues if the alleged unethical practice is not substantiated.
4. If an alleged unethical practice is substantiated for a manuscript that has not been yet sent for review, is currently under review or has been accepted but not published yet, the manuscript is rejected.
5. In case of a second substantiated unethical practice, the author receives a life-time ban for publication it the Tourism and Rural Development Studies.
6. The Tourism and Rural Development Studies adheres to the principles of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

DUTIES OF THE REVIEWERS

Contribution to editorial decisions

Peer review is an essential element of scientific communication that helps the editor-in-chief to make his or her decisions and can help raise the standard of communication through dialogue with the author.

The review process

To ensure quality, each submitted manuscript is evaluated by two professional reviewers. The review process is double anonymous (double blind peer review). Each manuscript is reviewed by two independent experts in the field, whose opinions are received by the authors. If there is significant disagreement among the reviewers making recommendations during the two first rounds of reviews, a third reviewer should also become involved in the process. The opinion may result in the following suggestions:

Publication of the manuscript:

- accepted (recommended for publication without amendment),
- proposed for revision (with revisions suggested by the editors, proposed for publication after revision),
- rejected (the publication does not meet the content requirements of the journal, so publication is not recommended)

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria for manuscripts to be published in the journal: compliance with formal requirements (presence of mandatory elements; adaptation to the topic of the journal; resource management) and scientific and professional value (consistency of the title with the content of the manuscript, consistency of the manuscript with the abstract and keywords, originality of the manuscript, the use of relevant sources, structure of the article, proportionality of chapters, overlaps between chapters, precise drafting of research objectives, a clear description of the research area and methods, the chosen methods, the adequacy of the presented data, the presentation of results, the validity of the conclusions, the need for and quality of illustrations and tables).

Confidentiality

The reviewers will keep the submitted manuscript confidential. No information will be shared about it, except with an authorized editorial staff member.

Objectivity

The assessment must be made objectively. Criticism of the author is not appropriate. The reviewers must clearly state their views and substantiate their arguments.

Disclosure and conflict of interests

The reviewers may not use the unpublished materials of the submitted manuscript for their own research without the written consent of the author. Information obtained during the review will be treated confidentially and may not be used for personal gain. The reviewers may not evaluate the given manuscript if they have a conflict of interest with the authors of the manuscript, or related companies or institutions arising from any competitive situation, cooperation or other relationship.

DUTIES OF THE AUTHOR(S)

Submission of the manuscript

By submitting the manuscript, the author warrants that this is his or her original work, which has not been published elsewhere or submitted to another scientific forum for publishing. All manuscripts must include support for the relevance and topicality of the research, the aims and methods of the research, the obtained results, and the accurate communication of the available data. The manuscript should provide new, unpublished information as well as enough detail and references to make the description reproducible. Critical writings (review, book review) must be accurate, unbiased and comparative. The inclusion of false or deliberately inaccurate statements constitutes unethical and unacceptable behaviour.

Originality and plagiarism

The author must guarantee that the manuscript is his or her own original intellectual creation or, if he or she has used the works and / or thoughts of others, he has quoted and professionally referred to them in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism and self-plagiarism are considered unethical behaviours and are therefore considered unacceptable by the Editorial Board of Tourism and Rural Development Studies. Based on the above, it is the responsibility of the author(s) to comply with copyright law. The use of any form of plagiarism results in the rejection of the manuscript.

Prohibition of multiple or simultaneous publication

Submitting the same manuscript to more than one place is an unethical and unacceptable practice. It is also not possible to submit a research paper that has already been published elsewhere. In special cases, based on individual assessment, the second publication of certain manuscripts may be undertaken by the journal – while respecting the copyright law. In all cases, the consent of the concerned author(s) and that of the forum, which first published the research paper is required, as well as the inclusion of the exact bibliographic details of the original publication in the second publication.

Authorship of the manuscript

Only individuals can be considered authors responsible for the content who:

- participated as a significant contributor to the creation of the manuscript, either in the planning or execution of the research or in the analysis of the data;
- participated in the preparation of the manuscript or contributed to its completion with significant intellectual content;
- participated in the creation and correction of the final draft. Any person who has not contributed to the creation of the manuscript to the extent described above (e.g. technical assistance, editorial assistance) may not be included as an author. However, their names may be included in the acknowledgements section of the article.

Artificial intelligence policy

Text or figures generated by AI cannot be used in papers submitted to Tourism and Rural Development Studies, without explicit permission from the editors. An AI program cannot be an author of a submitted paper. A violation of this policy constitutes serious scientific misconduct.

Human participants in research

For studies involving human subjects, authors must confirm that they have followed recognized standards such as the Declaration of Helsinki (can be downloaded from the Publication Ethics menu of our journal) in order to minimize possible adverse effects on research participants. Authors must

ensure that all participants in their studies have given their informed consent to the publication of results created by their contribution. Informed consent means voluntary consent to participate in a particular study, after all the concerned people have received meaningful information about the essence of their participation. They must also ensure that data collected from the participants does not contain information suitable for identification of concerned persons, and that data can not be assigned to persons participating in the study.

Authors must take into account the problems may arise during cooperation with vulnerable people with limited ability to assert their interests (disadvantaged people, prisoners, convicts, members of ethnic and religious minorities, etc.), and must ensure that they are protected against social risks associated with the study. Children participating in the research are entitled to special protection, therefore the authors must request parental or guardian consent for the inclusion of minors in the study before collecting data on them

Disclosure and conflict of interests

All authors must disclose any financial or other material conflict of interest that may have affected the results of the research or the interpretation of the manuscript. All targeted financial resources used in the research should be made public.

Basic errors in published articles

If an author believes there is a significant error or inaccuracy in the publication, he or she is obligated to report it immediately to the editors or the publisher of the journal, and to work with the editor-in-chief to revoke or correct the error.

OTHER INFORMATION

Publication costs

The journal does not charge any fees.

Open access

The content of Tourism and Rural Development Studies is freely accessible.

Pécs, 27 November 2025

Editorial Board of Tourism and Rural Development Studies