

## Instructions for authors

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# 1 About the journal

## 1.1. Aims and scope

The *European Journal of Health Studies* is the official journal of the Faculty of Health Studies at the University of Rijeka, Croatia. It publishes original articles on health-related topics that have not been previously published.


The journal is open to all medical and health professionals, as well as to authors who are not healthcare professionals, but whose article addresses topics related to health and healthcare issues. Regardless of what the author's citizenship might be, all received manuscripts will be given equal attention.

Manuscripts are accepted and published in standard Croatian or English. Authors are responsible for ensuring the linguistic correctness of their manuscripts.

The journal is published once a year.

## 1.2. Distribution

The journal is in diamond open access and charges no fee to either authors or readers.

The journal is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons  ([CC BY-NC 4.0 DEED](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)) license. This license enables reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format for non-commercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator.

## 1.3. Manuscript categorisation

The *European Journal of Health Studies* publishes articles in the following categories:

- Editorials
- Original scientific articles
- Review articles
- Case reports
- Preliminary communications
- Professional papers
- Other contributions (e.g., reports, book reviews, interviews, letters to the editor, in memoriam).

Acceptance of a categorised article obliges the author not to publish the same article elsewhere without the permission of the Editorial Board.

Upon receiving the manuscript, the Editor-in-Chief evaluates whether to forward it for peer review, return it to the author with suggestions for revision, or reject it outright.

#### **1.4. Review policy**

Original scientific articles, review articles, case reports, preliminary communications, and professional papers are subject to peer review by external reviewers. The review process takes, on average, one month.

The review is "double blind"- the authors do not know the identity of the reviewers, nor do the reviewers know the identity of the author(s). Authors are recommended to suggest several potential reviewers who are experts in the field to which the work relates. The Editor-in-Chief will independently decide whether to send the manuscript to the suggested reviewers or to other qualified experts.

It is possible for manuscripts to be accepted and published in a shorter form, provided there is prior agreement with the authors.

#### **1.5. Research and publication ethics**

The editorial board of the journal follows the ethical principles outlined by the Committee on Publication Ethics ([COPE](#)).

##### *1.5.1. Ethical approvals*

Authors of manuscripts involving human subjects must submit the approval of their institution's ethics committee (Institutional Review Board (IRB) or other appropriate committee). This approval and reference/permit numbers must be included in the Materials and Methods section.

##### *1.5.2. Authorship*

Designated authors should meet all four of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ([ICMJE](#)) criteria:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; and
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
- Final approval of the version to be published; and
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Persons who have only participated in data collection or are researchers' superiors but have not actively participated in the creation of the manuscript cannot be qualified as authors. The editor has the right to ask the author to define the contribution of each of them. The order in which authors are listed is determined by a collective agreement of the author group.

#### *1.5.3. Plagiarism and text recycling*

Manuscripts are checked for plagiarism ("appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit to the source or author"). Text recycling is allowed in the Materials and Methods section, whereas it is not approved in other sections.

#### *1.5.4. Correction and retraction*

If authors discover a significant error in their published paper, they must inform the Editor and actively participate in correcting or withdrawing the paper.

If a substantive error is discovered in an article, we will endeavour to correct the record as soon as possible, either by issuing a correction notice or by retracting the article. We follow the 2017 recommendation from *JAMA* on handling corrections (see: Christiansen S, Flanagan A. Correcting the Medical Literature: "To Err Is Human, to Correct Divine". *JAMA*. 2017;318(9):804–805. doi: 10.1001/jama.2017.11833).

#### *1.5.5. Competing interests*

Potential financial and non-financial competing interests must be declared in the manuscript.

#### *1.5.6. Artificial Intelligence*

The journal follows [EASE Recommendations on the Use of AI in Scholarly Communication](#).

### **1.6. Previously published manuscripts**

The journal accepts manuscripts that have been previously posted on preprint servers.

### **1.7. Data sharing statement**

Authors are encouraged to deposit their raw data in data repositories. For more information about storage methods and repositories use [How to Manage Research Data Textbook \(SRCE\)](#).

### **1.8. Funding**

Authors should declare the sources of funding for their work.

## 2 Manuscript submission

The manuscripts are submitted in electronic form (in Word format) via the [Open Journal System \(OJS\) platform](#).

Author guidelines are available on the [journal's website](#).

The authors are invited to contact the journal via e-mail ([ksenija.bazdaric@uniri.hr](mailto:ksenija.bazdaric@uniri.hr)) if any questions arise.

The material sent to the *European Journal of Health Studies* must contain:

- Cover Letter
- [EASE Interactive Checklist for Submitting Authors](#)
- Title Page
- Text, Figures, and Tables

A cover letter should contain:

- the name of the corresponding author,
- the names of all authors and their academic titles,
- a brief description of the research or any relevant information related to the paper that may be useful to the editor (2 to 3 sentences),
- the word count of the manuscript and the number of figures and tables,
- the author's opinion on the type of paper (e.g., original scientific paper, professional paper, case report),
- a brief explanation of why the authors believe that their paper would be of interest to the readers of *European Journal of Health Studies*,
- a statement with which authors confirm that the paper has not been previously published and is not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere,
- a statement confirming that all named authors have read and approved the manuscript,
- a statement with which the authors confirm that there are no ethical issues, i.e., that all necessary ethical approvals have been obtained, and that the research was conducted in accordance with ethical principles,
- a statement with which all authors declare that there are no known conflicts of interest.

### 3 Manuscript formatting

Submitted scientific manuscripts should be written in accordance with:

[“Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals”](http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/) by International Committee of Medical Journal Editors „ (ICMJE) (available on the website <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>) and follow ethical guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

For publication in the *European Journal of Health Studies*, the length of original scientific articles and review papers should be between 3000–6000 words. Preliminary communications and professional papers should be between 2000–4000 words, while other contributions should not exceed 1500 words. The specified word count refers only to the main text of the manuscript, including the list of references.

#### 3.1. Title page

The title page of the manuscript should appear on a separate page and include the following elements:

- a complete title of the paper
- a brief title (up to 50 characters)
- author name(s) and their affiliation(s) (department, institution, city, state)
- corresponding author's email address and full mailing address (department, institution, street and house number, postal code, city, and state)
- [ORCID iD\(s\)](#)

The affiliations should be indicated using superscripted numbers (e.g., <sup>1</sup>), and the corresponding author's name should be additionally marked with an asterisk (\*).

An example:

Pero Perić<sup>1\*</sup>, Marko Marković<sup>2</sup>

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#### 3.2. Text, figures, and tables

The text should be saved in Microsoft Word format (\*.docx) or Open Document format (\*.odt).

- Page size: A4
- Margins: 2.5 cm on all sides
- Font: Arial, Times New Roman, Calibri, 12 pt
- Line spacing: Double

- Page numbers: Bottom right-hand corner; number only the main text of the paper
- Figures and graphic elements are presented in grayscale mode, except in special cases approved by the editor. Acceptable image formats are: \*.jpg, \*.bmp or \*.tiff; the required resolution is 300 dpi. Images not owned by the author must include source attribution and be accompanied by permission from the copyright holder for publication in the *European Journal of Health Studies*.
- Authors' names and affiliations should not be included in the main body of the paper.

### 3.2.1. Abstract

The paper should begin with an abstract not exceeding 250 words. Abstracts of the original scientific papers must be structured and include the following sections: Aim, Materials and methods, Results, and Conclusions. For all other types of manuscripts, the abstract should not necessarily be structured. It is published in Croatian and English.

### 3.2.2. Keywords

Immediately after the abstract, include 3 to 6 keywords that are essential for the quick identification and classification of the paper. The main guidelines (MeSH, Medical Subject Headings) from the *Index Medicus*, available at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>, should be used as keywords.

*Original scientific papers must include the following chapters: Introduction, Materials and methods, Results, and Discussion.*

### 3.2.3. Introduction

The introduction is a brief and precise description of the research problem and its purpose. It must clearly state the research hypothesis and describe the primary and secondary objectives of the study. It should include previously published findings on the topic in the scientific literature and highlight how the present research contributes to a better understanding of the topic.

### 3.2.4. Materials and methods

The materials and methods presented in the paper must contain all relevant information necessary for the reader to replicate the described research. It should contain the information that was available at the time of research planning, while all other information obtained during the research should be presented in the *Results* section.

The *Materials and methods* section should be structured as follows:

- Respondents or Materials (depending on the type of research)
- Methods
- Statistical Evaluations

In the *Respondents or Materials* section, the following is stated:

- time and place of the research,
- type of research,
- inclusion and exclusion criteria,

- demographic data and data on medical history,
- ethical correctness of the conducted research.

The research methods and equipment used in the research are described in the *Methods* section.

In the *Statistical Evaluations* section, authors should state the statistical methods used while processing the collected data, name the statistical software package employed, and determine the level of statistical significance (P-value) of the results obtained.

### 3.2.5. Results

Results should be presented clearly and accurately, without interpretation or discussion. The most significant results of the research are presented first. Data shown in tables should not be repeated in the text. Graphs should be used instead of tables when presenting large datasets that would be difficult to present clearly in table form. The P-value should be reported to three decimal places (e.g.,  $P=0.036$ ).

### 3.2.6. Discussion

The discussion is a critical review of the data presented in the *Results* section, i.e., their interpretation. Interpretations should be supported by the results obtained and compared with those from previous studies, including both the author's own work and other relevant studies. Any statements that are not original must be properly cited using the Vancouver referencing style. The discussion should not repeat information already presented in the *Introduction* or *Results* section. This section should outline the limitations of the study.

The conclusion is a shorter paragraph that usually consists of 1-3 sentences summarising the main conclusions of the article.

### 3.2.7. Acknowledgments

The purpose of this section is to thank individuals who contributed to the research but are not listed as authors. It is suggested that the sources of research funding are acknowledged in this section.

## 3.3. Guidelines for referencing

The reference list includes all sources cited by the authors in their work. References are specified by ordinal number, according to the order they first appear in the manuscript (the first reference is number 1). Literature quotations cited in the text should be marked with numbers in round brackets. The Vancouver referencing style is used for the literature. Examples of correct literature citations are available at: [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html).

The abbreviations listed in the NLM Catalogue should be used when citing journal titles (available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals>).



**Examples of literature citation:**

- a) Journal article  
Golubić D, Rapić D, Breitenfeld V. Neka klinička, dijagnostička i terapijska zapažanja o humanoj trihinelozu. Liječ Vjesn 1985;107:11-4.  
(If there are more than 6 authors, only the first 6 are listed, followed by et al.)
- b) Joint author  
The Royal Marsden Hospital bone-marrow transplantation team. Failure of syngeneic bone-marrow graft without preconditioning in post-hepatitis marrow aplasia. Lancet 1977;2:242-4.
- c) No author  
Coffee drinking and cancer of the pancreas (editorial). Br Med J 1981;283:628.
- d) Supplement of the journal  
Djelmiš J, Ivanišević M, Mrzljak A. Sadržaj lipida u placenti trudnica oboljelih od dijabetesa. Acta Med Croat 2001;55 (Suppl. 1): 47-9.
- e) Books and monographs  
Mold RF. Introductory medical statistics. Turbridge Wells: Pitman Medical, 1976.  
Guluyer Ay, ed. Health indicators. An international study for the European Science Foundation. Oxford: M. Roberts, 1983.
- f) Chapter in a book  
Weinstein L, Swartz MN. Pathogenic properties of invading microorganisms. In: Sodeman WA, ed. Pathologic physiology: mechanism of disease. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 1974, pp. 457-72.
- g) Dissertation or master's thesis  
Šklempe Kokić, Iva. The impact of structured aerobic and resistance exercise on the course and outcome of gestational diabetes mellitus (doctoral thesis). Izola: University of Primorska Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies; 2016, p. 146.
- h) Web references  
Hofman DL. St. John, s Wort. 1995; Available at the URL:  
<http://www.healthy.net/library/books/hoffman/materiamedica1/stjhns.htm>. Date of access July 16, 1998.