General instructions

Papers may be written in either English or Croatian. Papers written in Croatian must include an English-language abstract. For authors whose first language is not Croatian, the editorial board assumes responsibility for proofreading and language editing. Authors submitting papers in English are responsible for arranging their own proofreading and language editing.

Instructions for submission

Final abstracts and papers must comply with the following instructions:

Abstracts must be prepared according to the following instructions:

- Papers written in English require an abstract in English only; papers written in Croatian require abstracts in both English and Croatian.
- Abstract title: Times New Roman, 14 pt, bold, centered, with 12 pt spacing below.
- Authors and affiliations: Times New Roman, 12 pt, centered, in the format *First name Last name, Institution, City, Country, email@example.com*.
- The abstract should contain 250–300 words in a single paragraph, followed by 3–6 keywords separated by commas, italic style for key words.
- Use Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.15 line spacing, justified alignment, normal 2.5 cm margins, and no first-line indentation.
- The abstract should address the aims of the paper, methodology, and results.

Final papers must comply with the following instructions:

- The complete submission, including the abstract, bibliography, references, tables, and figures, must contain between 5,000 and 7,000 words.
- Document settings: Submit the paper in Microsoft Word for Windows, A4 format, with 2.5 cm margins on all sides. Use Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.15 line spacing, justified alignment, 1.25 cm first-line indentation, and 0 pt spacing before and after paragraphs.
- Paper title: Times New Roman, 14 pt, bold, centered, with 12 pt spacing below.
- Authors and affiliations: Times New Roman, 12 pt, centered, in the format *First name Last name, Institution, City, Country, email@example.com*.
- Main text: Number section headings with Arabic numerals (for example, 1. Introduction) and format them in Times New Roman, 12 pt, bold, with 6 pt spacing before and after. Format the body text in Times New Roman, 12 pt, with 1.15 line spacing, justified alignment, and 1.25 cm first-line indentation.
- *Example of numbered sections and subsections:*

  1. Introduction

  2. Literature Review

  2.1. Theoretical Background

  2.2. Previous Research

3. Methodology

3.1. Sample and Data Collection

3.2. Data Analysis

4. Results

5. Discussion

6. Conclusion

- Tables: Place the title above the table in the format *Table 1. Table title*, using Times New Roman, 12 pt, bold. Use Times New Roman, 12 pt, and 1.0 or 1.15 line spacing within tables. If applicable, place the source below the table in Times New Roman, 11 pt, italic.

- Example of table presentation:
  Table 1. *Table title*
  Table content: Times New Roman, 10 pt, with 1.0 or 1.15 line spacing.
  Source options:
  Source: Authors' elaboration.
  Source: Author's elaboration based on [Author, year].
  Source: Adapted from [Author, year, p. xx].
  Source: Reproduced from [Author, year, p. xx].
  Source: [Institution/Database], [year].
  Source: Authors' calculations based on data from [Institution/Database], [year].
  Note: Add explanatory notes below the source, if applicable.

- Equations—mathematical expressions must be set in Times New Roman, 11 pt, italic. They must be numbered with Arabic numerals in parentheses, e.g., (1), aligned to the right on the same line as the equation.

- Figures and graphical representations: Center each figure or graphical representation. Place the title above it in the format *Figure 1. Figure title*, using Times New Roman, 12 pt, bold. If applicable, place the source and notes below it in Times New Roman, 11 pt, italic. For figures use PNG or JPG format with a recommended resolution of 300 dpi.

- Referring to tables, figures and graphical representations in the text: Refer to every table, figure or graphical representation in the main text by its number and discuss the key information the reader should notice. Number tables consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned. Use specific references such as *"As shown in Table 1"* or *"The results are presented in Table 2"*; do not use positional expressions such as *"the table above"* or *"the table below."* Capitalize *Table* when it is followed by a number.

- Citation: Footnotes should be used exclusively for supplementary explanations that are relevant to, but not essential to, the main text. All sources must be cited in the main text. The origin of findings derived from research projects, doctoral dissertations, conference presentations, or comparable work must also be clearly acknowledged.
- References: References to all cited papers and source materials must be included parenthetically in the main text and formatted in accordance with the APA 7th edition

guidelines. The reference list must use Times New Roman, 12 pt, single line spacing, justified alignment, and a 1.25 cm hanging indent, following the conference-required APA 7th edition style.

- If the submitted paper is the result of a research project, detailed information about the project must be provided in a footnote at the beginning of the paper. If the paper is the result of a funded project, the authors are required to acknowledge the funding source in accordance with the funding agreement.

- Statement on authorship and originality of the paper: Authors should also submit a signed **Statement on authorship and originality of the paper** (word doc) by March 25th, 2027 to conference email

Peer Review Process

- Each submitted paper will undergo a double-blind peer review by two independent reviewers. The identities of both the authors and the reviewers will remain confidential throughout the review process.
- At least one of the two reviewers must be affiliated with an institution outside the authors' country.

Similarity and Originality Screening

- All submitted papers will be screened using Turnitin software to identify textual similarity and potential instances of plagiarism or other inappropriate use of source material. The editorial board will review the similarity report and may request revisions or take other appropriate action before the paper proceeds to peer review or publication.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

- AI tools may assist manuscript preparation but must not replace authors' scholarly judgement or accountability. Authors remain responsible for all content and must disclose the tool used and its purpose. AI tools may not be credited as authors. Upon submission, authors must declare any AI use and accept full responsibility for the manuscript.

Conference Proceedings

- Accepted papers will be published in conference proceedings with an ISSN number. Only papers that will be presented at the Conference will be published.
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- Authors can deposit the final published version of their paper (publisher's PDF) in institutional and/or subject repositories, with proper acknowledgement of the original publication and in accordance with the Creative Commons BY-NC-ND licence available at: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/legalcode.

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