

*Authors are kindly requested
to read carefully the Guidelines
amended with detailed methodological instructions*

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

Zbornik radova Ekonomskog fakulteta u Rijeci: časopis za ekonomsku teoriju i praksu/Proceedings of Rijeka Faculty of Economics: Journal of Economics and Business is an international peer reviewed journal open to scientists from all over the world in different fields of economic theory, economic policy and related research. As a rule, papers are published in English. However, the Journal may publish articles in other world languages.

Editorial procedure

The Editorial Board receives all manuscripts. After reviewing and accepting the manuscripts, Editor-in-Chief subjects them to the members of the Editorial Board for the assessment process, and in case of the specific content of the text, to external experts as well. After evaluation, Editor-in-Chief proposes Editorial decisions for further action including: (a) which manuscript, if necessary, should be returned to the author with suggestions, comments and recommendations for improvement, primarily methodological presentation of research materials, (b) which manuscripts could be sent to peer-review process, (c) which manuscripts should be rejected because of the reasons as follows:

- the subject matter does not meet the required scientific level,
- the article with a similar topic has already been published by the same author,
- the subject matter does not meet the criteria of the Journal, especially if:
 - the content is beyond the concept of scientific publishing orientation of the Journal (distinguished by the relevant databases), and
 - does not meet international scientific and methodological standards that the Journal must comply with.

If an article is not accepted, the Editorial Board sends a notification to the author, but the manuscript is not returned.

If the manuscript is improved adequately, it is sent to two reviewers for extramural review.

If the manuscript is considered for publishing, the author will receive the Authorship Statement (*Copyright Assignment Form*), which should be filled in, signed and returned to the editor. In this way the authors confirm the originality of the article and validity of authorship.

In order to avoid withdrawing the paper until it is published or rejected, by signing the Authorship Statement, the authors assert compliance with the review process.

Book reviews, reviews on doctoral dissertations, as well as reviews on international conferences and seminars are not submitted to extramural reviews. They are accepted

or rejected by the Editor and co-editors.

Review process

All scientific articles submitted for publication in *Zbornik radova Ekonomskog fakulteta u Rijeci: časopis za ekonomsku teoriju i praksu/Proceedings of Rijeka Faculty of Economics: Journal of Economics and Business* are double-blind peer review by two academics appointed by the Editorial board: one from Croatia and one from abroad. Reviewers stay anonymous for the authors and so do the authors for the reviewers. The reviewers are asked to apply highest international standards in their assessment of the submitted work. Reviewers receive an article and a *Reviewer Evaluation Form* with instructions how to fill it in. If the article does not fulfill the primary criteria of originality and relevance to the subject, it should not be accepted.

The categories in which articles, if judged positively, might be classified are:

Original scientific paper is a scientific paper that includes new results based on the research. The information given in the article can be verified by:

- a) reproducing methodological procedure and obtain the same/similar results or with tolerable degree of mistakes as estimated by the author himself, or
- b) repeating the author's observations and judge his analyses, or
- c) checking the author's analyses and deduction on which the author's analyses are based.

Preliminary communication is an article that includes at least one or more pieces of scientific information, but does not include the necessary details to check the scientific cognition.

Conference paper is an article that deals with the author's presentation at a conference, and has not been previously published as a full text.

Review article is an article that analyses a special scientific problem already dealt with in published scientific works, but his approach is original and new.

Professional paper is an article that deals with specific problems in some professional areas.

After receiving the reviews, the Editorial Board will give clear general instructions to the author for further work on the manuscript. The comments and suggestions made by the reviewers should be addressed and closely followed by the author prior to final recommendation on acceptance or rejection made by the Editorial Board.

Only manuscripts with two positive reviews are published.

After completion of peer review and amendment of the text of the accepted articles by the authors and editors, Editor-in-Chief, proposes the sequence of accepted papers in the table of contents.

Criteria for the order are:

- (1) categorization according to the degree of scientific excellence,
- (2) in case of two different levels of categorization of a particular article by reviewers, Editor-in-Chief proposes a decision to the Editorial Board, and as a

rule, in favour of the author, i.e. a higher category,

- (3) appreciation of topical issues, authors and common interest of the Journal taking into account the competitiveness at the same level of scientific excellence (category).

To increase the quality and number of papers published, the Editorial Board strives to fasten the publishing process by informing the authors on the status of their articles within ten working days of the submission. Provisional deadline for finishing the reviewing process, technical revisions, and online publication of the paper shall last no longer than two months. Moreover, as of 2018, the forthcoming articles, included within the regular biannual issues, are initially published on our Journal's website.

Besides the traditional focus on empirical papers, the Journal invites authors to submit theoretical papers which should cover the gap of lack of more fundamental research and meta-analysis of literature aiming at providing the basis for more sound empirical research as well as advancements of new ideas and insights in economic theory and practice. We particularly welcome papers which are theoretically well-based (but for most people understandable) papers with clear policy- and future-oriented analysis/messages/recommendations; research focusing on the interdependence of various, particularly current, economic developments; studies focusing on the transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary character of economic analyses (technical, legal, social, economic and other fields).

The journal draws methodology for theoretical papers from the Journal of Economic Perspectives (<https://www.aeaweb.org/journals/jep>), with similar goals: to synthesize and integrate lessons learned from the most relevant fields and dilemmas of contemporary economic theory and practice; to provide the economic analysis of public policy issues; to encourage cross-fertilization of ideas among the scientific areas of thinking; to offer readers an accessible source for state-of-the-art economic thoughts and to suggest directions for future research. The focus of theoretical articles should be on understanding the central economic ideas of a question, what is fundamentally at issue, why the question particularly important, what the latest advances are, and what facets remain to be examined.

In case of submission of theoretical paper instead of section *Empirical data and analysis*, authors should include the one on *Theoretical/conceptual analysis*, where the authors should provide argumentation based on their proposed methodology/concept of research. In this section, authors should provide a novel analysis of the field/topic, provide theoretical argumentation, which proves their hypothesis by using different available tools such as mathematical, graphical, or any other that present and reveal economic relationships in regards to the specific scientific area.

Organization of the manuscript

The manuscript should include the research aim and tasks, with detailed methodology, the research objective, achieved results and findings, conclusions and a list of references.

The authors of the manuscript should conform to the format and documentation requirements that are given below:

The separate page should contain: the article title, the author's full name, academic affiliation (title, institution, scientific field) and e-mail address. If there are more authors than one, full names, respective affiliations and addresses of co-authors should be clearly stated. Authors' academic affiliation should be:

- in the language of the article,
- in Croatian language,
- in English if the original language of the article is other than English.

The first page should contain: the article title, abstract, JEL classification and key words in the language of the article. At the end of the article all data should be also:

- in Croatian language,
- in English if the original language of the article is other than English.

Main body of the text should contain: introduction, headings, footnotes, references in the text, tables, figures, conclusions and references.

Technical requirements

The manuscript submitted for publication should be in Microsoft Office Word (Ver. 95+), with maximum length up to **8,000** words in length (16-20 A4 size pages), printed in font style Times New Roman (12 point), single-spaced, justified and without any special styling. Should a word, a phrase or a sentence be highlighted, italic font style can be used and never bold. Paragraphs are divided by double spacing and all margins are at 2.5 cm. In case the paper exceeds the normal length, the Editors' consent for its publication is needed.

JEL classification should be suggested by the authors themselves according to the classification available on the Journal of Economic Literature website: http://www.aeaweb.org/journal/jel_class_system.html.

Footnotes could be used only as an additional explanatory section of the text and should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals.

Section headings (from Introduction to Conclusions) must be short, clearly defined and bear Arabic numerals. If there are subsection headings they are outline numbered (e.g. 1; 1.1.; 2.; 2.1.; 2.1.1. etc.)

All *tables and figures* should bear Arabic numerals and must have captions. Tables set in MS Word may be included in the text.

Note: If MS Excel or other programs are used for tables, figures or illustrations, make sure to enclose them as a separate file on disk, separately from the text.

Before submission of the manuscript, the authors of the manuscript are advised to conform to the format and documentation requirements.

Text organization and style

Authors should apply scientific methodology in presenting the contents of their papers complying with the standards of scientific publications ("Harvard style"). This implies the procedure as follows:

(1) Title and the content of the paper:

The title is the most important summary of a scientific article, which reflects the scope of investigation and the type of study. Therefore, the title should not contain words such as “analysis”, “methods” and similar.

The content of the paper consists of:

- *Abstract* – below the title
- *Key words*
- *JEL classification*.

It is followed by the main body of the paper divided into sections. The section headings are as follows:

- *Introduction*
- *Literature review*
- *Methodology/method/model/conception of analysis* (the third section)
- *Empirical data (documentation background) and analysis* (the fourth section)
- *Results and discussion* (the fifth section)
- *Conclusions* (the sixth section).

(2) The content of some parts of the material presented:

a. Abstract – up to 100-250 words must contain:

- purpose and research objective,
- methodology/method/model/conception of analysis,
- main findings and results of research (analysis),
- the underlined conclusion of research.

The abstract should not be written in paragraphs!

b. Key words should disclose the essence of the article (up to 5 key words).

c. JEL classification – the author should classify the subject matter of the article according to the code of The Journal of Economic Literature (JEL).

d. Introduction – defines the problem and the subject matter of the research referring to recent bibliography and findings. However, these can more specifically be dealt with in the second section *Literature review*. The last part of the introduction is reserved for setting the hypothesis of the research that will be later on analyzed at the beginning of the conclusions. Finally, Introduction ends up by giving clues of the organization of the text.

e. Literature review – precedes a research section providing readers with a cutting-edge context of the referential literature dealing with crucial points of current knowledge based on the relevant results of the current research. Literature review should be a synthesis of previous research, justifying the theoretical and empirical contributions of the respective paper, a not a simple listing of previous scientific contributions.

f. Methodology/method/model/conception of analysis – usually in the third section of the paper, methodology/method/model/conception of the analysis

should be transparently presented and pointed out in case of the research results being subjected to re-testing by interested researchers (it is one of the fundamental principles of the scientific methodology).

- g. Empirical data and analysis** – contain documentation background and the results of the empirical analysis. The data sample shall be elaborated and the obtained results shall be explained based on statistical and econometric features, and their economic meaning.
- h. Results and discussion** – explain the results, especially their economic significance and messages. In this section, the author(s) need to elaborate how their results and conclusions contribute to the scientific field and provide practical implications and recommendations.
- i. Conclusions** – is not supposed to be a summary! Conclusions are the author's original thoughts and evaluation of the obtained results including the items as follows:
 - j.** Explanation of the working hypothesis – proved or not proved.
 - k.** Assessment of the results of research/analysis with the focus on what can be classified as a new contribution to economic science.
 - l.** Attention drawn to research limitations and problems.
 - m.** Guidelines to future research.
 - n.** Assessment of institutional-systemic implications of the results obtained by the research (suggestions and recommendations for direction or changes of economic system, economic and financial policy, development policy, instruments, measurements or similar).

It is recommended not to write conclusion in paragraphs.

(3) References should include only the titles (sources) that have been referred to and quoted in the paper.

TABLES should be included in the text in order to present the exact values of the data that cannot be summarized in a few sentences in the text. Each column heading for numerical data should include the unit of measurement applied to all data under the heading. Large numbers can be expressed in smaller units with appropriate column headings (in thousands, millions, etc), and logical presentation of data using table grid option in MS Word for table lines (both vertical and horizontal). Each table should be self-explanatory, bearing Arabic numerals (e.g. Table 1, Table 2, etc.) with an adequate title (clearly suggesting the contents) and the source of the data should be stated below the table, if other than author's.

FIGURES (GRAPHS, DIAGRAMS, ILLUSTRATIONS) should also be included in the text. They should be numbered in sequence with Arabic numerals, followed by the figure title, and the legend to the figure that contains all the necessary explanations of symbols and findings. The source of the data presented in the figure should be stated below the figure if other than author's.

Note. The text should not simply repeat the data contained in tables and figures, i.e. the text and the data in tables and figures should be related in the text by means of reference marks.

REFERENCES. The journal uses **APA style (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th edition)** to format references in the text and bibliography. In the reference list, the author should provide full references for all the works mentioned in the text. The reference list should contain **only** those sources that are cited in the text. Sources should be listed **alphabetically** by the surname of the first author, and **chronologically** if a particular author has more than one work. If a work was written by several authors, **all authors** should be listed instead of using “et al.”

All references in the text should be cited **as originally given**, i.e., forms such as “*Ibid.*”, “*Op. cit.*”, and the like are **not used**. Sources should be cited **in the text**, not in footnotes. If there are multiple works by the same author published in the same year, “**a, b, c**” should be added after the year. The in-text citation should be placed in parentheses, containing the author’s surname and the year of publication.

Citation formatting should follow APA style (7th edition), as demonstrated in the following examples:

Article in a journal

Author Surname, Initials. & Surname, Initials. (Year). Title of the article. *Title of the journal in italics*, Volume number (Issue number), Page range (If the journal article has an article number instead of a page range, include the word “Article” and then the article number instead of the page range.). DOI

See example:

Brmalj, N., Olgić Draženović, B., & Bogdan, S. (2025). Unlocking the pension fund performance: A systematic literature review approach. *Zbornik radova Ekonomskog Fakulteta u Rijeci – Proceedings of Rijeka Faculty of Economics*, 43(1), 33–62. <https://doi.org/10.18045/zbefri.2025.1.8>

Paranthetical citation: (Brmalj et al., 2025)

Narrative citation: Brmalj et al. (2025)

Hoepner, A. G. F., & Schopohl, L. (2020). State pension funds and corporate social responsibility: Do beneficiaries’ political values influence funds’ investment decisions? *Journal of Business Ethics*, 165(3), 489–516. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-018-4091-z>

Paranthetical citation: (Hoepner & Schopohl, 2000)

Narrative citation: Hoepner and Schopohl (2020)

Book

Author Surname, Initials. (Year). *Title of the book in italics*. Publisher of the book. (If the book includes a DOI, include the DOI in the reference after the publisher name.)

See example:

Rupčić, N. (2024). *Managing learning enterprises: Challenges, controversies and opportunities* (Vol. 14). Springer Nature Switzerland. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-57704-8>

Paranthesical citation: (Rupčić, 2024)

Narrative citation: Rupčić (2024)

Published conference paper:

Author Surname, Initials., Author Surname, Initials. & Author Surname, Initials. (Year). Title of paper. In Editor Initials. Editor Surname, Editor Initials. Editor Surname, & Editor Initials. Editor Surname (Eds.), *Title of published proceedings in italics (Page range)*. Publisher. (If the paper includes a DOI, include the DOI in the reference after the publisher name.)

See examples:

Matić, R., Šegota, A., & Blažić Pečarić, H. (2025). Is Primorje-Gorski Kotar County efficient in fiscal terms? In S. Drezgić, V. Buterin, N. Dukić Samaržija, A. Arbula Blecich, & B. Fajdetic (Eds.), *Artificial intelligence and productivity: Challenges and opportunities* (pp. 48–69). University of Rijeka, Faculty of Economics and Business.

Ntoyanto-Tyatyantsi, N., & Amadi-Echendu, A. (2025). Circular economy technology management practices in agri-value chains using the natural resource-based view. In R. Zimmermann, J. C. Rodrigues, A. Simoes, & G. Dalmarco (Eds.), *Human-centred technology management for a sustainable future* (pp. 1–11). Springer Nature Switzerland. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-72494-7_1

Additional examples and reference types can be found at:
<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples>

Editors recommend that references be prepared using a bibliography software package, e.g., the free, quick-reference tool **ZoteroBib** (<https://zib.org/>).

Other important notes

If the author of the manuscript does not conform to the primary format and documentation requirements that are given in the instructions, editors reserve the right to reject the article, or adapt it to comply with the Journal standards, providing other acceptance criteria are fulfilled.

Therefore, avoid complex formatting; the text will be styled according to the Journal design specifications.

The editorial board makes the final decision on acceptance criteria and priority order in the table of contents.

The authors receive one copy of the journal in which their articles are published.

The author(s) should register via (<https://orcid.org/signin>) in order to obtain an ORCID identifier. The ORCID identifier is a researcher's unique and permanent identifier which allows for better visibility and interoperability of wide range of information systems.

Publisher does not charge “submission fee”. If the paper is accepted for publication, the author receives notification on paying publishing fee (500 EUR for paper submitted from March 10, 2026, 350 EUR for papers submitted before the specified date) and should pay it prior to the publication of the paper. The author is obliged to cover bank charges.

Proofreading

Authors are responsible for ensuring that their manuscripts are accurately typed before final submission. One set of proof will be sent to authors, if requested, before the final publication, which must be returned promptly. At this stage, only misprints will be corrected.

Copyright

An article submitted to the journal should be authentic and original contribution of the author and should have neither been published before nor be concurrently submitted to any other journal as to avoid double publication.

Once the article has been accepted for publishing, the author commits him/herself not to publish the same article elsewhere without the Editorial Board's permission. In the event that the Editorial Board gave permission for publication in another journal, it should be stated that the article has previously been published in the journal *Zbornik radova Ekonomskog fakulteta u Rijeci: časopis za ekonomsku teoriju i praksu/ Proceedings of Rijeka Faculty of Economics: Journal of Economics and Business*.

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Authors submitting articles for publication warrant that their paper is not an infringement of any existing copyright and will indemnify the publisher against any breach of such warranty. For ease of dissemination of scientific contributions and to ensure ethical principles of use, once accepted for publishing, papers and contributions become the legal copyright of the publisher unless otherwise agreed.

Submission of the manuscript

Papers are submitted through the ScholarOne platform. The manuscript should be uploaded to the platform in such a way that they are not visible in the main document (the text of the paper) and it is not possible to identify the authors, that is, the paper must be prepared for a blind review by independent reviewers. Title page to be submitted with the manuscript should contain: the article title, the author's full name, academic affiliation (title, institution, scientific field), phone, fax, e-mail address and personal website. If there are more authors than one, full names, respective affiliations and addresses of co-authors should be clearly stated. Authors' academic affiliation should be:

- in the language of the article,
- in Croatian language,
- in English if the original language of the article is other than English.

The URL address for article submission is: **<https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/efriproceedings>** where authors must first register and create their user profile by following the instructions from the ScholarOne platform. More detailed information on the *Zbornik radova Ekonomskog fakulteta u Rijeci: časopis za ekonomsku teoriju i praksu/Proceedings of Rijeka Faculty of Economics: Journal of Economics and Business* can be obtained on the website of the Faculty of Economics University of Rijeka: **http://www.efri.uniri.hr/en/proceedings_of_rijeka/51**.

EDITORIAL BOARD