



## Editorial Policy for **ROMANIAN JOURNAL OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

ROMANIAN JOURNAL OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE (RJTI) is a peer-reviewed journal focused on the publication of works in area of transport infrastructure engineering. The journal's scope covers diverse transport infrastructure fields, including:

- Roads, bridge, railways research and design;
- Road construction materials and technologies,
- Railway construction materials and technologies,
- Bridge construction materials and technologies,
- Road, railway and bridge repair,
- Road, railway and bridge maintenance,
- Road traffic safety,
- Environmentally-friendly pavements and materials
- Quality management and assurance,
- Asset management,
- Modeling and behaviors of pavements
- Resilient infrastructures
- Functional pavements and materials
- New sensing methods, machine learning
- Infrastructure transportation construction financing,
- Intelligent constructions
- Smart materials and smart cities
- Airfields pavements
- Geotechnics
- Transportation policies, planning and practice

## **GENERAL SUBMISSION RULES**

To be considered for publication in RJTI, any given manuscript must satisfy the following criteria:

- contain original work;
- focused on the aims and scope of the journal;
- clearly and correctly written;
- written in English.
- delivered in an electronic format

## **Formats**

RJTI considers submissions of manuscripts as the following formats:

- Research Articles
- Communications
- Reviews

RJTI will not publish the following formats: commercial, patent and product news, perspectives, book reviews, meeting notices. Please see **Publication formats** for details.

## **Formatting Requirements**

Our contributors are asked to make sure their submissions comply with rules governing the formatting. Although RJTI can provide limited technical support, it is ultimately the responsibility of the author to deliver a properly formatted electronic version of the article. Please carefully follow the guidelines described in **Instructions for Authors**.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE EDITORIAL PROCESS**

The whole peer-review workflow is performed in the RJTI Editor-in-Chief.

### ***Submission***

Each manuscript should be accompanied by a cover letter which should explicitly state that the authors have the authority to publish the work and that the manuscript (or one with substantially the same content, by any of the authors) has not been previously published in any language anywhere and that it is not under simultaneous consideration by another journal. All authors of the manuscript are responsible for its content; they must have agreed to its publication and have given the corresponding author the authority to act on their behalf in all matters pertaining to publication. The corresponding author is responsible for informing the coauthors of the manuscript status throughout the submission, review, and production process.

### ***Peer-review process***

The Executive Editor initially assesses the appropriateness of each submitted manuscript for publication. Manuscripts which fall outside the journal's scope or are substandard in respects of non-merit reasons (presentation, style, technical aspects) may be declined without a review. The Executive Editor appoints an Editor with expertise in the relevant field, who is fully responsible for further handling the manuscript and an ultimate decision about its acceptance/rejection.

The Editor initially evaluates the quality and potential impact of the work. The primary criteria for judging the acceptability of a manuscript are its originality, scientific importance and interest to a general audience. This policy permits declination of a manuscript solely on the Editor's judgment that the studies reported are not sufficiently novel or important to merit publication in the RJTI. Manuscripts deemed unsuitable (work incomplete, inconclusive, merely confirmatory, of insufficient originality or limited interest to a general audience, with scientific or methodological flaws) are returned to the author(s) without a detailed review. Manuscripts that meet editorial criteria for content and minimum quality standard are rigorously vetted by Editor.

Research articles and communications are reviewed by a minimum of two reviewers. Authors are encouraged to suggest names of potential referees though there is no

agreement that the manuscript should necessarily be sent to them; the final selection of reviewers remains a prerogative of the Editors. Editors and reviewers are requested to treat all submitted manuscripts in strict confidence. The process is single-blind, meaning that the author does not know the identity of the reviewer, but the reviewer knows the identity of the author. The reviewers make an objective, impartial evaluation of scientific merits of the manuscript. At least two review reports are collected for each submitted article. Reviewers operate under guidelines set forth in Guidelines for reviewers and are asked to comment on the following aspects of submitted manuscripts:

- novelty and originality of the work;
- broad interest to the community of researchers;
- significance to the field, potential impact of the work, conceptual or methodological
- advances described;
- study design and clarity;
- substantial evidence supporting claims and conclusions;
- rigorous methodology

If a manuscript is believed to not meet the standards of the journal or is otherwise lacking in scientific rigor or contains major deficiencies, the reviewers will attempt to provide constructive criticism to assist the authors in ultimately improving their work. If a manuscript is believed to be potentially acceptable for publication but needs to be improved, it is invited for reconsideration with the expectation that the authors will fully address the reviewer's suggestions.

Once all reviews have been received and considered by the Editor, a decision letter to the author is drafted. There are several types of decisions possible:

- Accept without revision
- Minor revision
- Major revision
- Reject

### ***Resubmission***

Manuscripts not invited for resubmission will not be reconsidered. When revision of a manuscript is requested, authors must deliver the modified version within 60 days; additional time for resubmission must be requested in advance. When needed, further 14 days are given to authors. If these deadlines are not met, the manuscript will be treated as a new submission. Resubmitted manuscripts with major revisions may be sent for re-review before making a final decision. Authors who are asked to submit a revised version of their manuscript, should also provide a cover letter describing in detail how they have followed all suggestions for its improvement and addressing all points of concern raised by the referees.

Final decision is made by the Editor, and in any cases of conflict, by the Editor-in-Chief.

### ***DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS AND DATA***

A condition of publication in the RJTI is that authors are requested to make materials, data and associated protocols available to readers on request. Newly reported data should be deposited in the appropriate freely accessible database and should be accessible without restriction from the date of publication. Any supporting data sets for which there is no public repository must be made available on and after the publication date from the authors directly, the author providing a URL to be used in the paper on publication. See ***Instructions for Authors*** for further details.

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See ***Instructions for Authors*** for further details.

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

In order to encourage transparency without impeding publication, all authors, referees and editors must declare any association that poses a conflict of interest in connection with the manuscript. There should be no contractual relations or proprietary considerations that would affect the publication of information contained in a submitted manuscript. A competing interest for a scholarly journal is anything that interferes with, or could reasonably be perceived as interfering with, the full and objective presentation, review, or publication of research findings, or of articles that comment on or review research findings. Potential conflicts of interest exist when an author, editor or reviewer has financial, personal or professional interests in a publication that might influence their scientific judgment.

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### **ONLINE PUBLICATION**

Manuscripts ready for publication are promptly posted online. The manuscripts are considered to be ready for publication when the final proofreading has been performed by authors, and all concerns have been resolved. Authors should note that articles published online are complete and final and thus no changes can be made after online publication.

## ***ERRATA***

No changes can be made to articles after their online publication. If a published manuscript contains a significant error, the journal will publish an amendment or retraction note at the earliest possible date. All amendments should be as concise as possible, containing only material strictly relevant to the contribution being corrected. Readers wishing to draw the journal's attention to a significant published error should submit their comments as a "Letter to the Editor". Such letters will be carefully reviewed by unrelated and neutral referees.

Our policy is to allow the amendment, in the form of Errata, of the errors introduced during the production stage (for which the journal takes responsibility) and the errors introduced by authors (for which they take responsibility). Errata are generally not published for errors that do not significantly compromise the scientific accuracy or reproducibility of the original paper. The addition of new data is not permitted. Appropriateness of corrections will be judged by the Editor. All coauthors will be asked to agree to publication of errata.

**Retraction Notes** (see below) are reserved for major errors in published material. Articles may be retracted by their authors, academic or institutional sponsor, editor or publisher, because of pervasive error or unsubstantiated or irreproducible data. Retractions are judged according to whether the main conclusion of the paper is seriously undermined as a result.

## ***SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT AND OTHER FRAUD***

Scientific misconduct is defined by the Office of Research Integrity as "fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the academic community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research". In cases where there is a suspicion or allegation of scientific misconduct or fraudulent research in manuscripts submitted or published, the Editors reserve the right to impose sanctions on the authors, such as:

- an immediate rejection of the manuscript;

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- banning author(s) from submitting manuscripts to the journal for a certain period of time;
- retracting the manuscript;
- alerting editors of other journals and publishers;
- bringing the concerns to the authors' sponsoring or funding institution or other appropriate authority for investigation.

RJTI publishes only original manuscripts that are not also published or going to be published elsewhere (except for CAR conference). Multiple submissions/publications, or redundant publications (re-packaging in different words of data already published by the same authors) will be rejected. If they are detected only after publication, RJTI reserves the right to publish a Retraction Note.

### ***Retraction Policy***

Serious errors in a published manuscript and infringements of professional ethical codes will result in an article being retracted. This will occur where the article is clearly defamatory, or infringes others' legal rights, or where the article is, or there is good reason to expect it will be, the subject of a court order, or where the article, if acted upon, might pose a serious health risk. In any of these cases all coauthors will be informed about a retraction. A Retraction Note detailing the reason for retraction will be linked to the original article.

### ***ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGES POLICY***

#### **Aim and necessity of payment**

Generally, most of the scientific journals are collecting charge fees in order to allow their readers to access to content, via online access or in solid print format. R.J.T.I. is an open access publication and the scientific community and general public can access all articles published in the journal for free.

This means that R.J.T.I. does not gain any financial advantages through selling subscriptions of the printed or online versions of its published articles. By collecting



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- Marketing of journal and content
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### **Fees charging level**

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The journal's Article Processing Charge for all authors is 150 Euros and it is not dependent of the region or country.

Article Processing Charge discounts or waivers are given to the following categories of authors: doctoral students in the process of finalizing their thesis, students, reviewers.

For more details, please contact the editor directly once the manuscript is accepted.

### **Who is eligible for Paying the Article Processing Charges?**

Upon an article is editorially accepted, the corresponding author will be notified about the payment issue, which is charged to either the author, or the funder, institution or employer.

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will start. Once formatting and checks are completed and payment of the Article Processing Charges done, the article will be published.

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