

ACTA UNIVERSITATIS SAPIENTIAE

Agreement on Copyright and Guidelines on Publication

1. Objective of the Agreement

The present Agreement defines the regulatory framework regarding copyright for submitting scientific papers for publication in any of the series published by *Acta Universitatis Sapientiae* (hereafter: ACTA).

2. Material and Territorial Scope of the Agreement

The present Agreement refers to all scientific work submitted by its author(s) for publication in any series of ACTA, entering into effect immediately after submission.

Only peer-reviewed articles are published in the series of ACTA; articles submitted can be original research papers or non-research papers. Non-research papers comprise review articles, book reviews, and methodology papers. Authors take full responsibility for their papers.

The author(s) grant(s) use of right for ACTA for a period of 5 years without territorial restriction.

3. Multiple Authorship

In case a paper submitted for publication in ACTA has more than one author, the responsibility of establishing the order of appearance lies with the authors. Claiming authorship without real intellectual contribution is ethically condemnable. When establishing the order of appearance for the authors, it is advised to follow the guidelines laid down in the ICMJE recommendation (<http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>).

Exercise of rights and obligations arising from authorship implies responsibilities without term of expiration.

In the case of papers with multiple authors, communication with ACTA is the obligation of the corresponding author.

4. Guidelines Referring to the Publication of Scientific Papers

4.1. Ethical Considerations towards Publication of Scientific Papers

The Romanian copyright law (Law no. 8 of 1996) defines publication as an original presentation of scientific results made by the author(s), who assume(s) full responsibility for the content. The aim of a

scientific publication is to disseminate results made by scholars and to facilitate the use of these results by others.

A scientific paper is defined as an article, review, book chapter, or book that has gone through the system of blind peer review.

In the case of scientific publication, the following are considered violations of intellectual copyright: copying a text without citing its original author; presenting data, results, or argumentations without citations; assuming intellectual work made by other authors and presenting it as one's own in front of the public, without the complete citation of the original material.

ACTA makes scientific papers accepted for publication freely available in Open Access Gold system, without paying fees to the author(s). By submitting an article for publication, the author(s) relinquish any claim to remuneration by ACTA.

ACTA reserves the right to have a Copyright form signed by authors, to ensure that articles submitted will not be published in other journals or volumes of studies in the same version, without changes. However, the author(s) can obtain a derogation from the editorial board of ACTA based on their individual and justified request.

4.2 Obligations of the Author(s)

The author(s) assume(s) full responsibility for the content of their articles, which do not necessarily reflect the position of ACTA.

All authors must ensure that the paper submitted is their original intellectual work. Authors must also ensure that works by other authors used in the paper are cited correctly and with proper reference material.

The author(s) must affirm that the paper submitted for publication has not been previously published and no third person holds exclusive copyright that would block or limit publication by ACTA.

Immediately after submission for publication, according to Art. 2 of the present Agreement, the author(s) grant(s) ACTA the irrevocable right to use the title of the paper and publish the paper in print and electronic format on the website of the journal and in various databases. The author(s) grant(s) the right to multiply and distribute the paper as well as to revise it if necessary.

In order to avoid possible conflicts of interest, in case the paper submitted for publication has been financed by an organization or an institution or it is the result of project funding, the author(s) must disclose this fact in the Acknowledgment section of the paper.

The author(s) can request the editorial board to allow ulterior corrections to the paper or to retract it in case the paper contains fundamental errors or erroneous conclusions.

4.3. Rights of the Author(s)

The author(s) retain intellectual copyright over the work (but at the same time, in the spirit of Art. 2 of the present Agreement, they cede to ACTA their right to exploit the work for a period of 5 years, without territorial restrictions).

After publication, the author(s) retain the right to make reproductions of the paper, the right to share the paper with scholars active in the same field of research, including the upload to specialized platforms, and the right to upload a preprint/working paper version to the institutional repository of the institution they are affiliated to.

After publication, the author(s) retain the right to present the paper at scientific events and to use the paper in completed, revised, or abridged form in their subsequent original work provided that the original publication is mentioned and correctly referenced.

4.4. Self-Plagiarism

Instead of repeating a presentation, the author(s) must mention and correctly reference any results that have been previously published.

Exclusion of republication of results (discoveries) in the field of natural sciences and correct indication of republication in the field of social sciences are mandatory requirements.

Presentation of previously published scientific results in course books or teaching materials by one or several authors as well as republication in another language are permitted provided the reference to the original publication data is made.

Republication of one's own results can be considered misconduct from the viewpoint of academic integrity if it is made with the intention of falsely achieving merits.

Resubmitting previously published results should be considered self-plagiarism and will not be tolerated.

4.5. First Publication. Multiple, Parallel, or Simultaneous Publication

As a main rule, only papers for first publication can be submitted to ACTA.

As a main rule, ACTA does not accept papers submitted for second publication. However, in the case of significantly revised (at least 50%) manuscripts, it is possible to submit the paper, and the main editor of the issue/series will evaluate the submission.

The author(s) may not submit identical manuscripts to multiple journals for first publication. Exceptions to this rule comprise cases when the manuscript was rejected by a journal or retracted by the author(s).

Submitting the same manuscript to multiple journals simultaneously is considered unethical conduct and shall not be tolerated. Publishing the same paper in multiple journals simultaneously is also considered a violation of academic conduct and is therefore unacceptable.

It is permitted to submit a previously published short paper if the manuscript of the second submission comprises a complete, amended version and a reference to the first publication is made clearly.

A paper accepted for publication cannot be submitted with identical content in another language.

4.6. Use of the Papers

Publication of the papers is made on the institutional website of Sapiientia ACTA in open access system.

According to the agreement with the publishing house, uploading the work to institutional repositories and international databases is the obligation of the publishing partner, in line with their regulation (in this case, the DeGruyter Sciendo platform – <https://www.sciendo.com/services/journals>).

The author(s) may download the paper either from the institutional website of ACTA or from the platform of the provider. In both cases, it is mandatory that the place of the original publication is mentioned and the access link to the journal or DOI of the article are provided.

According to the guidelines of use by platform providers, uploaded materials may be used under a Creative Commons [Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) licence: mandatory indication of authorship, prohibition of commercial use, including archival copies uploaded to commercial databases, prohibition of modifying, altering, or completing the work.



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5. Procedures

Editors use the code of conduct by [COPE](#) and its guidelines for journal editors as well as its collections of best practices.

The editorial board treats all information regarding the submission or peer review of an article, without any discrimination of the author(s) on racial, ethnic, sexual, religious, or political-philosophical grounds.

In case of suspected ethical misconduct by the author(s), the editors, the director of the publishing house, or the members of the editorial board will point out the case immediately, and all required efforts will be made to ensure the necessary moral compensation.

These efforts can include the exclusion of the author(s) as potential author(s) in the different series published by ACTA, alerting the institution where the author is affiliated, or notification of the academic community.

The present Agreement is based on the Romanian copyright law ([Law no. 8 of 1996](#)). Annexes to the Agreement include the [Ethical Code](#) of Sapiientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, with specific focus on its Art. 10 referring to the integrity of scientific papers and the different intellectual contributions, the Regulation of research ethics of Sapiientia Hungarian University of Transylvania as well as the [Regulation of publication and distribution](#) of ACTA Universitatis Sapientiae.

25 May 2021