

RIVISTA QUADRIMESTRALE  
DI  
DIRITTO DELL'AMBIENTE

ETHICAL CODE

EDITORIALE  
SCIENTIFICA



## **PUBLICATION ETHICS AND PUBLICATION MALPRACTICE**

The Journal *Rivista Quadrimestrale di Diritto dell'Ambiente* (RQDA) takes inspiration from the principles of publication ethics laid out by COPE (the Committee on Publication Ethics) in its best practice guidelines for journal editors. All possible measures against any publication malpractice are taken. All parts involved – members of the Board of Editors and the Advisory Board, Assistant Editors, the Editor-in-chief, Referees and Authors – must know and agree on the following ethical principles.

### **Duties of Editors**

#### a) Publication Decisions

The Editor-in-chief of the Journal RQDA is responsible for deciding which of the manuscripts submitted to the Journal should be published, after reading and considering the referees' comments. The Editor-in-chief and the Board of Editors are constrained by such legal requirements as shall then be in force regarding libel, copyright infringement and plagiarism. The Editor-in-chief may confer with other members of the Board of Editors or assistant editors or reviewers in making this decision.

#### b) Fair Play

The Editor-in-chief and the Board of Editors at any time evaluate manuscripts for their intellectual content and without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political orientation of the authors.

#### c) Confidentiality

The Editor-in-chief and all the members of the Board of Editors as well as the assistant editors must not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher, as appropriate.

#### d) Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

The Editor-in-chief and all the members of the Board of Editors as well as the assistant editors undertake not to use unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript in their own research without the express written consent of the author.

### **Duties of Referees**

a) Contribution to Editorial Decisions and Collaborative Nature of the Peer Review Process

The referees assist the Editor-in-chief and the Board of Editors in making editorial decisions and may also assist the authors in improving their works. It must be clear to the referees that the peer review process has a non-exclusionary but collaborative nature; therefore, the referees must not superimpose their own preferences or ideas on those of the authors – if that happened, there would be a risk of giving rise to forms of concealed censorship – but cooperate constructively with the authors and evaluate the suitability of the manuscripts to be made available for knowledge and debate to the community of scholars, as the latter has to be the ultimate judge of the quality of the work.

b) Promptness

Any selected referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or knows that its prompt review will be impossible should immediately notify the Editor-in-chief that he/she will not be able to complete the peer review in the required time.

c) Confidentiality

Any manuscripts received for peer review must be treated as confidential documents. They must not be shown to or discussed with third parties, except as authorised by the Editor-in-chief.

d) Standards of Objectivity

Referees undertake to conduct all reviews objectively. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate. Referees should express their views clearly with supporting arguments.

e) Acknowledgement of Sources

Referees should identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors. Any statement that an observation, derivation, or argument had been previously reported should be accompanied by the relevant citation. The referees should also call to the Editor-in-chief's attention any substantial similarity or overlap between the manuscript under consideration and any other published paper of which they have personal knowledge.

f) Disclosure and Conflict of Interest

The referees undertake to treat any information or ideas obtained through the peer review as confidential and not to use it for personal advantage. Should a conflict of interests arise, the referees must recuse themselves from considering and evaluating manuscripts.

### **Duties of Authors**

a) Acknowledgment of Sources

The authors appropriately acknowledge the sources and the references mentioned in the manuscript, so that they can be made available for a reasonable period of time after the publication. Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical behavior and are unacceptable.

b) Originality and Plagiarism

The authors should ensure that they have written entirely original works, and if the authors have used the work and/or words of others that this has been appropriately cited or quoted.

c) Multiple Publications

The authors do not submit for publication manuscripts in a language and in a final text which are substantially identical to papers that have already been published or submitted by the same authors in/to other journals or primary publication, unless the authors have obtained the prior consent and authorisation of the previous editor/journal to the re-publication or translation in RQDA of the previously published paper, in order to increase the dissemination of knowledge at international level, or in such a way that the re-publication or translation in RQDA of the previously published paper does not infringe any existing copyright or other third party right.

d) Authorship of the Work

Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be acknowledged or listed as contributors. The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co-authors and no inappropriate co-authors are named in the manuscript, and that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the manuscript and have agreed to its submission for publication.

e) Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

All authors should disclose in their manuscript any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be construed to influence the results or interpretation of their manuscript. All sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed.

f) Fundamental Errors in Published Works

When an author or co-author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, he/she must promptly notify the Editor-in-chief of RQDA and cooperate to retract or correct the text.