# Guidelines for Reviewers

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2020

Peer review represents a vital element of maintaining high standards in scholarly publishing. This process could not be managed without the knowledge and experience of contributing specialists. We are very grateful to all our reviewers for the time and effort they spend evaluating manuscripts for ***Open Engineering***.

## General expectations

The journal uses a closed single-blind peer review system (the names of the reviewers are hidden from the authors). Submitted manuscripts are reviewed by two or more experts. Reviewers are asked to recommend whether a manuscript should be accepted, revised or rejected. Although the journal uses the plagiarism detection system CrossCheck, reviewers should alert the editors if they suspect any issues relating to author misconduct such as plagiarism.

Reviewers are asked to provide detailed, constructive comments that will help both the editors make a decision on the publication and the author(s) to improve their manuscript. They should point out whether the work has serious flaws that preclude its publication, or whether additional experiments should be carried out or additional data should be collected to support the conclusions drawn.

Reviewers are also asked to comment on the language used by the Authors – whether it is appropriate (specific terminology) or correct (grammar, spelling). Reviewers should advise if any verification of the language by a native speaker is required prior to publication.

Reviewers invited by the editors of the journal should reveal any potential conflict of interest they may have with respect to the manuscript or the authors. All likely personal, professional or financial conflicts of interest should be considered.

## Specific expectations

When preparing the reports, we ask our reviewers to consider the following points:

## Originality and significance of presented work

Reviewers are asked to comment on the originality and significance of the work for the scientific community. If the presented research is unoriginal and similar work has been published previously, reviewers should give references.

## Experimental or theoretical approach to the discussed problem(s)

Reviewers are asked to discuss the novelty of theoretical approaches and experimental methods presented in the manuscript.

## Strengths and weaknesses of the methods used

Reviewers should assess the appropriateness of the methods used. If necessary, technical aspects of the paper, such as the statistical analyses, should be commented. They should suggest improvements that will result in the enhancement of the quality of the paper.

## Reliability of the results and validity of the conclusions

Reviewers are requested to comment on the reliability of new methods developed. They should consider whether the conclusion(s) drawn are supported by the data collected.

## Organization of the manuscript

Reviewers should comment whether the manuscript is easy to read and the arguments are described in a logical and understandable way. They should suggest improvements, if necessary.

## Discussion of the most relevant literature on the topic

Reviewers should comment on the relevance of literature cited in the manuscript. They should give reference to any important research not mentioned in the paper.

## Revisions

When revision of the manuscript is suggested, reviewers are asked to recommend which aspects of the work should be improved: better motivation for the research, additional data to confirm conclusions, better organization of the paper.

## Confidentiality

Reviewers are asked not to distribute copies of the manuscript or use results contained in it without the authors' permission. However, they are free to show it to knowledgeable colleagues and to consult them about the review. Suggestions for alternative reviewers are helpful to the Editors and would be appreciated.

## Technicalities

We ask reviewers to return their reports within the specified deadline or inform the Editor as soon as possible if they are not able to do so. Reviewer reports can be submitted via online submission system.