

# Focus on European Economic Integration – Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement:

January 2022

The *Focus on European Economic Integration* (below: the FEEI or “the journal”) is published by the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (below: the OeNB or “the publisher”). To ensure the high quality of the FEEI, the publisher has established the following best practice and ethics guidelines for the parties involved in the process. For more information on the FEEI, see [www.oenb.at/feei](http://www.oenb.at/feei).

## 1. Editors

- The editors of the FEEI act under the guidance of two editors in chief: the Director of the OeNB’s Economic Analysis and Research Department and the Head of the OeNB’s Foreign Research Division.
- The editors in chief make key decisions on the journal strategy and the agenda of the regular editorial board meetings, select external reviewers and sign off articles once the authors have adequately integrated reviewers’ comments.
- The editors actively seek the views of authors, readers and reviewers to ensure the journal meets the highest scientific standards.
- Editors’ decisions are driven by the quality and the relevance of articles. Manuscripts are evaluated for their intellectual content without regard to the race, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, ethnic origin, citizenship or political philosophy of the authors.
- Editors and editorial staff must not disclose any information about a manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, (potential) reviewers and the publisher.
- Editors and editorial staff must not use unpublished information in their own research without the express written consent of the authors.
- Editors and editorial staff ensure conditions necessary for a double-blind peer review process. The privacy of all parties involved is respected.
- Editors will take reasonable responsive measures when errors are found or when they are presented with ethical complaints concerning a manuscript under review or an article that has already been published in the FEEI. In such cases the publisher will issue an erratum, an addendum, a corrigendum notice, or a retraction of the article, where it is deemed necessary.

## 2. Authors

- Articles published in the FEEI are above all contributions from OeNB staff, often authored in cooperation with researchers from universities and economic policy institutions in Austria or abroad.

- External authors are generally not entitled to submit articles for publication in the FEEI. They may, however, be invited by the editors to submit articles, such as studies they had presented at OeNB conferences or workshops.
- All articles are subject to the same peer-review process (see point 3) and the same treatment by the editors and editorial staff (see point 1) no matter whether they were written by OeNB staff, by OeNB staff in cooperation with external coauthors or exclusively by invited external authors.
- Authors should present an objective discussion of the significance of their research as well as sufficient details and references to facilitate replication of the work.
- Underlying data should be represented accurately in the article. Authors may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with an article for editorial review and should in any event be prepared to retain such data for a reasonable time after publication.
- Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical behavior and are unacceptable.
- Authors should ensure that their work is entirely original, and if the work and/or words of others have been used, that this fact has been appropriately acknowledged in line with academic principles and practices. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable.
- Authors should not submit articles describing essentially the same research to more than one journal. Concurrently submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable.
- Some types of secondary publications (e. g. translations or policy-related snapshots) may be justifiable, provided that certain conditions are met. In particular, authors and editors of the outlets concerned must agree to the secondary publication, and the primary reference must be cited in the secondary publication.
- Authors should provide a disclaimer if appropriate.
- All sources of financial support for a project should be disclosed.
- All coauthors should significantly contribute to the research. If other persons participated in certain aspects of the research project, they should be acknowledged or listed as contributors.
- The corresponding author must ensure that the list of authors is accurate and complete and that all coauthors fully approve of the final version of the article and its submission for publication in the FEEI.
- Authors are obliged to have their article reviewed in a peer review process.
- Authors should promptly notify the editors or publisher if a significant error or inaccuracy in their submitted manuscript or published work has been identified and cooperate with the editors on this issue. If the editors or publisher learn from a third party that a published work contains a significant error, the authors are obliged to promptly correct or retract the article or provide evidence that the original article is correct.

### 3. Peer-review process and reviewers' responsibilities

- To ensure the high quality of the FEEI, contributions must undergo multiple rounds of comments. Each contribution is first checked by OeNB experts and then subjected to a double-blind peer review carried out by external reviewers (one or two reviewers, depending on the methodological extent of the article).
- FEEI reviewers are requested to assess (a) the analytical value added of a submitted article based on a comparison with the existing literature, (b) the article's relevance for economic policymaking and (c) issues of readability and presentation, to name the most important criteria.
- Reviews should be conducted objectively, and observations should be formulated clearly with supporting arguments, so that reviews help authors improve their articles.
- Reviewers should point out any relevant published work which has not yet been cited in the article under review. They should also call to the editors' attention any substantial similarity or overlap with the manuscript under consideration and any other published article they are aware of.
- Any selected reviewers who feel unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or who know that delivery of a prompt review is not possible should notify the editors and excuse themselves from the review process.
- Reviewers should turn down the review of manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest.
- Reviewers must treat any manuscripts received for review as confidential documents. Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and must not be used for personal advantage. Reviewers must not use unpublished information in their own research without the express written consent of the authors. Reviewers must not share the review or information about the review process with anyone without the consent of the editors and authors involved, even after publication.

### 4. Other considerations

- The OeNB is the owner of the journal. The journal is exclusively funded by the OeNB.
- The OeNB retains the copyright on any FEEI content, including individual contributions to the FEEI.
- The journal was founded in 1996 under the name [Focus on Transition](#). In 2004, the name of the journal changed to [Focus on European Economic Integration](#). Until end-2008, the journal was published twice a year, and in 2009, the FEEI became a quarterly publication. It is regularly released at the end of February, May, August and November.
- Full editions of the journal as well as individual articles are freely available to the public via downloads from the OeNB website. The publisher ensures that the published material is securely archived. All former editions of the FEEI are, for instance, available via the Austrian National Library.