Instructions for Authors

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When considering to submit your work to the International Journal of Public Health (IJPH), please first make sure your article fits the IJPH Aims and Scopes.

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The Editors-in-Chief select articles for the peer review mainly based on the title and abstract. Make sure your abstract is well-written in good English and includes a rationale for the study (Objectives), the sample size and study design and a conclusion. If possible, mention the international relevance.

More about peer review in the specific section on peer review.
More about language editing in the specific section on language editing

Further editorial policies are available [here](#).

## Types of papers

**International Journal of Public Health** publishes original research and reviews, either empirical or theoretical, that contribute to understanding and improving public health. IJPH does not publish essays or opinion articles. Commentaries and Editorials are invited by the Editors.

Conflict of interest is mandatory for all article types published in IJPH. Such a statement appears in the title page, before the reference list, and in the online submission data.

We encourage authors to refer to the minimum reporting guidelines for health research hosted by the EQUATOR network when preparing their manuscript. Checklists are available for a number of study designs.


Manuscripts should be written in view of their submission to one of the following sections: Peer reviewed or Not peer reviewed.

### Peer reviewed

- **Original Articles** (4000 words max. without reference list, structured abstract 180 words max., 40 references max., up to 6 figures and tables). Original Articles report on original quantitative or qualitative research. The main structure is Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion.

- **Hints and Kinks** are short methodological reports (1000 words max., no abstract) presenting topics relevant to survey research and surveillance. They report on experience with techniques in a variety of areas and topics, such as writing questions, questionnaire design, survey implementation, or new and original ways to analyse data and show results. Authors are free to structure the text as they like.

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The text body of Reviews should be structured in Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion and should be in the length range of 4000-4500 words (without reference list), with up to 60 references, and up to 6 figures and tables. A short Introduction should put the area into context and define the aim. The Method section should explicitly describe how the studies were identified and selected for inclusion in the review. Search terms, Prisma flow-chart and eligibility criteria should be provided. The Discussion should address the international relevance of the findings.
Narrative Reviews are particularly welcome for the section “Knowledge Synthesis, Translation and Exchange”. Di Ruggiero (2018) [see the link below] specifies the contents for narrative reviews within this section. Narrative reviews should also have not more than 4500 words and the structure Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion. Methods should be explicit, transparent and clearly stated.

Di Ruggiero (2018)

Central and Eastern Europe: IJPH encourages authors from Central and Eastern Europe to submit their work. IJPH is dedicated since 2006 to making the increasing public-health knowledge from Central and Eastern Europe available to the scientific community and promoting the transfer of knowledge in survey, surveillance and health promotion research between East and West. The journal adopts the WHO definition of Eastern Europe comprising the 13 countries that formerly belonged to the USSR and the countries of Central and Oriental Europe that used to belong to the influence zone of the USSR without being part of it and/or had planned economies.

Not peer reviewed

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**Young Researcher Editorials** (YREs) are unsolicited editorials on topical discussions in public health written by advanced PhD students (up to 12 months after completion of the PhD) from across the world. YREs convey one single, clear message. They have a short and catchy title, are 800 words long, and have up to ten references. Doctoral students of the Swiss School of Public Health+ review all YREs. After acceptance, YREs receive free professional copyediting funded by the Swiss School of Public Health+. YRE are eligible for review when they comply with one or more of the following criteria:
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  - Debate public health science and related policies
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Young Researcher Editorials

Swiss School of Public Health-YRE
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Submission requires the following files (mandatory):

- Title page: see the paragraph below for details.
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  name and article title, as well as the captions of all figures and tables after the
  reference list, lines numbered consecutively through all pages; excluding author
  names, affiliations, acknowledgements, and the section Compliance with ethical
  standards which is part of the title page.
- Abstract (only for Original Articles and Reviews; preferably in Word), please see
details for Abstracts below), with up to 6 keywords

Acknowledgements, figures and tables, and electronic supplementary materials are optional.

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  article type name and article title; excluding author names, affiliations,
  acknowledgements, and the section Compliance with ethical standards. Please use an
  editable format (Word preferably) and consecutive line numbers and page numbers.
  Please remember to add the captions of all figures and tables after the reference list.
- Abstract (only for Original Articles and Reviews; preferably in Word, please see
details for Abstracts below) with up to 6 keywords

Acknowledgements, figures and tables and electronic supplementary material are optional.

Title page
The title page should be uploaded separately from the manuscript as an individual file and include the following:

- The article type and a short, concise title (20 words max., preferably shorter). According to standard reporting guidelines, the title should include the study design. Adding a verb to the title often makes it more attractive. The title should not contain abbreviations. The study name can be presented in the keywords.
- The name(s) of the author(s) (starting with the full first names, without titles).
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- The number of words of the Abstract, the text body (including ethical statements for unblended versions, excluding reference list).
- A section Compliance with Ethical Standards (for Original Articles, Reviews, Hints&Kinks) including subsections and disclosure of Conflict of interest (mandatory), and, as applicable, Funding, Ethical approval, and Informed consent. Please read more about Compliance with Ethical Standards below.
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Please provide an Abstract for Original articles (180 words max.) and Reviews (180 words max.). Abstracts should be structured into:

- Objectives (stating context and the purpose of the study-why was it done?)
- Methods (describing how the study was performed and the statistical tests used, sample size, data source, etc.)
- Results (main findings)
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- Key words (4 to 6 keywords which can be used for indexing purposes. The keywords have to be provided also during the online submission.)

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Acknowledgements

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- Use the automatic page numbering function to number pages.
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- Use the equation editor or MathType for equations.
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- Methods presents material, methods, and the population studied
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Cite references in the text by name and year in parentheses. Cite all last name(s) for publications with one or two authors. For publications with three or more authors, cite the last name of only the first author, followed by “et al.” Some examples:

- Negotiation research spans many disciplines (Thompson 1990).
- This result was later contradicted by Becker and Seligman (1996).
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When reporting studies that involve human participants, authors should include a statement that the studies have been approved by the appropriate institutional and/or national research ethics committee and have been performed in accordance with the ethical standards as laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

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If a study was granted exemption from requiring ethics approval, this should also be detailed in the manuscript (including the name of the ethics committee that granted the exemption and the reasons for the exemption).

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All individuals have individual rights that are not to be infringed. Individual participants in studies have, for example, the right to decide what happens to the (identifiable) personal data gathered, to what they have said during a study or an interview, as well as to any photograph that was taken. Hence it is important that all participants gave their informed consent in writing prior to inclusion in the study. Identifying details (names, dates of birth, identity numbers and other information) of the participants that were studied should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, and genetic profiles unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the participant (or parent or guardian if the participant is incapable) gave written informed consent for publication. Complete anonymity is difficult to achieve in some cases, and informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt. For example, masking the eye region in photographs of participants is inadequate protection of anonymity. If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, such as in genetic profiles, authors should provide assurance that alterations do not distort scientific meaning.

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**Submission**
- Supply supplementary material in a single file. In case it is necessary to submit multiple files, please name them consecutively, e.g. “ESM_3.mpg”, “ESM_4.pdf”.
- Please include in the supplementary file(s) at the top of the first page the journal name and the article title to make sure to readers the material is part of your article. Please do not provide author names to make sure the material is blinded for reviewers.
- Submit your supplementary material in PDF format; .doc or .ppt files are not suitable for long-term viability. A collection of figures may also be combined in a PDF file.
- To accommodate user downloads, please keep in mind that larger-sized files may require very long download times and that some users may experience other problems during downloading.
- If supplying supplementary material, the main text of the article must make specific mention of the material as a citation, similar to that of figures and tables.
- Refer to the supplementary files as “Online Resource” in the manuscript text, e.g., "as shown in the animation (Online Resource 3)", “... additional data are given in Online Resource 4”.

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