

## **Detailed Advice for Authors Before Submission of Manuscripts to *Regions & Cohesion***

**General Expectations:** *Regions & Cohesion* is committed to publishing texts from different world regions and it is especially committed to providing an international venue for contributions from scholars and practitioners in emerging/transition countries and developing states. The editors and the editorial committee recognize that scientific norms and intellectual customs differ between continents. While we recognize and profoundly respect different academic and intellectual traditions that enrich our cross-regional dialogue, we must follow internationally accepted norms for publications in order to maintain the transparency of scientific methods and the rigor of conceptual dialogue. These internationally accepted norms also provide a harmonized approach through which scholars from different parts of the world can understand each other clearly.

**Language:** *Regions & Cohesion* is published in English, Spanish and French. Articles are published in their original language but abstracts are translated into the three languages of the journal. Authors must concisely highlight the main points of their articles in their abstracts because these summaries target readers who utilize different languages. It is our experience that authors who have difficulty highlighting the originality of their articles in an abstract, do not have a clear understanding of the main contributions of their work. The abstract is often an indicator of the clarity of the article's contributions.

**Originality:** *Regions & Cohesion* publishes articles that make original contributions to academic (scientific articles) or normative (Leadership Forum) debates. From the introduction, authors are encouraged to highlight the originality of their work. This is a major component of the internal review conducted by the **editorial committee** and the **external peer-reviewers** are asked to comment on the manuscript's originality as well. For this reason, the editors and the editorial committee suggest the following structure for manuscripts submitted to *Regions & Cohesion*:

1. Introduction: includes research question and methods section
2. Literature Review which positions the article amongst existing scholarship
3. Statement of Conceptual Approach
4. Presentation of Empirical Work
5. Conclusion highlighting the article's contributions

**Introduction:** As stated above, the introduction of the article should highlight the manuscript's originality. It should include a justification of the research presented. It should also and above all, **include a clearly defined research question**. There is an enormous difference between vaguely declaring a research objective and clearly stating a research question. For example, an article that "aims to examine the relationship between migration and development" could include numerous approaches, concepts or methods. Instead a statement, such as "The present article asks: 'Given the securitized migration policies implemented by development donors such as the EU and the US, through what

mechanisms can PCD promote transformative change in migration affairs?" (Koff, 2017) defines the issue arena to which the article intends to make a contribution and presents key concepts and research design. In many cases, the research question itself is innovative and represents an originality of the article. Consequently, it is vital that it is clear.

**Research Design and Methodology:** Articles submitted to *Regions & Cohesion* should either include a Research Design and Methodology section or a sub-section within the introduction. This part of the article explains why research cases were chosen. In the case of case studies, it is vital for authors to explain why the selected case can be considered a critical case. Comparative quantitative and qualitative analyses are especially welcome and in these cases, authors are expected to explain how comparative research designs or data sets were selected. Finally, all articles should explain how data was collected for the research presented in the manuscript.

**Literature Review:** It has been our experience that most of the articles that we could not accept for publication did not include a literature review section, instead opting to cite literature throughout the length of the article. While this form of citation may justify specific claims, it does not necessarily contribute to the overall quality of the manuscript. Authors should include a literature review section, which discusses the strengths and weaknesses of scholarship on the research question and utilizes this review to position the submission and highlight its originality. For example, an article comparing cross-border water governance in Europe and Latin America should conduct a literature review that highlights the regional specificities that dominate the literature. This then positions the article as an innovative contribution that compares cases between world regions.

**Conceptual Approach:** It is vital that authors clearly explain their conceptual approach to the examination of a research question. Sometimes, this approach can be the originality of the article. For example, the application of "the quality of democracy" framework to issue arenas where it has not yet been employed could be viewed as a major originality of an article. Most importantly, if a conceptual approach is not identified and explained then submissions tend to be descriptive. A descriptive article cannot pass peer-review, which is not in the interest of either the author or the journal. Even normative contributions in the Leadership Forum should clearly identify a line of argumentation through which the analysis is presented in order to avoid simple description.

**Presentation of Empirical Work:** The empirical research sections generally present data or in the case of qualitative research, the information gathered from fieldwork. Once again, this section should not be purely descriptive. First, the data should be presented in a manner that is coherent with the methods presented in the introduction to the article. Second, the data's relationship with the conceptual approach described above should be highlighted. For example, research based on ethnographic methods should not only describe the lives of research subjects but it should also link these findings to the conceptual debates addressed by the article. Journal articles are not vehicles for the

publication of empirical work for its own sake. They utilize data/information to engage discussions with a higher intellectual purpose.

**Conclusion:** Conclusions should conclude. They are not mere summaries of research findings. Articles can include such summaries as introductions to a conclusion if authors consider this to be pertinent. However, the conclusion should highlight the main originalities of the article and emphasize its main contributions and relevance. Conclusions tend to work best when they act to shift the 'scale' of the argument, drawing out its consequences in a way that brings the argument to bear on broader intellectual debates. The conclusion is about explicitly explaining to readers not specialized in your research case or geographic areas why your manuscript is relevant for them. Simple summarizing will not achieve this objective.

**Good Faith:** *Regions & Cohesion* has adopted a constructive dialogue approach to article submissions. As stated in the [Manuscript Submission Guidelines](#), the editorial committee reviews articles before they are distributed to peer-review in order to provide comments to authors and give their manuscripts the best opportunity to pass external peer-review. Authors receive these comments from the committee within 3 weeks of submission. Once articles have been approved for peer-review, it generally takes two months before an editorial decision is rendered and communicated to authors. Peer-reviewers are given six weeks to review articles, but we also invest time in finding appropriate reviewers and sometimes they are late. In general, we do our best to maintain communication with authors and provide constructive feedback throughout the process which takes three months total. We invest considerable time and energy in providing constructive comments so we ask authors to engage in this dialogue with us in good faith. If you wish to publish with *Regions & Cohesion* and you wish to engage us in this constructive dialogue, we welcome your manuscript!