

# Italian Journal of Planning Practice

## CODE OF ETHICS

IJPP publishes scholarly works and recognizes the need to ensure adherence to ethical standards at all stages of the publication process. All parties involved—publishers, authors, reviewers, and members of the Scientific Committees and Editorial Boards—must know and agree to the following ethical requirements, which are based on international standards and conform the COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) Ethical Guidelines.

### **1. Publisher’s Responsibilities**

IJPP ensures that publication decisions are made on the basis of the scientific value of the article and its contribution to the field. The publisher and editors commit to avoiding all forms of discrimination (gender, religious, political, etc.) and ensure transparency and fairness throughout the editorial process.

### **2. Editor’s Responsibilities**

The editor oversees the selection of reviewers, respects the confidentiality of submissions, and ensures a fair double-blind peer review process. Editors must disclose any conflicts of interest and avoid handling manuscripts in which such conflicts exist. They are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the academic record and are expected to take responsive measures when ethical complaints are presented concerning a submitted manuscript or published paper.

### **3. Reviewer’s Responsibilities**

Reviewers contribute to the editorial decision-making process and help improve the quality of the manuscript through objective and constructive feedback. They must maintain confidentiality and report any potential conflict of interest. Reviews should be conducted

promptly, and reviewers should decline to review if they feel unqualified to assess the research.

#### **4. Author's Responsibilities**

Authors must ensure that their works are original and properly cite the work and words of others. Plagiarism in all its forms is unethical and unacceptable. Authors should not submit the same manuscript to more than one journal simultaneously. Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All authors must approve the final version of the paper and agree to its submission.

#### **5. Handling of Misconduct**

If ethical misconduct is suspected—such as plagiarism, manipulation of citations, or data fabrication—the publisher and editors will investigate and take appropriate measures, including corrections or retractions if necessary. All reports of ethical misconduct will be taken seriously.

#### **6. Conflict of Interest**

All parties (authors, editors, reviewers) must disclose any potential conflict of interest that could affect the interpretation or evaluation of the manuscript. Financial, professional, or personal relationships that may influence the content should be disclosed.

#### **7. Open Access and Transparency**

IJPP promotes the dissemination of knowledge and supports open access. Authors and editors must ensure that data and methods are transparently presented and reproducible. Any financial support for the research must be acknowledged.

#### **8. Authorship and AI**

Authors are solely responsible for the content of their manuscripts, even when AI tools are used in the research or writing process. Use of AI must be declared and must not replace the author's intellectual contributions. Editors and reviewers must be aware of and evaluate any declared AI involvement.

### **9. Post-Publication Evaluation**

All articles published are subject to continuous scrutiny by the academic community. If credible concerns arise regarding the accuracy, integrity, or ethical conduct related to a published work, IJPP in collaboration with the journal's Editorial Board will initiate a formal evaluation process.

### **10. Corrections**

If errors are discovered that do not compromise the overall results or conclusions of the article but may affect its interpretation or clarity, a correction (erratum or corrigendum) will be issued. Corrections are published promptly and linked to the original article, ensuring the continuity of the scientific record.

### **11. Retractions**

Retractions are considered in cases of:

- Evidence of unethical research conduct (e.g., plagiarism, data fabrication/falsification)
- Major methodological or analytical flaws rendering findings unreliable
- Duplicate publication
- Undisclosed conflicts of interest
- Legal or copyright issues

Retractions are issued with a clear explanation of the reason, including whether the error originated from the authors or the editorial process. The original article will remain accessible online, marked clearly as retracted, to preserve transparency and academic traceability.

### **12. Author Involvement**

Authors will be notified of any concerns raised and will be invited to respond as part of the investigative process. Retractions or corrections will not be issued without proper examination and, whenever possible, consensus between editors and authors.

### **13. Third-Party Notifications**

IJPP welcomes and encourages responsible communication from readers, reviewers, or third parties who identify possible post-publication issues. All submissions will be treated seriously and investigated with due diligence and confidentiality.