

Language diversity and agricultural journal

Zvonimir PRPIĆ¹, Ana JARIĆ and Boro MIOČ

*University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, Svetošimunska cesta 25, 10000 Zagreb,
Croatia*

Abstract. Journal of Central European Agriculture (JCEA) is a multidisciplinary open access online only journal in agriculture. Besides sharing problems and solutions in the region, the idea behind Journal was to keep and develop national languages and identities. Currently nine universities from Central European countries (member countries) cooperate in publishing JCEA. Journal publishes manuscripts written in national languages of any of the nine member countries and in English. Ratio of articles written in English to articles written in member countries languages is 85:15%. Even though authors from member countries have option to write in their national language, most of them choose to write in English. Most of the published articles are from member countries, but there is an increasing trend of manuscript submissions from non-member countries.

Keywords. online journal, central Europe, agriculture, multilingual journal

1. Introduction

Available electronic technologies create new fields of publishing through lower costs, lower limits to the length of papers, supplementary materials (data, graphics, maps and video), greater availability and easier access to more people from remote places. In this context, Journal of Central European Agriculture (JCEA), an online multidisciplinary scientific journal in agriculture has been founded by three universities from Croatia, Hungary and Slovakia in 1999. Besides sharing problems and solutions in the region, the idea behind Journal was to keep and develop national languages and identities. Journal publishes manuscripts written in national language of any of the nine member countries from Central European region. However, in order to enable international review as well as dissemination of the research results to broader audience, manuscripts written in member countries national languages must have manuscript title, abstract, keywords and detailed abstract written in English language. Author(s) can submit manuscripts written in English language accompanied with the manuscript title, abstract, keywords and detailed abstract in national language. Currently nine universities from Central European countries cooperate in publishing JCEA. Each university organizes national editorial board with task to verify articles in its national language and to participate in reviewing, which is demanding in multidisciplinary multilingual journal.

2. Publishing

JCEA is open access online only journal which publishes content under Creative commons license. The Journal publishes original articles, rapid communication of

¹ Corresponding author.

information and proceedings of scientific meetings in Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Serbian and English.

Aims and scope of the Journal are general agriculture, animal science, animal welfare and husbandry, crop science, entomology and beekeeping, wildlife management, agricultural economics, environment in relation to agricultural production, land use, rural development, social issues regarding rural/farm populations and other topics related to agriculture.

2.1. Multilingualism of published articles

Most articles have been published in English, as evident from the data in the Figure 1. This is also supported by the fact that articles from non-member countries have to be written in English. Even though authors from member countries have option to write in their national language, most of them choose to write in English (out of total 350 articles of member countries, published in last 5 years, 290 are published in English).

Most of the articles that are written in languages of member countries are written in Polish (26.6% of articles in member countries languages, i.e. 5% of total articles).

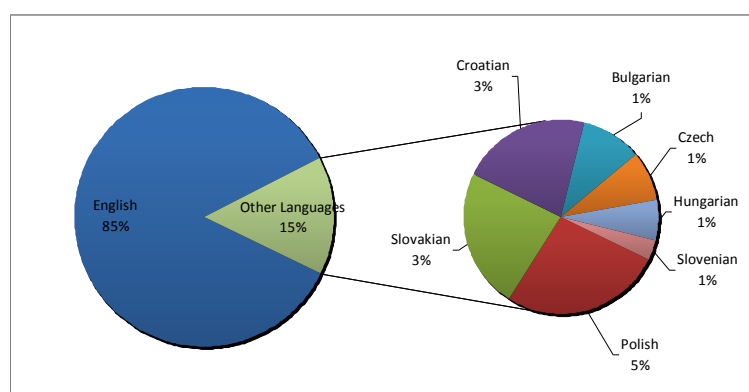


Figure 1. Ratio of published articles in English and member countries languages (2010–2014)

2.2. Articles by countries

Most of the published articles (54%) in JCEA were from Poland and Slovakia, as is shown in Figure 2. Unfortunately, only 32% of published articles are from other member countries. Articles from 20 non-member countries were also published (14% of total articles published in last five years). Most of the articles from non-member countries are from Iran, India and Nigeria, i.e. from the continents of Asia and Africa. There is a positive trend in publication of articles from non-member countries.

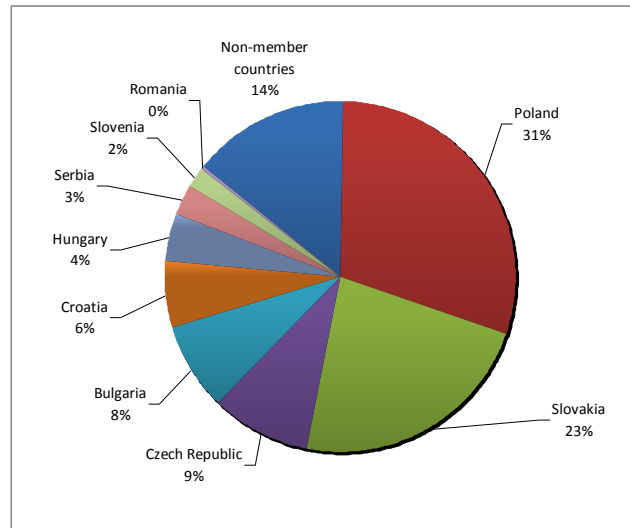


Figure 2. Ratio of published articles from member and non-member countries (2010-2014)