

## Guidelines for Authors

**The State Attorney's Office Opens the Dialogue (DOOR)** is an open-access online journal of the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia. Ivan Turudić, the Attorney General of the Republic of Croatia, established the journal in 2025.

The DOOR journal publishes works primarily in the fields of law and legal sciences, as well as social sciences. The journal publishes scholarly and professional articles on legal and related topics, interviews with contributors to legal development, commentaries and analyses of domestic and international jurisprudence, reviews of legislative reforms, evaluations of new laws, bylaws, international treaties, and conventions, along with book reviews, conference reports, and summaries of professional meetings.

The journal consists of five sections: *In Black and White*, *Word for Word*, *Chronicles*, *Under the Spotlight*, and *AI is (not) always right*. The *In Black and White* section will feature articles covering various areas of law.

The *In Black and White* section features articles on various areas of law. The *Word for Word* section is dedicated to interviews with individuals who have contributed to the development of democracy, law, and legal scholarship through their work. The *Chronicles* section covers court cases and events that have influenced the development of law and legal scholarship both domestically and internationally. The *Under the Spotlight* section includes reviews and articles on judicial practice, as well as current developments in law, legal scholarship, and related fields. Lastly, the *AI is (not) always right* section presents articles, reviews, and analyses of judicial practice and current trends in cybercrime, as well as the impact of artificial intelligence and technology on the evolution of law, legal scholarship, and the legal profession.

The manuscripts are organized into sections based on their specific topics.

The journal is free of charge and fully available in electronic format on the website. The submission, evaluation, and publication procedure takes place over email. The journal is predominantly not published in print.

The Editorial Board accepts and publishes **unpublished works only**. Submission of a manuscript for publication is considered equivalent to the **Declaration of Authorship and Copyright** under the Copyright and Related Rights Act ("Official Gazette" No. 111/21). By submitting, the author guarantees that the work is their original manuscript, does not violate ethical or copyright standards, and adheres to the rules of scientific methodology, particularly in citing the work of others.

The DOOR journal is committed to ethical scientific practice and supports global knowledge dissemination through open access.

# 1. General Submission Guidelines

## Submission of Manuscripts

Submit manuscripts in Word format (.docx) to [door@dorh.hr](mailto:door@dorh.hr). In the subject line of the email, please state: **Submission: [Title of the Article]**.

## Length of Manuscript

Manuscripts longer than **20 pages of text** (36,000 characters including spaces, references, tables, figures, and appendices) will not be considered, except in special cases where the quality of the work and the topic justify it.

## Language of Manuscript

Manuscripts in **Croatian and English** are accepted.

## Structure of Manuscript

The manuscript must include:

1. An **introductory abstract** of no more than one page (1,800 characters including spaces),
2. A list of up to **five keywords or terms** placed below the abstract,
3. The **main text** of the manuscript, which should not exceed 20 pages (36,000 characters including spaces),
4. An **abstract in English** (if the manuscript is written in Croatian).

## Formatting

For the main text (abstract and body), use the following settings:

- **Font:** Calibri
- **Font size:** 12
- **Line spacing:** 1.5
- **Page size:** A4
- **Margins:** 2.5 cm

Include **page numbers** and a **title page** containing:

- The title of the article,
- The name(s) of the author(s),
- The author(s)' institution(s),
- Contact details (for correspondence),

- An abstract (maximum one page, or 1,800 characters including spaces) in the language of the manuscript,
- An abstract in English (if the manuscript is not written in English),
- Up to five keywords or terms in the language of the manuscript and in English (if not written in English).

For footnotes, use:

- **Font:** Calibri
- **Font size:** 10
- **Line spacing:** 1

---

## 2. Citation

All citations must follow the **OSCOLA rules** (Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities).

- **First citation of a source:** Identify the source in detail, including the author's name, title of the source (in italics), publisher, year of publication, and the exact page number.
- **Subsequent citations:** Use a shortened form (author's surname, year of publication, and page number).

### Examples of Citations:

1. **Book:**  
John Doe, *Legal Theory Explained* (4th ed, Law Press 2020) 45–47.
2. **Journal Article:**  
Jane Smith, *Human Rights in the Digital Age* [2021] 12(3) Journal of Law & Technology 120, 125.
3. **Case Law:**
  - Domestic: Judgment of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia of 22 January 2025, No Rev-74/2024-2.
  - Foreign: *Doe v State* [2019] UKSC 20, [2020] 1 AC 123.
4. **Legislation:**  
Act on the Confirmation of the Treaty between the Republic of Croatia and the Italian Republic on the Delimitation of Exclusive Economic Zones, "Official Gazette - International Treaties" No 3-22/24.
5. **Website:**  
European Court of Human Rights, 'Guide to Article 8' (ECHR, 1 May 2022) <https://example.com> accessed 10 June 2024.

## Bibliography

List all sources in alphabetical order at the end of the manuscript under the heading “Bibliography”.

### Example:

- Doe J, *Legal Theory Explained* (4th ed, Law Press 2020).
- Smith J, ‘Human Rights in the Digital Age’ [2021] 12(3) *Journal of Law & Technology* 120.

**Additionally**, sources used by the author (listed at the end of the manuscript) should be categorized as follows:

BIBLIOGRAPHY: this category encompasses all sources not classified under the categories listed below, irrespective of the medium, including scientific and professional articles, books, e-books, dissertations, proceedings, and others.

REGULATIONS AND DOCUMENTS: this category includes constitutions, regulations, conventions, decrees, directives, statutes, codes of ethics, declarations, resolutions, and additional documents.

JUDGEMENTS AND OTHER DECISIONS: this category includes court judgements, arbitral awards, rulings, opinions, and similar sources.

INTERNET SOURCES: this category encompasses articles and content originating from online newspapers, portals, and various websites. Online scientific journal articles are grouped under “bibliography.”

---

## 3. Decision-Making Process, Review, and Proofreading

### Initial Review

The Editorial Board assesses the suitability of the manuscript for publication. After the initial review, manuscripts are sent for peer review (except for reviews, commentaries, case law analyses, and book or conference reports).

### Peer Review Process

Upon determination of the article's suitability for publication, it is forwarded to two independent reviewers for **double-blind peer review**.

During and after the review process, the executive editors of the journal or the journal secretary will inform the author of the reviewed article about the received reviews and any potential requests for revisions. The author will receive these notifications via email. If revisions to the manuscript are required, the file containing the version of the article

that needs to be revised, along with any instructions from the editor/reviewer, will be sent via email.

Reviewers evaluate the article based on the following criteria:

- Structure of the manuscript,
- Contribution to the field,
- References and methodology,
- Conclusions and recommendations for further research.

Papers are categorised in accordance with the Guidelines for Editing and Formatting Journals issued by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Croatia. The Editorial Board makes the final decision on the categorisation of the paper, based primarily on the assessment of the reviewers.

### **Categorization of Articles**

Articles are published in the following categories:

1. **Original Scientific Paper** – presents original research results.
2. **Preliminary Scientific Communication** – preliminary research findings.
3. **Review Article** – a critical overview of a specific topic.
4. **Professional Paper** – a paper based on professional knowledge and experience.

### **Proofreading Process**

All accepted manuscripts in Croatian language undergo proofreading. Authors are required to cooperate with proofreaders and respond to queries. In addition to papers in English written by authors who are not native speakers, it is necessary to submit a proofreading certificate from a native speaker. This requirement ensures that the paper adheres to the expected standards of clarity and fluency in English.

---

## **4. Ethical Guidelines**

The DOOR journal adheres to the guidelines of the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**. Authors must comply with the following principles:

- **Originality** – plagiarism is prohibited.
- **Accuracy of data and citations.**
- **Disclosure of conflicts of interest.**
- **Permission for the reproduction of third-party materials.**
- **Authorship Statement** – all authors must sign a statement confirming the originality and contribution to the work.

By submitting their papers, authors implicitly confirm the originality of their papers' content and guarantee that the papers have not been previously published in another language, either in part or in full, and that the paper is not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

The journal's Editorial Board is not responsible for any potential plagiarism in the papers it receives. The authors are solely responsible for plagiarism, regardless of whether it is discovered during the review process or after the publication in the journal.

---

## 5. Fees and Copyright

- No fees are charged for submission, review, or publication.
  - Authors retain copyright but grant the journal a non-exclusive license for publication under the **CC BY-NC 4.0 license**.
- 

## 6. Open access policy

DOOR is an open access journal. Its contents are available without charge to individual users and institutions. Journal users may read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full text of the articles published in the journal without seeking prior permission from the publisher or author(s). This policy is consistent with the BOAI definition of Open Access (<http://www.soros.org/openaccess>). Published source must be acknowledged with citation.

---

## 7. Contact

Submit manuscripts and inquiries to: [door@dorh.hr](mailto:door@dorh.hr).