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SLOVENIAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVIEWERS

March 2023



To make your job easier, we have prepared instructions on how to submit reviews for the *Slovenian Journal of Public Health*. We appreciate your time and effort in helping improve the quality of our journal. Thank you very much for your valuable reviews.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE SLOVENIAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

For those of you who are not familiar with our journal, we would like to provide some general information.

The *Slovenian Journal of Public Health* has been published since 1962 by the National Institute of Public Health in Slovenia. Since 2003, the journal has been a peer-reviewed scientific journal with English abstracts, and since 2014, an international scientific public health journal in English only. The journal's mission is to promote new achievements in the broad field of public health in Slovenia and Central and South-East Europe. The *Slovenian Journal of Public Health* publishes internationally oriented articles and encourages an interdisciplinary approach to public health. The journal is a forum for exchanging new public health concepts and solutions among researchers. The journal mainly publishes original scientific articles, and on occasion also systematic reviews, methodological articles, and invited editorials. It is published four times a year, with up to 35 articles each year, and has an average annual rejection rate of around 80%. The journal is indexed in major international databases, such as PubMed, Web of Science, and Scopus, and has had an impact factor since 2011, ranging from 0.16 to 1.6. As an open-access journal it is available online on De Gruyter, Sciendo <https://sciendo.com/journal/SJPH>.



Submitted manuscripts with a public health theme of international relevance are forwarded to two editors for review after technical integrity and plagiarism checking with [Crossref iThenticate](#). If a manuscript is judged worthy of the peer-review process, the editor sends it to three internationally renowned reviewers for review, at least one of whom must be from outside Slovenia. The review process is double-blinded. Our aim is that the process is fast, fair and constructive.

REVIEWER INVITATION LETTER

An invitation will be sent to you by the *Slovenian Journal of Public Health*, with the subject line 'Review Invitation' and the manuscript title.

From: "Slovenian Journal of Public Health" <em@edmgr.com>
 To: Sasa Zupancic <ozupancic@upol.si>
 Subject: Review Invitation for THE DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE SLOVENIAN VERSION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD ORAL HEALTH IMPACT SCALE (ECOH4S-SVN)
 Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023, 10:52 AM

Dear Mr. Zupancic,

We are pleased to invite you to review the manuscript for the Slovenian Journal of Public Health (Slovenian Journal of Public Health) titled "THE DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE SLOVENIAN VERSION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD ORAL HEALTH IMPACT SCALE (ECOH4S-SVN)".

This is the abstract:
 Introduction: The aim of the study was to develop and evaluate the validity and reliability of the first Slovenian instrument assessing the oral health-related quality of life (ORHQL) of preschool children (the ECOH4S-SVN). In addition, we searched for possible associations between the ECOH4S-SVN score and the behavioral characteristics of parents.
 Methods: The ECOH4S-SVN was developed using a forward-backward translation process. It consists of 40 items, each with a 5-point Likert scale. The internal consistency of the ECOH4S-SVN was evaluated through the generation of Cronbach's alpha (α), test-retest reliability with an interval of 14 days, and convergent validity with the parent-child communication scale (PCCTS) and the parent-child conflict scale (PCCS).
 Results: In total, 205 children participated, with a mean age of 4.8 years (SD: 0.8). The ECOH4S-SVN questionnaire was completed by parents of 205 children and scored by 71 parents. Results of the total ECOH4S-SVN scale include an α of 0.92, ICC = 0.85, and a 0.84 reliability (split-half correlation) was found between the ECOH4S-SVN and parent-child communication (PCCTS) and parent-child conflict (PCCS) scores of parents. The association between the ECOH4S-SVN scores of parents' age, educational level, and marital status was statistically significant.
 Conclusion: ECOH4S-SVN is a reliable and valid instrument for assessing the ORHQL of preschool children in the Slovenian-speaking population.
 If you agree to review this paper, please click the link: <https://www.edmgr.com/journal/view.aspx?articleid=22680>

If you do not wish to review the paper, please click the link: <https://www.edmgr.com/journal/view.aspx?articleid=22680>

Please click the link for our study: <https://www.edmgr.com/journal/view.aspx?articleid=22680>. Your User Name is **ozupancic** and your password is **ozupancic**.
 Please find the instructions for reviewers here: <https://www.edmgr.com/journal/view.aspx?articleid=22680>

The manuscript reference is SJPH 13 214 (2024)

If possible, I would appreciate receiving your review by April 11, 2023 (or earlier, if you wish). If possible, I would appreciate receiving your review in the first 24 hours (if possible). You may submit your comment online at the above URL. Thank you and best wishes for successful conclusions to this study. I appreciate the article and your time.

With kind regards,
 Mrs. Zalka Horvatic-Kralj, Ph.D., M.D.

The email body will contain an abstract which can help you determine whether the topic of the manuscript is within your field of expertise.

If, for any reason, you decide not to participate in the review process, please click the second link in the email to decline the invitation. This way we can exclude you from the process and invite another reviewer. You can use the box provided to state the reason for declining, such as not being in your field of expertise, being busy, or having conflicts of interest. We would also be very grateful if you could suggest other experts from the field who may be interested in participating. You can submit your decision by clicking the submit button. If you have decided not to review the manuscript then we sincerely hope that you will accept a different one on another occasion. You will receive a thank you email once your decision has been submitted.

If you decide to accept the invitation and take part in the review process, please click the first link. Now you will get an insight into the entire manuscript. The deadline for submitting the review is one month, and the system will automatically send you reminders. If you also want to review the revision of the manuscript, you will receive a second invitation. If you think it would be good for the manuscript to be reviewed by another reviewer (such as for a multidisciplinary or borderline topic), please mention this in your review. If you want to contact the author for a more direct response to any questions about the manuscript, please send your request to the editorial office.

EDITORIAL MANAGER SYSTEM

The journal welcomes reviews in electronic form to the web-based peer-review system, Editorial Manager (EM) at <http://www.editorialmanager.com/sjph/>, and no longer accepts reviews by email or post.



REVIEWER LOGIN

Please use the login information you have received by email. Log in to the EM application as a reviewer ('Reviewer Login').



REVIEW SUBMISSION

The system will notify you that the manuscript that you accepted by clicking the link in your email is awaiting your review in the 'Pending Assignments' section.



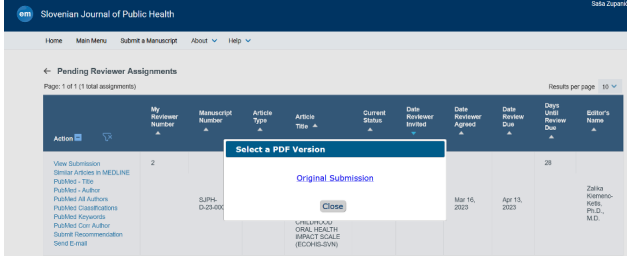
DATA INPUT

Submitting a review requires viewing the manuscript ('View Manuscript') and submitting your recommendation ('Submit Recommendation').

My Reviewer Number	Manuscript Number	Article Type	Article Title	Current Status	Date Reviewer Invited	Date Reviewer Agreed	Date Review Due	Days Until Review Due	Editor's Name
2	SJPH-D-23-00014	Original Study	THE DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE SLOVENIAN VERSION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD ORAL HEALTH IMPACT SCALE (ECOH4S-SVN)	Under Review	Mar 16, 2023	Mar 16, 2023	Apr 13, 2023	28	Zalka Horvatic-Kralj, Ph.D., M.D.

VIEW SUBMISSION

To view the manuscript, click on the 'View Submission' button. The manuscript will appear in PDF format and you can save it to your computer to read and study later.



There are line numbers in the PDF. They can help you to give specific remarks on parts of the manuscript.

1 **1 INTRODUCTION**

2 Oral health is an integral part of general health, and oral diseases have a significant impact

3 on the quality of life and lead to higher healthcare costs (1). Oral health and general health

4 are associated (2), as well as oral health-related and health-related quality of life (3). Many

5 diseases show signs or symptoms in the oral cavity. Health problems in the oral cavity can

6 either be the first, only or even the most severe manifestation of a systemic disease,

7 additionally oral health problems can be a leading cause in a deterioration in quality of life (4).

8 Different untreated oral diseases can lead to tooth loss, which affects self-rated general

9 health (2) not to mention the ability to eat, speak and interact with people. Although oral

10 health problems usually do not represent health emergencies, they prolong the state of pain

11 and suffering, and cause functional, aesthetic, nutritional and psychological problems (5).

12 Periodontitis, which is one of the most prevalent oral diseases, could be a potential

13 contributing risk factor for a wide array of clinically important systemic diseases, such as

14 cardiovascular diseases, autoimmune disorders, pregnancy complications as well as

15 diabetes mellitus (DM) (6). The main factor for developing periodontitis is formation of

16 bacterial plaque on tooth surfaces. However, some studies also suggest that poor glycaemic

17 control is associated with higher risk for developing periodontitis (7). On the other hand,

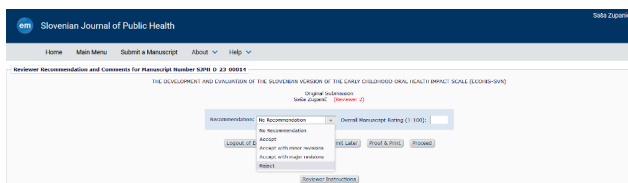
18 conventional periodontal treatment (scaling and root planning) results in a statistically

19 significant reduction in glycated haemoglobin levels (8).

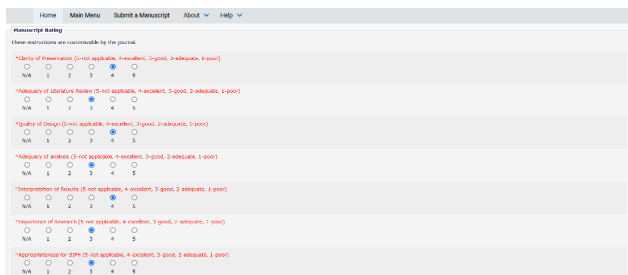
SUBMIT RECOMMENDATION

Once your review is written, you can submit it by clicking the **'Submit Recommendation'** button.

First, you need to state your **recommendation** for corrections. You can choose from several options: accepting the manuscript without corrections, requesting minor or major revisions, or rejecting the manuscript. Please, evaluate the manuscript, giving a rating from 1-100.

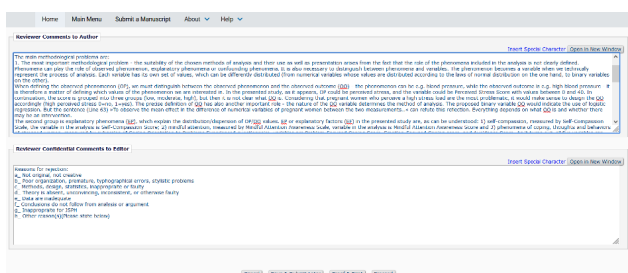


Answer the questions about the clarity of the presentation, the literature, the quality of the design, the adequacy of the analyses, the interpretation of the results, the importance of the results, the appropriateness for the field of public health and for our journal.



If you would like to review the revised manuscript, please select **'Yes'** for the last item.

Once you have completed your review, please fill in the author's box (**'Reviewer Comments to Author'**), and use the second box to provide us with your opinion for the editors (**'Reviewer Confidential Comments to Editor'**).



If you decide to reject the manuscript, clearly state the reasons for your decision and add or choose from among the already-listed weaknesses.

The *Slovenian Journal of Public Health* is a scientific journal with an impact factor. If a manuscript is in the review process, it does not necessarily mean that the article will be published. Reviews should be written in English and be as detailed and specific as possible. Carefully read the manuscript and evaluate its content and relevance to our journal. Provide a detailed review of the manuscript, including any errors or omissions, and highlight any major strengths or weaknesses. Make sure to provide a constructive and unbiased opinion of the manuscript. Divide your review into main remarks and suggestions. Give your opinion on each part of the manuscript (title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, conclusions, references, tables and figures). Please do not edit the manuscript's language, just note that the manuscript requires language editing. Note that young authors who are not experienced in scientific publishing also submit manuscripts. Please help them with advice and guidance, especially if the manuscript is not presented in the most formal manner but contains important findings and messages.

Once you have entered all the necessary information, confirm your review and submit it twice - first with the **'Proceed'** button, then with **'Submit Review to Editorial Office'**.



After successfully submitting your review, you will receive a thank-you email. If you choose to review the revised manuscript, we will invite you again to evaluate the revision. The procedure for submitting a review of the revision is the same as that set out above.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Reviewing is a very responsible and demanding task, as your opinion often leads an editorial decision and thus contributes significantly to the fate of the manuscript. With your evaluations and suggestions, you also contribute significantly to the improvement of the quality of the *Slovenian Journal of Public Health*. We greatly appreciate your invaluable work. However, we do not pay for reviews.

If you encounter any difficulties in submitting your review, please contact the editorial office at zdrav.var@nijz.si for assistance.

Prepared by: Saša Zupanič, executive editor