

# ACTA ACUSTICA, THE NEW JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEAN ACOUSTICS ASSOCIATION

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## ABSTRACT

After four years of hybrid model, the journal of the European Acoustics Association becomes a full Open Access (OA) journal. For this transformation, the journal name becomes Acta Acustica. EDP Sciences, a specialist of OA, is the new publisher. According to “Plan S”, the results of projects granted by 17 European Agencies (incl. the European Commission) must to be published in full Open Access journals or platforms. Acta Acustica is one of the rare acoustics journal of this kind, as journal of a learned society. It is the only one controlled by an acoustical society. It is a leading voice in the field of acoustics. The aim is to ensure the greatest and easiest possible accessibility to quality research in the field of acoustics. Answers to the questions of the attendees will be given. Statistics will be provided, and many topics will be discussed, in particular, the process for submitting and publishing, and the interest of Acta Acustica for young acousticians.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Acta Acustica published in collaboration with the European Acoustics Association (EAA), is an international, peer-reviewed journal on acoustics. It publishes original articles on all subjects in the field of acoustics. The journal was relaunched as a fully open access journal a year ago. The new Open Access journal, Acta Acustica, is the only full open access journal controlled by an acoustic association, see [1].

## 2. HISTORY OF THE JOURNAL OF A LEARNED SOCIETY

The history of Acta Acustica started in 1994. The EAA, created in the same year, decided to create the journal as its main product, with the Publisher Editions de Physique (former name of EDP Sciences), property of the French Physical Society. 3 years later, the journal was united with a publisher journal, Acustica. In order to support the journal, the EAA encouraged its National Societies (NS) to subscribe for all their members. This was accepted by a

majority of NS. Up to 2007, the journal existed in a paper version with a CD version. After 2007, the CD version progressively disappeared, and was replaced by an online access. In 2010 the EAA decided to pay the subscription for all members of the NS (9000).

This was a starting point for the present situation. In 2016 the possibility to publish a paper in Open Access was open for the authors, according to the so-called hybrid model (coexistence of reader subscription and author payment). In the same year, the EAA decided to transform as soon as possible, the journal into a full Open Access journal (with no more paper version). The discussion process lasted upon 2019. The best offer, by EDP Science, was selected. The name of the journal was changed again, and returned to Acta Acustica. Two important features can be emphasized: i) the new publisher was capable of negotiating agreements with institutions or consortia, to alleviate the administrative burden for some authors to pay the Article Processing Charges ii) this transfer will be accepted by the EAA, who mainly accepted to establish a scheme to support the authors.

Why was it possible to do such a transfer? The reason is obvious: from a long time, the scientific society EAA was already used to contributing to financial support of the journal. This was a very favourable situation. Actually, to fund the publication of a high quality journal in open access, the former subscription charge needs to be replaced by Article Processing Charges.

## 3. GENERAL VIEW OF THE NEW JOURNAL

or platforms As you probably know, more than 20 research-funding agencies have agreed to support the so-called S-plan [1], which imposes that, starting in 2021, all the peer-reviewed results of projects funded by these agencies must be published in full open access journals and thus distributed worldwide. In order to avoid that the Article Processing Charges become an obstacle for publication for small-revenue institutions, the General Assembly of the EAA has agreed, under the principle of solidarity, to establish a financial support system for the authors belonging to the EAA Na-

tional Societies. The support rules are detailed on the Journal website: <https://www.edpsciences.org/en/publication-charges#aacus> Thanks to the involvement and the professionalism of the Associated Editors and all the Reviewers, the last issue of Acta Acustica united with Acustica has been published on time, despite all the operational difficulties encountered the last couple of months with our previous publisher. The same team has accepted to continue serving the EAA and will put both its enthusiasm and professionalism to make Acta Acustica, a top-level scientific journal and transform the first full open access Acoustics Journal controlled by a non-profit association in a great success. The year 2020 is very important for the EAA and a big challenge for the board: launching of our new open access journal, organizing our conference Forum Acusticum FA2020 and above all make the International year of sound a big event [2].

#### 4. PAPER CATEGORIES AND SUBJECTS

The journal considers review papers, scientific papers, technical and applied papers, short communications, letters to the editor. Acta Acustica will cover all domains of acoustics.

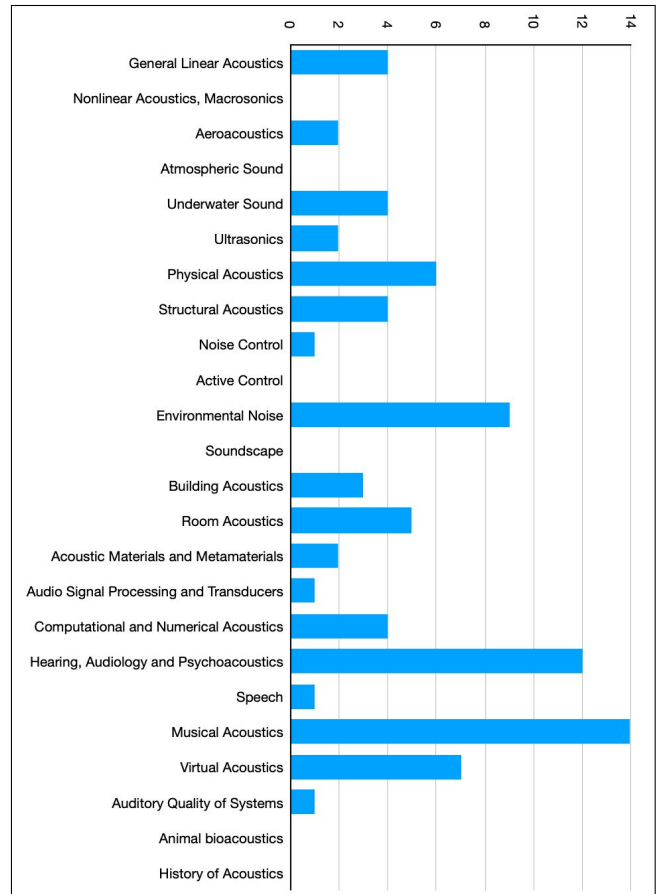
- General Linear Acoustics • Nonlinear Acoustics, Macrosonics • Aeroacoustics • Atmospheric Sound • Underwater Sound • Ultrasonics • Physical Acoustics • Structural Acoustics • Noise Control • Active Control • Environmental Noise • Soundscape • Building Acoustics • Room Acoustics • Acoustic Materials and Metamaterials • Audio Signal Processing and Transducers • Computational and Numerical Acoustics • Hearing, Audiology and Psychoacoustics • Speech • Musical Acoustics • Virtual Acoustics • Auditory Quality of Systems • Animal bioacoustics • History of Acoustics.

All papers on acoustics can be submitted ( see Fig. 1).

Furthermore, we wish that the journal goes beyond open access. It can be a pioneer in open science [3] in the field of acoustics. In this objective, we have recently published a new data policy for Acta Acustica, encouraging authors to make their data, code, methods as accessible and reusable as possible. The field of acoustics produces a lot of data, for example audio clips for articles on musical acoustics and signal processing– we are advising authors on how to best share and document such data.

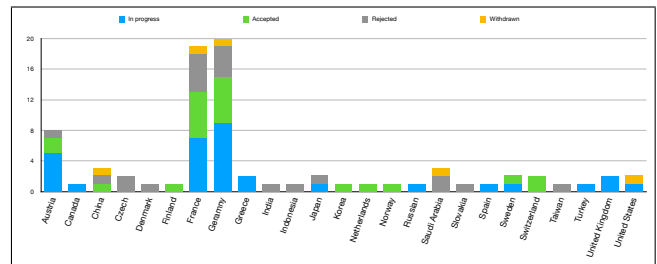
#### 5. COUNTRIES OF THE CORRESPONDING AUTHORS

The countries of the corresponding authors are mainly Germany, France, and Austria (see Fig. 2). These figures can be related to a will of the National Acoustical Societies, members of EAA, but also to the particular cases of the financial support for authors. A challenge is to increase the possibilities of financial support by European or overseas institutions. 49 papers were submitted by European authors, while 10 were submitted by Asian authors and 3 by authors from North America. The present Editorial Board will endeavor to increase the journal audience, and open it



**Figure 1.** Subject breakdown of the papers submitted in 2020.

to authors worldwide, thanks to the large diffusion allowed by the OA.



**Figure 2.** Countries of the corresponding authors in 2020.

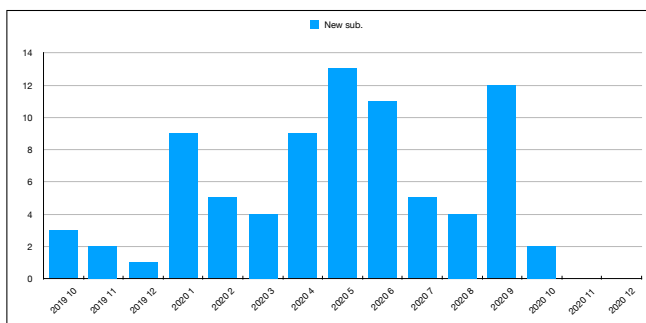
#### 6. THE REVIEW PROCESS

##### 6.1 Submissions

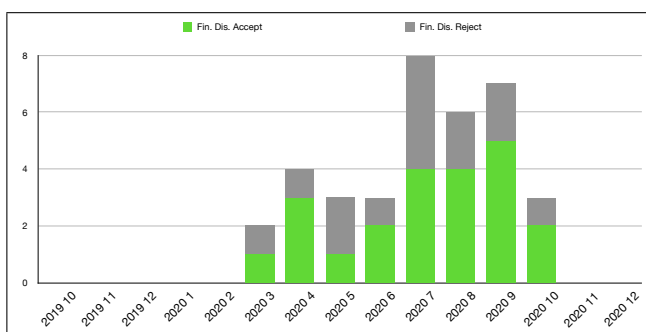
Fig. 3 shows the number of papers submitted since the end of 2019. Although the creation of a new publication concept is a difficult task, the number of submissions is satisfactory. Several promotion campaigns are on the way.

##### 6.2 Review process

The entire review is conducted using the Editorial Manager system. Submitted papers first go to the editorial assistant,



**Figure 3.** Number of submissions per month (since October 2019).

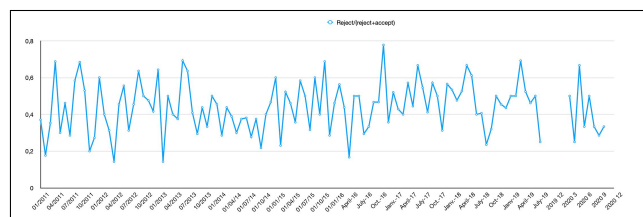


**Figure 4.** Final decision for the papers submitted in 2020.

to be checked for correct formatting and similarity. After the Editorial Assistant has verified that a paper is ready for review, the Editor-in-Chief assigns it to the appropriate associate editor. The paper then gets an editor screening review. About 5 to 10 percent are rejected at this point, mainly due the following reasons: proposed work does not contain original material, English and scientific quality is poor, introduction does not present the major works already published. Papers that are not rejected by the associate editor go to two, or sometimes more, referees. Once the referees' reports are in, the associate editor makes a decision: Acceptable without revision; Acceptable with minor revision; Minor revision; Major revision; Reject. Frequently, the reviewers are in agreement; occasionally, the associate editor needs to evaluate conflicting opinions very carefully before reaching a final decision.

### 6.3 The Editorial Board

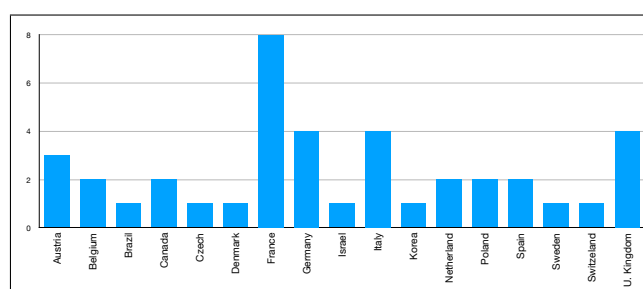
According to the EAA internal regulation, the Editor-in-Chief of AA is appointed by the EAA Board for a term of four years. Reappointment is possible for one additional term. From May 2020 Manfred Kaltenbacher (Graz University of Technology, Austria) has been appointed Editor-in-Chief. In a transient period, he will be supported by the former EiC, Jean Kergomard. The Editor-in-Chief chooses the members of the Editorial board for a term of three years. exists. An extension of the term is possible for one additional 3 year term. Fig.6 shows the breakdown of the Associate Editor countries.



**Figure 5.** Reject rate: a continuity with the former journal.

### 6.4 Decisions

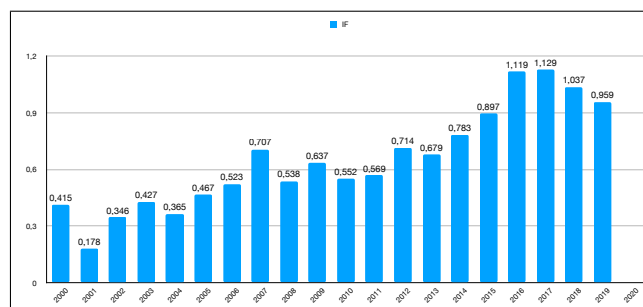
Up to October, 22 papers were accepted and 21 were rejected. The rate of rejection is close to 0.5, and a great continuity can be observed with the former journal (Figs. 4-5). This is probably a consequence of the continuity of the Editorial Board (thanks to the Associate Editors).



**Figure 6.** Countries of the associate editors.

### 7. CITATIONS OF THE ARTICLES

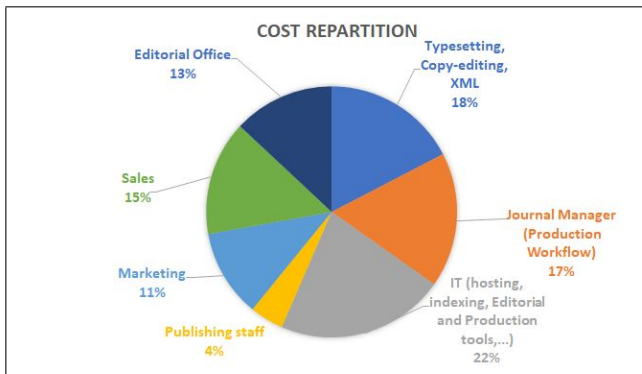
The new journal under its new name 'Acta Acustica' continues to be indexed by Clarivate Analytics. The impact factor as computed by Clarivate Analytics shows that the Impact Factor has been increasing since the initial launch of the journal. We are hoping that the transition to open access, as well as other innovations in publishing that will be introduced in the journal in the years to come and the great work of the editorial board, will help to increase the value. In particular a better knowledge of the journal is aimed in non-European countries, as well as in industrial research. We hope that all members of the EAA will share this aim.



**Figure 7.** Impact factor for Acta Acustica united with Acustica.

## 8. ECONOMIC MODEL: ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGE

Despite the suppression of the paper version several residual cost issues must be taken in charge by the publisher. The breakdown of the costs as an average for the journals in Open Access is shown in Fig. 8.



**Figure 8.** Typical cost repartition for open access journals at EDP Sciences

For the first ten months, the Article Processing Charge (APC) were paid for 21 articles. 12 articles were supported (totally or partially) by the institution of the author, and 8 were supported (totally or partially) by the EAA.

## 9. CONCLUSION RECOMMENDATIONS TO YOUNG ACOUSTICIANS

We encourage especially PhD students to submit their research achievements to Acta Acustica. During your PhD, you have read so many scientific articles and you therefore have an extreme good knowledge of the state of the art on your PhD topic. So, write down your developed methods (analytically, experimentally, numerically) and submit it to your journal. Please also consider public data repositories being linked in in the paper to make your data, code, methods as accessible and reusable as possible. Keep in mind that we are your fully open access journal with high quality assurance. Please keep in mind that we are your fully open access journal with high quality assurance and so we can guarantee worldwide distribution of your great ideas! Obviously it is legitimate to publish in various journals, with various specialties. Please think about the main characteristics of Acta Acustica: i) it is a European-international journal; ii) it is the journal of a scientific association; iii) it is a full Open Access journal. This is interesting for young (and less young) acousticians!

## 10. REFERENCES

- [1] European Science Foundation, Open Access is Foundational to the Scientific Enterprise, <https://www.coalition-s.org>
- [2] Manell Zakharia. Editorial, Acta Acust. 4 (2020), E1 <https://doi.org/10.1051/aacus/20190021>

- [3] Kostas Glinos Making Open Science the new normal <https://www.dri.ie/introducing-idcc20-\keynotes-dr-kostas-glinos>