

Biennial report from the Publicity Committee, August 2022

The Publicity Committee has consisted of Kolbjørn Engeland (the chair of the Publicity Committee) and Bjørn Kløve (the editor-in-chief of Hydrology Research) and Han Yu (the web-editor of www.nfh-hydrology.org).

The action points of the Publicity Committee for the period August 2020–August 2022 have been:

- Merging the website to a new platform and keep the website updated.
- Write regular newsletters
- Keep the flyer updated, make it downloadable from the website and distribute
- Announce NHC through the website and e-mail
- Produce a biennial report about the activities of the Publicity Council for the General Assembly

The website, <https://www.nfh-hydrology.org/>

The website is updated regularly, including the detailed introduction of NHF, membership, new events (mainly NHC2022 now), special issues, publishable documents like revised versions of the flyer, abstract of events and minutes from the board meetings, etc. The last update of the flyer was made in 2018 and an update will be required after the GA 2022. During the last four years, e-mail addresses to members have been collected from all the member countries. The NHC 2022 and the GA 2022 have been announced on the website and through available e-mail addresses. The NHF Twitter account NHF Hydrology (NHF Hydrology) has been used frequently to announce NHF related activities.

The newsletters

NHF started to submit newsletters to its members from 2021. The first newsletter was sent out in Dec 2021 and in total 2 newsletters have been prepared. With the newsletters NHF wants to

- 1: Present ongoing research activities in the Nordic and Baltic countries
- 2: Present summaries of PhD theses from our members
- 3: Present our institutional members

With these newsletters the boards want to increase the value of being member of NHF.

The journal, Hydrology Research

Due to Covid9 the NHC in 2020 was canceled. As a part of the 50 years anniversary, the board decide to invite for a special issue of *Hydrology Research*. The editorial team invited author teams to write review papers on important topics within hydrological research. After a peer-review process, 10 papers were accepted for publication in the special issue. This includes three review papers, one opinion paper on important research challenges, and one paper by former editor in chief Dan Rosbjerg who summarizes the history of the journal (Nordic Hydrology and Hydrology Research). The references to these five papers are given below. Additionally, five ordinary research papers are included. The authors are greatly acknowledged for their contributions to the special issue.

H. Marttila, H. Laudon, L. M. Tallaksen, F. Jaramillo, K. Alfredsen, A.-K. Ronkanen, B. Kronvang, E. Lotsari, M. Kämäri, P. Ala-Aho, J. Nousu, J. Silander, H. Koivusalo, B. Kløve; Nordic hydrological frontier in the 21st century. *Hydrology Research* 1 May 2022; 53 (5): 700–715. doi: <https://doi.org/10.2166/nh.2022.120>

Nils-Otto Kitterød, Jens Kværner, Per Aagaard, Jurga Arustienė, Jānis Bikše, Atle Dagestad, Pål Gundersen, Birgitte Hansen, Árni Hjartarson, Enn Karro, Maris Klavins, Andres Marandi, Rasa Radienė, Inga Retike, Pekka M. Rossi, Lærke Thorling; Hydrogeology and groundwater quality in

the Nordic and Baltic countries. *Hydrology Research* 1 July 2022; 53 (7): 958–982. doi: <https://doi.org/10.2166/nh.2022.018>

Rolf Larsson, Antti Belinskij, Bjørn Kløve, Elve Lode, Eva Skarbøvik, Diana Meilutyte-Lukauskiene, Vytautas Akstinas. Coordination of water policies for quality and quantity – experiences from Nordic and Baltic countries. Accepted.

Dan Rosbjerg, Kolbjørn Engeland, Eirik Førlund, Ali Torabi Haghighi, Ali Danandeh Mehr, Jonas Olsson; Nordic contributions to stochastic methods in hydrology. *Hydrology Research* 1 June 2022; 53 (6): 840–866. doi: <https://doi.org/10.2166/nh.2022.137>

Dan Rosbjerg; 50 Years with Nordic Hydrology/*Hydrology Research*. *Hydrology Research* 1 June 2022; 53 (6): 908–913. doi: <https://doi.org/10.2166/nh.2022.017>

The journal moved to open access in 1 January 2020. As expected by the IWA publisher, the number of submitted papers then declined, but according to the publisher the decline was lower than expected so that was very positive. The submissions declined from 2020 to 2021 from 250 to about 220. However, it is expected that an increase in submission will eventually occur after the decline, but this has not yet happened for 2021/2022. The publisher follows the development closely as it is important for generation of income to cover costs etc. The usage of papers (uploads) has increased with open access.

Accepted papers declined from 100 to 90 in the same period. The submitted papers are from different regions with a high number of papers from China, UK, Iran, Nordic countries and in recent year also Ethiopia (see figure below). The impact factor was 2.35 and 2.71 in 2020 and 2021

Submitted Articles and Number of Editors - *Hydrology Research*

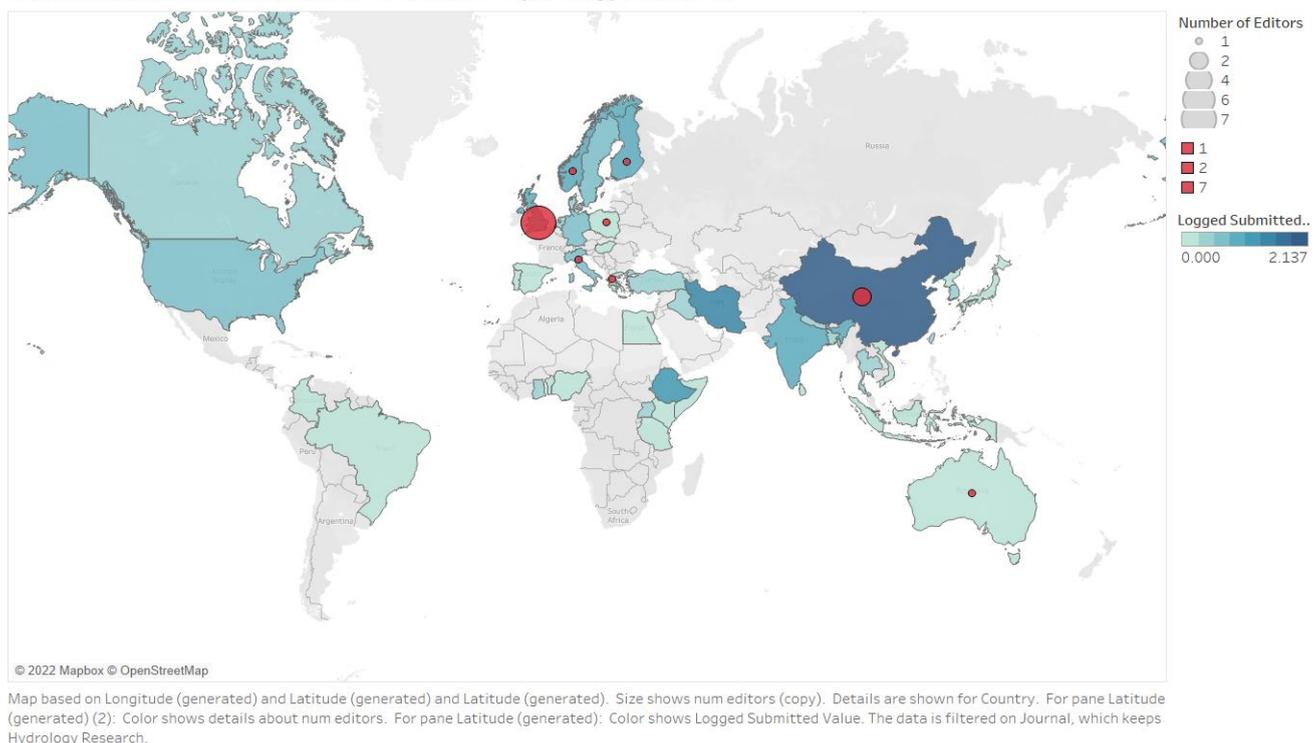


Figure 1. Submitted papers 2022 and editors.

A key challenge with the journal is still sufficient quality of submitted manuscripts and severe competition with other water journals. Also, a problem is difficulties in finding good reviewers. There is clearly a need to increase the share of high-quality papers reflecting the scope of the journal, including papers from the Nordic/Baltic countries and from the UK, Germany and Italy.

In order to increase the impact of the journal different measures have been implemented since 2020 and the active renewal is still going on. Key actions taken are:

- Change in editor roles. The former editors are now editors-in-chief and the former Associate editors are currently subject editors. The role of editors-in-chief is to develop the journal strategy with IWA publisher and the new subject editors. Subject editors handle the papers

from start to end. Also, a regional editor for China has been introduced to develop the Chinese involvement. A programme of “young editorial board members” has also been introduced with an open call for members.

- The journal has about 10 topics of which must be selected upon submission. The editors-in-chief are responsible for some subjects as well. The implemented process intends to speed up the submission process and increase quality.
- Regular meetings are held with editor-in-chiefs and IWA. Also, subject editors, editor-in-chiefs and IWA meet regularly to develop the journal. In these meetings, IWA presents the journal facts and statistics and we discuss common plans to improve quality control and development work.

Other changes and plans that are in the process of development are:

- Monthly journal issues (instead of bimonthly).
- Special issues. It has also been recently decided that special issues (SI) can be made with a smaller number of papers. The SI process has been discussed and developed. The plan is to find a SI editor, preferably from North America to lead the development of the SI concept. For SI the papers are accepted and published without delays and then collected to a SI.
- Develop the gender balance of the subject editors and editorial board. Some improvements have been made, but more work needs to be done.
- Nordic subject editors. Several leading hydrologists have been invited but declined invitations. This process will continue to improve the involvement of the Nordic-Baltic community. In general, we try to invite editors to also increase the impact and cover new regions globally.
- Institutional agreements (for free publishing). IWA publisher works actively with this. The number of institutions has increase and in 2021-2021 in particular for Austria.
- Encouraging of review paper submissions to increase citation and impact.

Table 1 Submission by categories in 2022 (June status).

Categories 2022	Responsible Editor	Submissions
Atmospheric Processes: Precipitation, Climate Systems, Evaporation	Jie Chen	12
Cold Climate Hydrology	Bjørn Kløve	3
Conceptual Modelling & Processes	Elena Volpi	13
Forecasting & Downscaling Modelling	Jie Chen	6
Geostatistics	Emmanouil Varouchakis	0
Historical Hydrology	Neil MacDonald	1
Hydroecology	Bjørn Kløve	16
Hydrogeology	Michał Wojciech Kawecki	17
Hydrometry and measurement	Harry Dixon	5
Isotope Hydrology	Przemysław Wachniew	5
Land Use and Climate Change Modelling	Andrew Barton	9
Nature Based Solutions	Bjørn Kløve	0
Paleohydrology	Neil MacDonald	0
Plant-Soil-Water Interactions	Ke Zhang	4
Remote Sensing Hydrology	Nevil Wyndham Quinn	11
Socio-Hydrology	Nevil Wyndham Quinn	3
Soil Erosion	Nevil Wyndham Quinn	5
Statistical Hydrology & Machine Learning	Elena Volpi	13
Urban Hydrology & Stormwater Management	David N. Lerner	9
Water Quality	Bjørn Kløve	4
Water Resource Management	Andrew Barton	43

The cooperation with IWA Publishing runs smoothly and the joint editorship with BHS (British Hydrological Society) is also functioning well.

Special issue sin process includes:

- NHF 50 Years Celebration Issue
- Innovation, advances and future challenges for the Italian hydrological community (IHS issue)
- Advances in Water Science Research (China Water Forum)
- Learning from the Floods of 2021
- Mechanisms of hydrological evolution in human-influenced basins

- Advances in monitoring and modelling of river ice processes

Since 1980 there has been a tradition for awarding the best paper published in Hydrology Research (previously Nordic Hydrology) and the prize has been awarded every second year at the Nordic Hydrological Conference (NHC). The winning paper is chosen based on high scientific and technical quality standards with also consideration of geographic distribution. The selection is usually done by the editorial members of Nordic and Baltic countries together with the editor-in-chief, Bjørn Kløve. The prize was at NHC2022 awarded to Elena Ridolfi, Elena Mondino, Giuliano Di Baldassarre for the paper titled « Hydrological risk: modeling flood memory and human proximity to rivers ».