

Biennial report from the Publicity Committee, October 2020

The Publicity Committee has consisted of Kolbjørn Engeland (the chair of the Publicity Committee), Chong-Yu Xu the editor-in-chief of *Hydrology Research* January 2012–January 2019) and Bjørn Klöve (the editor-in-chief of *Hydrology Research* from January 2019) and Karin Nyström (the web-editor of www.nfh-hydrology.org).

The action points of the Publicity Committee for the period August 2018–August 2020 have been:

- Keep the website updated
- 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, www.nfh-hydrology.org

The website is updated regularly, including uploading revised versions of the flyer, news about upcoming activities – mainly NHC 2020/2022 – and minutes from the board meetings. The last update of the flyer was made in August 2018 and an update will be required after the GA 2020. During the last four years, e-mail addresses to members have been collected from all the member countries. The NHC 2020 and the GA 2020 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.

Questionnaire among members of NHF on Hydrology Research and the association to increase awareness interest in the association

In 2015 the British Hydrology Society (BHS) has carried out a membership survey regarding the journal "Hydrology Research" to find the member's opinion about the journal. A similar, online survey was carried out among the NHF-members in June 2020. The result of the survey will be summarized in a small note, shared with the editorial office of *Hydrology Research*, and used as a guidance to increase communication with the NHF members.

The journal, *Hydrology Research*

The XXX Nordic Water conference was held in Bergen, Norway, on 13–15 August 2018 with 145 participants. In total, over 114 abstracts were submitted from 24 countries, including all Nordic and Baltic countries, 30 of the presentations were given by master- and PhD-students. After the conference, authors were given the opportunity to submit their original contributions for publication in a special issue of *Hydrology Research*. All submitted papers were evaluated and discussed by a scientific committee. After a rigorous peer-review process, 15 papers were accepted for publication in the special issue of *Hydrology Research* Vol 51(2) covering the range of the conference themes. Great thanks to the editors and reviewers of HR as well as to Dr. Knut Alfredsen for the excellent work in editing the special issue.

The number of ordinarily received papers has increased gradually in recent years, submissions in 2014 and 2015 are 321 and 333, respectively. In the years of 2016 and 2017 are around 600. But good quality papers are remaining in a very low percentage. Many papers are in so poor quality that

have to be rejected directly by the editors (about 50%), which increased remarkably the amount of work for the editors, since they need to do a pre-review for all the submitted papers. The final rejection rates are around 75-85% during the last few years, higher than most of the hydrological journals. 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 maintain a quick and high-quality review and publication process, it was decided by IWA, BHS, NHF and the two editors to assign five Associate Editors since 2017. Four of these five Associate Editors are from NHF (2), BHS (1), and IHS (1). The Associate Editors assist the Editors in handling Special Issue papers as well as some of ordinary papers within their specialty.

The cooperation with IWA Publishing runs smoothly and the joint editorship with BHS (British Hydrological Society) is also functioning well. There is an annual meeting (normally in December) involving IWA, BHS, NHF and the two editors where all the issues related to the journal are discussed. The NHF also discussed the possibility for authors in Hydrology Research to provide free access to articles at by paying a fee. Discussion on this issue continues.

The journal is in good shape, impact factor increased this year from 1.801 to 2.47. The biggest challenge is to attract a sufficient number of good quality papers. It is hoped that BHS, NHF, and the Italian and German Hydrological Societies (IHS and GHS) can encourage their members to submit their good work to Hydrology Research. The number of papers per issue has doubled from 2012.

After a review process by IWA in 2019, Hydrology Research (HR) was transformed to a fully Open Access journal from 1 January 2020. The move to Open Access coincides with the 50th anniversary of the journal and a 37.4% increase in Impact Factor (to 2.47). To make this transition possible, all articles submitted after 31 October 2019 were subject to Open Access fees if they are accepted for publication. With the Open Access, the editorial board was also renewed. Also new associate editors were invited. Since summer 2020, submitted manuscripts are directly handled by associate editors to speed up the process.

Through Open Access, Hydrology Research will reach a more global audience, ultimately increasing readership and impact of this increasingly topical field. All papers will be published under Creative Commons OA licenses allowing for greater reuse, transparency, and promotion of published research. We look forward to celebrating this momentous transition with the Hydrology Research community and look forward to publishing all of your future HR research Open Access!

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, Chong-Yu Xu. The prize was at NHC2018 awarded to Inese Latkovska and Didzis Elferts for the paper titled «Long-term changes of the ice regime of rivers in Latvia».