Editors' note

Luís F. Costa¹ · Paulo Guimarães²

Received: 11 November 2016 / Accepted: 11 November 2016 / Published online: 17 November 2016
© ISEG 2016

1 PEJ update

The fifteenth volume of the Portuguese Economic Journal (PEJ) represented a return to normality, following the bumpy executive-board transition during 2015. The first special issue since 2009 was published: Energy Economics: Demand, Prices, and Welfare. We thank Isabel Soares and Óscar Afonso for organising it.

The number of new submissions reached a new record in 2015 with 95 papers, almost 50 per cent above the 2008–15 average. The average turnaround time also decreased to 67.8 days, a 50 per cent reduction, while the rejection rate hardly changed. By early November 2016 the previous record for the number of submissions was beaten and a further reduction in the turnaround time was observed.

In September 2016, Odd Rune Straume was replaced in the executive board by Steffen Hoernig. PEJ is extremely grateful to Odd Rune for the eight-year period during which he served as an editor. Nonetheless, he will continue as an associate editor. We also wish Steffen the best of luck.

The 10th annual meeting of PEJ was held at the University of Coimbra and was organised by José Murteira, Ana Margarida Monteiro, Óscar Lourenço, and Pedro Godinho. Ricardo Reis lead the scientific committee and Pedro Carneiro delivered the keynote speech. We are grateful to all of them for their superb work.

✉ Luís F. Costa
lukosta@iseg.ulisboa.pt

Paulo Guimarães
pfguimaraes@bportugal.pt

¹ ISEG - Lisbon School of Economics & Management, Universidade de Lisboa, Rua do Quelhas 6, 1200-781 Lisboa, Portugal

² Banco de Portugal (BdP), Pç. Liberdade 92, 4000-322 Porto, Portugal

The 2017 conference will take place at the University of *Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro* (UTAD) from 7 to 9 July. The local organising committee is composed by João Rebelo (chair), Ana Marta, José Vaz Caldas, Leonida Correia, Lina Gomes, Patrícia António, Patrícia Martins, and Sofia Gouveia. Vasco Carvalho will be the chair of the scientific committee and Sofia Villas-Boas will be the keynote speaker.

As promised, we launched the new website of PEJ [website of PEJ](#). The site includes the following sections: (i) the journal; (ii) annual meeting, upcoming and past; (iii) the Portuguese Economic Network (PEN); (iv) the Portuguese Economy Research Report, a blog curated by Rui Albuquerque¹; and (v) media links, including a [YouTube channel](#). We have also started a monthly newsletter that is disseminated amongst PEN members, conference participants, and authors.

2 Special topic: publication ethics

While we are glad to report an increasing number of submissions in the most recent years, we acknowledge an unsettling trend in the number of submitted publications that fail to comply with the ethical standards that are expected from serious academic work. Indeed, data for PEJ from February 2015 to early November 2016 shows that out of 279 papers that we received 20 had to be immediately rejected due to ethical concerns. These articles involved 37 authors from 13 countries (on 3 different continents) and comprised situations of plagiarism (9), self-plagiarism (8), both (2), and one double submission.

The commitment of the executive board of PEJ to a higher standard of publication ethics should not be underestimated. We routinely use plagiarism-detection software on received submissions and PEJ is an active member of [COPE - Committee on Publication Ethics](#). Furthermore, two members of PEJ's editorial board belong to [RePEc's plagiarism committee](#).

In the past we have adopted a policy of blacklisting all authors involved in unethical behavior and automatically rejected any further submission by these authors. However, given the increasing trend in this type of submissions, we feel that more vigorous action is needed. Henceforth, from 2017 onwards, we may optionally inform the hierarchical superiors at the institution where the authors are based. We hope that with this action we can help contribute to a healthier and more responsible scientific environment.

¹ The Portuguese Economy Data Report will be launched in the near future.