

A. Aims and scope

Development of technical and life sciences continues to grow rapidly. It is essential that the dissemination of information related to this development follows the same dynamics. The journal "Announcements of the Union of Scientists – Sliven" performs precisely this role, providing visible environment for cross-fertilization of ideas and knowledge to be used in research and development programs. The journal offers its readers a broad look at all branches of technical, social and health and nature-mathematical sciences. It publishes articles from the widest possible range of authors, both in terms of professional experience and country of origin.

“Announcements of Union of Scientists – Sliven” is devoted to original research articles that present a clear exposition of significant aspects of contemporary science. Primary emphasis is placed on high quality works that has neither appeared in, nor are under review by other journals. It is recommended the language of publication to be English, but publications in Bulgarian, Russian, German or French shall also be permitted. The journal maintains strict refereeing procedures and the acceptance of manuscripts for publication depends strongly on the recommendations of an anonymous reviewers and the supervising editor. The publication of the articles does not necessarily mean that the editorial board agree with the points of view of their authors.

B. Terms of Submission

1. The Journal accepts for review original research papers, reviews or short research communications of high scientific value in all areas of natural, technical, social and healthcare sciences on the understanding that the work has not been published previously and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.
2. Manuscripts should be submitted by the relevant corresponding author in electronic form as PDF (.pdf) or Word (.doc, .docx, .rtf) files to the Journal's e-mail: izv_su_sliven@abv.bg. If email submission is not possible, please send an electronic version on disk to the postal address of the publisher.
3. The corresponding author takes responsibility for the paper during submission and peer review process. He will receive an e-mail from the Managing Editor within one week period of time, confirming the receipt of the manuscript and providing the name of the supervising editor and the manuscript's number to be used in future reference.
4. The corresponding author is encouraged to submit the names and institutional e-mail addresses of several potential referees. Note that the

editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers to be used.

5. Upon acceptance, the corresponding author has to provide a final version of the manuscript in Microsoft Word file for copyediting purpose, together with a relevant version in PDF file.

C. Terms of Peer Review

1. All manuscripts are subject to consideration on two levels and are expected to meet standards of academic excellence.
2. First level consideration of the submitted manuscript is accomplished by the supervising editor within two weeks period of time. His possible decisions are: “approved for second level consideration” or “rejected” in accordance with the ethics and the formal adequacy of the manuscript and its power to be competitive enough for publication.
3. The Journal applies double-blind review process as a second level consideration of the submitted manuscript. If the manuscript is approved by the supervising editor, it will be considered by two peer-reviewers within four weeks period of time. The author(s) and the reviewers of the submitted manuscript remain anonymous in order to guarantee the objective and fair review of the manuscript.
4. The possible decisions of the reviewers are: “accept as is”, “accept after revision”, or “reject”. A manuscript, which received at least one assessment ”reject” will not be published by the Journal.
5. Authors should submit back their revisions within 1 month in the case of “accept after revision”.
6. **A note on plagiarism:** There is a zero-tolerance policy towards plagiarism (including self-plagiarism) in our journal. Manuscripts are screened for plagiarism before or during publication, and if found they will be rejected at any stage of processing.

D. Terms of Manuscript preparation

1. The manuscript processing software is based on the format specifications of PDF (.pdf) or Word (.doc, .docx, .rtf) files.
2. The text of the manuscript must be written in British English.
3. There is no restriction on the length of research papers and reviews; however, authors are encouraged to be concise. The authors are encouraged to keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. To avoid unnecessary errors authors are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of their word processor.

4. Manuscript formatting requirements: *Paper size: A4; Page margins: top – 3 cm / bottom – 2 cm / left – 1.5 cm / right – 1.5 cm; Text: single spaced; Font: Times New Roman; Font size: 12 points; Alignment: Justified.* No footnotes allowed. Use endnotes instead.
5. The Header of the manuscript on first page should include in one-column format: title of the manuscript in capital letters (no abbreviations), the name(s) of the author(s) (without academic degrees), the affiliation(s) (Department, Faculty, University, COUNTRY) and e-mail(s) of the author(s), a self-contained abstract (not more than 15 lines) and not more than 6 key words. Note that the corresponding author has to be clearly indicated.
6. The Body of the manuscript takes place after the Header. It is arranged in the one-column format and include: introduction, preliminary notes (on the methods or materials used), main results and discussions, conclusions, acknowledgments (if any) and bibliography. The formulas have to be written in Equation Editor and to be numbered on the right with parentheses. References in the text have to be included using either the Harvard system – “author, date” style: example – [Webster, 2005], or numbers in square brackets in accordance with the numbered bibliography: example – [5].
7. Tables and Figures should be incorporated in the text and must be numbered using arabic numeral. The number and title (not in capital letters) of the table has to be above the table, centered. The number and title (not in capital letters) of the figure has to be below the figure, centered. Make sure images are of highest resolution, and any letters inside are clear and legible. If the figures or tables are created using PowerPoint, Photoshop, Microsoft Excel etc, please also provide the original files from those programs.
8. The bibliography should be written in Latin. If there are sources in Cyrillic, they must be presented in Latin, using English translation or transliteration.
9. The bibliography must be numbered and ordered in alphabetical order of authors. Specific formats are as follows:

For journal articles – Siao S., Lin L., Chen W., Huang M., Chong P., (2009), Characterization and emulsifying properties of block copolymers prepared from lactic acid and polyethylene glycol, *Journal of Applied Polymer Science*, **11 (4)**, 509–516.

For books and monographs – Erbe L., Kong Q., & Zhang B.G., (1995), *Oscillation Theory for Functional Differential Equations*, New York: Marcel Decker Inc.

For Internet sources - FlowJEM. <<http://www.flowjem.com>>, 2014 (accessed 28.04.14).

10. The editors reserve the right to edit manuscripts when necessary.

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