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## Editorial on MEST Journal 2023-1

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When we founded the MESTE organization, we desired to join the group of publishers who promote science and scientific achievements. In 2012, we launched two academic journals. One of them published works in English (The MEST Journal). The second promoted scientific achievements in Serbian and related languages (The FBIM Transactions), enabling researchers from the Balkans to express themselves more simply and reach readers that cannot understand English. We are particularly pleased that we realized our desire to promote the author's native languages in the scientific community for ten years. I take this opportunity to thank all the authors and reviewers who contributed to the publication of the FBIM Transactions. In comparison to publications written in English, we believe that writing in the author's native language significantly contributes to raising the scientific level in the authors' native country. Writing scientific papers in English can help promote the author, but the community from which the author comes hardly benefits.

But times have changed. Citation indexes (h-index, i10-index, etc.) appear to be a measure of the authors' scientific achievements impact and they enable the advance of authors' careers. Citation indexes and the very justification of their existence can be a separate topic for analysis. Under normal circumstances, they might be considered usable, but they seem to have become an end unto themselves and turned into likes on web pages. Unfortunately, it is easy to increase the citation rating if the author wants to. This approach to the evaluation of scientific achievements in many ways violates the very idea of quantifying achievements.

It is much harder to increase the citation index in languages that are not considered "world languages". Due to the possibility of using automatic translators, many authors decide to write in English, unjustifiably believing that the translation is correct and will allow them to become better known in the scientific community. That makes the work of reviewers and proofreaders difficult. The number of works rejected, based only on the quality of the English language is increasing. When authors try to improve the quality of the language of their work, challenges arise with finding quality translators and publishing costs rise. Some hope that by repeatedly submitting a revised work step by step, they will be able to publish the work. Because of the aforementioned phenomena and the lack of interest of the competent authorities to stimulate the publication of scientific papers in the native language, the quality of submitted works in Serbian and related languages is in decline. Not to get into a situation where, due to a reduced supply of good papers, the FBIM Transactions would start to be published irregularly, in the past year, within the MESTE we considered the justification of having two academic journals. At the end of September, that culminated in the decision to join the FBIM Transactions to the MEST Journal. The merger is facilitated by the fact that the topics covered in both journals are mostly the same.

Therefore, starting in 2023, the FBIM Transactions and the MEST Journal will be published under the unique name of the MEST Journal. The journal will continue to be published in English, but we leave the possibility of publishing the best works in Serbian and related languages in their original form in the chapter that will be called the FBIM Transactions in the next three years.



Compared to the previous edition of the MEST Journal, the situation in the world has not fundamentally changed. The pandemic is still ravaging the world, moving from one mutation to another. The health systems of many, even the most developed countries, are strained to the limit. The war in Ukraine has been going on for 326 days, bringing numerous victims and material destruction. The parties directly or indirectly involved in the conflict are becoming more and more infuriated. Other war conflicts are also announced. All in all, we can say that this is an ideal time for the development of war technology and military industry, while everything else is in big trouble.

In the MEST Journal, we try to work as usual. We succeed in this thanks to the enthusiasm of our authors, reviewers, and editors. This edition is published online and in paper form. In this issue, we have published 12 works. Three of them are original research articles. Seven articles belong to review papers, one paper belongs to the scientific discussion group, and one is a case study.

We thank authors and reviewers who did their job well and conscientiously to preserve the quality of the MEST journal and the works we publish.

We invite you to publish your works in the MEST Journal. We will help you with the process.

Prof. Dr. Zoran Čekerevac