



## International Journal of Food Studies

Official Journal of the ISEKI\_Food Association



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF FOOD STUDIES

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## *Annual Report 2020*

**IJFS | ISEKI\_Food Association**

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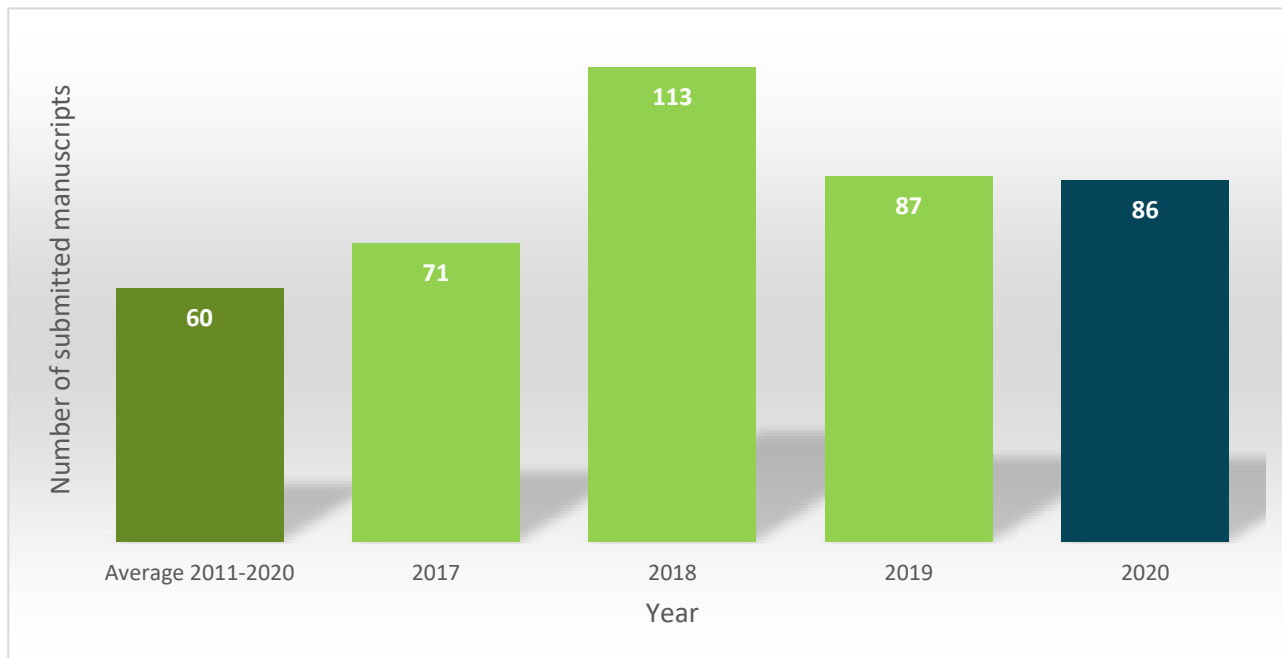
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# 1. Submitted Manuscripts

## 1.1. Total Number of Submitted Manuscripts

The total number of submitted manuscripts to the International Journal of Food Studies (IJFS) is presented in Figure 1.

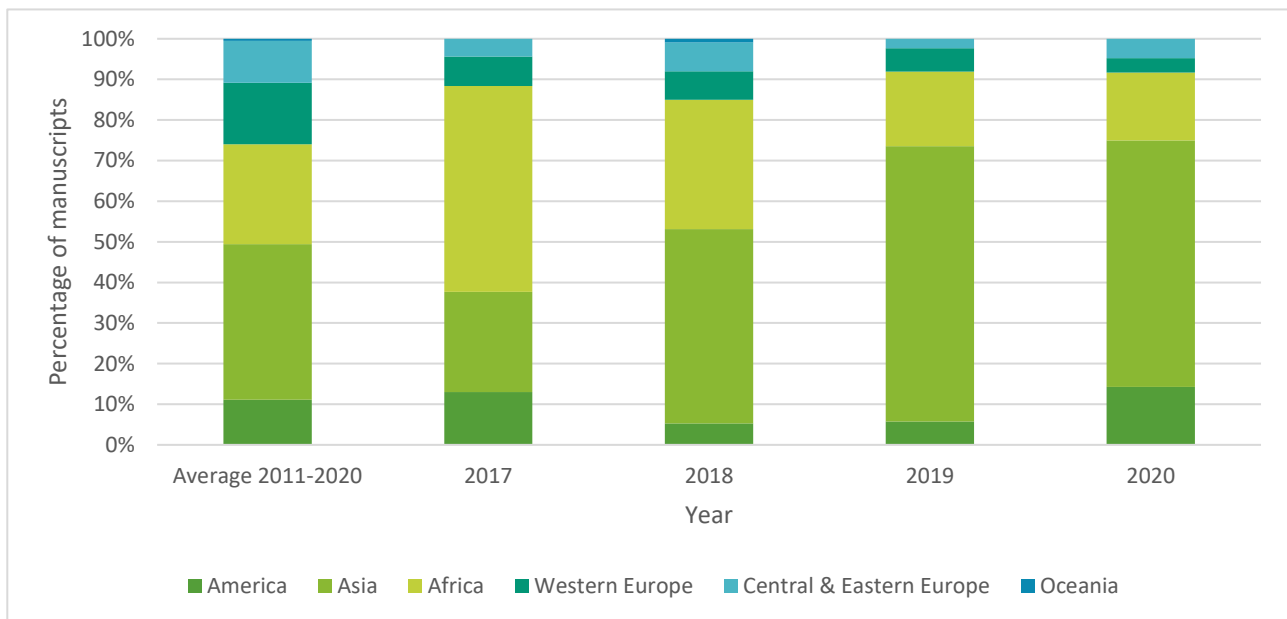


**Figure 1.** Trend of number of manuscripts submitted per year to IJFS.

In the last four years, the annual number of submitted manuscripts is higher than the average of 60 observed from 2011 to 2020. In 2019, the submitted manuscripts decreased by 25,7% comparing with the peak of manuscripts reached in 2018. This peak of submissions happened when IJFS got indexing in Scopus. In 2020 the number of submissions seem to stabilize.

## 1.2. Geographical Distribution of Submitted Manuscripts

Figure 2 presents an analysis on the geographical distribution of authors of new submitted manuscripts.



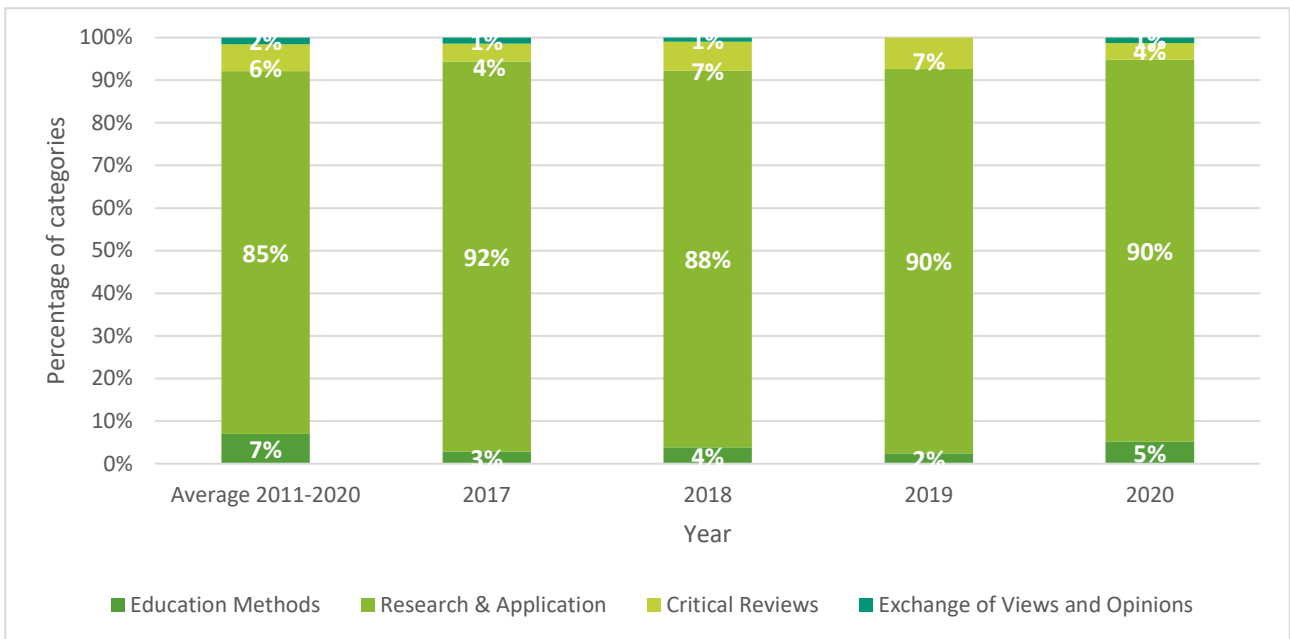
**Figure 2.** Geographical distribution of authors of new submitted manuscripts.

It can be observed that the percentage of new submissions with authors from Asian countries has been increasing.

## 1.3. Type of Submitted Manuscripts

The International Journal of Food Studies publishes manuscripts covering several topics about food studies. For this reason, it is possible to consider four main categories:

- **Education Methods:** methods, including Life Long Learning and e-learning;
- **Research and Application:** in academia, research and industry;
- **Critical Reviews of Scientific Literature:** by researchers, students, invited authors;
- **Exchange of Views and Opinions of a Scientific Nature:** including testimonies on career experiences in Food Industry/Research/Education (required skills, challenges, and successes).

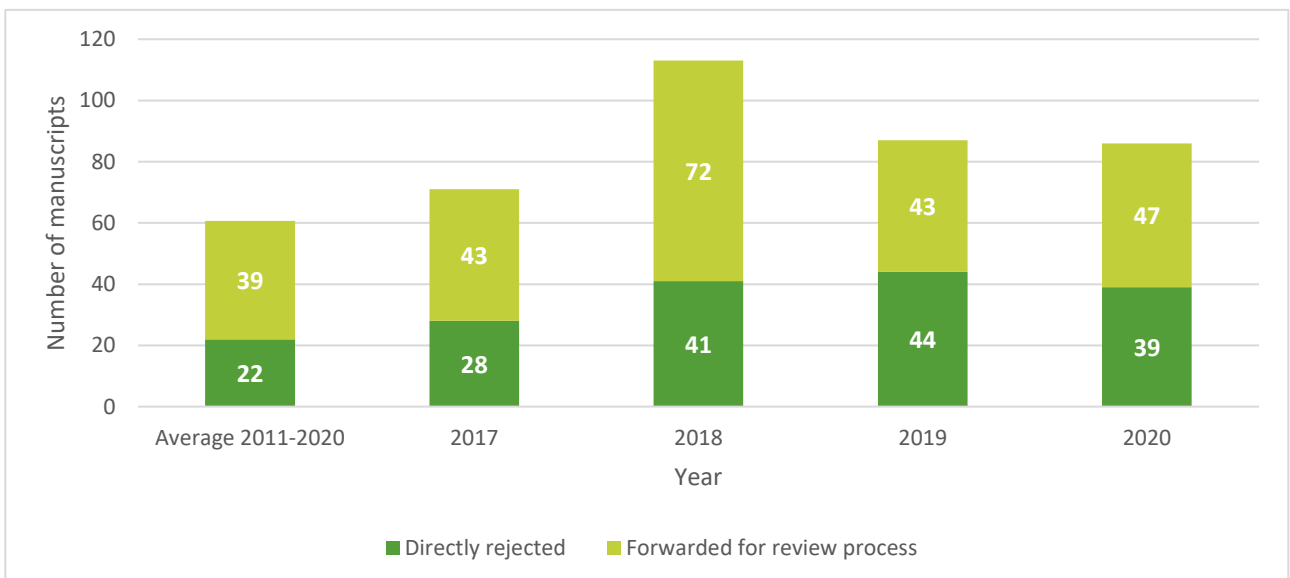


**Figure 3.** Categories of manuscripts submitted to IJFS.

The last four years confirm the trend of the distribution of submitted manuscripts per category (Figure 3). In the last two years, the Research & Application category was responsible for 90% of new submissions.

## 2. Processed Manuscripts

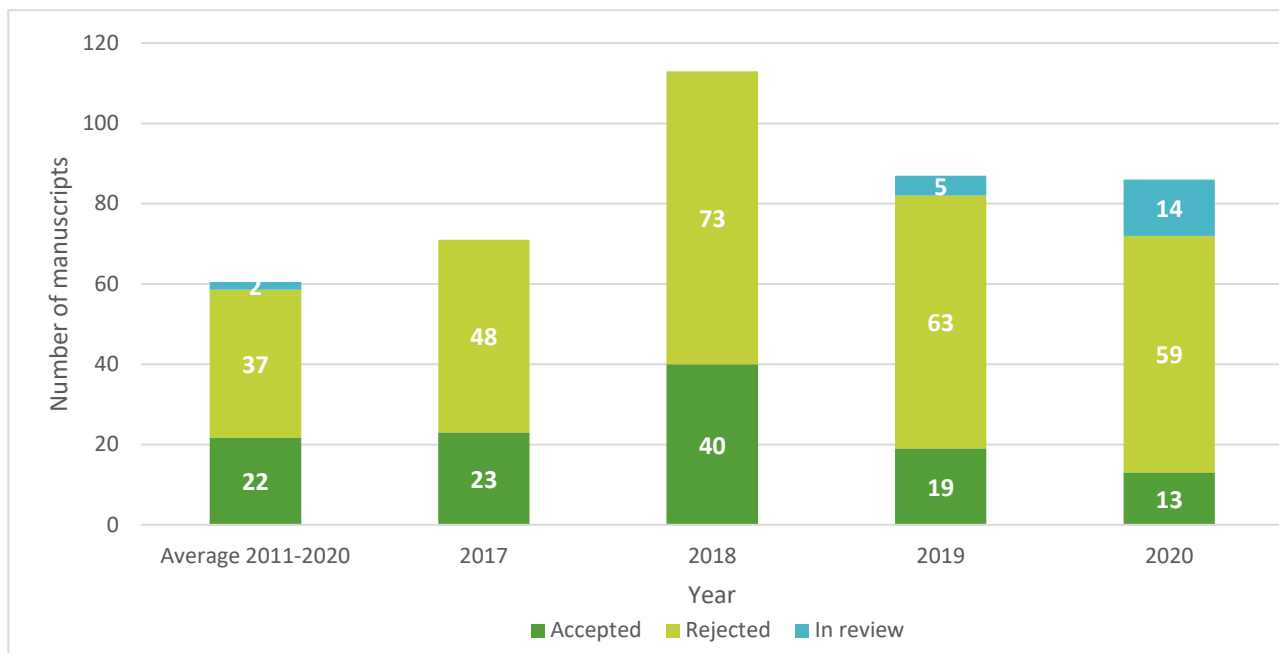
### 2.1. Preliminary Evaluation of Submitted Manuscripts



**Figure 4.** Number of directly rejected and forwarded for review process manuscripts.

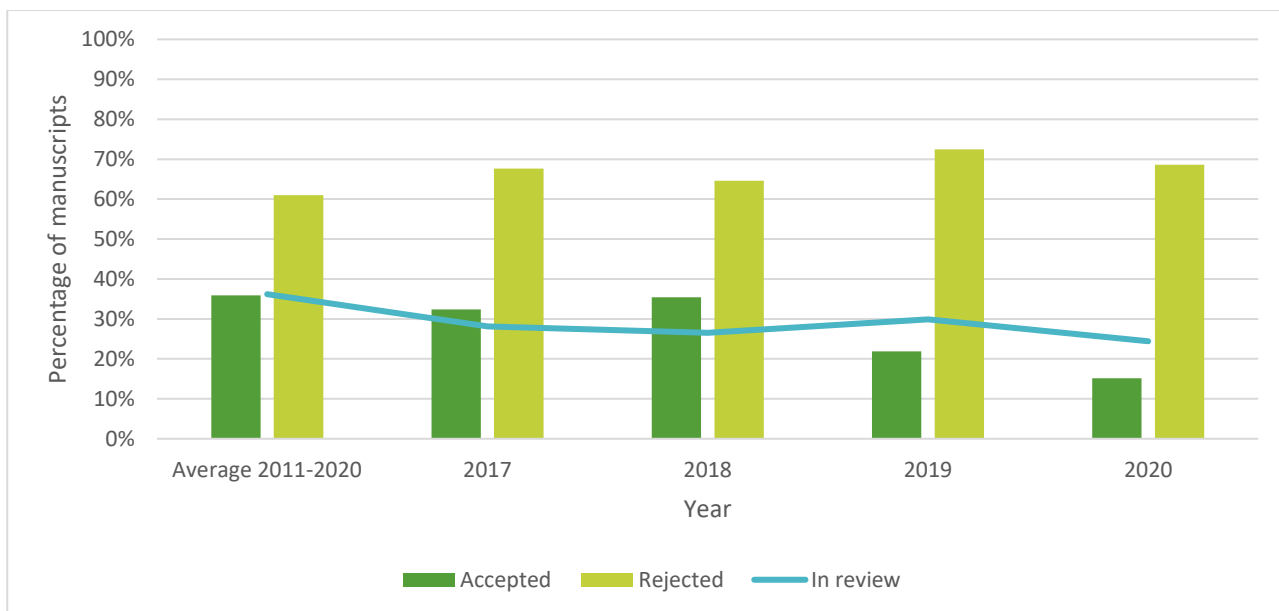
It is observed a balance between the directly rejected manuscripts and those forwarded for the review process (Figure 4). The trend registered in 2020 is similar to previous years and the number of manuscripts forwarded to the review process is larger than those directly rejected.

## 2.2. Number of Accepted and Declined Submissions



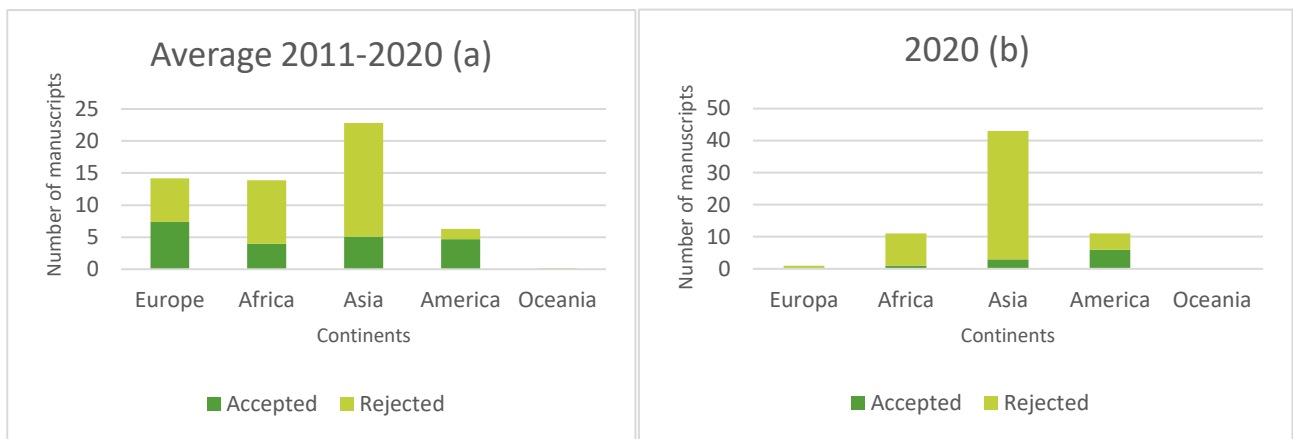
**Figure 5.** Number of accepted, rejected and in review submissions.

An increasing number of rejected submissions and a decreasing number of accepted submissions was observed from 2011 to 2020. The same trend continued in 2020 (Figures 5 and 6).

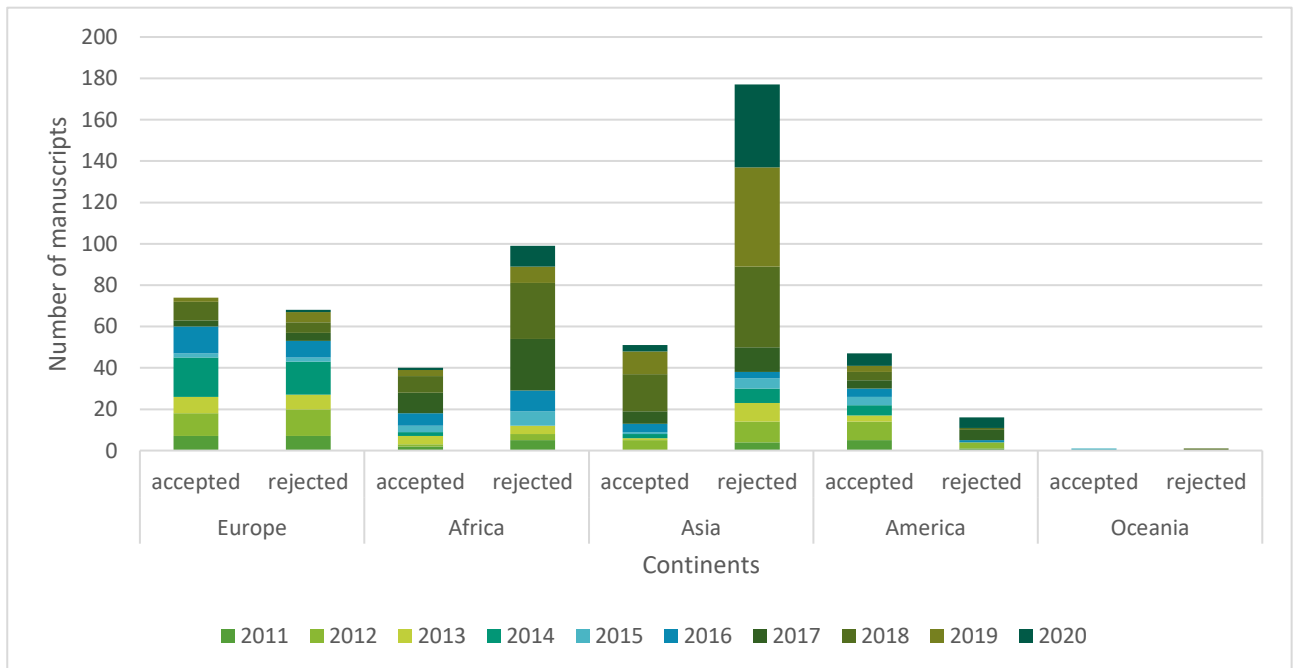


**Figure 6.** Trend of decision on submitted manuscripts percentage, calculated on the total of submissions.

Figures 7 (a and b) and 8 present the geographical distribution of the total number of decisions.



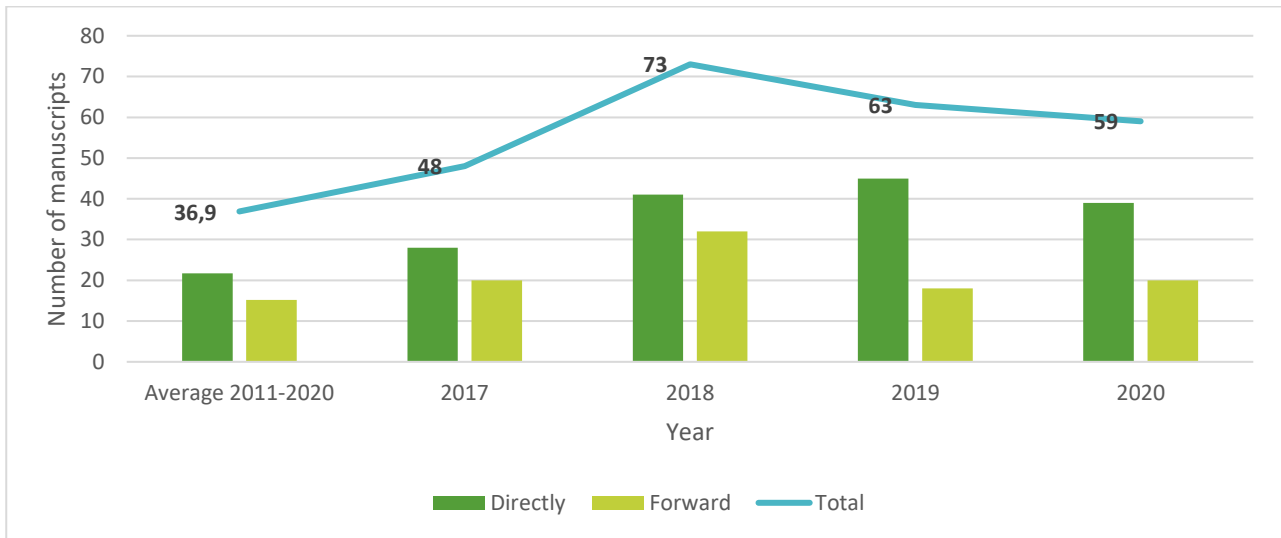
**Figure 7.** Total number of accepted and rejected manuscripts per authors' continent from 2011 to 2020 (a) and in 2020 (b).



**Figure 8.** Number of accepted and rejected manuscripts per authors' continent from 2011 till 2020.



### 2.2.1. Declined Submissions

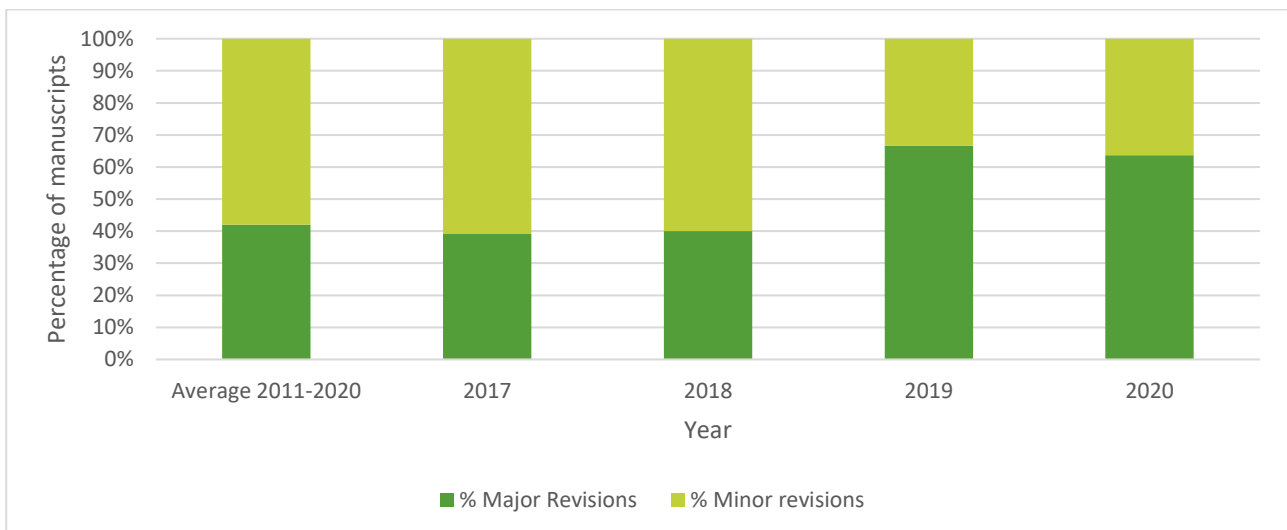


**Figure 9.** Number of directly rejected submissions and rejected submissions after the review process.

From 2018, the number of submissions increased, being possible to increase the degree of exigence. In 2020, the trend of the last 4 years was confirmed (Figure 9).

### 2.2.2. Accepted Submissions

After the first analysis by the *Editor-in-Chief* team, the review process of the submitted manuscripts includes different steps of revisions. Some manuscripts need major number of revisions, while others minor before being accepted. Figure 10 presents the major and minor revisions reported to the authors.

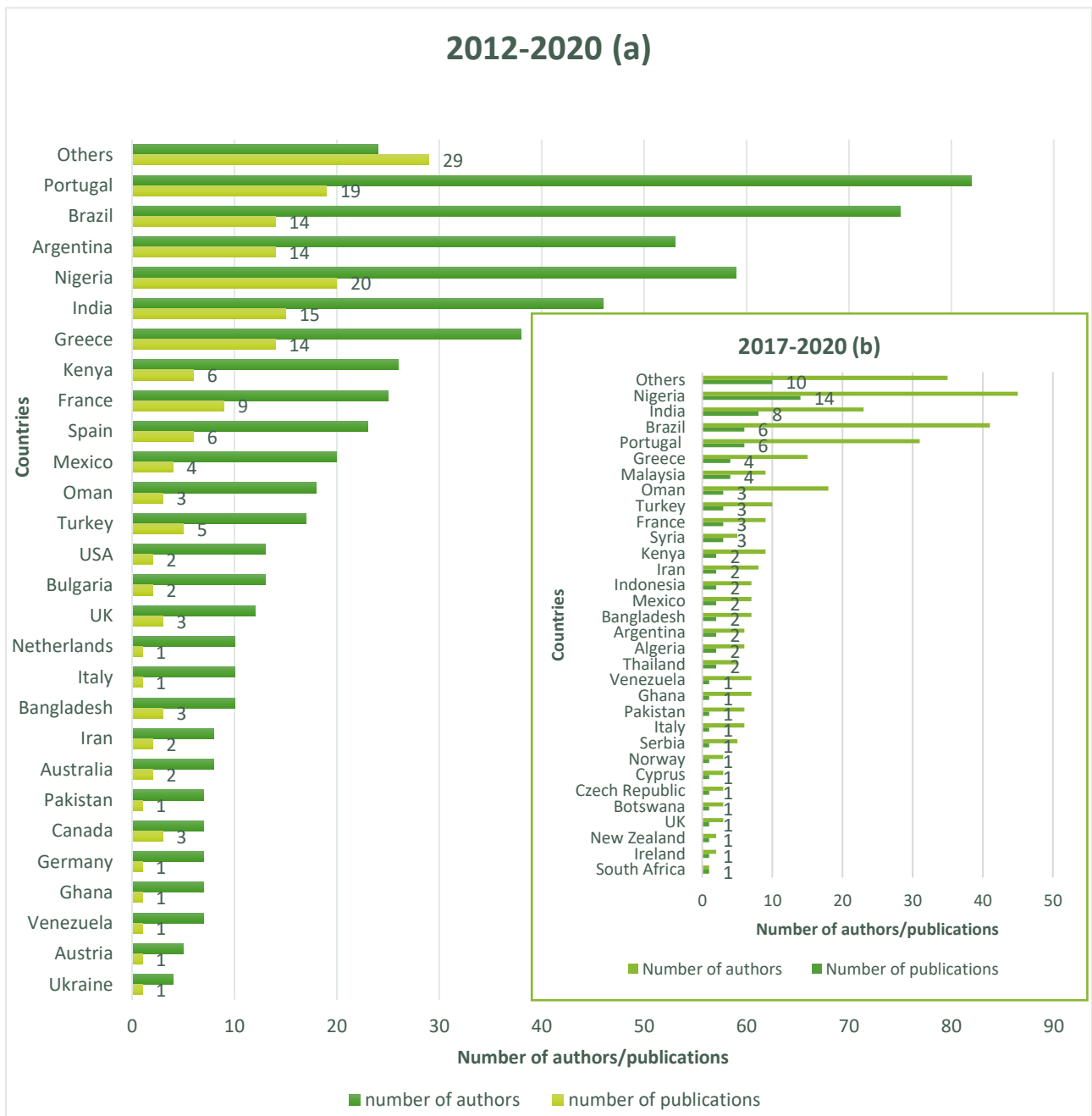


**Figure 10.** Percentage of submissions with a major and minor number of revisions.

From the percentages shown in Figure 10, it can be concluded that in 2020, like in the previous year 2019, the percentage of manuscripts that required major revisions increased, in comparison with the average reported between 2011-2020.

### 3. Published Manuscripts

#### 3.1. Number of Authors and Publications

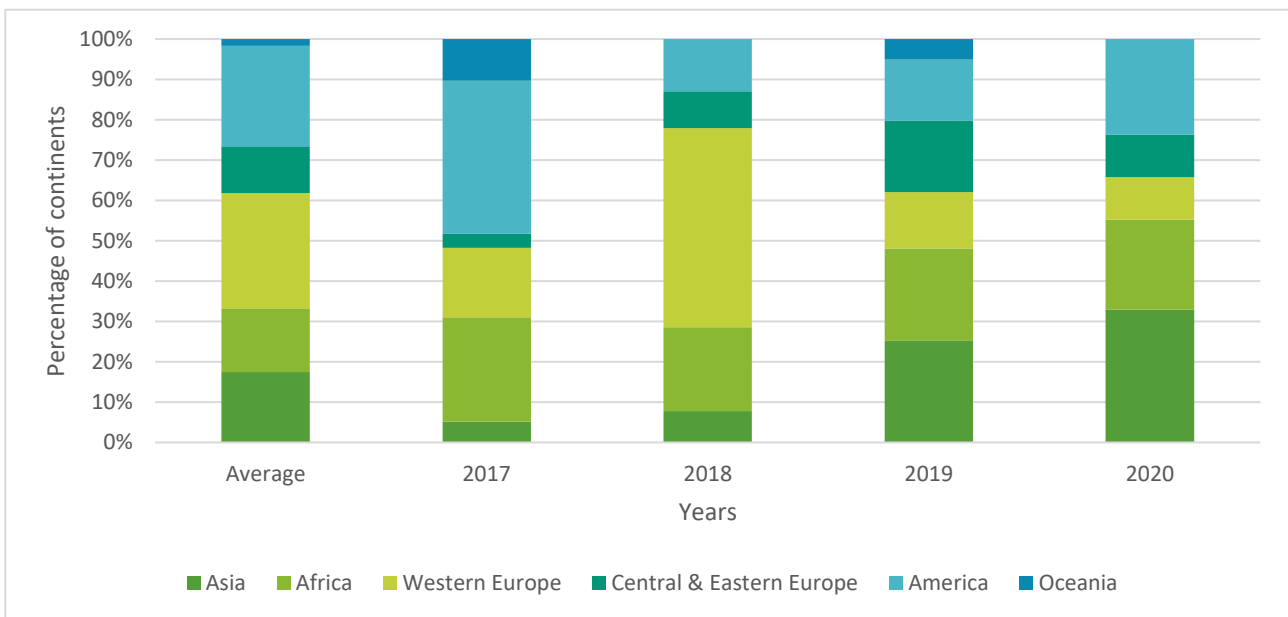


**Figure 11.** Number of authors and publications per country, relating to the publishing year.

\*Other: all the minor countries in terms of number of publications and authors, different from the countries shown in the graph.

Figure 11 (a and b) presents the total number of publications and authors per country, respectively, between 2012 to 2020 and 2017 to 2020. It can be observed that the pattern changed, being Nigeria and India the countries with more new publications in the last four year.

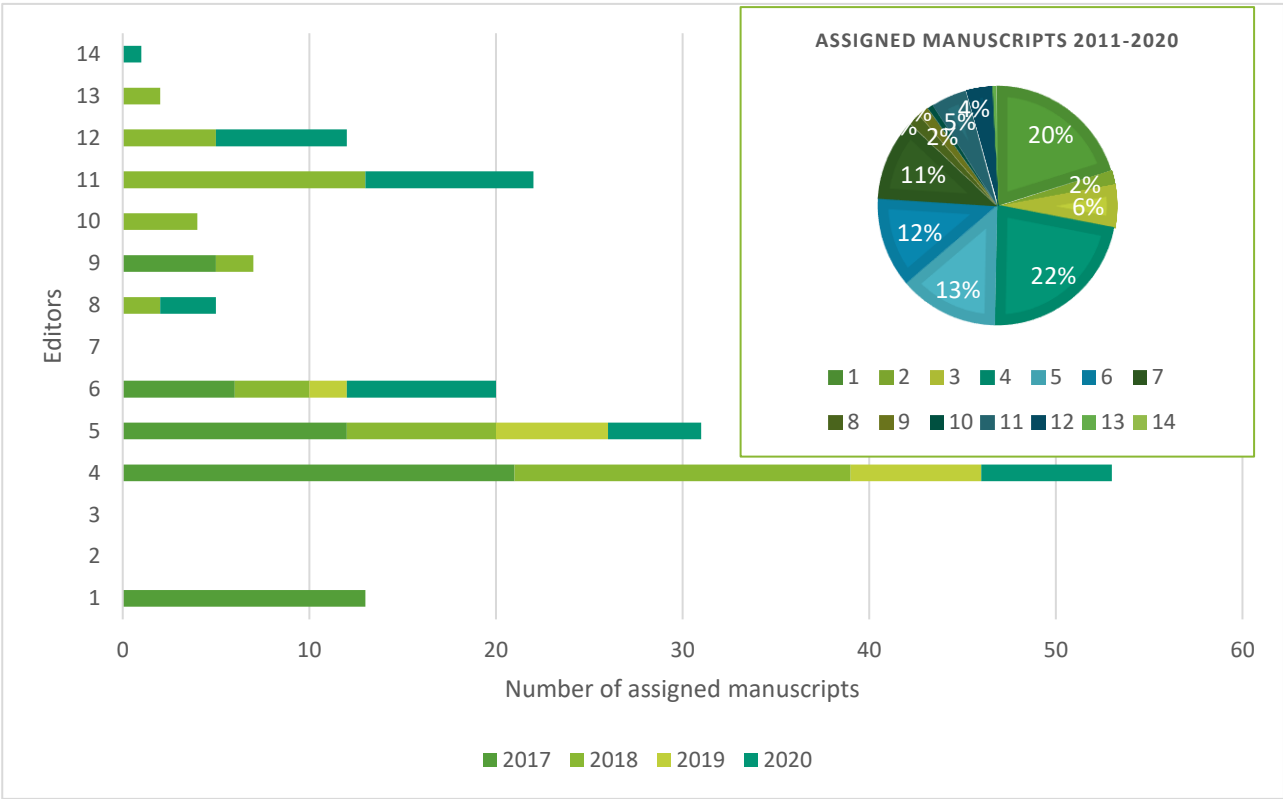
### 3.2. Geographical Distribution of the Authors



**Figure 12.** Geographical distribution of the authors of published manuscripts, relating to the publishing year.

The collected data about the geographical distribution of the authors reported significant differences between the average from 2012 to 2020 and the last four years.

### 4. Associate Editors



**Figure 13.** Assigned manuscripts to 14 different Associate Editors.

Figure 13 presents the number of assigned manuscripts to each associate editor. The collected data from 2011 to 2020 are reported in the pie graph in order to have a comparison with more recent years.

## 5. Turnover

The time between publication phases is following analysed according to the main steps:

- Date of submission
- Assignment of Associate Editors
- Start of review process
- First editor decision
- Final editor decision
- Copyediting
- Proofreading
- Publishing

The following tables (1 to 3) present a mean period needed for each step, considering every year from 2017 to 2020.

### 5.1. Declined Submissions

**Table 1.** Mean period between the different steps from the submission to the editors' final decision (declined submissions).

Year	Submission to rejection (Months)	Submission to Assign Associate Editor (Days)	Associate Editor assignment to review starting (Days)	Review starting to 1 <sup>st</sup> decision (Days)	1 <sup>st</sup> decision to final decision (Days)
<b>2017</b>	2	3	44	45	14
<b>2018</b>	3	1	12	85	7
<b>2019</b>	3	2	37	79	6
<b>2020</b>	3	1	29	49	14

### 5.2. Accepted Submissions

**Table 2.** Mean period between the different steps from the submission to first decision.

Year	Submission to Assign Associate Editor (Days)	Associate Editor assignment to review starting (Days)	Review starting to 1 <sup>st</sup> decision (Days)	1 <sup>st</sup> decision to final decision (Days)
<b>2017</b>	1	83	62	59
<b>2018</b>	1	90	58	39
<b>2019</b>	0	3	4	20
<b>2020</b>	1	40	22	20

**Table 3.** Mean period between the different steps from the final decision to the pdf and total mean period from submission to acceptance and publishing.

Year	Final decision to copyediting (Days)	Copyediting to pdf (Days)	Submission to acceptance (Months)	Submission to publishing (Months)
2017	107	131	6	14
2018	115	179	7	14
2019	58	127	7	10
2020	58	129	3	12

## 6. Special Issues in 2020

### 6.1. Descriptive analysis

**Table 4.** Special Issue from 2020 and titles of papers.

Special Issue Title	Papers Published	Posted Date
Advances in Food Processing and Technology	10	14-01-2020
	<i>“Optimization of Pressure Parboiling Conditions and Pre-Conditioned Moisture Content of Brown Rice (Unpolished Rice) for Microwave Puffing and its Comparison with Hot Sand Bed Puffing”</i>	
	<i>“A Numerical Model for Studying the Thermal Denaturation-Aggregation of Whey Proteins under Continuous Thermal Processing”</i>	
	<i>“The Effect of in vitro Enzyme Digestion on Antioxidant and Anticholinesterase Potential of Tomato (Lycopersicum esculentum) Fruit and Two Commercially Processed Tomato Pastes”</i>	
	<i>“Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Cereal Bran Extract for Sunflower Oil Stability during Frying”</i>	
	<i>“Textural, Rheological and Sensory Properties of Spreadable Processed Goat Cheese”</i>	
	<i>“Improvement of Microbiological Quality of Hen Egg Powder Using Gamma Irradiation”</i>	
	<i>“Various Factors Affect Product Properties in Apple Cider Production”</i>	
	<i>“Pequi Oil Microencapsulation by Complex Coacervation using Gelatin-Cashew Gum”</i>	
	<i>“Evaluation of Gum Arabic from Acacia senegal var kerensis and Acacia senegal var senegal as a Stabilizer in Low-fat Yoghurt”</i>	
	<i>“Effect of Modified Atmosphere Packaging on Quality of Barhi Dates at Khalal Stage”</i>	

## 7. Balance on IJFS in 2020

The year 2020 was a complicated and hard period for all the world. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic our private and working lives were deeply influenced and the majority of the business sectors suffered in a negative way.

This annual report can be useful to IJFS community to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the journal, the parameters that could have changed significantly and those ones that were not influenced in a particular way.

The number of submitted manuscripts in 2020 was comparable to 2019 and higher than the average between 2011 and 2020. This result can be considered as a positive trend and the authors kept submitting their works despite the situation.

The collected data of 2020 about the geographical distribution and categories of submitted manuscripts were similar to the previous years and they did not register a significant change.

The trend of accepted and rejected manuscripts in 2020 was also in line with 2019 and the impact of COVID-19 was not significant on this parameter.

In 2020, the first independent Special Issue, including 10 R&D papers, was successfully published.

In September 2020, the IJFS submitted the application to Clarivate to get indexing in Web of Science, after a deep revision of procedures, website texts and reports.

Moreover, since the beginning of 2020, the Crossmark link, allowing readers to check any possible papers update, was included in all IJFS publications.

In conclusion, the IJFS team was able to work at a steady and productive pace, reaching acceptable results that maintained the positive trend of the journal.

*Thank you to everyone for your collaboration*