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# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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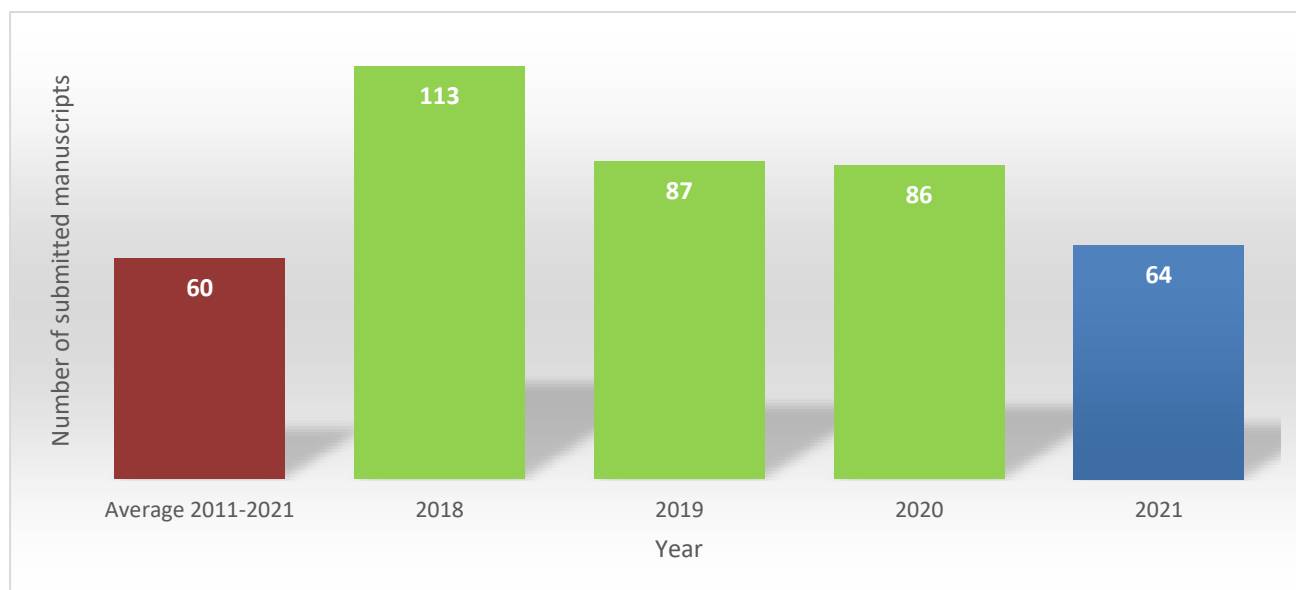
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# 1. SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS

## 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.

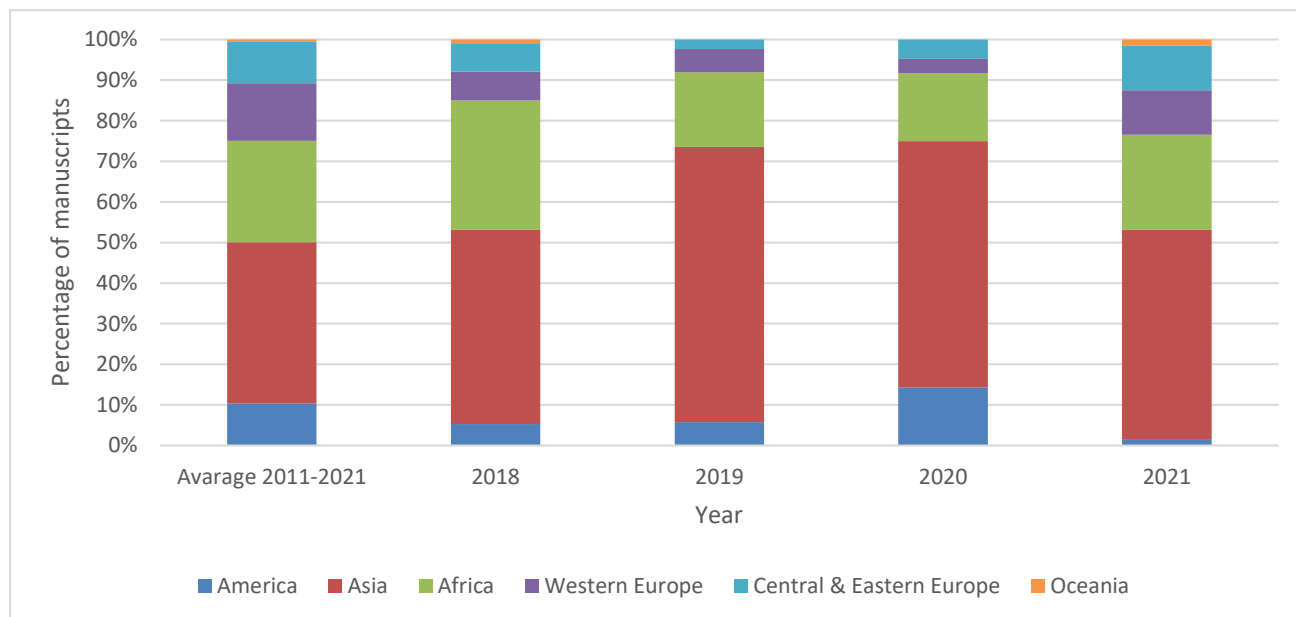


**Figure 1.** Trend of number of manuscripts submitted per year to IJFS.

In 2021, the annual number of submitted manuscripts continued to be higher than the average of 60 observed from 2011 to 2021. Even if this trend is in line with the previous four years, the number of submitted manuscripts in 2021 decreased by 25,6% compared with the total number of submitted manuscripts reached in 2020.

## 1.2. Geographical Distribution of Submitted Manuscripts

Figure 2 describes the geographical distribution of authors of newly submitted manuscripts.



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

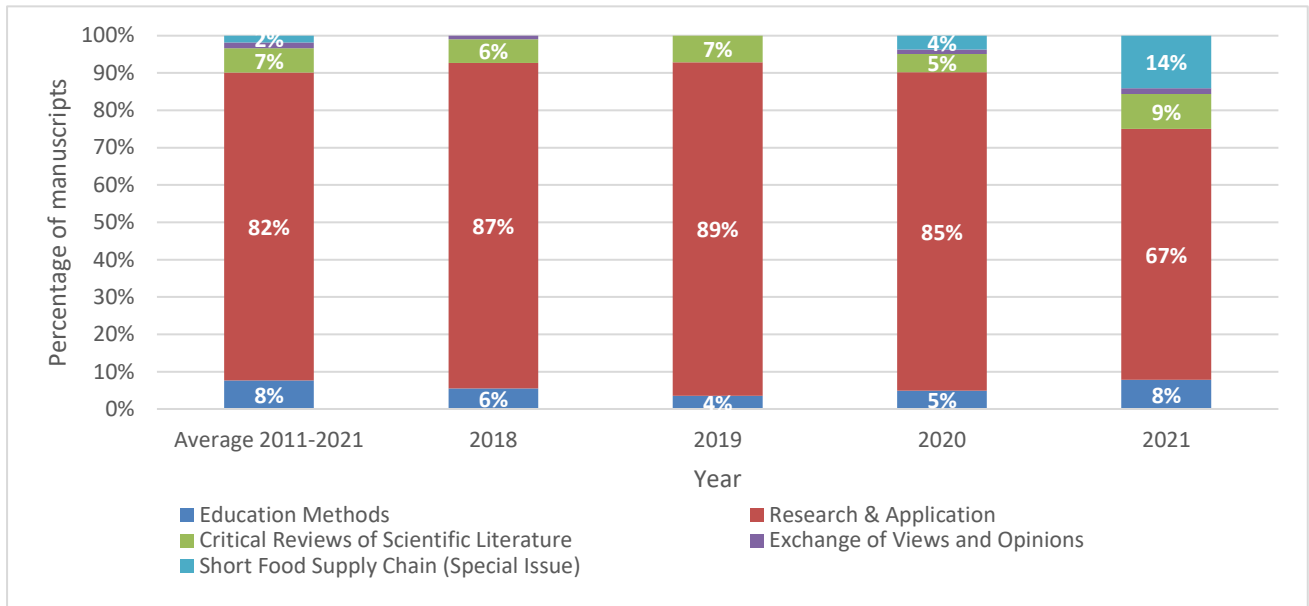
The geographical distribution of authors seems to be balanced and stable in the last four years.

However, an increased number of authors from Africa and Europe can be observed.

## 1.3. Type of Submitted Manuscripts

Figure 3 presents the different categories of the submitted Manuscripts:

- **EM** - Education Methods
- **R&A** - Research and Applications
- **CRSF** - Critical Reviews of Scientific Literature
- **EVOSN** - Exchange of Views and Opinions of Scientific Nature
- **SFSC** - Short Food Supply Chains (Special Issue)

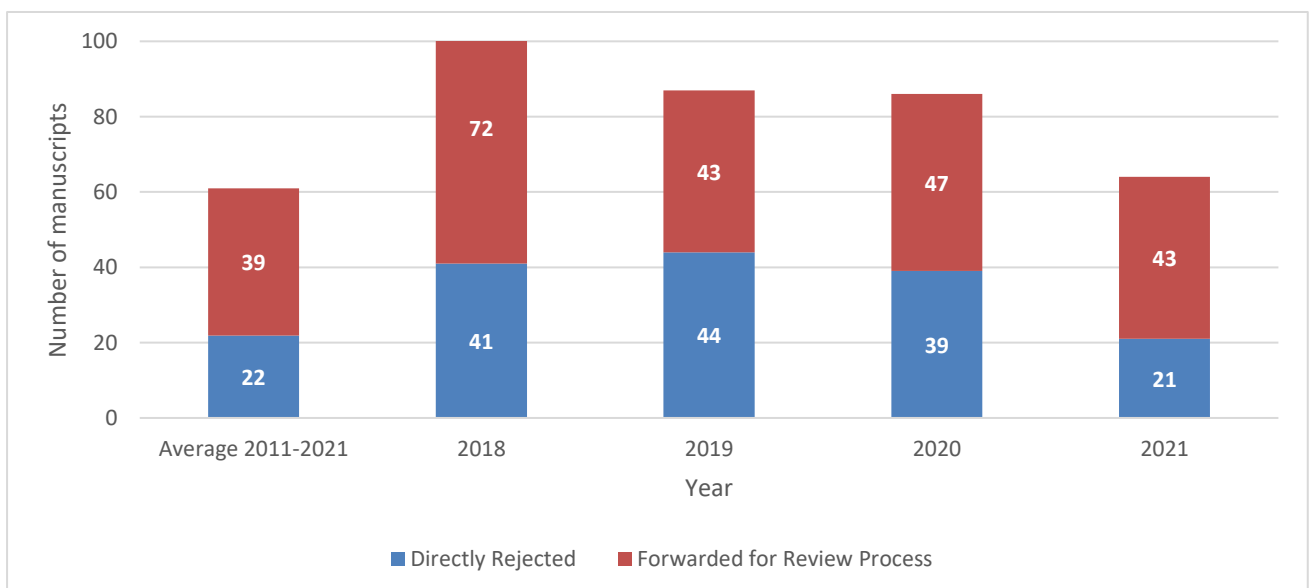


**Figure 3.** Categories of manuscripts submitted to IJFS.

The category “Research and Application (R&A)” represents the majority of the manuscripts according to the average calculated from 2011 to 2021 (Figure 3). The trend has been confirmed in the last four years; however, it can be observed an increased number of new categories in 2021. A percentage of 14% belongs to the special issue “Short Food Supply Chain” in 2021.

## 2. PROCESSED MANUSCRIPTS

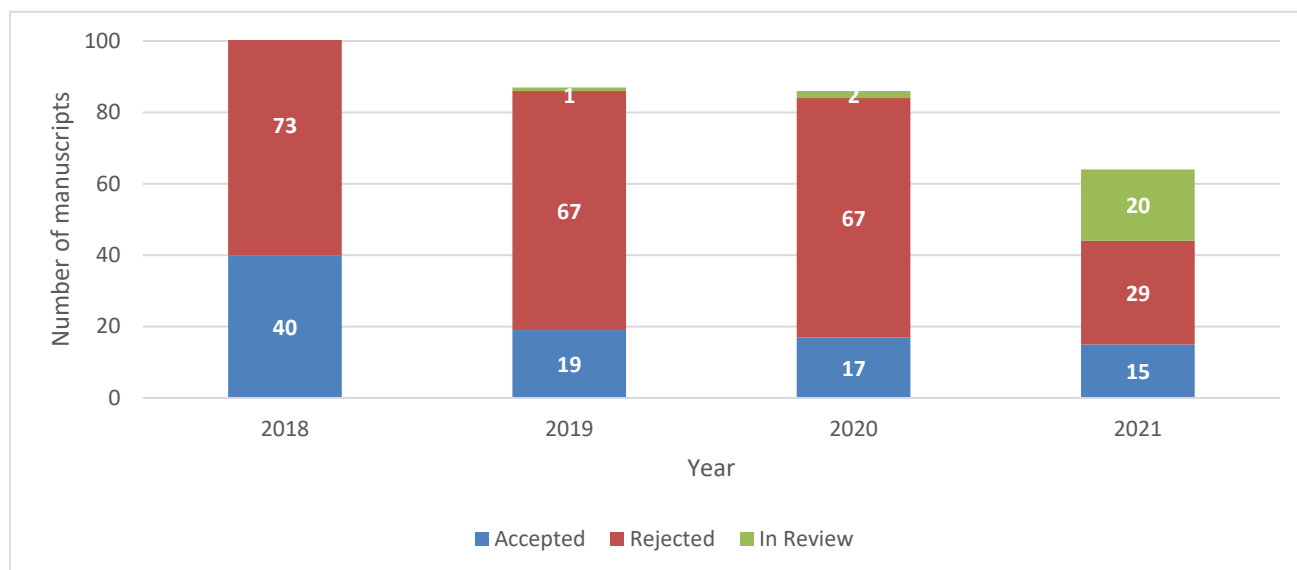
### 2.1. Preliminary Evaluation of Submitted Manuscripts



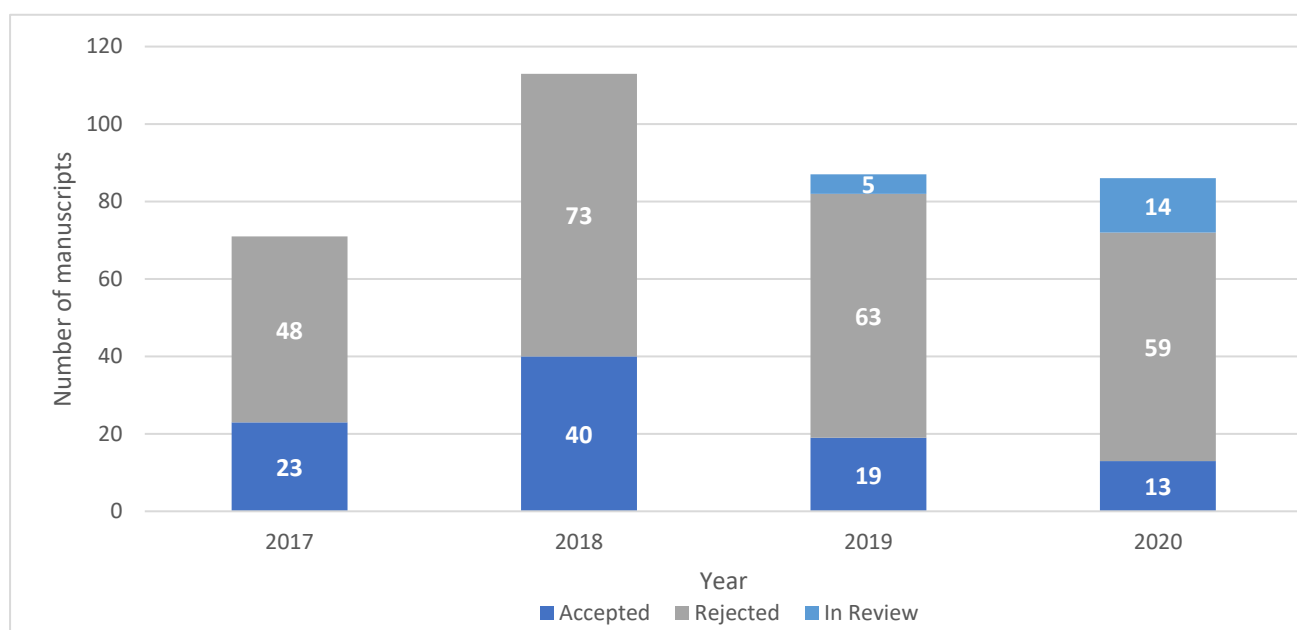
**Figure 4.** Number of directly rejected and forwarded for review process manuscripts.

In figure 4, it is observed a higher number of manuscripts forwarded for the review process during the last four years. The trend registered in 2021 shows fewer manuscripts directly rejected than in the previous years.

## 2.2. Number of Accepted and Declined Submissions



**Figure 5.** Number of accepted, rejected and in review submissions, according to the data from 2021.



**Figure 6.** Number of accepted, rejected and in review submissions, according to the data from 2020.

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

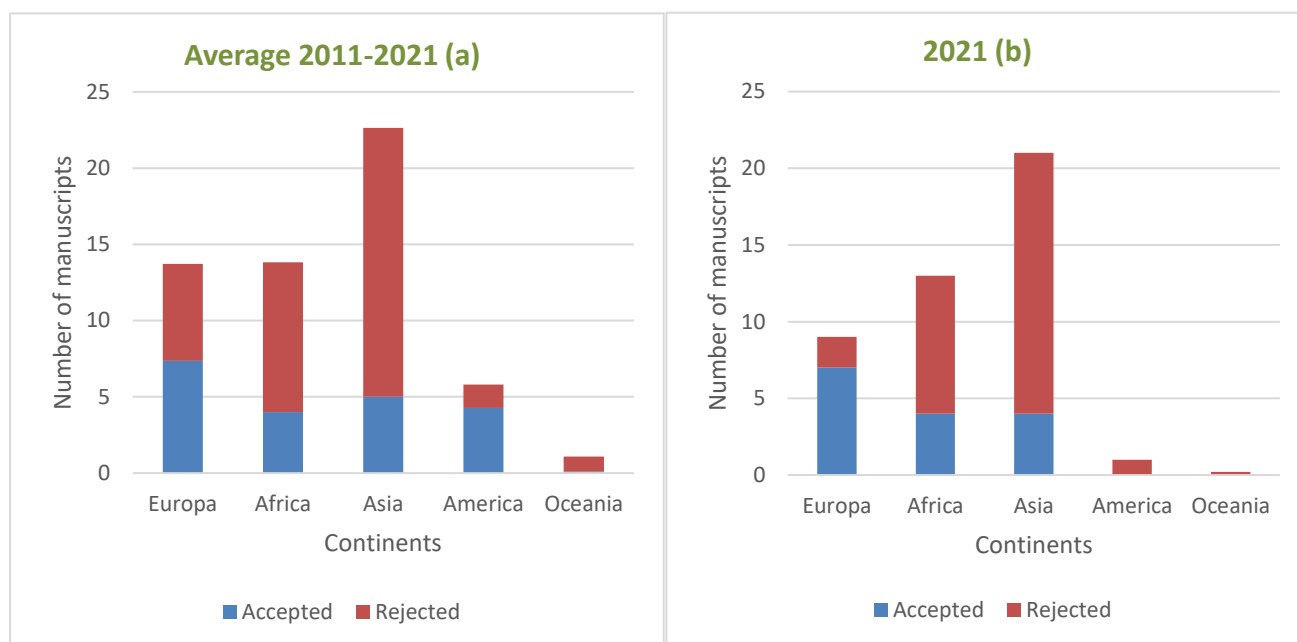


Figure 7. Total number of accepted and rejected manuscripts per authors' continent from 2011 to 2021 (a) and in 2021 (b).

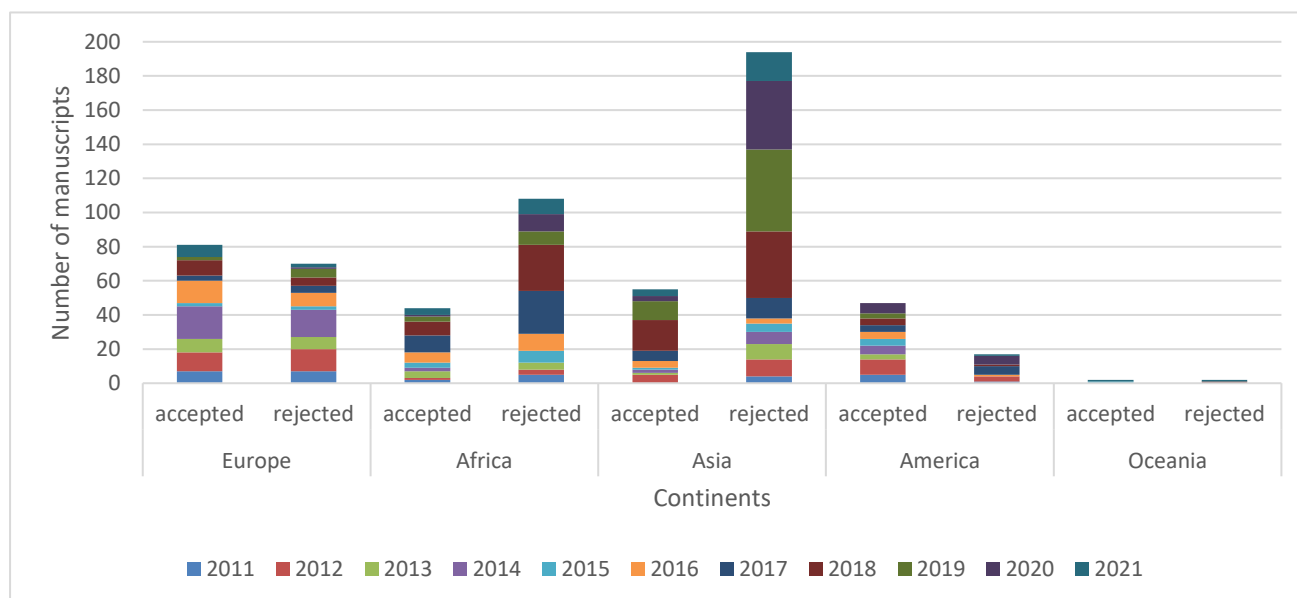
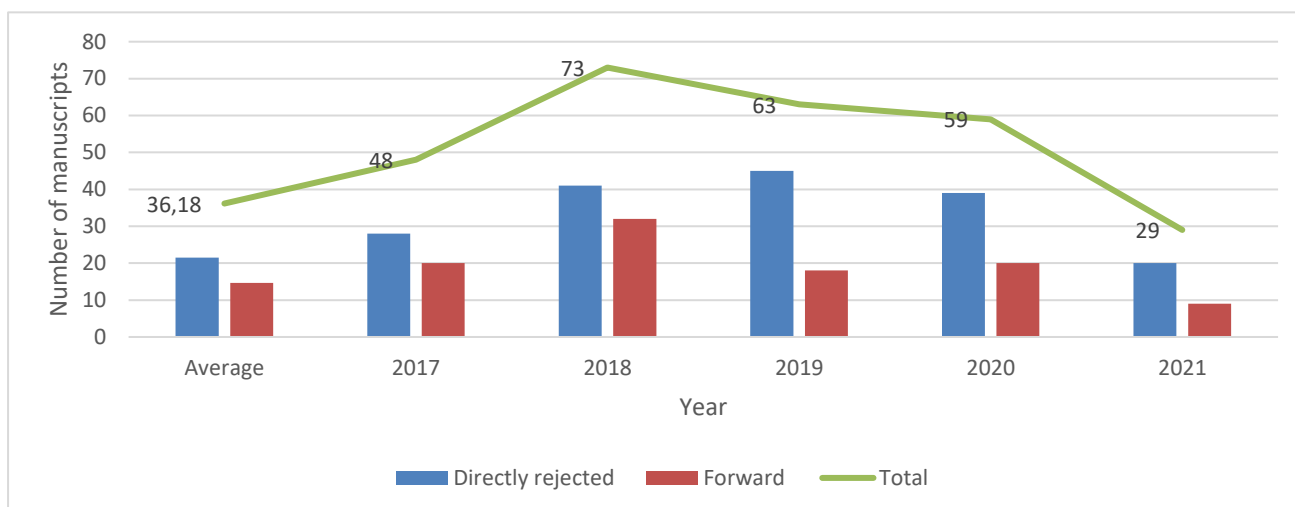


Figure 8. Number of accepted and rejected manuscripts per authors' continent from 2011 till 2021.



## 2.2.1. Declined Submissions

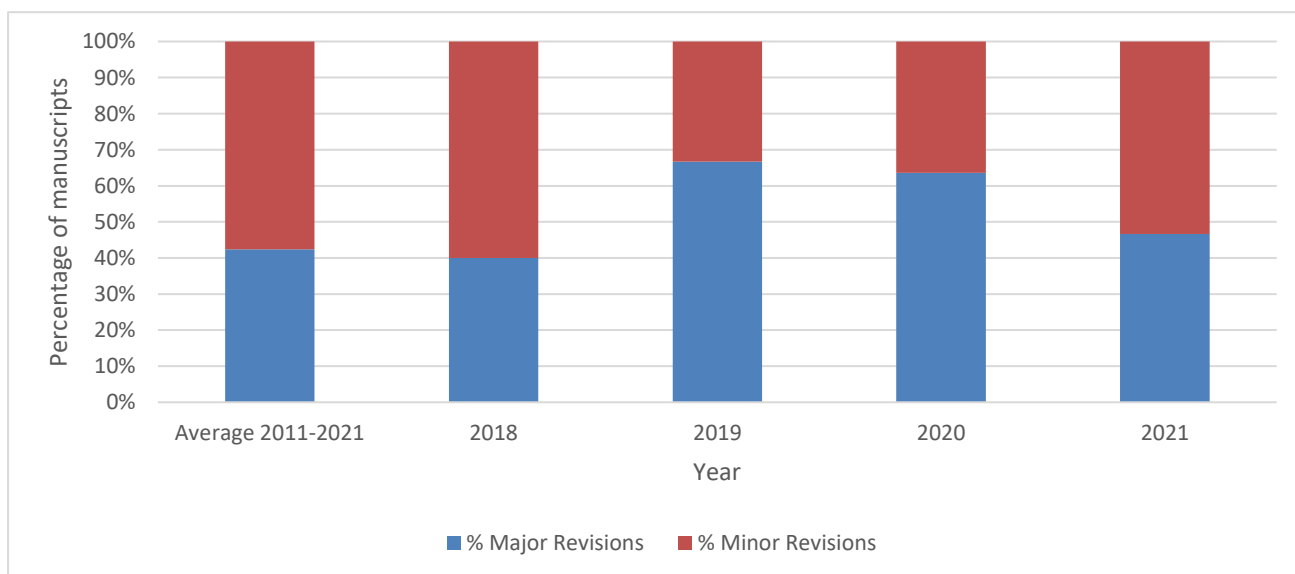


**Figure 9.** Number of directly rejected submissions and rejected submissions after the review process.

From 2017, the number of submissions increased, being possible to increase the degree of exigence.

In 2021, the number of directly rejected submissions continued to be higher than those rejected after the review process (Figure 9).

## 2.2.2. Accepted Submissions

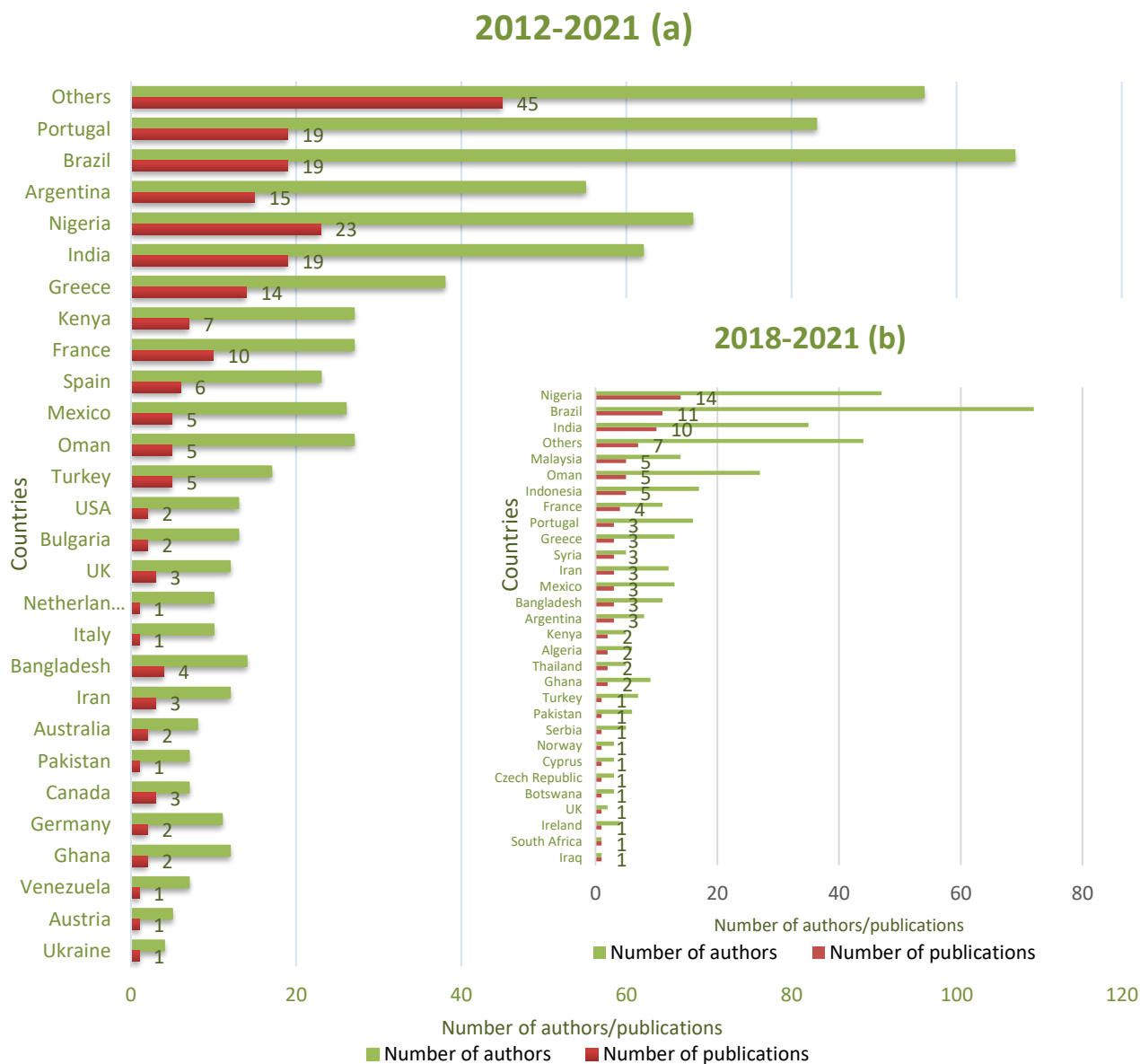


**Figure 10.** Percentage of submissions with major and minor number of revisions.

A balance between the percentage of accepted manuscripts with major revisions and minor revisions is observed from 2011 to 2021. Compared with the last two years, in 2021, the number of accepted manuscripts with major revisions decreased.

### 3. PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

#### 3.1. Number of Authors and Publications

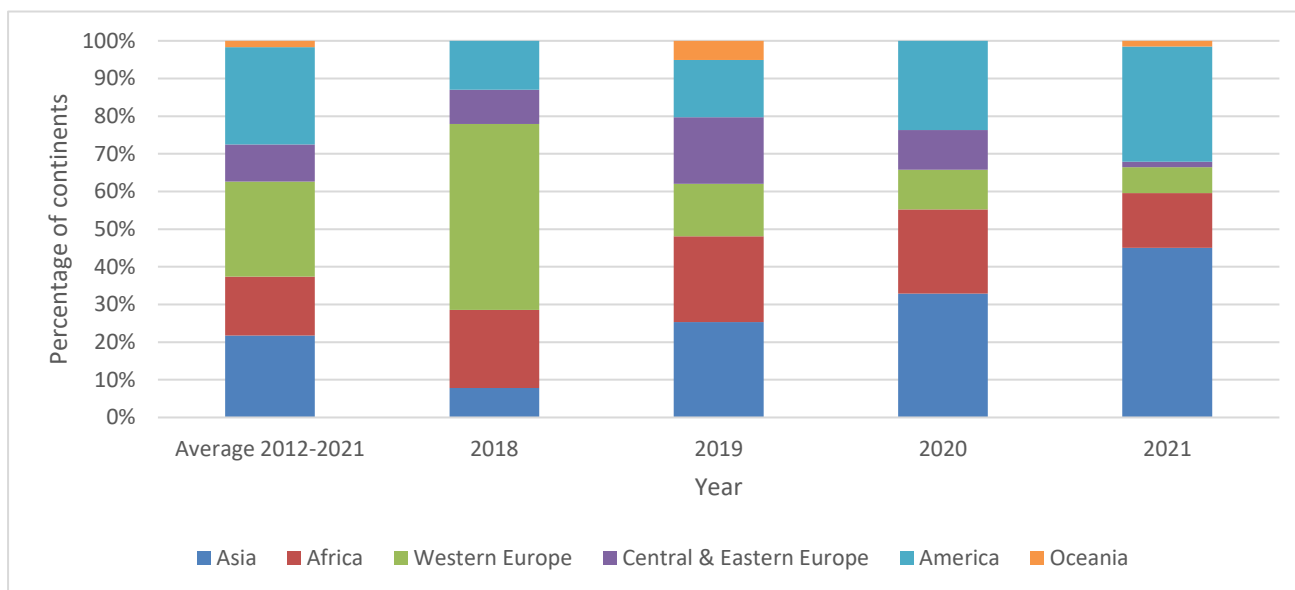


**Figure 11.** Number of authors and publications per country, relating to the publishing year.

\*Others: all the minor countries, in terms of publications and authors number, 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 2021 and 2018 to 2021. A change in the pattern can be observed, being Nigeria, Brazil and India the countries with more new publications in the last four years.

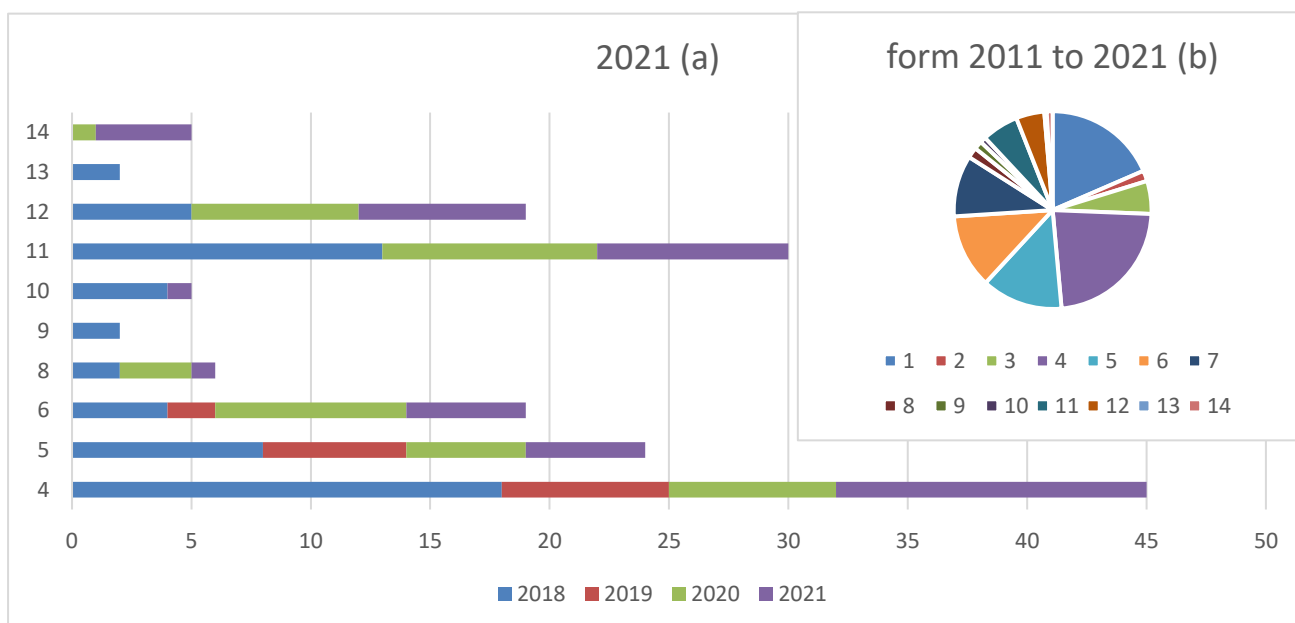
### 3.2. Geographical Distribution of the Authors



**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 2021 and the last four years. In 2021, an increased number of Asian manuscripts is observed.

### 4. ASSOCIATE EDITORS



**Figure 13.** Assigned manuscripts to 14 different Associate Editors in 2021 (a) and from 2011 to 2021 (b).

## 5. TURNOVER

### 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)
2018	3	1	12	85	7
2019	3	2	37	79	6
2020	3	1	29	49	14
2021	0	2	3	24	1

### 5.2. Accepted Submissions

**Table 2.** Mean period between the different steps from the submission to the 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)
2018	1	90	58	39
2019	0	10	59	20
2020	1	40	22	20
2021	5	48	50	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)
2018	115	179	7	14
2019	58	127	7	10
2020	58	129	3	12
2021	48	151	6	13

## 6. SPECIAL ISSUES IN 2021

### 6.1. Descriptive analysis

**Table 4.** Special Issue in 2021 and titles of papers

Special Issue Title	Papers Published	Posted Date
Progress and Optimization of Food Products Quality	10	24.02.21
	<i>"Chemical Composition, Anti-Nutritional Factors and Pasting Properties of Cassava-African Yam Bean Flour Blends for Noodle Preparation"</i>	
	<i>"Effect of Taro (Colocasia esculenta) Enrichment on Physicochemical and Textural Properties of Cake"</i>	
	<i>"Effect of Emulsifier Diacetyl Tartaric Acid Ester of Mono- and Diglycerides (DATEM) and Enzyme Transglutaminase on Quality Characteristics of Rice Bran Croissants"</i>	
	<i>"Optimization of a Process for a Microgreen and Fruit Based Ready to Serve Beverage"</i>	
	<i>"Chickpea Protein Isolation, Characterization and Application in Muffin Enrichment"</i>	
	<i>"Nutritional Evaluation of Unripe Plantain, Moringa Seed and Defatted Sesame Seed Cookies"</i>	
	<i>"Chemical Characteristics and Sensory Properties of Novel Snacks Produced with Okara Fortified with Omega-3 from Fish Oil"</i>	
	<i>"Study of Antimicrobial, Antioxidant and Cytotoxicity Properties of Selected Plant Extracts for Food Preservative Applications"</i>	
	<i>"The Effect of Seaweed (Eucheuma cottonii) Flour Addition on Physicochemical and Sensory Characteristics of an Indonesian-Style Beef Meatball"</i>	
	<i>"Potential for Development of Novel Food Products from Azanza garckeana Tree Fruit: A Review"</i>	

## 7. BALANCE ON IJFS IN 2021

The data included in this report can be a helpful tool for the IJFS community to understand strengths and limitations to be improved in the near future. By comparing the results for the years 2020 and 2021 with previous years, it can be confirmed that the scores during the pandemic were worse than those of earlier years. This proved that the social and economic disparities during the COVID-19 pandemic affected the journal's performance.

The number of submitted manuscripts in 2021 was significantly lower than in 2020. Not only this is a clear result of the impact of the pandemic progress, but it is also an outcome of a decrease in the journal's advertising. The challenge for the future is to disseminate the journal to a global audience which allows receiving more submissions.

The collected data of 2021 about the geographical distribution of submitted manuscripts keeps being positive, considering the variety of countries from which the manuscripts come. As for the categories, most of the manuscripts belong to the category "R&A", but the new special issue "Short Food Supply Chain" was relevant in the last two years.

The number of processed papers in 2021 is similar to that in 2020. Still, the quality of the submitted manuscripts has increased, considering that the number of submitted manuscripts with minor revisions is higher than the number of submitted manuscripts with major revisions.

Data about the turnover registered working times balanced over the years. However, in this last year, some turnaround times have increased. A delay in authors' revisions was recorded, which would likely have a significant effect.

In conclusion, despite the pandemic effects in the long term, the IJFS team demonstrated to work productively and positively. This enabled the steadily increasing number of citations in Scopus of papers published by IJFS and its indexing in the Q3 best quartile. The wish for the future is to improve the number of submitted manuscripts and the time needed to publish them.