

From Editor-in-Chief: At the same pace through uncertain times

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We are undoubtedly living in turbulent times. Turbulent in so many different ways. When we talk about science, turbulences are caused by advances in artificial intelligence (AI). In editors' waters, it relates to numerous problems and opportunities which AI can represent. Further publication idea is to revise and change the review process, which is an idea embraced and practised by an increasing number of journals each day.

The importance of peer review is especially emphasised in scientific publishing. Nowadays, when publications are full of submissions, it is very hard for editors to choose what to publish. Ideas are different, from the point system, a system which relies only on the sufficient number of positive reviews to additional control of reviews by the field's scientific editor. Currently, we rely only on reviewers, and we hope to upgrade this system to the one additionally controlled by scientific editors. In regard to this, the issue would not be nearly as good if we did not have the help of many respected reviewers, some of whom needed to review the same paper in the second or even in the third round of review. The total number of reviewers has amounted to 185

for the entire volume of 2023. They come from forty-six states from five continents, the complete list provided at the end of this issue. ToMS prefer double-blind review, because we believe in the protection of our reviewers: a bit unlike the trend of open reviews, as may be frequently noticed nowadays.

One more challenge imposed on the editors is an increased use of AI tools. For example, some authors use Grammarly or InstaText to improve the language of the paper. There is as yet no research of such influence on the Similarity index. These problems are expected to become more frequent and will need to be addressed in future.

As far as this issue is concerned, some of the papers have already been published with DOI over our "Webfirst" option. We also continue to collaborate with conferences within the scope of our journal. In this issue, we have incorporated the IMSC 2023 conference. A conference entitled European Workshop on Maritime Systems Resilience and Security 2023 was held earlier this year, and the selected papers will be reviewed for the next issue.

In this issue we continue the collaboration with International Maritime Science Conference (<https://imsc.pfst.hr/>) by including three selected papers (Murat Koray from Turkey; Špiro Ivošević and Nataša Kovač from Montenegro; Mira Pavlinović, Maja Račić, Antonija Mišura from Croatia). The papers, apart from the abstracts, have not yet been published in the conference proceedings.

Turbulent times are represented by an ever increasing number of papers dealing with the crisis and crisis management. This is made evident in papers about geopolitical risks on international trade and influence of shipping industry by the war in Ukraine. This issue contains papers in fields of shipbuilding and about human factors in maritime business.

In total, authors of the papers come from nine different countries in three continents: Albania, Croatia, Indonesia, Malesia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Tunis, Turkey, and Ukraine. Including additional countries which are not mentioned here, from the first issue of this volume, we have published the authors

from Brasil, India, Iran, Spain, Thailand, and Vietnam: a total of fifteen countries from four continents. Comparing this data with the previous volume, that of 2022, we may conclude that we have succeeded in remaining steady and reliable through these times.

In this issue we present a poem by Ante Božanić (Tonko Božanić Pepe - Kalafot), a versatile artist: carpenter, ship-builder, wood-carver, performer, and poet from Komiža, Island of Vis, whose poetry we have already brought on a few occasions. We hereby continue our adherence to the traditional Croatian poets' promotion, in an attempt to preserve the still living Dalmatian idiom. The poem has been selected and the lyrics translated by Željka Zanchi, our former colleague and long-standing collaborator.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to all those involved by any contribution to this issue: authors, reviewers, editors, language editors, proof readers, and others.

Editor in Chief