

EDITORIALE

LEADER

by

PROF. GABRIELE SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA

Scientific Editor-in-Chief

IJEGE: A PROMISING PAST

It is with the following remarks that I am taking charge of the post of editor-in-chief of the Italian Journal of Engineering Geology and Environment (IJEGE), after serving as a permanent member of its editorial board since its first issue in 2005. This is why I would like to outline the past activity of the Journal, which saw Alberto Prestininzi as promoter of its editorial plan and as its scientific editor-in-chief until last December (date of baton passing). However, I have asked Professor Prestininzi to stay within IJEGE as coordinator of its editorial board, because we still need his captivating enthusiasm and unique experience in responding to new challenges of IJEGE and strengthening its position.

IJEGE's activity is summarised by the publication of 27 issues, 7 special issues, and 6 books (IEGE book series), involving over 400 articles and papers. IJEGE, intended as a sector-specific scientific journal, has been funded by Sapienza University of Rome since its outset. Its mission was to further the publication of research conducted by emerging groups and to bridge the editorial and disciplinary gap that its promoters had identified in the national scientific scenario, although prestigious journals (such as *Geologia Applicata e idrogeologia*) had been published in the past. With his far-sighted approach, Alberto Prestininzi conceived IJEGE as a journal whose entire production cycle (content planning, article acquisition, editing, artwork, layout, typesetting, printing, publishing, and distribution) was handled by the scientific community of Sapienza University of Rome, from the editorial board to the publisher, namely our university press, Sapienza Università Editrice.

The path of IJEGE was difficult owing, among others, to the high concentration of sector-specific scientific production, with numerous and famous journals owned by a few strong and well-established publishing houses.

In 2007, IJEGE made its entry onto the web with its digital edition, available via the integrated editorial platform ZPub 2.0, developed by CAB (Centro d'Ateneo per le Biblioteche) of the University of Padua.

In the meantime, IJEGE became the flagship journal of Associazione Italiana di Geologia Applicata e Ambientale (AIGA) under the auspices of the Italian group of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG).

In 2009, it became an open-access journal (listed in DOAJ), with distinctive in-house features, from website management (updating and development) to server allocation.

It is worth pointing out that, to date, IJEGE has been included in the following indexing services: SciVerse Scopus, Elsevier (since 2011); Clarivate Analytics Master Journal List with Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), launched by Thomson Reuters in 2015; ACNP (Archivio Collettivo Nazionale dei Periodici, national catalogue of periodicals), created in the 1970s by CNR-ISR; BASE - Bielefeld Academic Search Engine, Bielefeld University Library; DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals, launched in 2003 at Lund University (SWE) (from 2009 to 2017); Ei Compendex, Elsevier; The GeoRef database, established in 1966 by the American Geosciences Institute; OPAC SBN (Catalogo del Servizio Bibliotecario Nazionale, catalogue of the national library service); Ulrich's and Worldcat.

Thanks to its bibliometric indexing in SciVerse Scopus, IJEGE has expanded beyond its original remit, competing with other prestigious and long-standing sector-specific journals.

In the 2017 rankings (the latest consolidated data available from Scopus) of 176 journals of geotechnical engineering and engineering geology, IJEGE was no. 106 (39th percentile) in the world (Fig. 1), no. 2 among Italian sector-specific journals, no. 2 among journals published by their own university presses, and, in an intra-university challenge, among the top three journals owned by Sapienza University of Rome.

Today's performance of IJEGE is epitomised by its 2018 outlook, with a CiteScore Tracker value of 0.64 (update of 8 December 2018) as against a CiteScore at 0.52 in 2017. This

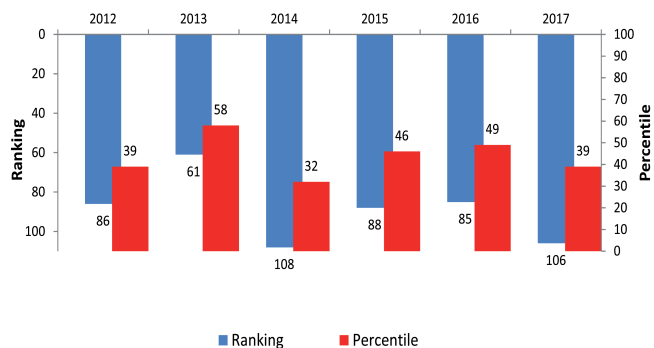


Fig. 1 - IJEGE ranking vs. percentile

outlook expresses the best performance ever achieved by the Journal, but it also marks a novel stage in its activity with very ambitious but feasible goals: stabilising its position in Quartile 2 of the Scopus rankings, in the geotechnical engineering and engineering geology category; its entry into the journal impact rankings of InCites Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics); and elimination of its print format.

In retracing the activity carried out in past years, I wish to thank all those who, in various ways, contributed to the success of IJEGE, namely the members of its editorial staff and editorial board who have passed away: Claudio Cherubini, Oldrich Hungr, Cesare Roda, Roberto W. Romeo, and Gerald Francis Wieczorek.