**Spring 2021 - Activities of the EASE Turkish Regional Chapter**

1. **Scientific Research and Publication Processes in Social Sciences Panel Series**

The *European Association of Science Editors* (EASE) *Turkish Regional Chapter* (TRC) organized a series of webinars in association with the Social Sciences Institute of Trakya University between the end of March and the first week of April. The panel series was opened by Cem Uzun (Chair of EASE Turkish Chapter and co-chair of the event), Duncan Nicholas (President of EASE), Levent Dogan (Chair of Trakya University, Instutute of Social Sciences and the co-chair of the event) and Erhan Tabakoglu, Rector of Trakya University.

The main topic of the webinars was Scientific Research and Publication Processes in Social Sciences and a series of separate meetings focused on different steps of each process.

The target audience included researchers and students working and studying in fields of social sciences.

In order to maximize the reach and impact of these events we collaborated with local universities, organizations, editors and researchers to promote the events. This strategy helped us attract up to 1700 people to register for each separate meeting with up to 75% attending. Although a reminder was sent a week, a day and an hour before each meeting, we observed a drop in attendance throughout the 2½ week period.

Dates, topics and attendance rates were as following;

* March 23, 2021; Research and Publication Ethics; 1513 registered, 1155 attended (76%)
* March 25, 2021; Planning and Conduction Scientific Research; 1645 registered, 1137 attended (69%)
* March 30, 2021; Qualitative and Quantitative Research Analysis; 1638 registered, 1039 attended (63%)
* April 1, 2021; Scientific Article Writing; 1665 registered, 987 attended (59%)
* April 6, 2021; Publication Processes of Scientific Articles; 1707 registered, 888 attended (52%)

Faculty of each meeting was structured similarly, with a couple of session leaders, a moderator and 2-3 speakers.

Although the event was organized by Trakya University staff in collaboration with EASE TRC, the groups of panellists were diverse representing different parts and universities of Turkey.

The attendees were encouraged to ask questions through the Zoom Q&A or the chat area. The number of questions we received during these events proved that these webinars were long overdue.

At the end of each session speakers took 30-90 minutes to answer audience questions, some led to lengthy discussions.

In addition; Trakya University Social Sciences Institute appointed 6 experienced researchers from the field to support the speakers and moderators as well as answer specific questions from the attendees related to the topic of each meeting live in the chat area. This was popular with the attendees.

Technical assistance for the events was provided by AVES.

The events were recorded and made available through EASE TRC’s YouTube channel (EASE Turkey). The videos have been gaining views since the events, we are planning to promote these videos through our distribution channels in the coming weeks and months.

Attendees were asked to fill in a satisfaction survey after each event and all of the panels received high satisfaction scores.

**2. Editorship in Scholarly Journals webinar**

The *European Association of Science Editors* (EASE) *Turkish Regional Chapter* (TRC) organized a webinar in association with AVES in January titled “Editorship in Scholarly Journals”.

During the webinar, we presented information about international publication standards and the organizations that shape these standards as well as provided them with general and practical information on structuring a successful journal and forming an editorial board to run the journal.

As the past Editor in Chief of Balkan Medical Journal Prof. Cem Uzun (EASE TRC Chair) and Mr. İbrahim Kara, founder of AVES, shared their personal experiences in publishing.

The target audience included editors working in journals operated in Turkey. Over 800 people registered for the event and 600 of these attended (73%).

The initial presentations were 30 minutes. The attendees were encouraged to ask questions the panellists received and answered dozens of questions over a 90-minute period. The whole event lasted 2 hours.

Experienced editors from other successful Turkish journals joined the event as guest panellists and answered a few of the questions from the attendees.

Mr. Ali Sahin (EASE TRC member) was also active during the event and answered over 100 audience questions live in the chat area.

The event was recorded and made available through EASE TRC and AVES’ YouTube channels. The video was viewed over 600 times so far.

**3**. **Course on Peer-Review in the Scholarly Journals**

The free online course was organized by the Turkish Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Society, Turkish Archives of Otorhinolaryngology and Galenos Publishing House between 7-8 April 2021 mainly for the young otorhinolaryngologists. Speakers were editors or associate editors of different medical journals. More than 100 otorhinolaryngologists (first day: 125, second day: 98) attended the course and they were certified. Participation was much higher than expected and it was decided to hold similar training courses and meetings more frequently.

Prof. Taner Kemal Erdag, Vice-Chair of EASE Turkish Regional Chapter and Editor in Chief, Turkish Archives of Otorhinolaryngology, was the President of the Course and Prof. Cem Uzun, President of EASE Turkish Regional Chapter, was one of the eight instructors.

The topics covered during the course included:

* What is peer-review?
* What are the recent peer-review methods?
* What are the responsibilities of the reviewers?
* Where will I begin to evaluate a manuscript?
* Is the abstract written in an understandable way?
* Does it reflect the content of the article clearly?
* Are ethics committee approval and informed consent necessary in the methods section?
* Is there a suitable randomization method?
* Is the method presented in a clear and straightforward way?
* Is power analysis necessary?
* Is the statistical method appropriate and is statistics program stated properly?
* Evaluation of the statistical tests in terms of the reviewers.
* Is the results section prepared in accordance with the rules?
* Are the tables, graphs and figures suitable?
* Are the obtained findings discussed sufficiently in the light of the literature in the discussion section?
* In this section, does the author also use articles that do not conform to his/her hypothesis (is there bias in terms of selection of references)?
* Is there a paragraph about the limitations of the study?
* Is there an appropriate conclusion section?
* Are the references up to date? Is the number enough?
* Is there a problem with the language of the manuscript?
* Are there spelling mistakes or grammatical inconsistencies?
* Are the keywords of the article prepared in terms of the "medical subject headings (MeSH)?
* Is the title of the article appropriate?
* Is there ethical misconduct in the manuscript?
* Preparation of the decision report and the language to be used during this process.

**4.** **TR Index and its contribution to scholarly publishing lecture**

Ms. Sibel Tabanlioglu, member of EASE Turkish Regional Chapter gave a lecture on “TR Index and its contribution to scholarly publishing” during the third Workshop on Scholarly Publishing in Social Sciences organized by Atatürk Culture, Language and History Higher Institution and Sivas Cumhuriyet University. Almost 200 editors and publishers, mainly from journals in social sciences, attended the workshop.

5. **Scholarly Journals in Turkey panel**

The Chair of EASE TRC, Cem Uzun attended the panel “Scholarly Journals in Turkey” as a panellist. Reasons for the great increase in the number of scholarly journals in the recent years and its impact on academic life in Turkey was the main theme of the panel. The attendees were editors, publishers and academics from Turkey.