
Editorial

The *European Journal of Industrial Engineering (EJIE)* is already on its seventh year. The editors are pleased to observe that the number of submissions keeps increasing year after year. While this implies an increased work burden for the editorial team, it also allows us to be more selective and to increase the quality of the journal significantly.

In order to keep up with the higher number of additional submissions, starting with volume 6 in the last year 2012, *EJIE* has increased the number of issues from four to six. This has increased the number of published papers to 36 per year. The low number of papers published per year makes *EJIE* a very selective and exclusive scholarly journal. *EJIE* is working hard in order to reduce the large backlog of accepted papers and does not rule out the possibility of increasing the number of issues per year in the near future.

Publishing a small number of papers per year and being a relatively young journal results in a somehow volatile impact factor. In 2010, the impact factor of *EJIE* increased to a very large 1.787, which was extremely good, positioning *EJIE* in the 5th place (among 37) in the area of industrial engineering (ISI Web of Knowledge). This excellent score is a clear indication of the quality of the journal. Although the impact factor for the year 2011 was relatively low, our calculations indicate that the impact factor for the year 2012 is going to be more than 1.0. We have to stress that *EJIE* is now starting its seventh year and has been in the impact factor listings for three years already. As a result, all these figures are certainly excellent for such a young journal.

The editors are proud of making *EJIE* a leading journal in its area. Every paper we receive is carefully screened and considered by the editors. Then, if the screening phase is passed, papers are sent to no less than three independent referees. The process is closely watched over so that papers are not delayed. The typical turnaround for the first response to our authors is less than three months. Such familiar and detailed treatment of papers and authors is not typical in today's academic world. Therefore, we encourage prospective authors to submit their high quality papers in the industrial engineering field to *EJIE*.

We are really thankful to *EJIE* Journal Manager Liz Harris and for all the devoted individuals at Inderscience for their professional work. The editors are always demanding as regards features that the journal should have and Inderscience goes great lengths at meeting our requests. We are also grateful to the associate editors, editorial board members and to the many referees for their timely and detailed reports which have improved the quality of the published papers in a considerable way. Moreover, we are thankful to the contributing authors for their incommensurable work that has been published in our most esteemed journal.

Editors

Ali Allahverdi, Rubén Ruiz and Jose M. Framinan