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EDITORIAL

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META-ANALYSIS OF THE SCIENTIFIC CONTENTS OF MATERIA SOCIO-MEDICA JOURNAL IN THE PERIOD 2009–2015

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: *Materia Socio Medica* Journal has a long history. It was founded in 1978. **Aim:** To evaluate journal articles in 2015 and compare findings to previous years. **Material and methods:** The study has retrospective and descriptive character, and included the period 2009–2015. **Results:** A total of 99 articles were published in *Materia Socio Medica* during 2015 and it shows an upward trend during the period 2009–2015. Original articles are present in majority during the last seven years (69,2%). Analyzing the last seven years, 44,1% of articles were from the field of clinical medicine. Articles from the fields of public health show an upward trend during the last four years. Collaboration rate in 2015 was 0,95. Authors of the articles are from ten countries (four continents). H index of journal is 8 and g index is 12 (Publish or Perish software). According to GoogleScholar, h5 index for *Materia Socio Medica* is 8 and h5 median is 9. **Conclusions:** The objectives of the journal in the next year are: to become a part of the Scopus and Web of Science databases, further internationalization and promotion of the journal in the country and the region, revision and broadening of the Editorial Board, trying to follow trend in reducing the number of days required for a decision on acceptance or revision of article and involvement of the younger generation of professionals and scientists into the journal work and publishing scope, which will lead to emergence of new enthusiasm and ideas (Journal intends to follow the trends of modern biomedical publishing worldwide).

Key words: *Materia Socio-Medica*, meta-analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION

The journal *Materia Socio-Medica* is one of the rapidly developing periodicals in the field of Public Health and Biomedical Sciences. It has a long history spanning over three decades. The Journal was founded in 1978 in Former Yugoslavia and registered as “*Materia Socio-Medica Iugoslavica*” (Figure 1). It was the first and only one scientific and professional journal of the Yugoslav Association of Social Medicine with an original intention to publish works in the field of social medicine and health care organizations, or in the area of planning and programming of health care, health economics, health informatics, health promotion, medical ethics and sociology, organization and protection of population and nosological groups, etc. Since Social medicine and its specific scientific disciplines at the time were at a very high level and among the most developed in Europe there was a need that in the former Yugoslavia is formed one such journal that would cover all of these disciplines. Publishing of the Journal “*Materia Socio-Medica Iugoslavica*” was

stopped in the period since 1990 to 2000 due to the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H). In parallel with the formation of the Association for Social Medicine - Public Health of B&H, at the Inaugural Meeting of the Association held in March 2000 in Tuzla, the Journal was revitalized again with a new name “*Materia Socio-Medica*” and as such is issued today (1). From the year 2009 *Materia Socio-Medica* has been accepted as an official journal of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Journal publishes original research papers, comprehensive reviews, editorials, viewpoints, conference reports, news notes, letters and other items on topics related to Public Health, Social Medicine and Health Care organization, Health management, Medical informatics, Health economics, Health ethics, Health promotion, Management of diseases, Health care of specific groups of population, Medical statistics, Health information systems, General medicine, etc. All articles, with abstracts, are published exclusively in English after an open peer review. The frequency of the

Journal is 6 issues per year. The geographic distribution of authors publishing in this Journal is international, from various countries and continents.



Figure 1. Cover pages of the first (1978) and last issue (Dec 2015) of the Journal *Materia Socio-Medica*

In 2015 in B&H about twenty-five journals were issued in the field of biomedical and life sciences in general. Out of them six journals are indexed in the Medline/PubMed database: *Medical Archives*, *Materia Socio-Medica*, *Acta Informatica Medica*, *Acta Medica Academica*, *Bosnian Journal of Basic Medical Sciences (BJBMS)* and *Medicinski Glasnik* (2). Beside PubMed and PubMed Central, *Materia Socio-Medica* is indexed in EBSCO, DOAJ, Index Copernicus, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research - GFMER, HINARI, ProQuest, NewJour, ISC Master Journals List, CrossRef, Google Scholar, Genamics JournalSeek, WorldCat, NLM Catalog, VINITI of RAS, Catalyst, SafetyLit, EastView and ScopeMed. The journal *Materia Socio-Medica* is now under evaluation for inclusion in Scopus and Thomson Reuters databases. Starting from 2014, *Materia Socio-Medica* has been published bimonthly or six issues per year (Figure 2).

2. AIM

To evaluate journal *Materia Socio-Medica* in 2015 and to compare the findings with previous years.

3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study has retrospective and descriptive character, and included the period 2009-2015. Study included 32 issues of journal.

4. RESULTS

A total of 99 articles were published in *Materia Socio-Medica* during 2015 which shows an upward trend during the period 2009-2015 (Figure 3).

Analyzing the structure by type of articles published in 2015, the original articles are present in majority (77.7%), (Figure 4). Within the last seven years, 442 articles were published and out of them 306 (69,2%) were original articles (Figure 4).

Among the articles published in *Materia Socio-Medica* during 2015, 42,4% are from the field of public health, 14,2% relate to the fields of preclinical medicine, and 43,4% of articles relate to the fields of clinical medicine (Figure 5). Among the articles from the fields of clinical medicine predominant are articles from Internal medicine 58,1%, then Gynecology 14%, Pediatrics 11,6%, Surgery 4,7%, Infectious disease 4,7%, Neuropsychiatry 2,3%, Physical therapy

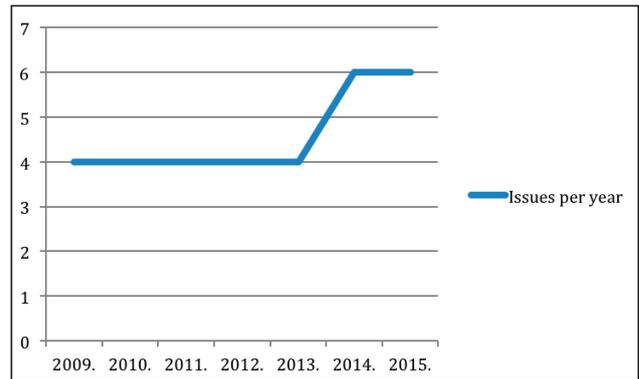


Figure 2. Shift from four to six issues per year of the journal *Materia Socio-Medica* in 2014 (published every two months)

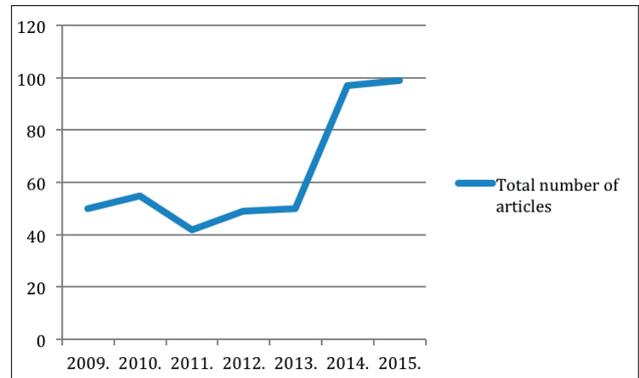


Figure 3. Trend of increasing the total number of published articles in *Materia Socio-Medica* per year during the period 2009-2015

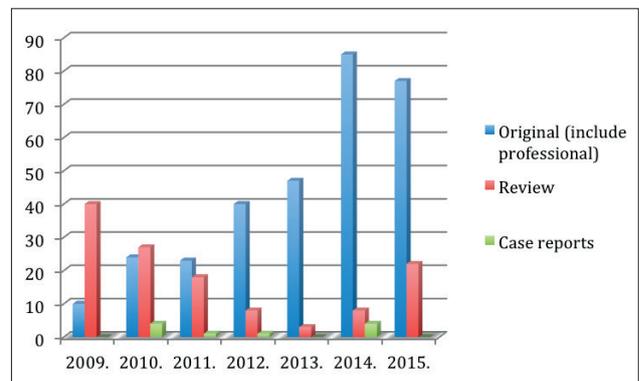


Figure 4. Type of articles published in *Materia Socio-Medica* during the period 2009-2015

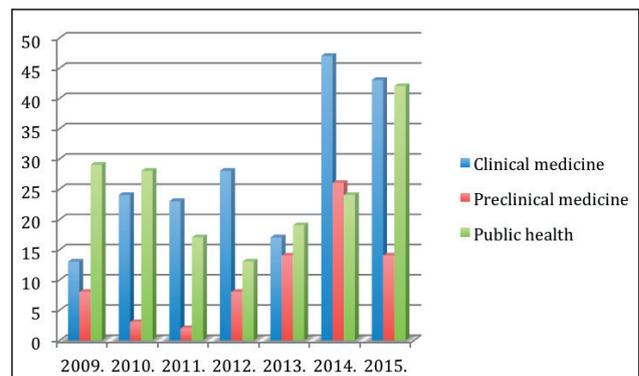


Figure 5. Distribution of articles by fields during the period 2009-2015.

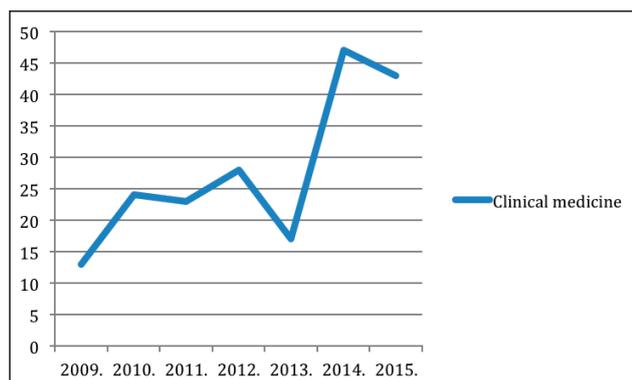


Figure 6. Articles from the clinical medicine fields during the period 2009-2015

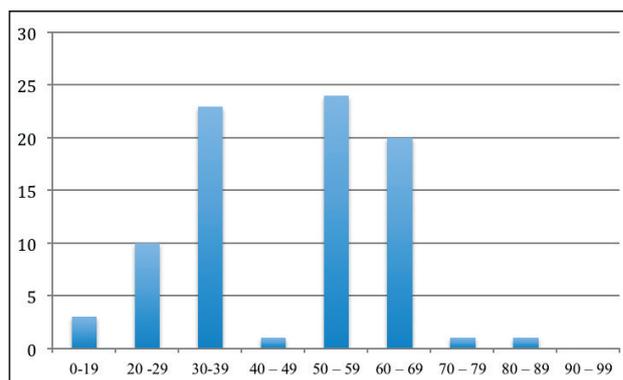


Figure 10. Time required for review and decision on acceptance during 2015

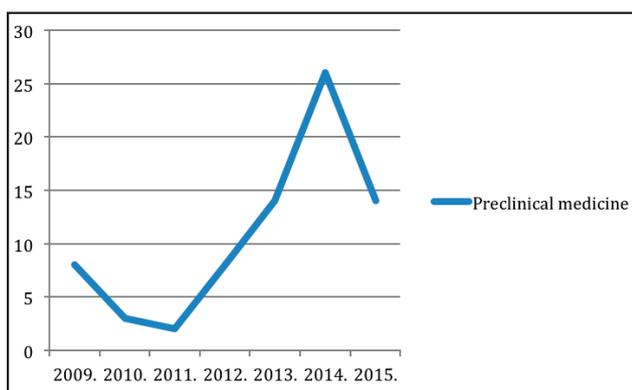


Figure 7. Articles from the preclinical medicine fields during the period 2009-2015

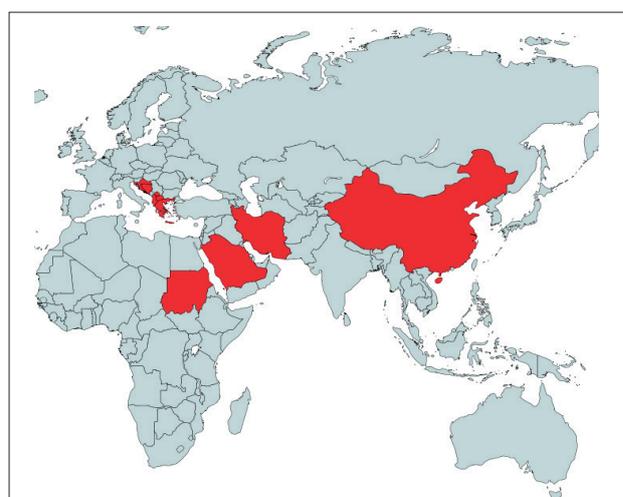


Figure 11. Map of countries of origin of authors of the published articles in 2015

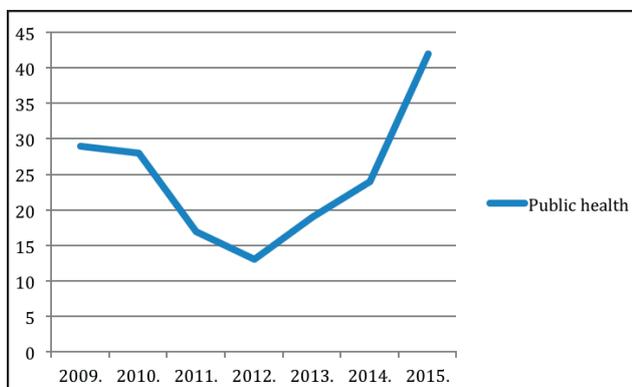


Figure 8. Articles from the public health fields during the period 2009-2015

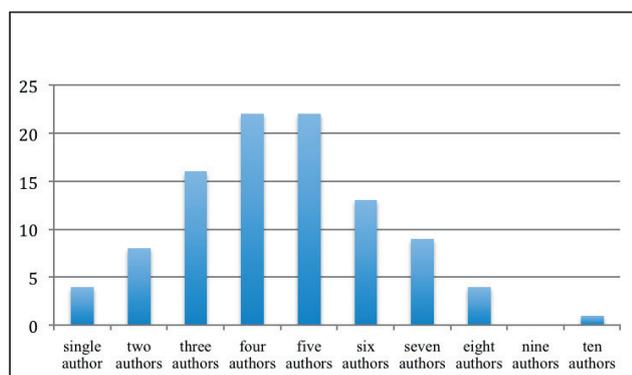


Figure 9. Number of authors in collaboration for published articles during 2015

2,3%, Dermatovenereology 2,3%, etc. During 2015, in the domain of preclinical medicine, articles relate to medical informatics were the most frequent (35,8%). Analyzing the last seven years, 44,1% articles were from the field of clinical medicine (Figure 5).

Within the period of the last seven years, the number of articles from the fields of clinical medicine has an upward trend (Figure 6). Preclinical medicine articles declined in 2015 (Figure 7). Articles in the fields of public health show an upward trend in the period 2012-2015 (Figure 8).

Collaboration rate (ratio of number of multi-authored articles with the total number of articles) in 2015 was 0,95. Articles written in collaboration of four and five authors were the most frequent (22,2%), (Figure 9).

The average time required for completing the review process and making decision on acceptance of article in 2015 the most often was between 30 and 60 days (Figure 10).

Authors of the articles published in 2015 are from 10 countries (Figure 11), mostly from Bosnia and Herzegovina, then from Iran and Greece. Countries of origin of authors of the published papers in 2015 are dispersed in four continents (Europe, Asia, Africa and America).

According to Google Scholar, h5 index (h-index for articles published in the last 5 complete years) for Materia Socio- Medica is 8 and h5 median (median number of citations for the articles that make up its h5-index) is 9. The most cited articles in the last six years are presented in Table 1. In

| Title / Author | Cited by | Year |
|---|----------|------|
| The effect of physical activity on cognition-physiological mechanisms. JP Gligoriska, S Mancheska Mater Socio-Medica 24 (3), 198-202 | 14 | 2011 |
| Social Networks in Medical Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina I Masic, S Sivo Mater Socio-Medica 24 (3), 162 | 13 | 2012 |
| The importance of serum procalcitonin in diagnosis and treatment of serious bacterial infections and sepsis. S Mehanic, R Baljic Mater Socio-Medica 25 (4), 277-281 | 12 | 2013 |
| Leadership, Job Satisfaction and Organizational Commitment in Healthcare Sector: Proposing and Testing a Model AM Mosaddeghrad, M Fardosi Mater Socio-Medica 25 (2), 121 | 10 | 2013 |
| Almanac 2011: Acute Coronary Syndromes. The National Society Journals Present Selected Research that has Driven Recent Advances in Clinical Cardiology. C Knight, AD Timmis Mater Socio-Medica 23 (3), 161-170 | 9 | 2010 |
| Barriers to implement Electronic Health Records (EHRs) S Ajami, R Arab-Chadegani Mater Socio-Medica 25 (3), 213 | 9 | 2013 |
| Communication in Nursing Practice L Kourkouta, IV Papatheanasiou Mater Socio-Medica 26 (1), 65 | 9 | 2014 |
| Cross-cultural Adaptation of a Questionnaire on Self-perceived Level of Skills, Abilities and Competencies of Family Physicians in Albania A Alla, K Czabanowska, V Kijowska, E Rosh, G Burazeri Mater Socio-Medica 24 (4), 220 | 8 | 2012 |

Table 1. The most cited articles in Matera Socio Medica during period 2010-2015

The Effect of Physical Activity on Cognition-Physiological ...
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov > [NCBI](#) > [Literature](#) > [PubMed Central \(PMC\)](#) >
 by JP Gligoriska - 2012 - Cited by 21 - Related articles
 Aug 25, 2012 - Mater Sociomed. ... The investigations of the influence of physical activity on cognitive ... Key words: cognition, physical activity, physiology.
 Articles from Matera Socio-Medica are provided here courtesy of AVICENA, d.o.o..

Figure 12. Difference between Google Scholar and PubMed in parameter “Cited by” (14 vs 21)

addition, Figure 12 shows different information on PubMed for parameter “Cited by”.

Ana Wil Harzing launched a free of charge available software package called “Publish or Perish”, which is used for the derivation of various citation analyses, including impact factor (3).

We analyzed the Matera Socio Medica by mentioned software. H index (the index that attempts to measure the productivity and impact of published work of scientists) was 8, g index (largest number g of papers which have received at least g citations on average) (4-8) was 12 (Table 2).

5. CONCLUSIONS

The objectives of the journal in the year 2016 are:

- To become part of Scopus (largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature),
- To become part of Web of Science (gold standard for research discovery and analytic),
- Further internationalization of the magazine,
- Promotion of the journal in the country and the region,
- Revision and broadening of the Editorial Board,
- Trying to follow trend in reducing the number of days required for a review process, with necessary revision, and making decision on acceptance of article,
- Involvement of the younger generations of professionals and scientists into the journal work and publish-

| Rank | Authors | Title | Year | Publication |
|------|---|---|------|--------------------|
| 1 | JP Gligoriska, S Mancheska | The effect of physical activity on cognition on co... | 2012 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 2 | L Kourkouta, IV Papatheanasiou | Communication in nursing practice | 2014 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 3 | S Mehanic, R Baljic | The importance of serum procalcitonin... | 2013 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 4 | S Dragic | Bullying and peer victimization | 2009 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 5 | I Masic, S Sivo, M Fardosi | Social Networks in medical education... | 2012 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 6 | AM Mosaddeghrad, M Fardosi | Leadership, job satisfaction and org... | 2013 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 7 | S Ajami, R Arab-Chadegani | Barriers to implement electronic heal... | 2013 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 8 | A Alla, K Czabanowska, V Kijowska, E Rosh, G Burazeri | A conceptual framework for quality ... | 2012 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 9 | S Mehanic, R Baljic | Cytogenetic study in children with Di... | 2013 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 10 | S Sivo, M Fardosi | Prevention of diabetes in family med... | 2013 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 11 | S Sivo, M Fardosi | Clinical presentation of hypertensive... | 2014 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 12 | AM Sabzghabae, AM | Effect of Helicobacter salinarum calico... | 2012 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 13 | S Sivo, M Fardosi | Comparisons of health care systems ... | 2012 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 14 | S Mehanic, R Baljic | Frequency of Substance Abuse Amo... | 2013 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 15 | A Custovic, J Smedley | Epidemiological surveillance of bac... | 2014 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 16 | S Sivo, M Fardosi | The most common detected bacteria... | 2012 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 17 | L Borimnejad, MH H... | Human relationships in palliative care... | 2014 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 18 | I Masic | Program in scientific research and ... | 2014 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 19 | S Karami, MH Yarn... | Predictors and effective factors on g... | 2013 | Mater Socio-Medica |
| 20 | I Masic, S Sivo, S T... | Social Networks in Improvement of H... | 2012 | Mater Socio-Medica |

Table 2. Publish or Perish analyse of Matera Socio Medica (data source Google Scholar)

ing scope, which will lead to the emergence of new enthusiasm and ideas following the trends of modern biomedical publishing worldwide.

- **Author's contribution:** All authors in this paper have contributed in all phases in it's preparing. First author made final proof reading.
- **Conflict of interest:** none declared.

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