

Raumforschung und Raumordnung | Spatial Research and Planning

Handout on referee reports for papers submitted as “Politik- und Praxis-Perspektive / Policy and practice perspective”

Papers published in the category “Politik- und Praxis-Perspektive / Policy and practice perspective” are expected to be of great relevance for current and future practice in spatial and regional planning and/or spatial development. It is expected that such papers include:

- A consideration of the current political and planning-practice discourse and the positioning of the “Politik- und Praxis-Perspektive / Policy and practice perspective” with its topic of interest and focuses within this discourse,
- An appraisal of the state of research and a theoretical and conceptual analysis of the research topic,
- The clear presentation of the methodological approach and the data used,
- The critical evaluation of the research results and their relevance to planning and/or society,
- The formulation of findings and insights in the form of “lessons learned”.

We kindly ask you to particularly consider the following criteria when reviewing the paper, to explain your evaluation in a comment, and finally to provide a clear recommendation.

Assessment criteria for the referee report:

- The relevance of the topic regarding societal and spatial planning issues (e.g. convincing, not fully developed, missing...),
- Originality and novelty (e.g. new aspects illustrated, further developed, little original content...),
- Structure (e.g. stringent, requires some revision, poorly structured...),
- Consistency of contents/appropriateness of the title and abstract and their fit with the main text (e.g. very good, requires improvement, unsystematic...),
- Consideration of the current debate (e.g. convincing, requires some elaboration, incomplete...),
- Recommendations for practice (e.g. convincing, missing, require some development, incomplete...),
- Tables and figures (e.g. appropriate, compelling, require improvement, redundant...),
- Other comments.

Please organize your feedback as follows:

- A short summary of the paper’s core in about 1-2 sentences,
- An overview of the positive aspects of the paper (e.g. what works well and should be preserved),
- The key points that require revision and suggestions as to how they should be improved,
- Short comments about what the authors should take into consideration during the revision.

- [optional] If the authors should refer to a wider range of literature as part of their revision of the paper, please list the full bibliographical references of the suggested sources at the end of your report.

Please submit one of the following recommendations in the Editorial Manager:

- Accept as is
- Minor Revisions Needed
- Major Revisions Needed
- Reject

In the case of “Minor Revisions Needed” or “Major Revisions Needed” please provide the authors with critical and constructive feedback about how they should revise their paper. Please formulate the feedback in the way you would like to receive.

The editors-in-chief of the journal “Raumforschung und Raumordnung | Spatial Research and Planning” would also like to highlight that it is not necessary to correct errors of spelling and grammar. The paper will undergo language polishing.

If any conflicts of interest should arise for you as a referee (e.g. if you have co-authored publications with the author or worked on joint research projects in recent years), please let us know. We ask that you complete your referee report in the language used in the submitted paper. Your review will be passed on to the author in an anonymised form. We reserve the right to shorten the referee report.

We would like to thank you for your time and your willingness to referee a paper for the journal “Raumforschung und Raumordnung | Spatial Research and Planning”. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

The Editors-in-Chief