



5th Eurasian Conference on Human-Computer Interaction

Peer Review, Ethics and Publication Policy

1. Overview

HCI-E2026 is committed to maintaining high standards of scientific quality, transparency, research integrity, and publication ethics. All submissions are assessed through a structured peer-review process designed to ensure fairness, objectivity, and academic excellence.

The conference follows internationally recognized principles of scholarly publishing and research evaluation. The Program Committee, Volume Editors, reviewers, and authors are expected to adhere to these principles throughout the submission, review, and publication processes.

2. Peer Review Policy

2.1 Review Model

HCI-E2026 employs a **double-blind peer-review process**.

During the review process:

- Authors do not know the identity of reviewers.
- Reviewers do not know the identity of authors.
- All participants are expected to preserve confidentiality.

2.2 Number of Reviewers

Full Papers will be evaluated by at least **three independent reviewers**. Short Papers, Posters, Extended Abstracts, or other special submission categories may be evaluated under a separate review procedure determined by the Program Committee, typically involving at least two independent reviewers.

Reviewer assignments are made based on subject expertise, reviewer interests, and the absence of conflicts of interest.

2.3 Reviewer Evaluation Criteria

Reviewers assess submissions using a structured review framework that includes:

- Relevance to conference themes
- Originality and novelty

- Scientific contribution
- Technical quality
- Methodological rigor
- Validity of results
- Literature review and references
- Quality of presentation
- Research ethics compliance
- Overall recommendation

Reviewer comments should provide constructive feedback to help authors improve their work.

2.4 Quality of Review Reports

HCI-E2026 requires reviewers to provide substantive and scientifically justified evaluations.

Reviewer reports should:

- Identify strengths and weaknesses;
- Discuss scientific significance;
- Provide constructive recommendations;
- Justify acceptance or rejection recommendations.

Reviews consisting only of scores or brief generic comments may be considered insufficient and may require additional evaluation.

2.5 Reviewer Ethics

Reviewers play a critical role in maintaining the scientific quality and integrity of HCI-E2026.

All reviewers are expected to:

- Conduct reviews objectively, fairly, and professionally;
- Evaluate submissions solely on their scientific merit, regardless of the authors' nationality, gender, institutional affiliation, seniority, or personal characteristics;
- Provide constructive, respectful, and evidence-based feedback;
- Refrain from using offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate language;
- Declare any conflicts of interest before accepting a review assignment;
- Respect the confidentiality of submitted materials.

Reviewers who fail to comply with these principles may be removed from the review process and excluded from future conference activities.

2.6 Confidentiality

HCI-E2026 maintains strict confidentiality throughout the peer-review process.

All submitted manuscripts, supplementary materials, reviewer reports, editorial discussions, and publication decisions are considered confidential.

Reviewers, Program Committee members, and Volume Editors shall not:

- Share submitted manuscripts with unauthorized individuals;
- Use unpublished information for personal, academic, or commercial advantage;
- Disclose reviewer identities except where required by conference policies;
- Distribute review materials outside the official review process.

Confidentiality obligations remain in effect before, during, and after completion of the review process.

2.7 Review Process Documentation

HCI-E2026 maintains appropriate documentation of the peer-review process to ensure transparency, accountability, and quality assurance.

Review records may include reviewer assignments, review reports, editorial communications, decision records, conflict-of-interest declarations, and author responses where applicable.

Such records may be retained by the conference organizers and Volume Editors for a reasonable period in accordance with applicable publisher requirements, conference policies, and data-protection regulations.

3. Conflict of Interest Policy

To ensure an impartial review process, reviewers must disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.

A reviewer should decline a review assignment if:

- They have recently collaborated with the authors;
- They belong to the same institution as the authors;
- They have a personal or financial relationship that may affect objectivity;
- They cannot provide an unbiased assessment.

The Program Committee reserves the right to reassign submissions whenever a conflict of interest is identified.

4. Acceptance Decision Criteria

Acceptance decisions are not based solely on review scores.

Final decisions are made by the Program Committee and Volume Editors based on:

- Reviewer evaluations;
- Scientific merit;
- Novelty and originality;
- Methodological quality;
- Relevance to conference topics;
- Ethical compliance;
- Compliance with formatting and submission requirements.

The Program Committee may desk-reject submissions that are out of scope, substantially incomplete, demonstrate substantial textual overlap, violate publication ethics, or fail to comply with basic formatting requirements.

5. Role of Volume Editors

Volume Editors are responsible for:

- Supervising the scientific quality of the proceedings;
- Monitoring the integrity of the peer-review process;
- Ensuring compliance with publication ethics;
- Reviewing reviewer recommendations;
- Making publication recommendations;
- Coordinating with publishing partners regarding proceedings preparation.

Volume Editors act independently and in accordance with the policies of the respective publishers.

6. Research Integrity Policy

Authors are expected to uphold the highest standards of research integrity.

The following practices are strictly prohibited:

- Plagiarism;
- Self-plagiarism;
- Duplicate submission;
- Data fabrication;
- Data falsification;
- Citation manipulation;
- Ghost authorship;
- Gift authorship;
- Any other form of academic misconduct.

All submissions may be screened using plagiarism-detection software. Similarity reports will be evaluated by the Program Committee and Volume Editors, taking into account the nature, context, and source of any identified overlap.

7. Research Ethics and Human Participants

Research involving:

- Human participants;
- User studies;
- Surveys;
- Interviews;
- Observational studies;
- Behavioral experiments;
- Personal or sensitive data;

must comply with applicable ethical regulations.

Authors should:

- Obtain informed consent where required;
- Protect participant privacy and confidentiality;
- Follow institutional and national ethical requirements;

- Clearly describe ethical procedures within the manuscript when appropriate.

The Program Committee may request additional documentation regarding ethical compliance.

Where applicable, authors should identify the approving ethics committee, institutional review board (IRB), or equivalent body within the manuscript.

8. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools must comply with the policies of the respective publisher and journal.

Authors remain fully responsible for:

- Accuracy of submitted content;
- Scientific validity;
- Originality;
- Proper attribution;
- Compliance with ethical standards.

AI systems or tools cannot be listed as authors.

Failure to disclose inappropriate use of AI tools may lead to rejection or withdrawal of the manuscript.

Where generative AI tools have been used in the preparation of a manuscript, authors should disclose such use in an appropriate statement within the manuscript. Authors remain fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of all submitted content.

Reviewers must not upload submitted manuscripts, review materials, or confidential conference documents to public AI systems or other external services that may use the content for training, storage, or redistribution purposes.

Where AI-assisted tools are used to support the review process, reviewers remain fully responsible for the accuracy, integrity, confidentiality, and independence of their evaluations.

9. Publication Opportunities

Following peer review and editorial assessment, selected papers may be recommended for publication in:

Springer CCIS

Communications in Computer and Information Science (CCIS) published by Springer Nature, subject to Springer Nature's quality requirements and final approval procedures.

JCSDT Special Issue

Selected papers may be considered for publication in the **UNEC Journal of Computer Science and Digital Technologies (JCSDT)**, subject to editorial assessment and review requirements.

Extended Journal Publications

Selected high-quality papers may be invited to submit extended versions for consideration in:

- Acta INFOLOGICA (ACIN)
- International Advanced Researches and Engineering Journal (IAREJ)

All journal publications remain subject to the respective journal's editorial evaluation and independent peer-review process.

Acceptance to the conference does not guarantee publication in any specific proceedings volume or journal.

10. Research Transparency and Reproducibility

HCI-E2026 supports transparency, reproducibility, and responsible research practices.

Authors are encouraged, where appropriate, to make available:

- Research datasets;
- Source code and software artifacts;
- Experimental protocols;
- Survey instruments;
- Supplementary materials necessary to validate research findings.

Where legal, ethical, confidentiality, intellectual property, or data protection restrictions apply, authors should provide sufficient information to allow reviewers and readers to understand, evaluate, and interpret the reported results.

The availability of supporting materials may be considered positively during editorial assessment when relevant to the nature of the research.

11. Presentation Requirement

Publication is contingent upon conference presentation.

Only accepted papers presented by at least one registered author will be eligible for inclusion in the final proceedings or publication outlets.

Failure to present an accepted paper may result in removal from the publication process.

12. Author Responsibilities

By submitting a manuscript to HCI-E2026, authors confirm that:

- The work is original;
- The manuscript is not under review elsewhere;
- All co-authors approve the submission;
- Ethical requirements have been satisfied;
- Any necessary permissions have been obtained;
- The manuscript complies with conference policies.

13. Appeals Policy

The Program Committee and Volume Editors strive to ensure a fair, transparent, and rigorous review process.

Authors who believe that a significant procedural error occurred during the evaluation of their submission may submit a written appeal to the Program Committee Chair within the timeframe specified by the conference.

Appeals shall:

- Clearly identify the alleged procedural issue;
- Be supported by relevant evidence;
- Focus on process-related concerns rather than disagreements with reviewer opinions.

The Program Committee may review the case and, where justified, seek additional editorial assessment.

Decisions resulting from the appeals process are final.

Appeals must be submitted within five (5) business days of the notification of the decision.

14. Policy Compliance

HCI-E2026 reserves the right to amend its review and publication procedures when required by publishing partners, ethical standards, or organizational considerations.

Submission to HCI-E2026 constitutes acceptance of all conference review, ethics, publication, and presentation policies.

HCI-E2026 Organizing Committee

Peer Review, Ethics and Publication Policy

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