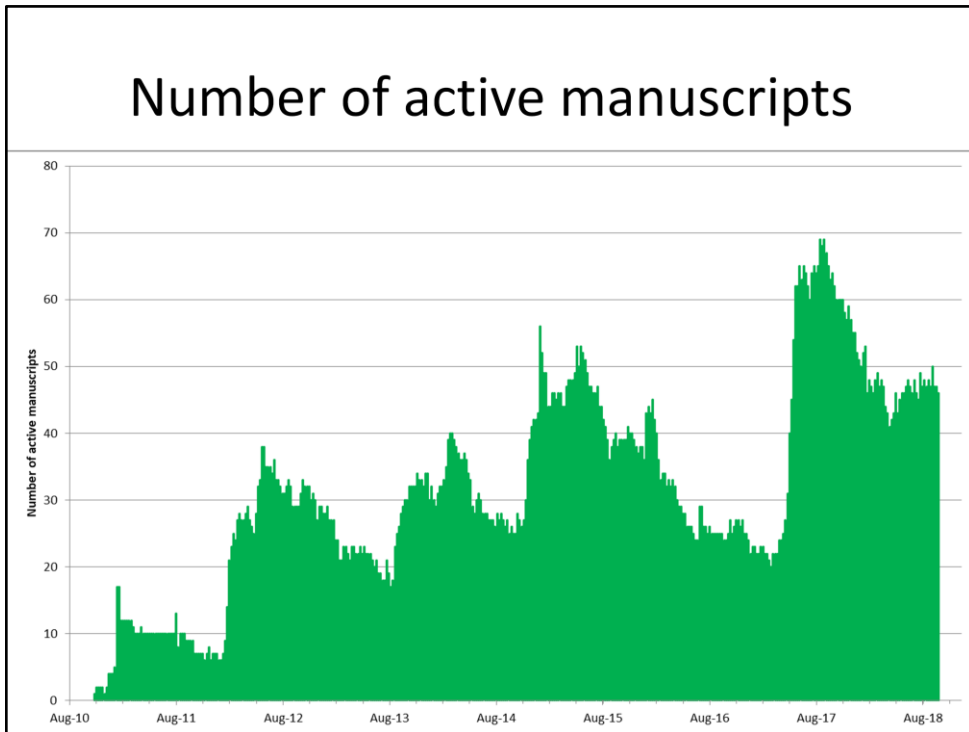


Note the changed acronym JSWSC



Active = from submission till publication/rejection

Starting May 2017, the number of active manuscripts increased from about 20 to 69 in September 2017, the highest since the start of the SWSC Journal.

It has been above 60 from mid June to mid November 2017.

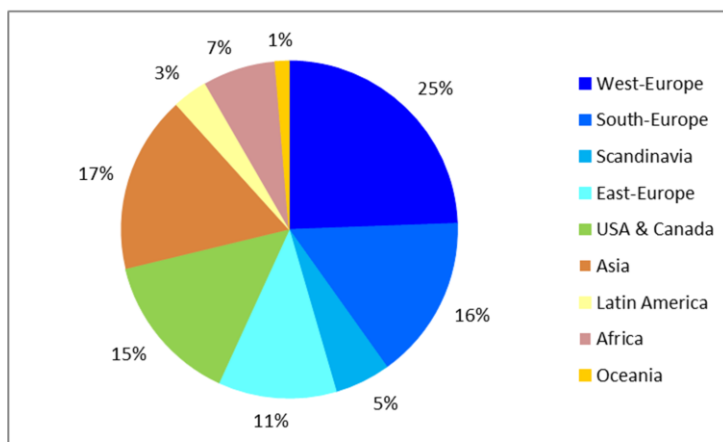
Since April 2018, this number has been steady around 45.

A total of 528 papers has been submitted, of which 256 have been published.

2017 is the year with the highest number of submitted manuscripts (101) so far.

2018 has 67 submissions so far (23 October).

## Submissions – Country of origin



3

In 2015-2018 submitted papers (79+52+101+67 = 299 submissions): 52 different countries

Country of Lead-author (MMS).

170+43/299 submissions come from Europe and USA/Canada (57% - 71%).

152/299 submissions (51%) come from countries that have a **RWC** (ISES – 15/16 countries – only South-Korea has no entries).

Country Submissions

**USA 40**

**China 23**

**United Kingdom 21**

Italy 21

Germany 19

Spain 17

France 15

**India 14**

**Russian Fed. 14**

**Brazil 8**

**Japan 8**

**Belgium 7**

Greece 7

Finland 7

Norway 6

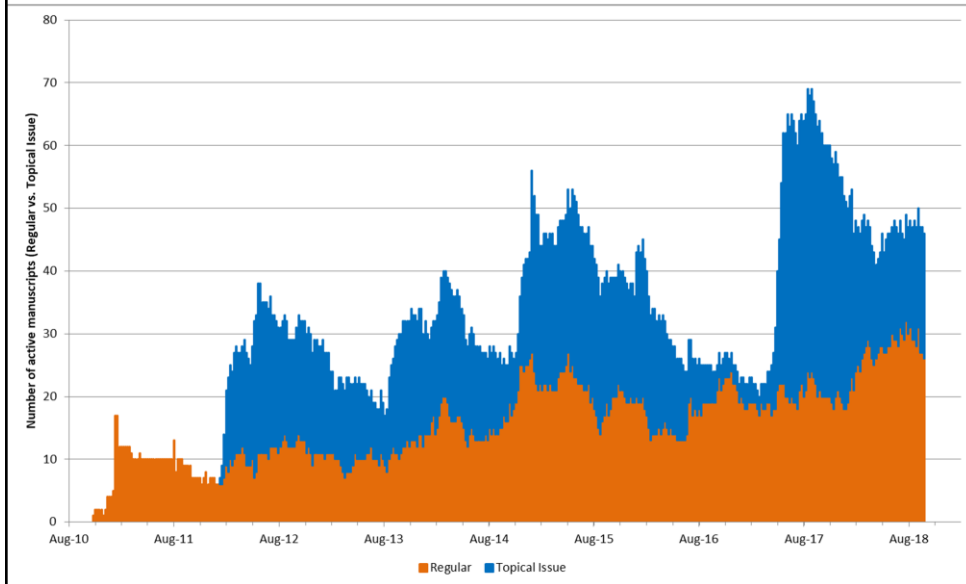
Nigeria 5

**Poland 5**

Ethiopia 5

Rest (34) 57

## Number of active Regular/TI manuscripts



The increases in active manuscripts are mainly driven by Topical Issues.

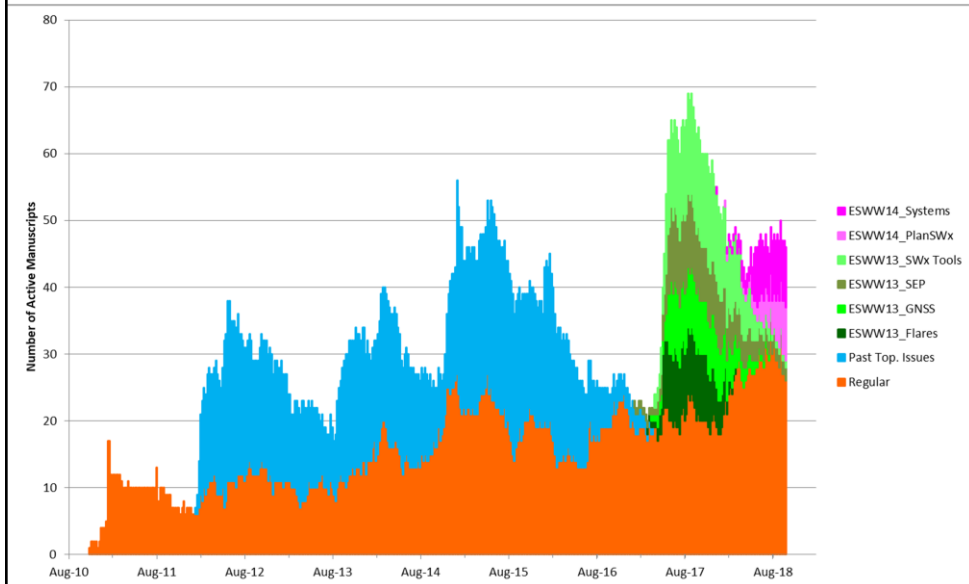
Note the relative stable number of regular papers around 20 since late 2014. Early 2018, there seems to be a slight increase towards 25-30 active papers

2017 is the year with the highest number of submissions for TI (54), and the highest number of submissions tout court (101).

Year	Reg	TI	Grand Total
2011	37		37
2012	31	37	68
2013	30	29	59
2014	44	21	65
2015	52	27	79
2016	36	16	52
2017	47	54	101
2018	43	24	67
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>528</b>

The 2010 papers have been included in the 2011 numbers.

## Number of active Regular/TI manuscripts



This graph shows the various Topical Issues (TIs) that the SWSC Journal has had so far. The latest increase in active manuscripts is due to the submissions for 4 TIs from ESWW13 and for 2 TIs from ESWW14.

So far, there have been 17 TIs, of which 11 TIs are fully closed now (including 2 that did not materialize).

Those 11 have been grouped and displayed as the blue bar chart.

They resulted in 117 submissions (+13), 27 (+7) rejected, 90 published (+ 6 as regular).

Most successful TI was « Statistical Challenges in Solar Information Processing (SIP7) », G-EiC Thierry Dudok de Wit (18 published, 26 submitted).

## Ongoing Topical Issues (ESWW13 & 14)

Top. Issue (15 Oct 17)	Submitted	Pipeline	Unknown	Pre-screen	In review	Published	Rejected
Flares CMEs & SEPs	11	0	0	0	0	10 (0)	1
SEP & GLEs	14	0	0	0	0	7 (2)	5
SWx Tools	17	0	0	0	1	15 (0)	1
GNSS	12	0	0	0	0	9 (0)	3
Planetary SWx	9	?	?	0	8	0 (0)	1
System science	14	?	?	0	6	0 (3)	5
<b>Submitted</b>	<i>Papers received at JSWSC; Submission is open for TIs on Planetary SWx and System science</i>						
<b>Pipeline</b>	<i>Papers with expected submission date known</i>						
<b>Unknown</b>	<i>Papers on the TI list but with unknown fate</i>						
<b>Pre-screen</b>	<i>Under discussion with EIC and/or rework required and/or awaiting action GE</i>						
<b>In review</b>	<i>GE assigned and referees activated</i>						
<b>Published</b>	<i>Available online; Values between () indicate accepted papers awaiting publication</i>						
<b>Rejected</b>	<i>Includes Closed and Withdrawn papers</i>						

### Topical Editors-in-Chief

*Flares, CMES and SEPs: Nicole Vilmer and Olga Malandraki*

*SEP and GLEs: Piers Jiggins and Alexander Mishev*

*SWx Tools: Shaun Bloomfield & Giovanni Lapenta*

*GNSS: Jens Berdermann & Claudia Borries*

*Planetary SWx: Nicolas Andre*

*System Science: Richard Boynton*

6

### ESWW13:

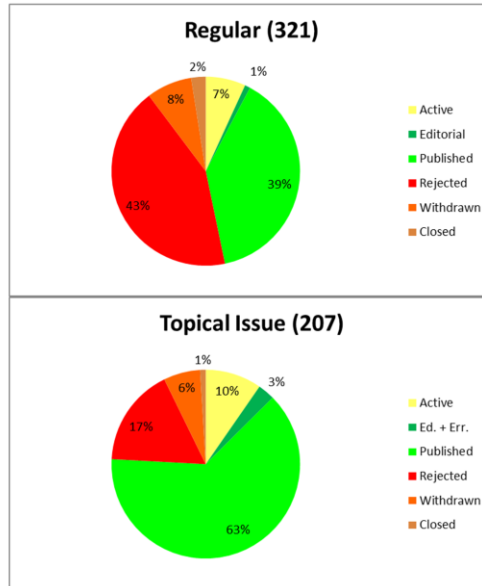
- 4 Topical Issues
- 54 total submissions
- 10 rejected/closed/withdrawn (19%)
- 41 published

The remaining 3 manuscripts are swsc170048 (TI SWx Tools) and swsc170020 and 170051 (TI SEP and GLEs).

### ESWW14:

- 2 Topical Issues
- 23 submissions so far
- 6 rejected/closed/withdrawn (26%)
- 0 published yet, but 3 in coming up

## Status manuscripts (Regular vs. TI)



7

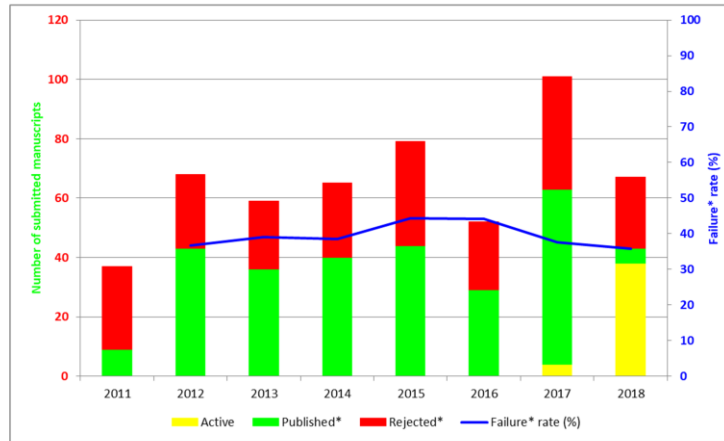
Rejection rate for the regular manuscripts (53%) is more than double that of the TI manuscripts (24%)

The only Erratum so far was for a paper on the Alpbach TI (swsc160050).  
Only 5/9 TI have a preface.

The average rejection rate (rejected+closed+withdrawn) is 42%.  
Evolution of the number of rejected (r+c+w) per year:

	<b>Reg</b>	<b>TI</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
2011	28		28
2012	20	5	25
2013	13	10	23
2014	23	2	25
2015	24	11	35
2016	17	6	23
2017	28	10	38
2018	18	6	24
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>221</b>
Submissions	321	207	528
%	<b>53.3%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>41.9%</b>

## Evolution failure\* rate per year



8

Rejected includes withdrawn and closed manuscripts

Published includes the editorials and erratums

Failure rate for a year =  $(R+W+C)/ALL$  (incl. Active)

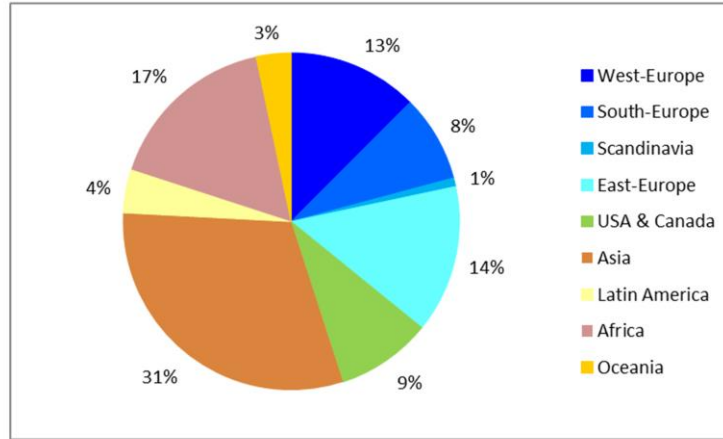
2010 papers included in 2011

The rejection rate varies between 35 and 45%. The decrease in rejection rate in 2017 is at least in part due to the relatively high number of TI papers, which as a rule have a lower number of rejections (24% compared to 53% for regular papers).

	Active	Published*	Rejected*	Failure* rate (%)
2011		9	28	
2012		43	25	36.76
2013		36	23	38.98
2014		40	25	38.46
2015		44	35	44.30
2016		29	23	44.23
2017	4	59	38	37.62
2018	38	5	24	35.82



# Rejection per country



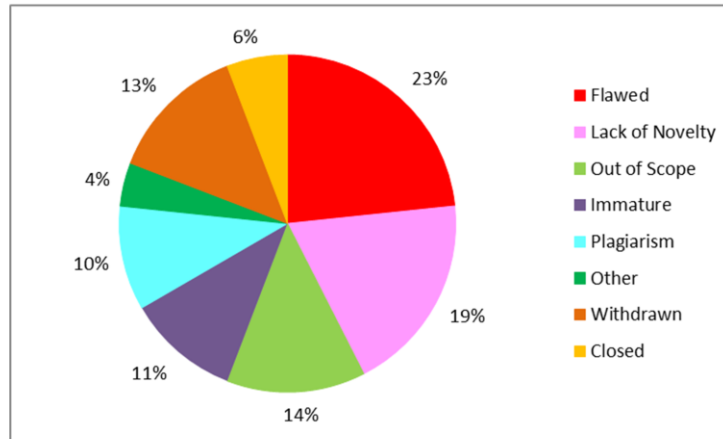
9

Number of rejections (rejected+closed+withdrawn) for 2015-2018 (22 October)  
 65/152 (43%) submissions from **RWC** countries are rejected.  
 43/170 (25%) European submissions are rejected.

The rejection rate is very high for Asian (73%) and African (95%) countries.

	Rejected	Total	%
Africa	20	21	95
Asia	37	51	73
East-Europe	17	34	50
Latin-America	10	50	
Oceania	4	4	100
Scandinavia	1	16	6
South-Europe	10	47	21
USA & Canada	11	43	26
West-Europe	15	73	21
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>40</b>

# Reasons for rejection



10

There's usually more than one reason for a rejection.

Of the 97 true rejections, 23 are after referee review (AE recommendation).

EiCs reject almost all manuscripts due to plagiarism or because out of scope.

Rejection following AE recommendation are usually for lack of novelty or because of flaws in the paper.

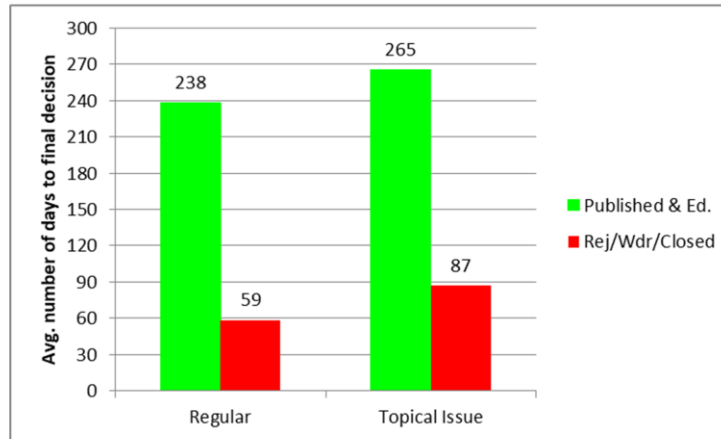
Rejection because « Immature » is usually accompanied by an invitation to submit as a new, entirely reworked manuscript at some point in time.

Manuscripts are closed after 6+ months of no response and numerous reminders by both EO and EiC.

By considering the out-of-scope manuscripts (16), the rejection rate decreases from 40.1% (120/299) to 36.7% (104/283).

Reason	Direct EiC	AE Recomm	Total
Lack of Novelty	8	23	31
Flawed	18	10	28
Plagiarism	11	1	12
Other	3	2	5
Immature	11	2	13
Out of Scope	16	0	16
Withdrawal			16
Closed			7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>120</b>

# Handling time for manuscripts



11

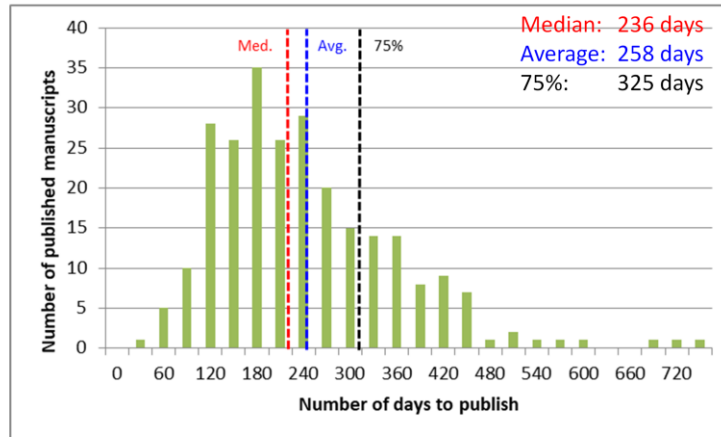
Handling time for:

- Published/Editorials/Prefaces/Errata: from submission till publication
- Rejected/Withdrawn/Closed papers: from submission till final decision

Note these are averages. A few papers with very high handling times are increasing these averages.

There's nearly a month difference between Regular and TI papers, both in publication and rejection. Certainly for TI, a lot of efforts are given before the decision to reject is taken.

# Handling time published manuscripts



12

2018  
 Median: 236 days  
 Average: 258 days  
 75%: 325 days

These data concern the 256 published papers, so without editorials, prefaces and erratums (3+5+1=9 in total).

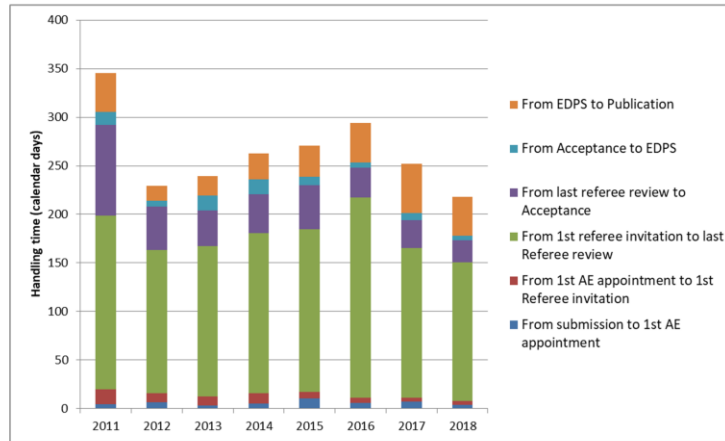
The longest handling times are for swsc110009 (716 days), swsc110031 (757 days), and the very recently published swsc160041 (735 days).

- swsc110031 (757 days) needed 16 referee invitations and 5 months till first feedback to author. The author needed 7 extra weeks for the major revision. 38 weeks were lost with English grammar corrections: 22 weeks by the author who did a lousy job, then 16 weeks by Jürgen who went himself through the long manuscript.

- swsc160041 (735 days) lost nearly 7 months to get the first revision out (so more than 8 months in total for a minor revision!), and then again 4 extra months to get the second revision out (so 6.5 months for a medium revision). The author was very busy. After this 2nd revision, it took an extra month for the referees to get the final review out. It took 53 days to get the paper published. Only 2 referees needed, and only 1 medium and 2 minor revision required.

- swsc110009 (716 days) took 6 months before we had finally 2 review reports for the author: There was one AE-change, and 9 referees had to be contacted, with several reminders. There was a 10 weeks delay due to maternity leave of the author, and a 4 month discussion with authors and editors on the contents of the manuscript (the dreaded "Fig. 12"). In total 1 major and 3 minor revisions were required.

# Handling time published papers & per year



13

The year 2018 is obviously positively biased as only 5 papers have already been published, while most 2018 papers are still in the review process (38, of which 5 awaiting publication).

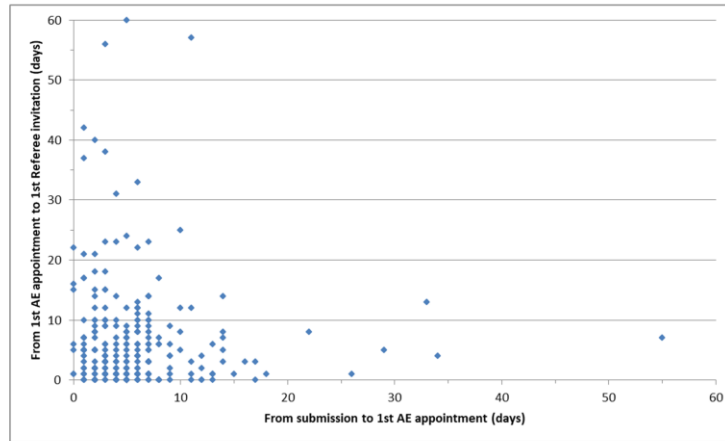
The 2017 handling time will also further increase: 2 awaiting publication, 2 still in review (swsc170048 and swsc170072).

Most of the time goes into the finding of the referees and getting the revisions and reviews.

Data in this and subsequent charts concern only the 256 published papers so far, so no editorials, prefaces and erratums.

Year of submission	Published	Average of Handling time
2011	8	345
2012	43	229
2013	33	239
2014	38	263
2015	43	271
2016	27	294
2017	59	252
2018	5	218
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>258</b>

# Pre-referee process



14

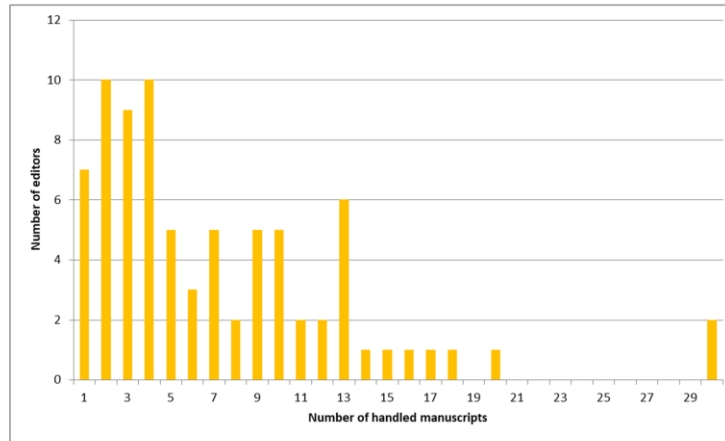
Median is resp. 5 and 4.

75% of all papers is resp. 7 and 9

For longer periods, reasons are mostly resubmission requested (rework), discussion amongst editors (unclear; check advisory board,...)

4 outliers (not even on the graph!) are **swsc120033** (6; 170 – was already rejected, then reopened); **swsc150009** (71 ; 12 – first manuscript with movies => lots of discussion, problems uploading,...); **swsc150014** (77 ; 2 – « User manual » => plenty of discussions); **swsc170044** (89 ; 22 – Needed rework first, then further discussion). All 4 were from TI (FP7, twice SIP, ESWW13\_SWx Tools)

## #papers / editor



15

Based on statistics from MMS (Editor's reports)  
Note doubles counted, e.g. TI with 2 EiCs

**All** editors are included, including the ones that are no longer active (left JSWSC, Guest editors,...).

Hence, there are a total of 79 editors that have handled 567 manuscripts.

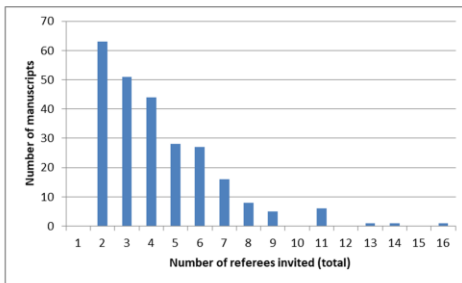
From 0 to 5, it concerns mainly Guest Editors and new/recent AE.

From 5 to 15, it concerns mainly the AE.

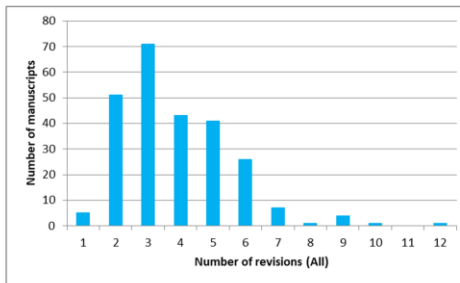
From 10 onwards, it concerns mostly TI EiC and the EA. Jürgen Watermann and Thierry Dudok de Wit have handled the most (30 each).

# Number of referees and revisions

Number of referees



Number of revisions



16

16 referees: swsc110031 (AE: Jürgen Watermann)

12 revisions: swsc150009 (GE (TI): Jack Ireland) – movies

Referees:

Always at least 2 referees required

Recommend to start with 3

If no response, try reminder from private mail (server problems at receiver's end)

AEs are not allowed as referees

Editors from TI not allowed as referees for that TI

Please do not delete referees that have declined

Revisions include, aside the refereeing process:

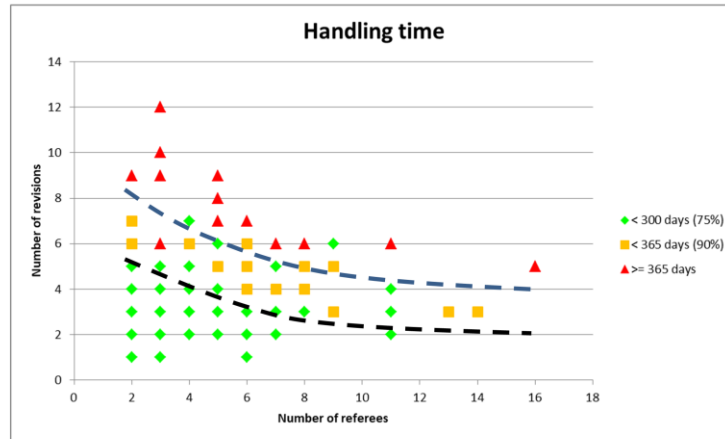
Pre-referee process (AE or EiC)

Post-referee process (AE or EiC)

Final revision (for publication)



# Handling time as a function of number of referees and revisions



17

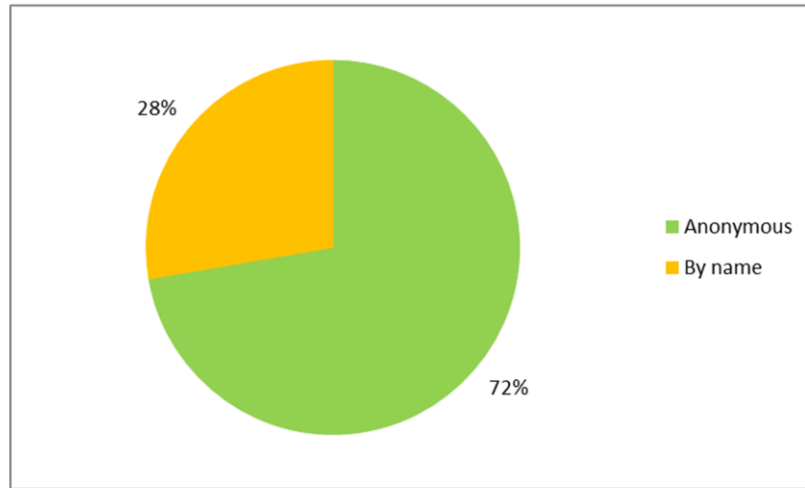
With 6 or less referees and 5 or less revisions you can have a handling time under 300 days (about 77% of the manuscripts)

You can have high handling times if:

- You have few invited referees with a high number of revisions
- You have a moderate number of revisions with a high number of invited referees

It is the number of revisions that is the main driver the handling time: you can still have low handling times for high number of referees, but not for high number of revisions.

## Acknowledgment of referees



18

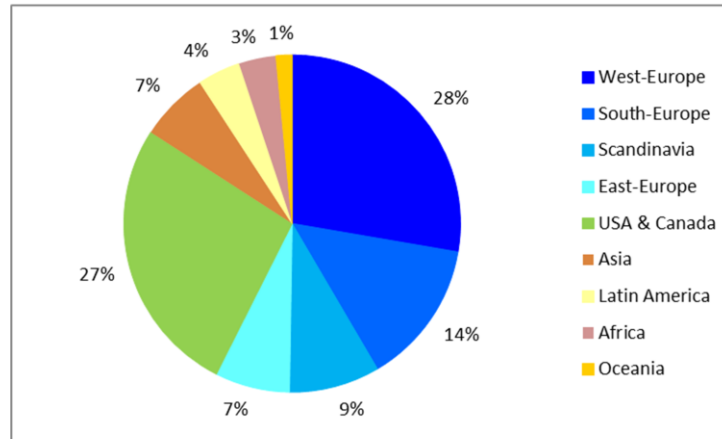
Only a third of all referees wants to be acknowledged by name.

The ratio seems to be very stable (same as last year for 200 published papers).

Since the start of this option (2014 => 2018): 109 ack., 255 anonymous (30% by name). For 256 published papers.

In 2017-2018 submitted papers (105 published/accepted/active papers): 54 ack., 151 anonymous (28% by name)

## Country of origin of referees



19

In 2017-2018 submitted papers (105 published/accepted/active papers): 195 referees from 36 different countries

Quite some effort went into finding the country of origin, not the country where the referee is currently working.

A small bias is of course not excluded.

164/195 referees come from Europe and USA/Canada (84%).

105/195 referees come from countries that have a **RWC** (ISES – 13/16 countries).

Total

**USA 46**

Finland 14

**Belgium 13**

Italy 13

Germany 12

France 8

Greece 8

**UK 8**

**Canada 6**

**Japan 6**

**Brazil 5**

**India 5**

Slovakia 5

Spain 5

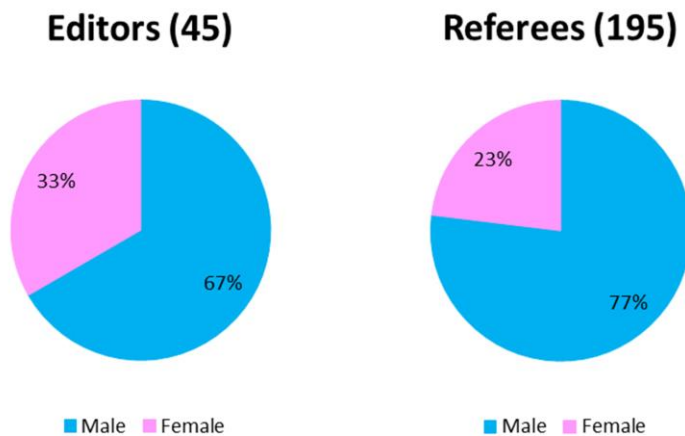
Switzerland 5

**Austria 4**

**South-Africa 4**

Rest (19) 28

## Gender (2017-2018)

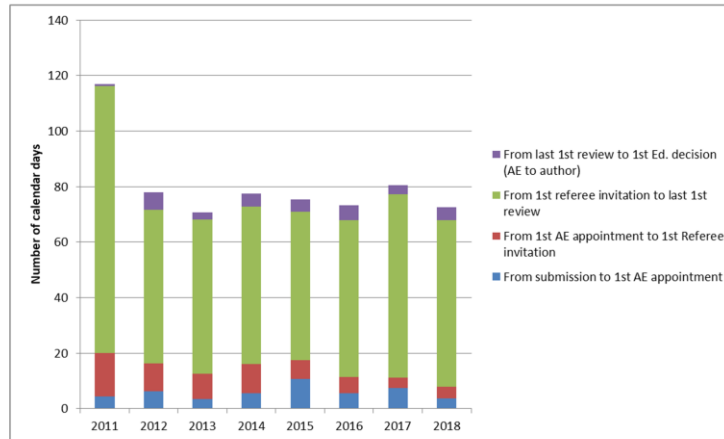


20

The Gender figures are based on the Published/Accepted/Active manuscripts submitted in 2017 & 2018 (105 each).

Note that the female editors (33%) handled only 20/105 manuscripts (19%). Just as for the referees, this ratio also depends on the topic of the manuscripts and the Topical Issues.

# First feedback to author



21

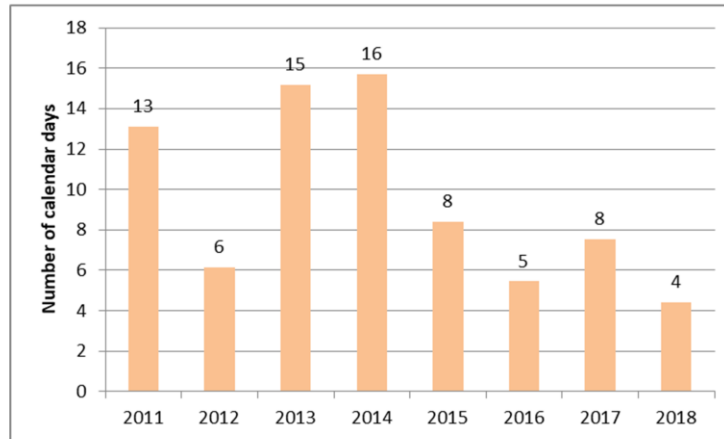
First feedback (editorial decision) to authors takes on the average 78 days (median: 70 days), with 75% of the authors having their first feedback after 96 days. This is an increase of a few days compared to last year's numbers.

Note it concerns only the 256 published papers, not the rejected papers, editorials,... who usually get much earlier a first feedback (either to rework or final decision)

Shortest so far: swsc160033 (only 14 days, including the two referee reports) – AE: Ashot Chilingarian

Longest so far: swsc110031 (213 days; this is the manuscript requiring 16 referee invitations)

## From acceptance to EDPS

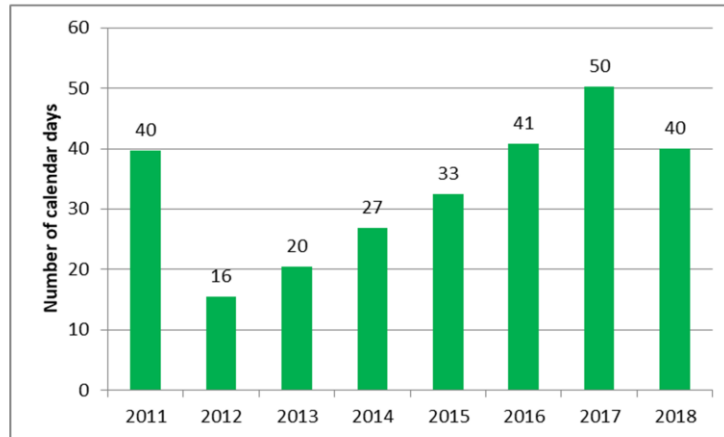


22

The delay of about a week is due to the time it takes for the author to provide the EO with the final version and all data to get it published.

The longer delays in 2013 and 2014 are due to Topical Issues (2013: EGU and SWCS, and especially 2014: Alpbach papers (69 days: 1 of the 4 papers was nearly 4 months ahead of the others, but it was decided to publish together because only 4 papers + 1 preface).

# From EDPS to publication online



23

This remains a matter of concern...

Swsc170082 has the record of 103 days (!!), swsc170068 a close second with 98 days. These papers were published in resp. May and June 2018. Note in both case there were also resp. author delays and equation setting problems, reslting in resp. 2-3 weeks delay.

A quick-check for a limited number of papers published in 2017 in ApJ and SoPh revealed this is resp. 27 and 33 days, with variations from 10 to over 50 days. Cooperation of the authors is required too of course.

The figures in the graph are based on the year of submission.  
Only 5 papers submitted in 2018 have been published.

The English proofreading started only on December 1st, 2016.

## Year of submission Count of SWSC manuscript number

2011 8

2012 43

2013 33

2014 38

2015 43

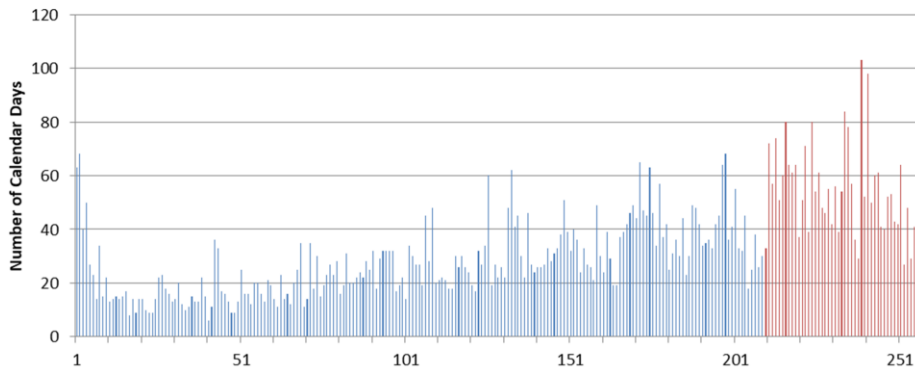
2016 27

2017 59

2018 5

**Grand Total 256**

## From EDPS to publication online



24

In this graph, the papers are ranked according to publication date with the pink ones published in 2018.