



PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR REGION

January 2026

Executive Summary

REGION is the journal of the European Regional Science Foundation (ERSA), founded in 2014 as a cooperation of ERSA and the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU) and with seed funding from the Austrian Science Foundation (FWF). REGION's overarching aim is **“to support the exchange of ideas among regional scientists worldwide”**. Therefore, REGION publishes electronically, provides open access, and does not charge authors any article processing charges. REGION strictly applies double blind peer-review in order to meet the highest scientific standards.

This report reviews the development of REGION from its founding in 2014 until December 31st, 2025, the date of data extraction. The main results of the review are the following:

- REGION receives a sufficient and growing number of submissions with authors from a wide range of countries.
- The largest share of authors of submissions and – even more so – of published papers come from developed countries. In recent years, the share of less developed countries increased slightly.
- The review and publishing process is efficient. Over half of the papers submitted to REGION receive a final decision in less than 15 weeks.
- The numbers of citations are high by now and increased strongly over the years. In average over the whole period, every article published in REGION is cited 5 times. With 21.7, this pseudo impact factor is much higher for the last year and growing steadily.
- Articles published in REGION were downloaded from the homepage 255,580 times. More recently published articles are viewed more often than those published earlier, demonstrating the growing relevance of REGION as an international regional science journal.
- As far as downloads are concerned, computational notebooks turn out to be particularly successful. They tend to generate more downloads per day than articles available only in traditional formats.

REGION has achieved these results with very low financial input due to the support from ERSA and WU, the seed funding from FWF, an efficient organization, and the voluntary input of the editorial team.

1 Introduction – the founding of REGION

REGION published its first paper, an editorial by the journal’s editors, on May 8th, 2014. After twelve years, it is time to look back and evaluate the development and performance of the journal.

This report covers the full period of REGION’s activity. This avoids tricky problems of delineation. For shorter periods one needs to decide how to handle articles that were submitted before or published after the reporting period. The decisions made there, can lead to very different values of indicators.

REGION originated from a cooperation between the European Regional Science Association (ERSA) and the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU) in the context of an application to the Austrian Science Foundation FWF for seed funding. This seed funding was only available for newly founded open access journals, or established journals to switch to open access. The motivation for the founding of REGION was threefold:

1. ERSA as the largest supranational part of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) had a strong interest in having its own journal. The “necessity” of the organization to have its own journal was under discussion in ERSA’s European Organizing Committee (EOC) for many years.
2. The technological developments in academic publishing offered the opportunity to generate a journal with an innovative format (online only, full open access) that differed from all existing journals in the field.
3. The opportunity to get the difficult start-up phase financed by FWF. In an initiative led by Gunther Maier, ERSA and WU agreed to start the online open access journal REGION and to manage it jointly for a funding period of three years plus a follow-up period of six years. The funding period ended in May 2017. The total period will end in May 2023. The application to FWF for REGION was successful and the project received a budget of € 50,000. Close to € 30,000 of that budget was spent on REGION in the first three years. The rest of the budget was returned to FWF in 2017.

1.1 Parameters for REGION

The application to FWF defined the parameters under which REGION operates. These parameters were communicated to the bodies of ERSA, accepted by ERSAC decisions, and confirmed in a “Financial Commitment of Sponsoring Institution(s)” which is part of the application to FWF. This financial commitment states that ERSA will support REGION with € 36,000 in the initial three-year period and with additional € 90,000 in the six years following the initial funding period. A major part (€ 42,000) of these contributions are in-kind contributions by the editorial team.

The overarching aim of REGION is:

“To support the exchange of ideas among regional science researchers worldwide”

The key instruments for implementing this goal, also specified in the FWF application, are the following:

- Double blind peer review
- Online publishing
- Continuous publishing
- Open Access – free for readers and free for authors
- Use of a Creative Commons license
- Scientific standards (as expressed in the Code of Conduct of COPE)
- Attractive for researchers in less developed and developing countries
- International visibility

In its call for proposals, FWF specified additional requirements like “getting an ISSN”, “registration in the directory of open access journals (DOAJ)”, and “an internationally respected editorial board”, etc. REGION fulfilled all these requirements either in the application to FWF or in the start-up period.

1.2 The editorial team

The editorial team responsible for the performance of REGION is as follows:

- Francisco Rowe, University of Liverpool, UK (managing editor)
- Sébastien Bourdin, EM Normandy Business School, France
- Tom Brökel, University of Stavanger Business School, Norway
- Zoltán Elekes, KRTK-KTI, Hungary
- Anastasia Panori, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- Annie Tubadji, Swansea University, United Kingdom
- Giulia Urso, Gran Sasso Science Institute, Italy

The team is supported by Gunther Maier, WU - Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria as technical director.

1.3 The implementation by REGION

Based on “Open Journals System” (OJS), a well-established open source suite of programs for journal publishing, the editorial team of REGION implemented the above-mentioned parameters.

1.3.1 Double blind peer review

From its very beginning, REGION applied a strict double blind peer review policy. This policy is stated clearly on the journal’s home page (<https://openjournals.wu.ac.at/ojs/index.php/region/about>) and strictly implemented by the team of editors.

1.3.2 Online publishing

Following a mega-trend in academic publishing, REGION is available only online in electronic form. All papers are available as PDF-files, many also in HTML-format. Since 2019, REGION publishes suitable articles as dynamic documents in RMD or IPYNB format. These formats demonstrate the advantages of online over paper based publishing.

1.3.3 Continuous publishing

In order to make successfully reviewed articles available to readers as quickly as possible, REGION follows a policy of continuous publishing. REGION always has a “current issue” open and adds articles that have passed the peer review and were turned into publishable form by copyediting and layout editing to that issue. Contrary to “online first” publishing used by many journals, these articles immediately have all the necessary bibliographic characteristics like volume, issue, pages, and DOI-number. Twice a year, on January 1st and on July 1st, the current issue is closed, archived, and a new current issue started.

REGION applies “continuous publishing” also to articles for special issues. Such articles undergo the same strict peer review as all other articles. When they are ready for publication, they are added to the current issue of REGION. This guarantees (1) that the material is available for the scientific community as quickly as possible, and (2) that no publishable articles can get stranded because other articles do not pass the peer review filter. When all publishable articles of the special issue have been published in this form, REGION collects them into one PDF-document and publishes this document (plus an editorial by the respective special issue editors) as a special issue.

1.3.4 Open access

Open access is the key tool to achieve the above-mentioned aim of REGION. The application to FWF stated that REGION would neither charge readers for access to the journal, nor authors for publishing in the journal. This was not only an innovative form of publishing in regional science when REGION was founded. It also allows regional scientists from developing and less-developed countries to access the material and to publish their work without financial barriers.

1.3.5 Creative Commons license

Since it is the aim of REGION to distribute regional science knowledge widely, the journal applies a Creative Commons license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which – with proper attribution – allows everybody to share and adapt the material published in REGION for non-commercial purposes. The copyright remains with the author(s) of the article.

1.3.6 Scientific Standards

REGION developed standards for publishing following the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). The journal published these standards on its homepage and specified responsibilities of editors, reviewers, and authors (<https://openjournals.wu.ac.at/ojs/index.php/region/about>).

1.3.7 International visibility

REGION aims for international visibility. This is supported by the involvement of ERSA. In the longer run, however, international visibility can only be developed via reputation. It requires:

- Publishing high quality articles by highly respected authors,
- A growing readership,
- A growing number of citations in established journals.

This reputation building takes time. As the evaluation below will show, REGION is on a good track in this respect. For regional scientists in developed countries, open access (lack of paywalls) may not be the decisive factor why they use REGION. Many of them, however, sympathise with open access and see this as the future mode of scientific publishing.

1.3.8 Attractiveness for researchers in less developed and developing countries

The above-mentioned aim of REGION addresses “regional science researchers worldwide”. For researchers in less developed and developing countries, REGION’s full open access policy should be highly attractive. Provided Internet access, even researchers in the poorest countries of the world can afford to read articles published in REGION. Since there is no financial obligation, REGION should also be an attractive publication outlet for such researchers.

As the evaluation below will show, REGION has a growing number of readers in less developed and developing countries and gets submissions from those countries. Unfortunately, most of those submissions do not pass the peer review so that the respective share in the number of published manuscripts is very low. In order to develop regional science in less developed and developing countries, ERSA and/or RSAI in cooperation with REGION should develop measures that help authors from these countries to improve their papers such that they are publishable in REGION.

Table 1: Number of submissions by year

Year	Number of Submissions
2014	36
2015	37
2016	40
2017	34
2018	16
2019	34
2020	51
2021	42
2022	60
2023	48
2024	42
2025	68

2 Evaluation of the current status and development of REGION

This section evaluates the performance of REGION over the full period of its existence. We will analyse the following aspects:

- Submissions to REGION
- The review and editing process of REGION
- Articles and other works published by REGION
- Citations of articles published in REGION
- Views of articles published in REGION
- Access to the REGION homepage
- The financing of REGION

The evaluation is based on data collected by Open Journals System (OJS), the journal management software used by REGION, and on data collected by Google Scholar, CrossRef, and Scopus. All data are as of December 31st 2025.

2.1 Submissions to REGION

We will first present the total number of submissions and then analyse the origin of the (co-)authors of the submissions.

2.1.1 Number of Submissions

Over the full period, REGION has received 508 submissions. Table 1 shows the breakdown of this number by years. On average, this equates to 42.3 submissions per year. Figure 1 shows the distribution of submissions for the years 2015-2025.

As of today, February 05, 2026, 47 articles are submitted or under review; 1 in copyediting and 1 in production, which will be published soon.

The number of submissions to REGION is at the lower end of satisfactory. The breakdown by years shows on the one hand a first peak in 2016, when the journal was new and probably benefitted from a “curiosity” factor. On the other hand, the numbers for the most recent years reflect the increased attempts of the editorial team to attract special issues (the first special issue was published in 2017).

After the decline in 2018, REGION experienced a strong rebound in the number of submissions. REGION received the largest number of submissions per year in 2025.

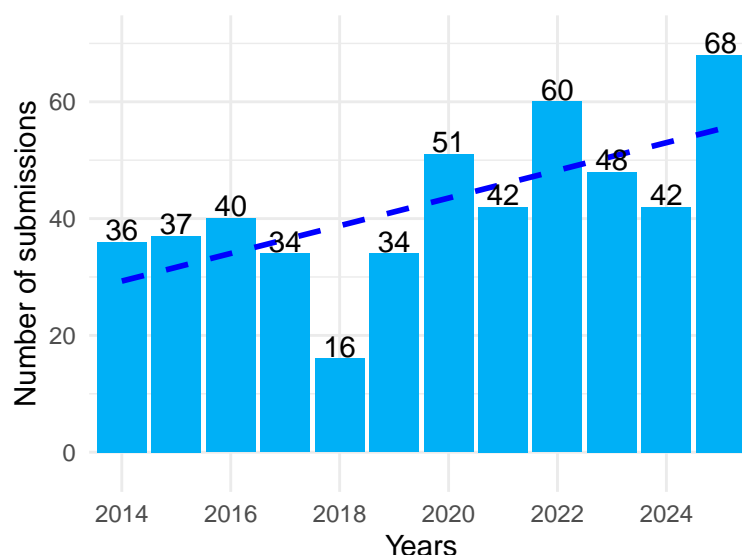


Figure 1: Submissions by Years

Table 2: Ten countries with most co-authors of submissions

Country	Number	Percent
Kazakhstan	83	14.36
Indonesia	70	12.11
UK	63	10.9
Italy	62	10.73
Austria	59	10.21
Germany	54	9.34
Greece	52	9
India	47	8.13
Spain	44	7.61
Russia	44	7.61
TOTAL	1155	100

2.1.2 (Co-)Authors of Submissions

A total number of 1155 authors and co-authors were involved in these submissions. Table 2 shows the top 10 countries by number of co-authors. We see a dominance of European countries, but no obvious dominance of any one of them. In total, we see co-authors from 75 different countries.

Figure 2 shows the breakdown of the co-authors by continent. Figure 4 maps the co-authors by country. We see the above-mentioned dominance of Europe.

Figure 3 shows the number of authors and co-authors by level of development of their home country. We see that REGION mainly receives submissions from authors from highly developed countries (71.17%). 18.7% of the authors are from developed countries. 10.13% of co-authors are from the countries with medium or low levels of development – specifically India, Nigeria and Morocco (see Figure 4).

This suggests the journal is doing well against its objective of being attractive to researchers in developing countries with over a third of authors from these countries. In conjunction with data on published articles, more work needs to be done to support researchers in these countries move from submission to publication. Financial cost is one barrier that REGION has removed, but others persist. REGION would seem ideally placed to help address some remaining barriers.

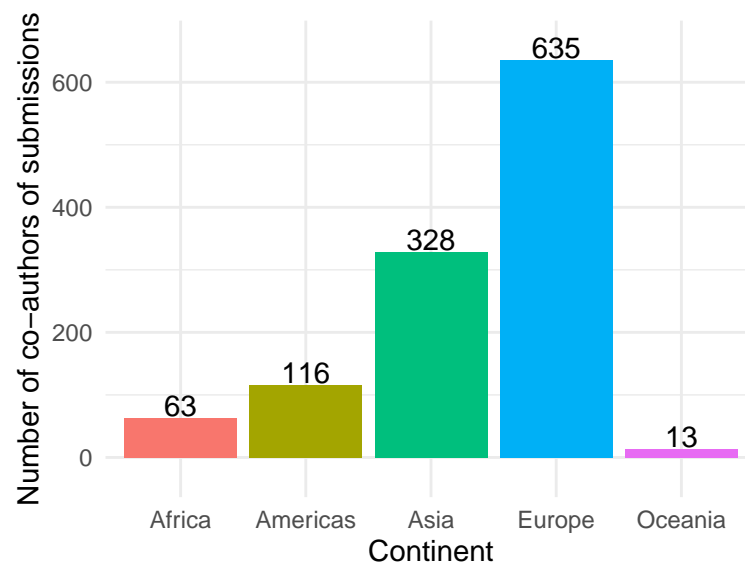


Figure 2: Number of co-authors of submissions by continent

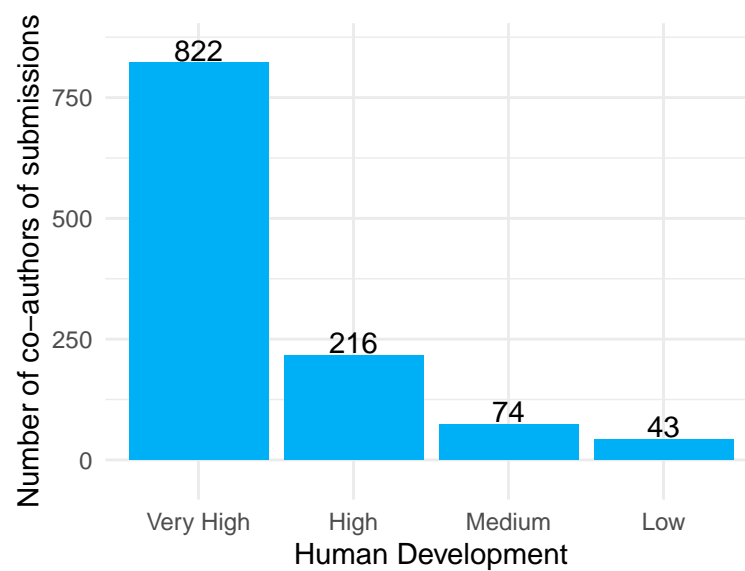


Figure 3: Number of co-authors of submissions by development level of country

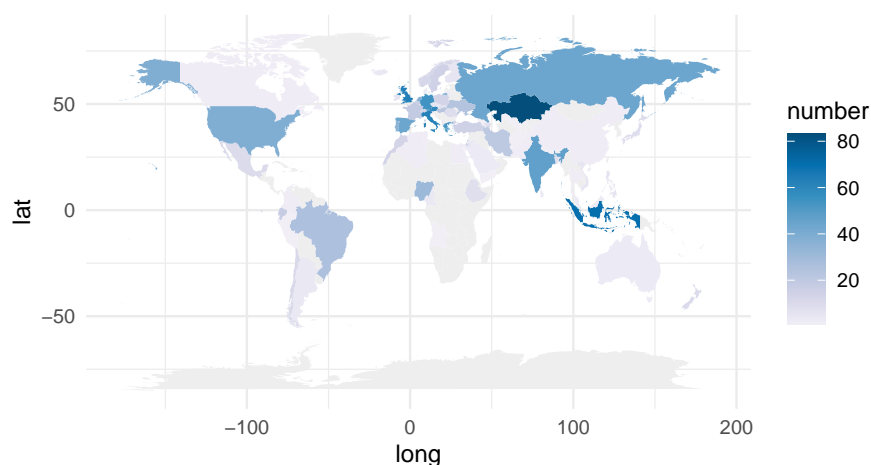


Figure 4: Map of the Number of Co-Authors of Submissions

Table 3: Median duration of review and production

Steps	Months	Days
time to decision	3.3	101.0
time to publication	0.6	17.5

2.2 The review and editing process of REGION

The review and editing process in REGION consists of two steps: (1) peer review, and (2) copy and layout editing. For published items, the first step ended with “acceptance” or “rejection” and started with “submission”, the second step runs from “acceptance” to “published”. Note that the number of items in the two steps is different. Every submitted article runs through the first step, but only submissions that are accepted for publication run through the second step. The median number of days and months for each of the two steps are presented in Table 3.

Figure 5 shows the density plot over the number of days from submission to decision for all the submitted articles. Figure 6 shows the density plot over the number of days from acceptance to publication for all the accepted articles. Figure 7 shows the density plot over the number of days from submission to publication for all the published articles.

These numbers are largely in line with those of other journal in regional science, as far as we have evidence. One needs to keep in mind that REGION achieves this with a small team and at very low costs.

2.3 Development over time

How did those indicators develop over the years of REGION? Table 4 shows the median number of days from submission to decision broken down by the year in which the contribution was submitted.

Table 5 shows the same breakdown of the median number of days for the production step. The year of the grouping is the year when the decision was recorded. The days are the days between the decision and the publication of the contribution. Note that only papers accepted for publication enter into this table.

2.4 Articles and other works published by REGION

As with submissions, we will first present the total number of published work and then analyse the origin of the (co-)authors of the works.

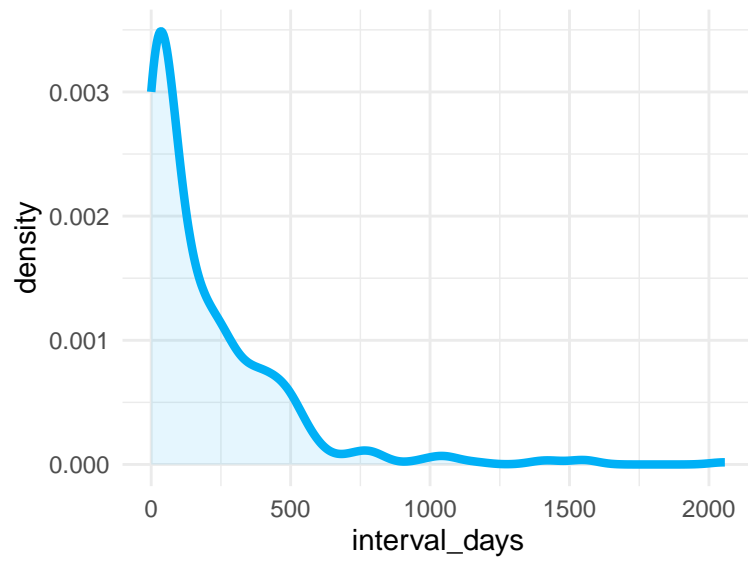


Figure 5: Number of items by days between submission and decision

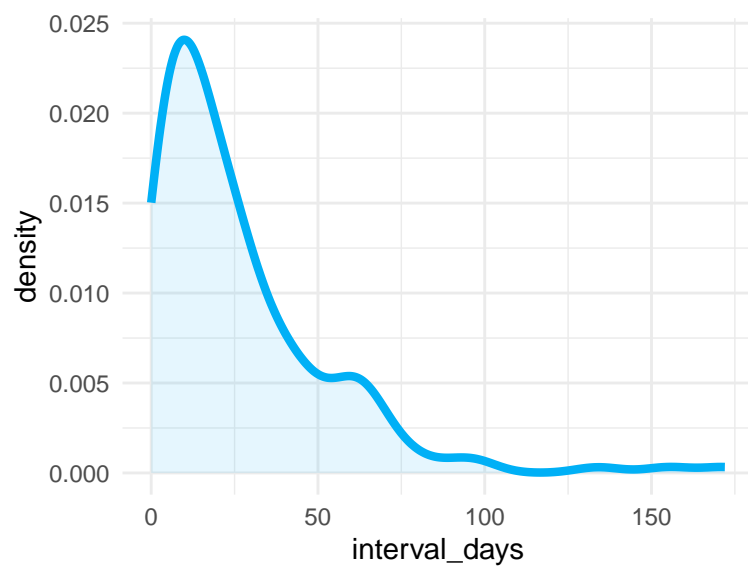


Figure 6: Number of accepted items by days between acceptance and publication

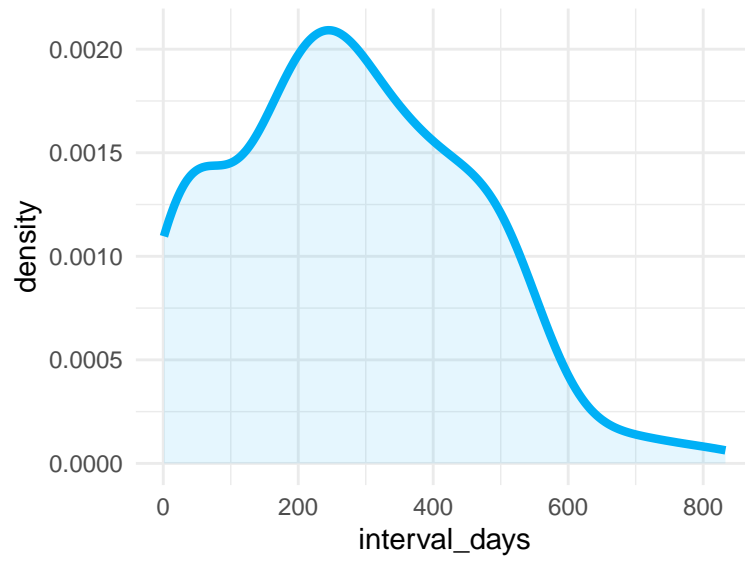


Figure 7: Number of published items by days between submission and publication

Table 4: Median number of days from submission to decision by year of submission

Year	Median
2014	44.5
2015	180.5
2016	213.0
2017	155.0
2018	57.5
2019	158.0
2020	176.0
2021	207.0
2022	111.0
2023	84.0
2024	105.0
2025	48.0

Table 5: Median number of days from decision to publication by year of decision

Year	Median
2014	16.5
2015	25.0
2016	35.0
2017	48.5
2018	15.5
2019	16.0
2020	8.0
2021	7.0
2022	10.0
2023	35.0
2024	12.5
2025	12.0

Table 6: Number of works published by Year

Year	number
2014	7
2015	15
2016	16
2017	22
2018	18
2019	10
2020	17
2021	20
2022	23
2023	19
2024	10
2025	7

2.4.1 Number of published works

The 508 submissions to REGION led to 184 published works. This implies a rejection rate of 63.8%.

The works fall into 5 categories: Articles, Editorials, Resources, Letters and Discussions. The breakdown of the 184 works by category is shown in Figure 8. Table 6 shows the number of works published every year.

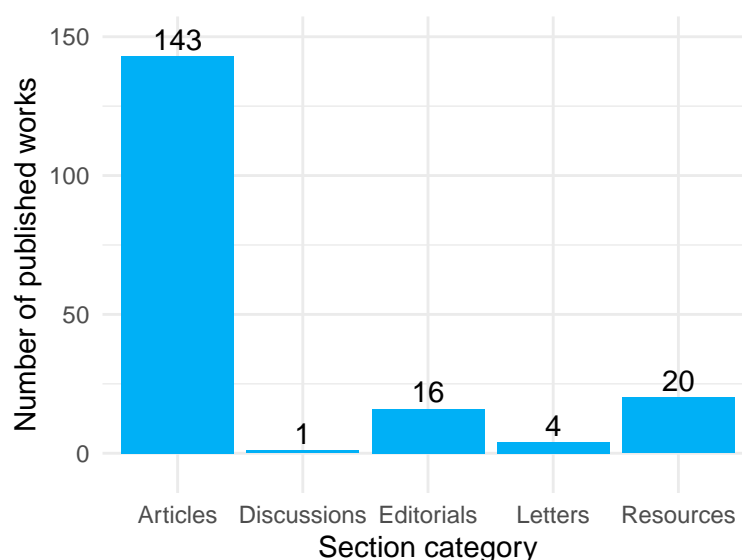


Figure 8: Number of published works by category

On average, REGION published 15.33 works per year. Figure 9 shows the numbers of works and articles published by year. The dashed line is the trend line.

2.4.2 (Co-)Authors of articles and other works published in REGION

A total of 399 authors and co-authors were involved in published works in REGION. They come from 48 different countries. The top ten countries are shown in Table 7 (see also Figure 10).

We can again break down the authors and co-authors of published works by continent (Figure 11) and by level of development of their country (Figure 12).

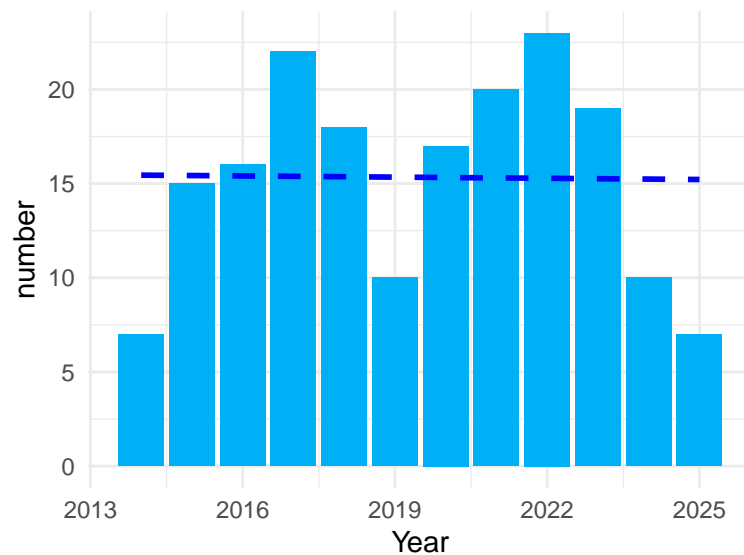


Figure 9: Number of published works by year

Table 7: Top ten countries of co-authors of works published in REGION

Country	Number	Percent
UK	35	14.4
Spain	34	13.99
Italy	32	13.17
Germany	28	11.52
USA	26	10.7
Netherlands	25	10.29
Greece	20	8.23
Brazil	15	6.17
Austria	14	5.76
Kazakhstan	14	5.76
TOTAL	399	100

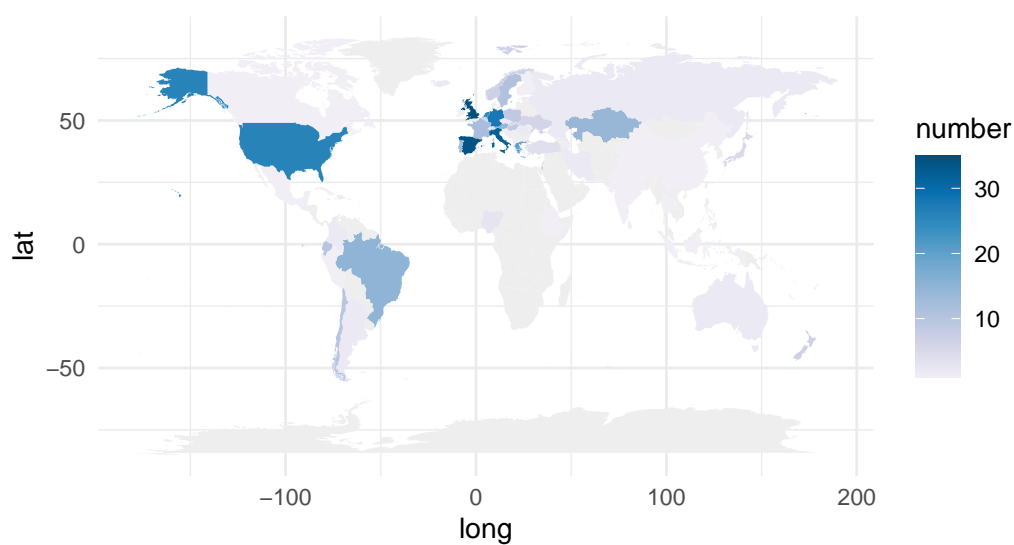


Figure 10: Map of the Number of Co-Authors of Publications

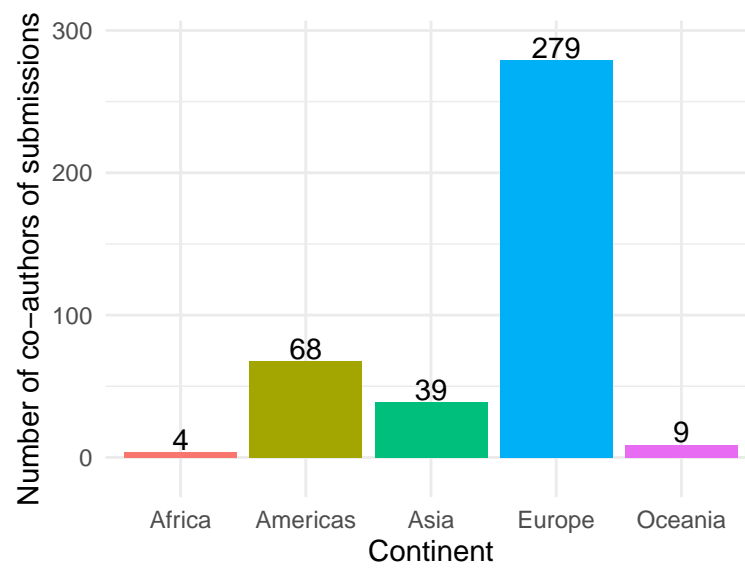


Figure 11: Number of co-authors of publications by continent

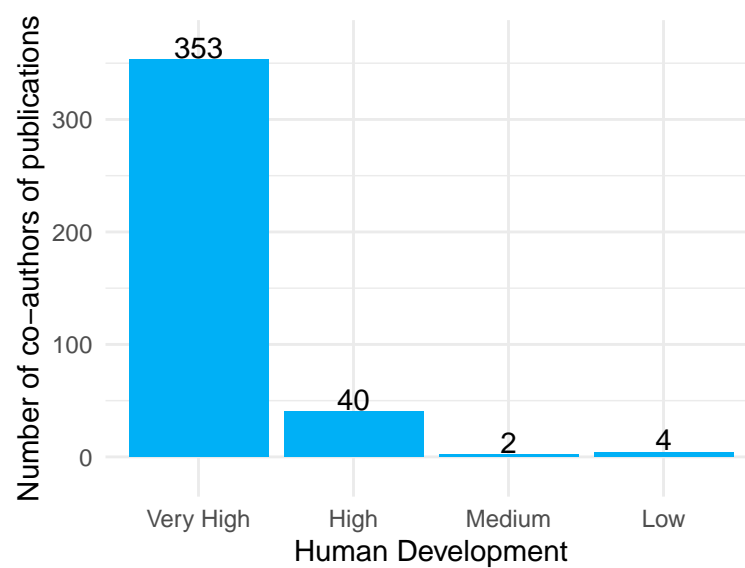


Figure 12: Number of co-authors of publications by development level of country

Table 8: Number of citations by source

Source	Number of Citations
Google Scholar	2210
CrossRef	1096
Scopus	379

As compared to the respective data about submissions, we see that the review process favours co-authors from developed countries, particularly from Europe and the Americas.

More needs to be done to support researchers in under-represented locations to move from submission to publication. The free submission and publication model is attractive but needs to be supplemented with practical supports like online trainings and coaching.

2.5 Citations of articles published in REGION

Citation numbers to articles published in REGION are available from three different sources: Google Scholar, CrossRef, and Scopus. They use different sources and generate quite different citation results as presented in Table 8. From the CrossRef citations we eliminated a small number of self-citations (mainly editorials of special issues citing papers of this issue).

2.5.1 Development of citations over time

All three sources **show a strong increase** in the numbers of citations or related figures over time^[^0]. Figure 13 to Figure 15 show the numbers of citations recorded by Google Scholar, CrossRef, and Scopus year by year.¹

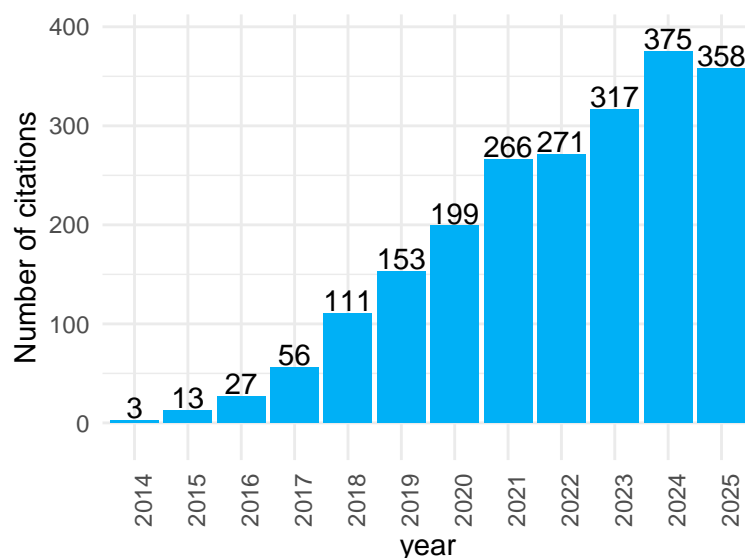


Figure 13: Number of citations in Google Scholar by years

The displayed increase in the number of citations corresponds to annual growth rates of 38.8% for Google Scholar, 46.4% for CrossRef, and 38.4% for Scopus. It is accompanied by a significant increase in the number of citations by published work: from 2.7 (2018) to 11.7 (2025) in Google Scholar, from 0.8 (2018) to 5.9 (2025) in CrossRef, and from 0.7 (2018) to 2.1 (2025) in Scopus.

¹Since Google Scholar and CrossRef register citations with a delay, the figures for the latest year are too low and will increase over the next months.

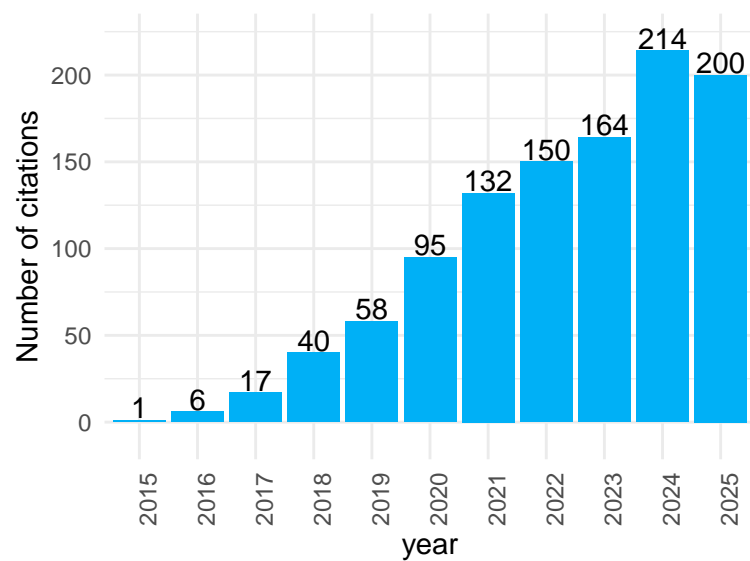


Figure 14: Number of citations in CrossRef by years

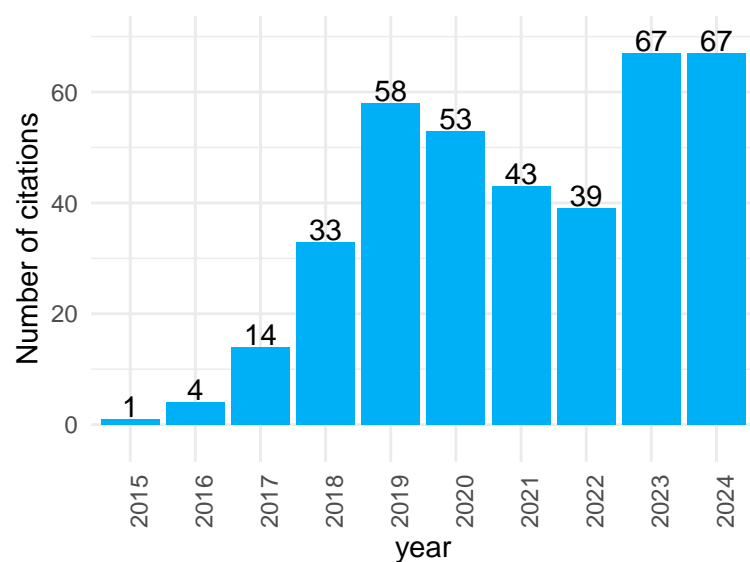


Figure 15: Number of citations in Scopus by years

Table 9: REGION's CiteScore and position in Scopus

Year	CiteScore	Percentile
2018	0.69	36
2019	1.50	56
2020	2.10	62
2021	1.50	49
2022	1.40	39
2023	1.80	45
2024	2.30	54

Every year, Scopus publishes a CiteScore measure, which is calculated based on citations². Figure 16 shows the development of the CiteScore for REGION (line, left scale) and its relative ranking in the journal category “Geography, Planning, and Development” (bars, right scale). Table 9 shows the corresponding numbers³.

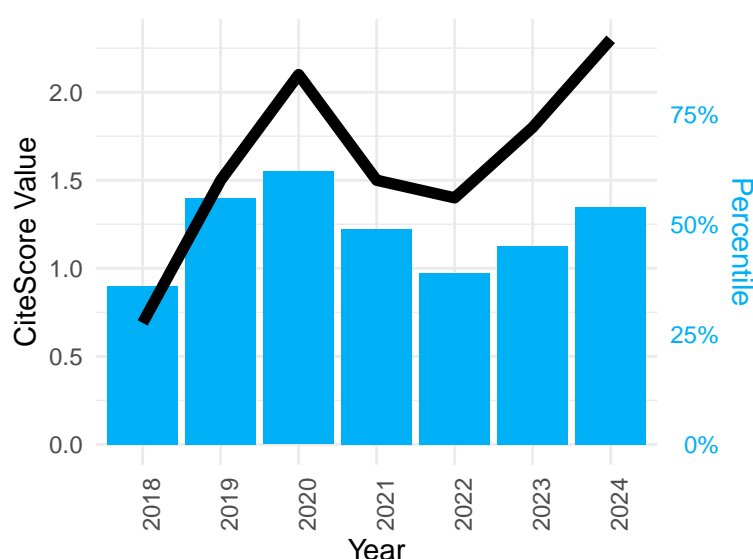


Figure 16: Scopus CiteScore Trend

As these numbers show, REGION is clearly on an upward trajectory in terms of citations and ranking among journals in cognate disciplines and is quickly developing a high reputation in the discipline.

2.5.2 The “Impact Factor” of REGION

REGION is not yet registered in the Web of Science. Therefore, the journal does not have an official impact factor. Based on the data from CrossRef, however, we can compute a pseudo impact factor. For that, we divide the citations of papers published in REGION in a given time interval by the number of articles published by REGION in that same interval. Over the whole period, this number is 5.85, meaning that every item published in REGION in average generated 5.85 citations. This indicator is much higher for the recent periods. For 2024 and 2025, the numbers are 24.35 and 28.57, respectively.

²“CiteScore 2020 counts the citations received in 2017-2020 to articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters and data papers published in 2017-2020, and divides this by the number of publications published in 2017-2020.” (Scopus Webpage). CiteScores for 2025 are not yet available. The journal with the highest CiteScore in a category is in the 100th percentile.

³The journal with the highest CiteScore in a category is in the 100th percentile, the one with the lowest CiteScore in the 1st.

2.5.3 The position of REGION among regional science journals

Of the three above-mentioned sources, only Scopus allows one to compare REGION with other regional science journals. The basis for this comparison are the journals' percentiles in the categories to which the respective journal is assigned. Percentiles are measured as the journal's position by CiteScore value among all the journals in the respective category. However, one cannot request Scopus to report the percentiles for one specific category. It always reports the highest percentile a journal reached in any of the categories. Since similar journals may be assigned to quite different categories, reliability and comparability of results are limited.

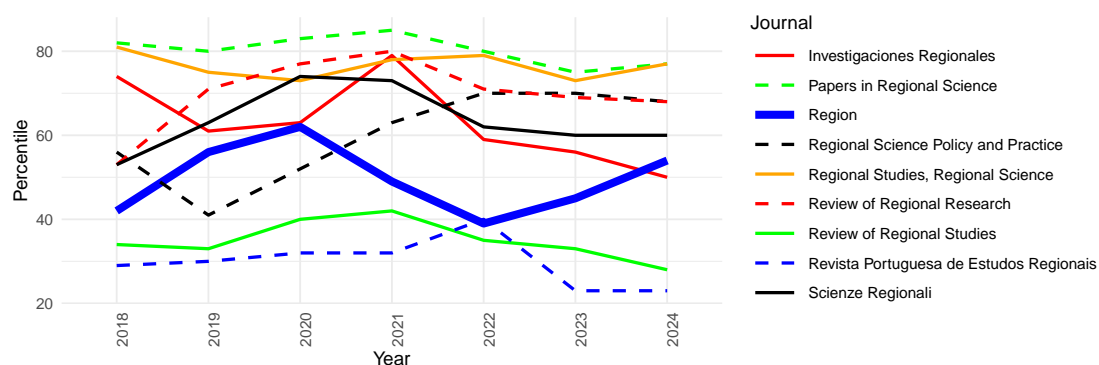


Figure 17: Scopus Percentiles for Regional Science Journals (REGION is represented by the thick line)

Figure 17 shows the position of REGION as compared to eight other Regional Science journals. REGION is represented by the thicker line. The figure shows that REGION is positioned right among comparable regional science journals.

2.5.4 Most cited articles

In Google Scholar and in CrossRef we can break down the numbers of citations by article. According to Google Scholar, 161 articles (88%) were cited at least once. The ten most cited articles according to Google Scholar are shown in Table 10.

CrossRef shows fewer citations and therefore records only 141 articles (77%) with at least one citation. The ten most cited articles according to CrossRef are shown in Table 11.

Although the total numbers of citations in Google Scholar and CrossRef are very different, the rankings of articles by citations are quite similar. The rank correlation coefficient between the full rankings is 0.99. The corresponding number for the top ten rankings is 0.99, and 8 articles are in both rankings under the top ten.

Earlier published articles usually had more time to accumulate citations. To correct for this and since we know each article's date of publication, we can also rank the articles by Google Scholar citations per day since publication. This ranking is shown in Table 12.

Despite of the standardization, 4 of the top ten articles in the ranking by the raw number of citations also made it into the top ten list by citations per day.

2.5.5 Who cited articles published in REGION?

551 different items cited papers in REGION. The twenty journals with the most citations to articles published in REGION are shown in Table 13.

As this table shows, REGION is visible to researchers publishing in the leading journals in regional science and cited in these journals. This visibility will lead to more submissions, views, and citations in coming years.

Table 10: Ten most cited articles according to Google Scholar

Citations	Title (Authors)	Year published
109	Logistics sprawl in monocentric and polycentric metropolitan areas: the cases of Paris, France, and the Randstad, the Netherlands (Heitz et al.)	2017
100	Territory and Sustainable Tourism Development: a Space-Time Analysis on European Regions (Romão et al.)	2017
56	Towards an Integrated Evaluation Approach for Cultural Urban Landscape Conservation/Regeneration (Nocca et al.)	2018
56	REAT: A Regional Economic Analysis Toolbox for R (Wieland)	2019
50	Infrastructure and Trade: A Meta-Analysis (Celbis et al.)	2014
49	A multilevel path analysis of social networks and social interaction in the neighbourhood (van den Berg et al.)	2015
47	Social networks, social satisfaction and place attachment in the neighborhood (Weijs-Perrée et al.)	2017
45	Creativity, Community, & Growth: A Social Geography of Urban Craft Beer (Reid et al.)	2017
42	A primer for working with the Spatial Interaction modeling (SpInt) module in the python spatial analysis library (PySAL) (Oshan)	2016
41	Climate change in Lebanon: Higher-order regional impacts from agriculture (Haddad et al.)	2014

Table 11: Ten most cited articles according to CrossRef

Citations	Title (Authors)	Year published
56	Logistics sprawl in monocentric and polycentric metropolitan areas: the cases of Paris, France, and the Randstad, the Netherlands (Heitz et al.)	2017
48	Territory and Sustainable Tourism Development: a Space-Time Analysis on European Regions (Romão et al.)	2017
36	Towards an Integrated Evaluation Approach for Cultural Urban Landscape Conservation/Regeneration (Nocca et al.)	2018
31	The Mediterranean Diet and the Increasing Demand of the Olive Oil Sector: Shifts and Environmental Consequences (Neves et al.)	2018
30	Social networks, social satisfaction and place attachment in the neighborhood (Weijs-Perrée et al.)	2017
28	Creativity, Community, & Growth: A Social Geography of Urban Craft Beer (Reid et al.)	2017
27	Analysis of Freight Trip Generation Model for Food and Beverage in Belo Horizonte (Brazil) (Oliveira et al.)	2016
25	Infrastructure and Trade: A Meta-Analysis (Celbis et al.)	2014
25	A primer for working with the Spatial Interaction modeling (SpInt) module in the python spatial analysis library (PySAL) (Oshan)	2016
24	A multilevel path analysis of social networks and social interaction in the neighbourhood (van den Berg et al.)	2015

Table 12: Top ten articles by citations per 100 days since publication

Citations 100 days	Title (Authors)	Year published
3.48	Bioeconomy firms and where to find them (Kriesch et al.)	2024
3.47	Logistics sprawl in monocentric and polycentric metropolitan areas: the cases of Paris, France, and the Randstad, the Netherlands (Heitz et al.)	2017
3.24	Territory and Sustainable Tourism Development: a Space-Time Analysis on European Regions (Romão et al.)	2017
2.66	Positive Outcomes of Cross-Border Tourism Development Cooperation: A Case of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan (Akbar et al.)	2024
2.49	REAT: A Regional Economic Analysis Toolbox for R (Wieland)	2019
2.46	Italia di mezzo: The emerging marginality of intermediate territories between metropolises and inner areas (Kercuku et al.)	2023
2.00	Flatten the Curve! Modeling SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Growth in Germany at the County Level (Wieland)	2020
1.99	Towards an Integrated Evaluation Approach for Cultural Urban Landscape Conservation/Regeneration (Nocca et al.)	2018
1.71	Teaching on Jupyter: Using notebooks to accelerate learning and curriculum development (Reades)	2020
1.63	China's Impact on Sustainable Economic Growth in Central Asian Countries in the Context of the Silk Road Economic Belt (Zhang et al.)	2024

Table 13: Journals with most citations to articles in REGION

Journal Name	Citations
Sustainability	55
Journal of Transport Geography	21
Regional Science Policy & Practice	17
Regional Studies	15
Cities	15
SSRN Electronic Journal	13
Land	13
Applied Geography	10
Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives	10
Papers in Regional Science	10
Social Indicators Research	8
Journal of Cleaner Production	8
Growth and Change	8
Transactions in GIS	8
Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice	8
International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health	8
Geographical Analysis	7
Transportation Research Procedia	7
The Annals of Regional Science	7
European Planning Studies	7

2.6 Views of articles published in REGION

Citations respond only sluggishly to publications. It takes at least six months until an article can be cited in a published journal article. An indicator with much faster response are the number of Abstract views (number of times an abstract is downloaded) and the number of Galley views i.e. the number of times a galley of an article is downloaded from the REGION homepage. OJS provides the corresponding information. Over the whole period and for all published articles, REGION did generate 255,580 Total Galley Views and 344,493 Abstract Views.

2.6.1 Views over time

Figure 18 shows the number of times an abstract has been downloaded year by year, Figure 19 shows the corresponding number for the full text of articles. Note that data for 2016 and 2019 are not reliable due to problems in earlier versions of OJS. Both figures show a strong increase in the numbers for 2025. This shows that articles published in REGION are read widely and that the journal is strengthening its position in the scientific community. These numbers also suggest that the numbers of citations will continue to grow in the next years.

In average, the number of abstract views increased by 17.8% annually, the number of galley views by 35.98%. This underlines the above statement. The much higher growth rate for galley views suggests an increasing conversion to readership.

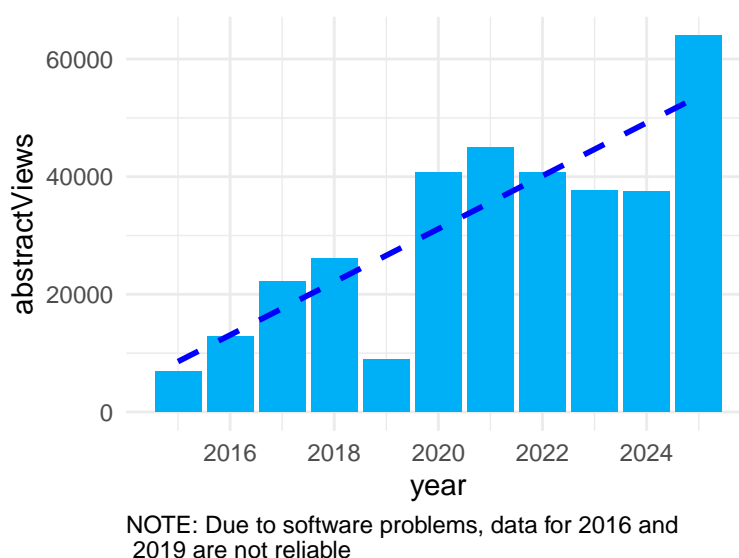


Figure 18: Abstract Views over time

2.6.2 Most viewed articles

Most of the galleys exist as PDF-files. For some articles, also HTML-versions are available. However, those files reside outside of OJS and downloads of those cannot be counted by OJS. Consequently, the reported numbers are somewhat downward biased. Additional formats counted by OJS are RMD, QMD and IPYNB, formats used for dynamic documents and computable notebooks. The 20 articles with the highest numbers of galley views are shown in Table 14.

It is interesting to see that the two editorials from the very first issue of REGION are among the articles that generate the largest numbers of Total Galley Views. It seems, these editorials are frequently consulted by readers and potential authors to find out more about the journal. These are the only editorials in the list.

Besides the editorials, articles that deal with dynamic documents and computational notebooks occupy the top positions. In total, REGION published 9 such articles by now. In the top twenty list by Galley Views, we find 8 of these 9 articles. Most of those articles generate a substantial

Table 14: Twenty items with most galley views

Galley Views	% dyn. Docs	Title (Authors)	year published
5167	0.00	Editorial: REGION - the online open-access journal of ERSA (Koschinsky et al.)	2014
5144	48.23	Urban Street Network Analysis in a Computational Notebook (Boeing)	2020
5099	40.09	Teaching on Jupyter: Using notebooks to accelerate learning and curriculum development (Reades)	2020
4090	71.49	A reproducible notebook to acquire, process and analyse satellite imagery: Exploring long-term urban changes (Chen et al.)	2020
3845	17.58	REAT: A Regional Economic Analysis Toolbox for R (Wieland)	2019
3632	0.00	Spillover effects of public capital stock: A case study for Ecuador (Zurita et al.)	2025
3260	0.00	REGION, powered by WU (Badelt)	2014
3133	0.00	Barriers of Culture, Networks, and Language in International Migration: A Review (Wang et al.)	2018
2860	0.00	Creativity, Community, & Growth: A Social Geography of Urban Craft Beer (Reid et al.)	2017
2786	0.00	Spatial Inequality (Rey)	2025
2754	52.11	Demonstrating the utility of machine learning innovations in address matching to spatial socio-economic applications (Comber)	2020
2647	35.25	Exploring long-term youth unemployment in Europe using sequence analysis: a reproducible notebook approach (Patias)	2020
2447	0.00	A primer for working with the Spatial Interaction modeling (SpInt) module in the python spatial analysis library (PySAL) (Oshan)	2016
2445	11.70	An introduction to pspatreg: A new R package for semiparametric spatial autoregressive analysis (Mínguez et al.)	2022
2389	33.40	Random Parameters and Spatial Heterogeneity using Rchoice in R (Sarrias)	2020
2375	0.00	Infrastructure and Trade: A Meta-Analysis (Celbis et al.)	2015
2360	0.00	Spatial Econometrics and GIS YouTube Playlist (Burkey)	2018
2354	0.00	The Rise of Bitcoin, Economic Inequality and the Ecology (Benshushan)	2023
2266	0.00	A Spatial Analysis of Tourism Infrastructure in Romania: Spotlight on Accommodation and Food Service Companies (Constantin et al.)	2018
2243	0.00	Social networks, social satisfaction and place attachment in the neighborhood (Weijs-Perrée et al.)	2017

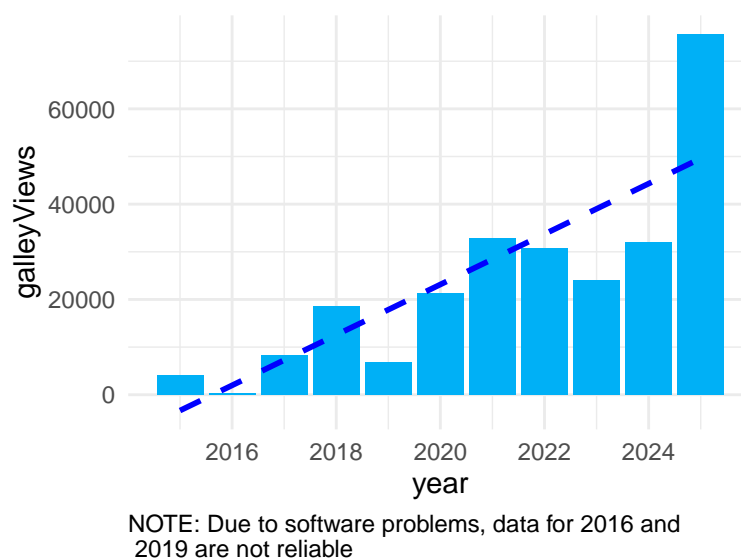


Figure 19: Galley Views (File Downloads) over Time

share of their Total Galley Views through dynamic document (RMD, IPYNB, QMD) formats (reported in column “% dyn. Docs”). This share goes up to 71.49%. These results confirm that these are important formats for scholarly publishing and REGION’s innovative decision to allow for those formats and promote them, was correct.

Ranking articles by the number of Total Galley views favours earlier published articles. To correct for the different times of publication, we compute Total Galley Views per day since the respective article was published. The ranking by views/day is shown in Table 15.

As can be expected from the previous table, recently published articles and articles about dynamic documents and computational notebooks occupy the top positions. Note that none of the twenty articles in this list was published before 2019. This shows that more recently published articles in REGION draw substantially more attention than earlier ones and demonstrates the increasing relevance of REGION. Of the nine dynamic documents and computational notebooks that REGION has published so far, six show up among the twenty articles with most galley views per day.

The numbers reported in “Galley views/day” in the table apply to a single article. Over the whole period and for all published articles, REGION did generate 255,580 Total Galley Views and 344,493 Abstract Views. This implies that in average 74.19% of the abstract views led to the download of the corresponding article. Since all the articles ever published in REGION are available on the journal’s homepage, we can aggregate the “Galley views/day” numbers for all the articles to find that in average, 156.97 articles published in REGION are downloaded every day.

More directly than citation counts, the numbers of galley views show that REGION is becoming increasingly visible and impactful. Recent innovations have enhanced the journal’s impact and there is a persistent high level of engagement – through downloads and page views – with the journal’s output. The strong performance of recently published articles in terms of galley views will probably result in further increasing numbers of citations in coming years.

2.7 The financing of REGION

As far as the financial aspects of REGION are concerned, one must distinguish two periods:

- The initial period which was financed by the FWF project
- The continuation period, financed by contributions from ERSA.

Table 15: Twenty items with most galley views per day since published

Galley views/day	% dyn. Docs	Title (Authors)	year published
9.71	0.00	Spillover effects of public capital stock: A case study for Ecuador (Zurita et al.)	2025
8.19	0.00	Spatial Inequality (Rey)	2025
4.75	0.00	Know your competitor! Analyzing and predicting the location of competing stores: The case study of Valora at Swiss railway stations (Wieland)	2025
3.57	0.00	Interdependence Between the Tourist Regions of Sergipe, Brazil (Ribeiro et al.)	2024
3.45	0.00	Spatial network analysis (Cabrera)	2025
2.90	0.00	The Rise of Bitcoin, Economic Inequality and the Ecology (Benshushan)	2023
2.46	0.00	China's Impact on Sustainable Economic Growth in Central Asian Countries in the Context of the Silk Road Economic Belt (Zhang et al.)	2024
2.38	40.09	Teaching on Jupyter: Using notebooks to accelerate learning and curriculum development (Reades)	2020
2.32	48.23	Urban Street Network Analysis in a Computational Notebook (Boeing)	2020
2.17	71.49	A reproducible notebook to acquire, process and analyse satellite imagery: Exploring long-term urban changes (Chen et al.)	2020
2.12	11.70	An introduction to pspatreg: A new R package for semiparametric spatial autoregressive analysis (Mínguez et al.)	2022
1.97	0.00	Exploring economic activity from outer space: A Python notebook for processing and analyzing satellite nighttime lights (Patnaik et al.)	2024
1.70	0.00	Prediction models and testing of resilience in regions: Covid19 economic impact in USA counties study case (Manousiadis et al.)	2023
1.68	17.58	REAT: A Regional Economic Analysis Toolbox for R (Wieland)	2019
1.67	18.96	A spatial and demographic analysis of cycling safety perceptions: A case study in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA (Haffner et al.)	2024
1.62	0.00	Credit market development and agricultural production in selected African countries: Climate change perspective (Shikur)	2023
1.53	0.00	Bioeconomy firms and where to find them (Kriesch et al.)	2024
1.53	0.00	A Blockchain-Based Welfare Distribution Model for Digital Inclusivity (Tartan)	2023
1.51	0.00	Adapting the Singapore Model to Nigeria's Urban Management: Possibilities and Challenges (Echendu)	2022
1.36	0.00	Positive Outcomes of Cross-Border Tourism Development Cooperation: A Case of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan (Akbar et al.)	2024

Table 16: Expenses in the initial period by category

Support staff	Articles	Marketing	Meetings	Total
45.98%	20.76%	15.47%	17.79%	100%

2.7.1 The initial period

The first three years of the operation of REGION were financed by a grant from FWF, the Austrian science foundation. This grant covered all the setup cost of the journal plus the first three years of its operation. The granted amount was € 50,000. Only € 29,684.50 of the grant was actually used for REGION. The remaining € 20,315.50 was returned to FWF when the account was closed on July 12th, 2017. Table 16 shows the breakdown of the expenses by category.

2.7.2 The continuation period

In the FWF-proposal WU and ERSA both agreed to continue the journal for at least six more years after the end of the funding period. While WU contributes the hosting of the journal, ERSA provides editorial work and promotion. Most of ERSA's input is provided in kind via the voluntary work of the editorial team and the promotion activities of the ERSA office.

Expenditure on REGION is extremely low. ERSA's expenditure on REGION for the continuation period so far is € 7,536.64. This amounts to € 837.4 on average per year or to € 65.54 per published paper.

Of the total expenses, 91.98% are for copy editing (€ 6,932.12). The remaining 8.02% are travel expenses for meetings of the editorial team, which could not be covered from other sources. Since 2020, the editorial team switched to online meetings avoiding such costs.

With the continued support of WU, REGION's editorial team, and ERSA's office, the costs per published paper can be kept at this low level also in the future. The basis for this is:

- The cooperation with WU,
- Electronic and open access publishing (avoids administrative overhead)
- The use of Open Journals System as management platform
- Online meetings of the editorial team
- Streamlined production processes
- Substantial unpaid input by the editorial team

3 Conclusion

As the data show, ERSa's journal REGION is on track to become a major journal in regional science and to fulfil its aim, "*to support the exchange of ideas among regional science researchers worldwide*". Submissions are sufficiently high and come from authors from a wide range of countries. The journal publishes two regular issues every year plus special issues. According to all available sources, the numbers of citations increase strongly, particularly in the most recent years. The same holds for the number of article downloads and the sessions on the journal webpage. Based on this information, REGION can expect further growth in citation numbers and in submissions.

REGION achieved this at very low out of pocket costs. Essential factors for this performance of the journal are:

- the support provided by ERSa, WU, and the voluntary input from the editorial team
- the online format and the related online management
- free access to all the content for readers over the Internet
- no-cost publishing for all the authors (no article processing charges)
- Creative Commons licensing and reuse of material by authors and readers

The data suggest that these factors go hand in hand and support each other.