

## Report of Chief Editors 2016 to IAVS Council

*Journal of Vegetation Science (JVS)* and *Applied Vegetation Science (AVS)* are both established publication venues in plant community ecology. During the past year we have continued our routine work, which also means constant discussion of possible improvements. We are pleased to work with our Associate Editors and Editorial Board members, who have dedicated their precious time to our journals. We want especially to point out our Editorial Board members, who form a pool of competent referees for our journals. All our recent Associate Editors have been formerly Editorial Board members.

During the past 12 months, 412 new manuscripts were submitted to JVS and 217 to AVS. All manuscripts were first screened by Receiving Editors – one of Chief Editor. Of all submissions, 36% of JVS submissions and 39% of AVS submissions were immediately rejected as out of scope or evidently poor quality. This has helped to keep the workload of Associate Editors and referees reasonable. During the past year, we accepted 114 papers for JVS and 69 for AVS, exactly the number needed to fill a volume. Submission and acceptance rates vary considerably from month to month, but there is no general trend towards more submissions or more rejections.

We aim to keep the scope of the journal as clear as possible. We publish only studies which advance our understanding on plant communities. JVS deals with theoretical topics, AVS is specialised for plant community management, restoration, and vegetation surveys. There are often borderline cases, which are discussed among Chief Editors to decide eligibility.

We have work hard to keep the length of our papers reasonable. This is important since scientists are busy people and appreciate concise papers. If reading a paper is postponed due to its length (until there is time), the paper might not ever be read. We advocate more extensive usage of Electronic appendices to present details and additional material. We appreciate if our authors, editors and readers share interesting papers through Twitter, Facebook or other social media channels. This will increase the chance that good papers are noticed by potential readers.

With our publisher Wiley we have had discussions on how to improve our journals. Currently we aim to formulate routines to avoid errors in type-settings and to speed up processing of accepted papers.

We thank IAVS for their trust and support and are keen to get feedback on our journals — both critical and positive — from both our authors and readers.

Meelis Pärtel (Chair of the Editors), with Alessandro Chiarucci, Milan Chytrý and Valerio Pillar