



Peer-Review Statements

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All of the articles in this proceedings volume have been presented at the *ICCD-MSMEs 2026* during 29 and 30 april in Tijuana.B.C. These articles have been peer reviewed by the members of the *Scientific Committee and Editorial Committee* and approved by the Editor-in-Chief, who affirms that this document is a truthful description of the conference's review process.

1. REVIEW PROCEDURE

The reviews were *double-blind, open, etc.* Each submission was examined by *two expert reviewer(s)* independently.

The conference submission management system used for the event was the official website of the conference organizing committee:

<https://clusterinmobiliariobc.com/congreso/ponencias>

The manuscripts received were initially subjected to a preliminary editorial review to verify their overall quality, compliance with the established guidelines, and relevance to the objectives and thematic areas of the conference. Subsequently, those submissions that successfully passed this initial stage were sent for peer review and assigned to expert reviewers whose areas of expertise matched the subject matter of the manuscript while also taking into consideration the absence of any conflicts of interest. A manuscript could only be considered for acceptance if it received favorable recommendations from both reviewers.

Authors of manuscripts that were not accepted during the initial evaluation were given the opportunity to revise their work in accordance with the reviewers' comments and resubmit their manuscripts for further consideration. The final decision regarding the acceptance or rejection of the revised manuscript was definitive.

Measures were implemented to prevent conflicts of interest by ensuring that manuscripts were not assigned to reviewers with close professional, academic, or personal ties to the authors. Furthermore, strategies were adopted to reduce the potential impact of unconscious bias throughout the evaluation process, thereby safeguarding the objectivity, impartiality, and transparency of peer review.

2. QUALITY CRITERIA

Reviewers were instructed to assess the quality of submissions solely based on the academic merit of their content. The evaluation criteria, listed in order of importance, were as follows:

- 1. Alignment of the manuscript with the objectives and thematic areas of the conference;
- 2. Originality, novelty, and relevance of the research contribution;
- 3. Methodological rigor and validity of the analyses and results;
- 4. Compliance with ethical standards and principles of academic integrity;
- 5. Clarity, coherence, and quality of the presentation, including the appropriate use of figures and tables.

In addition, all manuscripts were required to address topics falling within at least one of the conference thematic tracks. All submissions were screened for textual similarity to identify potential cases of plagiarism. Authors were responsible for ensuring the originality of their work and for providing appropriate acknowledgment of any third-party material included in their manuscripts.

3. KEY METRICS

<i>Total submissions</i>	85
<i>Number of articles sent for peer review</i>	70
<i>Number of accepted articles</i>	21
<i>Acceptance rate</i>	24.71%
<i>Number of reviewers</i>	20

The criteria related to the evaluation and acceptance process statistics were primarily based on the relevance of the submitted manuscripts to the overall theme of the conference and its thematic tracks, as well as on their scientific quality. Manuscripts were assessed according to their contribution to the conference objectives, originality, methodological rigor, and overall academic merit.

4. COMPETING INTERESTS

The Editor-in-Chief and members of the Scientific Committee declared no competing interests that could have influenced the editorial decisions. To ensure the integrity and impartiality of the peer-review process, manuscripts were assigned to reviewers based on their expertise and without any conflicts of interest with the authors. Reviewers with potential conflicts were excluded from the evaluation process.

No competing interests were identified among the Editor-in-Chief, members of the Scientific Committee, or reviewers that could have influenced the editorial decisions. To ensure the integrity and impartiality of the peer-review process, manuscripts were assigned to reviewers according to their areas of expertise and potential conflicts of interest were carefully assessed prior to reviewer assignment. Reviewers with any actual or perceived conflicts of interest were excluded from the evaluation of the corresponding manuscripts.

Neither the Editor-in-Chief nor any member of the Scientific Committee declared any competing interests that could have influenced the editorial decisions. The peer-review process was conducted independently and impartially, and manuscripts were assigned to reviewers based on their expertise and the absence of conflicts of interest.

Some authors had previous academic supervision relationships with the Editor-in-Chief. To ensure the integrity and impartiality of the editorial process, the Editor-in-Chief took no part in the handling, review, or decision-making process related to those submissions. Responsibility for these manuscripts was delegated to members of the Scientific Committee who had no personal, professional, or academic conflicts of interest with the authors.

The International Congress on MSME Competitiveness and Development 2026 (ICCD-MSMEs 2026) did not receive financial support from companies or organizations directly related to the research presented at the conference. All submissions were evaluated solely on the basis of their academic merit, scientific quality, and relevance to the conference theme and thematic tracks.

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