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HELIA publishes original theoretical, experimental and technical contributions arising from the scientific study of sunflower crops and farming systems. The subject fields covered include crop agronomy; sunflower genetic resources; sunflower improvement and breeding; phytopathology and plant protection; sunflower physiology, biochemistry, metabolism, structure, genetics, at diverse levels of integration; ecology; soil, water and mineral nutrition management and farming systems.

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f o r e w o r d


Dear sunflower researchers,

Having been Editor in Chief of the sunflower journal *Helia* over the past 24 years, I hereby wish to inform you on my own behalf and that of the rest of the journal's staff who have kindly been helping me to publish *Helia* issues regularly twice a year during this time about certain changes that are about to take place in regard to our journal.

Throughout all these years, we have been doing our absolute best to transform what was at first a bulletin of sorts into a highly reputed scientific journal that has been distributed to over 400 addresses around the world covering more than 40 countries worldwide. It remains up to you as the end users of our product to decide to what extent we have been successful in doing so.

During all these years we have done the best we could to keep *Helia* alive and send it out to you as our subscribers regularly and on time. What needs to be pointed out is that throughout this entire period we have regularly had major difficulties trying to come up with funds needed to prepare, publish, and distribute the journal. One issue of *Helia* costs over 7,000 EUR (preparation for the publication - 1,000 EUR, publication - 3,500-4,000 EUR, and distribution - to 400 addresses - around 2,500 EUR). As you can see, the expenses of distributing the journal have been very high. It also needs to be pointed out that through all of these years the subscribers to our journal have been receiving it free of any charge. So, the burden of financing *Helia* has been entirely on us as the publishers of the journal, which has not been an easy task to fulfill at all.

In the beginning, we used to receive financial aid in the amount of 4,000 EUR per annum from FAO, Rome, Italy. This amount was not sufficient to cover the costs of publishing a single issue of the journal, let alone two per year. For a number of years *Helia* was sponsored by the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops in Novi Sad, Serbia, but even these funds were not enough to cover the costs of publishing the journal twice a year. Over the last 10 years, the Executive Council of the Province of Vojvodina in Serbia has financially been helping the publication with an annual contribution of 5,500 EUR. In the last period we had significant support from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Government of the Republic of Serbia in promoting the journal and increase its visibility through the introduction of doi system labeling, as well as partially co-financing the costs of publication in the amount of 2,000 euros per year. On two occasions, additionally, we have received financial aid from the International Sunflower Association in Paris (4,000 EUR times two).



Over the last three years we have experienced a major financial crisis trying to fund Helia's publication. Even I personally had to invest a substantial amount of my own personal funds to keep the journal alive.

Due to all the above reasons, fairly recently we have signed an Agreement with the publishing company DeGruyter from Berlin, Germany according to which we will continue to publish Helia online (plus some fairly limited number of hard copies). All the publishing costs are going to be covered by DeGruyter, but the issues are no longer going to be free of charge as before - instead each subscriber will have to purchase the issues through the Helia web site run by said company. The Editorial Board will be the same as before and still based in Novi Sad.

DeGruyter will make a substantial effort to put Helia on the ISI list, which will benefit all of us. We will do our absolute best to make sure we keep Helia to the highest possible standard in terms of quality so as to further advance the repute of the journal and keep it among the best publication of its kind on the global scale.

Our collaboration with DeGruyter will benefit all of us, especially because of the journal becoming available online.

We hope all of you who are part of the global sunflower scientific community will continue to contribute top quality papers to our publication.

On this occasion we also wish to extend our gratitude on behalf of the Helia Editorial Board to all of you who have collaborated with us through all these years and we are hoping our collaboration is going to become even more advanced in the years to come.

On our part, we have done our best to contribute to the global sunflower advancement over the past 24 years by making our journal available to all of you free of charge.

Sincerely Yours,

*Academician Dragan Škorić
Editor-in-Chief*

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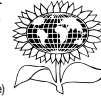
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F.A.O. EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK ON SUNFLOWER
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