CESifo Working Paper Submission – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who can submit a paper to the CESifo Working Paper Series? 2
How do I submit a working paper to CESifo? 2
What formatting should my paper follow? 2
Do I need to submit a barrier-free (accessible) PDF? 2
Is there a submission deadline? 2
Does CESifo offer editorial assistance? 2
Do I need to include author affiliations and contact details? 2
Are there publication fees or charges? 3
What happens after I submit a paper? 3
Can my submission be declined? 3
Is there a limit on how many papers I can submit? 3
Will my paper receive a working paper number? 3
Will my paper receive a DOI? 3
What are the advantages of the CESifo DOI? 3
Which DOI should I use when citing or sharing my paper? 4
Can I submit a revised version later? 4
How do I submit a revision to CESifo? 4
Will the CESifo DOI change if I revise my paper? 4
Does every revision of a pre-2026 paper get a CESifo DOI? 4
I have discovered some minor errors. Can I submit a corrected version? 4
Can I withdraw my paper from the series after submission? 4
What if my withdrawn paper still appears on RePEc and EconStor? 5
Can I submit a paper that has been published or accepted elsewhere? 5
Can CESifo working papers be submitted to journals later? 5
Where are CESifo working papers indexed and distributed? 5
Will CESifo upload my paper to SSRN on my behalf? 5
When should I upload my paper to SSRN? 5
Can I track downloads or citations of my CESifo working paper? 5

Who can submit a paper to the CESifo Working Paper Series?

Only members of the CESifo Research Network are eligible to submit papers. Non-members are not eligible to submit directly, but may present their paper at CESifo conferences and subsequently become eligible for submission. The latest CESifo calls for papers are available at: https://www.ifo.de/en/cesifo/calls-papers.

Information on how to become a member of the CESifo Research Network can be found at: https://www.ifo.de/en/cesifo/how-become-cesifo-research-network-member.

How do I submit a working paper to CESifo?

Submissions must be made through the CESifo online submission portal:

https://www.ifo.de/en/form/working-paper-upload-preselect

Ensure your paper adheres to the formatting requirements outlined in the CESifo Working Paper Instructions before uploading.

What formatting should my paper follow?

Please follow the formatting guidelines CESifo Working Paper Instructions when preparing your working paper for submission to the CESifo Working Paper Series. Adhering to these instructions ensures consistency and readability across all published papers.

Do I need to submit a barrier-free (accessible) PDF?

While not mandatory, authors are strongly encouraged to submit a barrier-free (accessible) PDF to ensure that their research is usable by all readers, including those using screen readers or other assistive technologies. Preparing your working paper in an accessible format contributes to more inclusive research dissemination and is increasingly encouraged by academic platforms and repositories.

Is there a submission deadline?

There is no submission deadline - papers are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. However, if the paper was presented at a CESifo conference, it should be submitted to the CESifo Working Paper Series within 6 months after the conference.

Does CESifo offer editorial assistance?

No, CESifo does not offer editorial assistance. Authors are responsible for ensuring that the submitted paper is clear, grammatically correct, and well-structured. Papers that do not meet basic editorial standards may be returned without review.

Do I need to include author affiliations and contact details?

Yes. All authors must have their institutional affiliations and email addresses listed as footnotes on the title page of the manuscript.

Example: [1] ifo Institute – Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, Munich, Germany. Email: example@ifo.de.

Are there publication fees or charges?

No, CESifo does not charge submission or publication fees for accepted working papers.

What happens after I submit a paper?

Each paper is subject to a brief internal review by CESifo. If accepted, the paper will be published in the CESifo Working Paper Series and distributed through platforms such as RePEc and EconStor. Accepted papers are usually processed and published within 1–2 weeks of submission, depending on the volume of submissions. Formatting issues or missing information may delay publication.

Can my submission be declined?

Yes. The CESifo Working Paper Series is intended for papers that are meant for later publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Under our academic policy, we can only consider submissions that make a clear empirical or methodological contribution, or that offer a comprehensive and systematic review of the existing literature. Opinion pieces, commentaries and policy essays therefore cannot be considered.

Is there a limit on how many papers I can submit?

Yes, up to 12 submissions per year.

Will my paper receive a working paper number?

Yes. Each accepted paper is assigned a unique CESifo Working Paper number, which serves as a persistent identifier and is disseminated through platforms such as RePEc, and EconStor.

Will my paper receive a DOI?

Yes. All CESifo Working Papers published from 2026 onwards receive a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) upon publication. Every paper first published before 1 January 2026 receives a new CESifo DOI as soon as it is revised. When your paper is published, we sent you a message containing your DOI link. You can also see the DOI on the landing page of your paper at the CESifo website.

What are the advantages of the CESifo DOI?

Findability and citability: your paper is permanently linked and uniquely citable and can be imported automatically into databases and publication lists.

Rich, granular metadata: CESifo provides complete, fine-grained metadata, including abstract, ISSN, article number and a fully populated series title. This is more comprehensive than some other working paper series, so your paper can be processed reliably by search engines, literature databases and other scholarly services, including AI systems.

Automated maintenance: revisions to your paper details are updated automatically via the DOI infrastructure and distributed to connected services and databases.

Which DOI should I use when citing or sharing my paper?

Use the CESifo DOI as your primary identifier, on your CV, website, and when sharing the paper. It resolves to the CESifo landing page. Furthermore, we update the meta data of your DOI upon every revision.

Can I submit a revised version later?

Yes. Authors may submit revised versions of their working paper. To submit a revised version, authors should upload the new manuscript via the submission form and indicate in the provided checkbox that the file is a revision of a previously submitted paper, referencing the original working paper number. Revised papers will replace the earlier version on the website and receive a new cover page with a note stating that the paper is a revision/update of a previous publication. The previous version will no longer be accessible.

How do I submit a revision to CESifo?

Submit the revised manuscript exclusively via the CESifo online submission form, and mark the revision checkbox, referencing the original working paper number. The revised version replaces the earlier one and receives a cover-page note. The previous version will no longer be accessible.

Will the CESifo DOI change if I revise my paper?

A DOI is designed to be permanent. As a general principle it stays stable and continues to resolve to your paper. However, if there is a substantial revision to your paper, you may consider submitting it as a new paper. It then receives a new DOI.

Does every revision of a pre-2026 paper get a CESifo DOI?

Yes. Any paper first published before 1 January 2026 is assigned CESifo DOI as soon as it is revised.

I have discovered some minor errors. Can I submit a corrected version?

Minor updates cannot be implemented on an ongoing basis. Even seemingly small corrections (e.g., fixing a typo, updating a figure caption, modifying keywords) require the complete removal of the existing version from the CESifo archive and external databases such as RePEc, and EconStor. The paper must then be regenerated with a new cover page and metadata and fully re-uploaded across all distribution platforms. This is a time- and resource-intensive process, so we kindly ask authors to carefully evaluate whether their proposed changes constitute a substantive revision. If they do, we are happy to assist with the resubmission.

Can I withdraw my paper from the series after submission?

Yes, you may request withdrawal at any time. However, please note that once published, the paper is already indexed in external databases (e.g., RePEc, and EconStor), and complete removal may not be immediate. A formal withdrawal request must be sent to the CESifo editorial team via email: workingpapers@cesifo.de.

What if my withdrawn paper still appears on RePEc and EconStor?

After CESifo processes the withdrawal, we notify the external distribution platforms. However, removal timelines vary, and CESifo does not have direct control over external repositories. If your withdrawn paper continues to appear on any third-party platform, you must contact those services directly to request removal or de-indexing. Include a clear reference to the CESifo Working Paper number in your message to help expedite the process.

Can I submit a paper that has been published or accepted elsewhere?

Yes, you may submit a paper that has been published or accepted elsewhere, provided the original publisher allows it. If the journal allows parallel dissemination, please indicate the publication status (e.g., forthcoming in Journal of Public Economics) clearly on the title page or in a footnote.

Can CESifo working papers be submitted to journals later?

Yes, the CESifo Working Paper Series is intended for papers that are meant for later publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Publishing a paper in the CESifo Working Paper Series therefore does not preclude submission to academic journals. Many papers published in the series are later accepted by leading journals.

Where are CESifo working papers indexed and distributed?

Accepted working papers are disseminated via: the CESifo Working Paper Series, RePEc, and EconStor. In addition, papers may also appear on third-party indexing platforms such as Google Scholar or academic search engines, which harvest content from open repositories. Visibility on third-party services depends on their indexing practices.

Will CESifo upload my paper to SSRN on my behalf?

SSRN is closing its institutional Research Paper Series at the end of 2026. From 2027 onwards, CESifo working papers will therefore no longer be added to SSRN automatically. For now, please plan to upload your paper to SSRN yourself. Once your paper has been published by CESifo and has received a CESifo cover page and a DOI, please upload it to SSRN yourself and keep it up to date whenever you revise it.

When should I upload my paper to SSRN?

Wait until your paper or your revision have been published by CESifo and you have received a CESifo cover page and a DOI.

Can I track downloads or citations of my CESifo working paper?

CESifo working papers are distributed via RePEc and EconStor, all of which provide basic metrics such as downloads and abstract views.