How **AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean** supports publication of high-quality manuscripts and enhances the quality of national and regional journals

**Conclusion:** AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean (AAEM) provides capacity-building through services and training for researchers, journal editors and authors’ editors.

**Background:** AAEM, the newest AuthorAID project, operates on a combination of work donated by volunteer author's editors, infrastructure provided by the local host institution Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, and personal funds.

**Author-editing:** 72 research manuscripts were edited in Shiraz from January to June 2009. The outcome of manuscript submittal will be monitored to quantify the project’s effectiveness in improving publication success.

**Main challenges for authors**
1. Choosing the most appropriate journal
2. Interpreting and applying Instructions to Authors
3. Meeting readers’ expectations for scientific quality, clarity and relevance

**Important outcomes**
1. Manuscripts more likely to satisfy gatekeepers’ expectations for quality
2. Acquisition of writing and editing skills
3. Increased confidence in the value of the scientific work
4. Training for local author's editors

**Editorial offices:** 5 journals received manuscript editing, staff training, and advice on editorial policies and becoming indexed.

**Education and training:** Most popular topics for medical students, researchers and editors:
1. Challenges faced by non-native-English-speaking researchers
2. Strategies for successful publication
3. Ethical issues in research publication

**The importance of national and regional journals** for international knowledge transfer was analyzed in a presentation for gatekeepers and research policy-makers.

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