

AHKGA Global Matrix 5.0 – Publication plan

Objectives

- **Designing an ambitious, impactful, and innovative/novel publication plan, but also (and above all) feasible within our timeline.**
- **Designing writing process and authorship strategies to ensure fairness, feasibility, respect of co-authorship guidelines, and successful completion of the Global Matrix 5.0 publication plan.**

Commitments

- One paper reporting global findings on children and adolescents with disabilities in APAQ Journal
- AHKGA Fellow (Iryna) to lead the “main Global Matrix paper”

I. AHKGA Publication Committee proposal for the Global Matrix 5.0

- Main paper (led by AHKGA fellow – Iryna) presenting overall global findings, general analysis/findings by world region, HDI, level of income, etc, and digging deeper in the **Overall Physical Activity** indicator
- One global disability paper submitted in APAQ journal
- 9 or 10 other global papers – one for each Global Matrix remaining indicators (potentially including sleep)
 - **Consistent content across papers** (e.g., overall findings and exploring surveillance & standardisation challenges, equities and inequities – at multiple levels country, region, gender, disability, research gaps, priorities and recommendation)
 - **Additional specific analysis**, links, discussions that would be relevant for each specific indicator

Example 1: Global Organized Sport and Physical Activity paper potential additional analysis

- Cultural practices: Regional and cultural variations in organized sports, including traditional sports and their preservation in modern contexts.
- Sport for peace: The role of organized sport in conflict resolution, fostering social inclusion, and promoting mental well-being in post-conflict or fragile settings.

- Impact of major sporting events: Influence of global/regional sporting events (Olympics, Youth Games) on youth physical activity, link between country Olympic medal counts and grades

Example 2: Community and Environment Activity paper potential additional analysis

- Link with climate change impacts
- Link with access to nature: The role of green spaces and outdoor environments in promoting PA and the disparities in access between urban and rural areas.
- Community-level interventions: Examples of successful community programs and urban design initiatives that foster active living (e.g., outdoor gyms, walking groups).
- Urban vs. Rural Settings

Additional propositions: impactful standardized title for each paper, examples:

- “*Global state of physical activity in children and adolescents, insights from the Global Matrix 5.0*” & “*Global state of physical activity in children and adolescents with disabilities, insights from the Global Matrix 5.0*”
- “*Global state of organized sport and physical activity in children and adolescents/ sedentary behaviour/ active play/ physical fitness in children and adolescents, insights from the Global Matrix 5.0*”
- “*Global state of school physical activity promoting characteristics in children and adolescents, insights from the Global Matrix 5.0*”
- “*Global state of environment and community physical activity promoting characteristics in children and adolescents, insights from the Global Matrix 5.0*”
- “*Global state of family and peers’ physical activity promoting characteristics in children and adolescents, insights from the Global Matrix 5.0*”
- “*Global state of government & policy physical activity promoting characteristics in children and adolescents, insights from the Global*

II. Writing process and authorship strategies

Previous GM approaches: a single main Global Matrix paper involved all Report Card (RC) leaders/co-leaders as co-authors. Many RC leaders had limited involvement in contributing or reviewing the manuscript, leading to imbalances in workload distribution and reduced accountability.

It's important to ensure that all contributors play a more active and equitable role in the writing process to upholds the integrity of co-authorship and ensure that the insights and expertise from different regions and contexts are fully integrated into each paper.

Steering/Working Groups for Each Paper

- **Formation of Working Groups:** For each paper, we will form a dedicated working group that includes both Report Card (RC) leaders/co-leaders and potentially other relevant experts (within the RC teams). These groups will be responsible for contributing to both the content and development of the paper.
- **Responsibilities of Working Groups:** Each group will oversee key aspects of paper development, including data interpretation, writing specific sections, and providing feedback during revisions. This will create shared ownership and reduce the burden on the lead author.
- **Roles** within the working group will be clearly defined from the start. Steering group will assign specific sections of the paper (e.g., introduction, methods, results, discussion) to different group members based on expertise and interest. Regular virtual meetings (e.g., monthly) should be held to check on progress, resolve any challenges, and ensure ongoing collaboration.
- **Allocating Co-authorship Based on Expertise:** To distribute RC leaders/co-leaders more evenly across papers, we should assign them to specific indicators where they have expertise or a particular interest (consultation process/survey)
- **Regional and Global Representation:** We will aim that each working group is diverse, includes representatives from different world regions to maintain the global scope and integrity of the Global Matrix.
- **Lead Author as Coordinator:** The lead author of each paper will also act as a coordinator, ensuring that the group's input is integrated, and the timeline is respected. They will oversee the writing process but not bear the full responsibility for drafting the paper.
- **Capacity building:** Lead writing priority could be given to PhD candidates who are currently working on relevant topics related to the specific paper. Experienced writer included who could serve as “back-up” writers.
- **Maximum number of papers co-authored per person?** Potential solution: up to three co-authors (each on a different paper) per Report Card team.

Each paper will have to include a standardized statement in the acknowledgement section to thanks the contribution of all the Report Card teams

Transparent and Structured Co-authorship Guidelines

Criteria for Co-authorship: Co-authorship will be granted based on well-defined contributions. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) guidelines will be followed as a baseline, requiring substantial contributions in one or more areas such as:

- Data acquisition or analysis (hence, being a Report Card team leader/member)
- Drafting and revising the manuscript
- Interpretation of results
- Final approval of the manuscript before submission
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work

Minimum contribution threshold for co-authorship: those not meeting this threshold will be removed from the author list and added in the acknowledgments section rather than receiving co-authorship.

Writing process and timeline

1. **Formation of steering/working groups for each paper** – September 2025
2. **Identification of lead author/coordinator** – September 2025
3. **Design and approval of harmonized content across all papers** – October 2025
4. **Development and approval of each full paper outline and content** – October 2025
 - Detailed outline including specific analyses, links, and discussion points, and unique aspects of the paper
5. **Survey design and distribution** – November 2025
 - Surveys will be designed to gather additional data from Report Card leaders including questions specific to individual papers – each working group will have to provide on time specific questions necessary for their paper (e.g., in the Global Matrix 4.0, additional survey questions were designed to gather Report Card leaders top priorities to improve the grades for each indicators, as well as their perception of the impact of war/conflicts, economic crisis, climate change, and COVID19 on indicators).

6. **Distribution of GM5.0 grades and rationales to writing groups** - December 2025/January 2026
7. **Global analysis by Iryna and distribution of relevant results for each paper** – January 2026
8. **Clear writing step deadlines and monitoring of writing progress**
9. **Submission of final papers** – GOAL: March 2026



Time management and internal review process

Respect of the writing process timeline will be kept track (probably by the AHKGA publication committee chair – Salomé) corresponding with the lead author/coordinator of each paper to control for the need of an “intervention”.

The publication committee will review the proposed outlines in Step 4: “Development and approval of each full paper outline and content”.

Papers will be reviewed internally by one or two members of the publication committee to ensure consistency and compliance with the predefined required sections before submission.