Editorial

On behalf of the editorial team it is our honour to welcome you to our next issue of *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia* which is devoted to Economic Growth, Innovation and Lobbying. The primary intent of our journal is to offer a range of diversity of topics that are frequently cited and indexed as related to economics, management, business, education, public safety as well as environmental issues. Given this fact we have selected seven papers for the issue.

First of all, the authors of the “Panel estimation for the relationship between education expenditure and economic growth for OECD countries” emphasized that education in fact is one of the most important dynamics of the human capital along with health and plays a vital role in the context. In particular, the authors indicate that the increasing level of success comes through higher educational standards, recruitment of qualified workers, better employment opportunities and of course the increased earnings which are significant contributors to the growth and prosperity of the OECD countries. The authors also analyse the relationship between the educational expenditures and the economic growth for the 19 selected OECD countries using the panel data method.

In turn, the author of the “Evolution of Make-to-Stock (MTS) production environment management methods-research concept” focuses on comparing the two production environments: Make-to-Stock (MTS) and Make-to-Availability (MTA) and its relation to the evolution of the MTS environment. In addition, the authors present the characteristics of the production for the inventory and for the availability while the maturity models are also presented and the gap in the research is identified. In the meantime, the advancement research level is presented while the conclusions from the previously undertaken research as well as recommendations in the new direction for the future. The synthesis of the research will propose a maturity model for organizations operating in the MTS/MTA environment.

The next paper entitled “Self-service as a motivation factor for innovative service” investigates the advantages of self-service over the traditional service and are carrying out research on how to motivate consumers to switch to self-service and the motivation for the consumer self-service option. Furthermore, the authors consider the concept of self-service as an innovative service and identify the reasons for the choosing self-service. Moreover, the authors emphasize the consumer motivation for choosing self-service relative to an online survey. In fact, several companies offer self-service as an innovative service by liberating consumers and motivating them to use it instead of traditional service.

Furthermore, the authors of the “High-technology exports and economic growth: panel data analysis for selected OECD countries” apply the panel co-integration model to analyze the long term relationship between the high-technology exports and the economic growth in selected OECD countries during the period from 1989 to 2015. The authors concluded that the export structure of these countries is increasingly moving towards technology-
Intensive products such as ICT (information, communication technology), aerospace, computing and office equipment, electronic, chemical products, pharmaceutical machinery. In addition, the authors showed that the Export structure played an important role in the economic growth theories of many countries since the 1960s, as export growth has been associated with faster productivity and GDP growth. The main intent was to determine the relationship between the high-technology exports and explanatory variables which we listed for selected 14 OECD countries (Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Korea, Netherland, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey, UK, USA). According to the empirical results, the authors concluded that there is a long run relationship between the high-technology exports and economic growth in selected OECD countries.

In addition, the authors of the “Destination management organisations as the outcome of institutional innovations in tourism sector” indicated that several tourist destinations are dynamic changes in visitors’ demands and gain specific competitive advantages such as the ongoing changes in the tourism market and in the organizational structures within the destinations evolve. In fact, the authors analyse the activities of the destination management organizations in Slovakia in order to identify their impact on the tourism development and to determine the internal and external barriers on their further development.

In addition, the authors of the “Consumer preferences for coffee brands available on the Polish market” conducted a very thorough analysis of consumer preferences for brands of coffee in Poland (for ground coffee, instant coffee, coffee beans and instant cappuccino). In particular, this analysis showed that brands offered by small, local manufacturers in the context of their significance on a national level, are of little significance in terms of their awareness, consumption and consequently sales. Brand products offered by large corporations such as Jacobs, Nescafe, Lavazza and Tchibo play a major role in the coffee market in Poland.

Moreover, the authors of “Lobbying activities in relation to the implementation of the EU Directive 91/477/EEC on the control and acquisition of weapons” describe how the public affairs and lobbying support the dynamic of today’s global business world and why the public affairs and lobbying are very vital these days. The aim of the research is to explore this business sphere and describe the lobbying activities relative to the implementation process of Directive 91/477/EEC in Czech legislation and the attitude of the Czech society towards this directive. The authors showed that there is a similar opinion among the members of parliament, the government and the interest group regarding the implementation of this directive in the Czech legislation violated the current Czech legislation that restricts consumers and arms’ manufacturers. The adoption of this directive would significantly reduce the citizens’ rights to carry firearms and therefore limit the export of the products of these manufacturing companies.

Given the topics raised in the presented papers I strongly believe that they will be interesting for scholars, policy-makers and practitioners.

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