

Editorial

This issue of the *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia* is comprised of seven articles, devoted to entrepreneurial competences, barriers to the internationalisation of companies, gender issues in management, effective utilisation of natural resources, economic “wars” and their global effects as well as corruption issues in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and in developing countries. These topics are highly important for the transition economy countries of CEE as well as for developing countries. In the present issue, we are pleased to introduce studies in such contexts as Ukraine, Pakistan and Canada, USA and China, Poland, as well as Africa and across different countries besides. While entrepreneurship, innovation, economics, and management have been covered extensively in academic literature, the majority of findings come from Western studies and are not always suitable for explaining the reality in other contexts (Iakovleva et al., 2011; Solesvik et al., 2019). Traditional entrepreneurship and management theories were elaborated in developed market economies while developing and CEE region countries have quite different norms, values and regulations compared to Western economies (Sroka and Gajdzik, 2015).

One of the important economic drivers for countries is entrepreneurial activities (GEM, 2017). Countries differ in terms of the rate of start-up activity, but also in relation to economic contributions from entrepreneurial activity towards growth and GDP. To avoid the trap of necessity entrepreneurship, the development of entrepreneurial skills is thus of major importance, both via supporting entrepreneurial spirit in higher educational institutions as

well as through specialised educational efforts (Ofstedal et al., 2018; Iakovleva and Kolvereid, 2009). The current issue of FSO addresses this important topic through its first paper by Marina Solesvik which examines the influence of university enterprise programs on the development of the entrepreneurial competencies and skills reported by students in Ukraine. It also explores the relationship between students’ skills, competencies and entrepreneurial intentions. The study applies the survey methodology and is based on primary data obtained from 189 student responses. Both students who participated in the university enterprise programs and those who did not take part were included in the survey. The one-way analysis of variance was utilised to locate the difference in entrepreneurship competencies and skills of business and non-business students. The results suggest that students who have participated in university enterprise programs report a higher level of entrepreneurship-related skills. Thus, the development of such programs might have positive effects on promoting growth-oriented enterprises.

Further, effective R&D cooperation and internationalisation proved to be an engine for innovative performance in developed countries (Fitjar and Rodríguez-Pose, 2013). It is important to obtain empirical evidence on the barriers to and potential for these processes in transition and developing countries. The second paper by Joanna Cygler and Sylwester Wyka explores internal barriers to international cooperation in the R&D field of Polish enterprises in the high tech sector. Based on a representative sample of 400 Polish firms, authors analysed enterprises that reported

international cooperation in R&D. The most frequently cited barriers included a fear of losing independence and control over the company to a foreign partner, fear that the support obtained from public funds in Poland in the field of R&D will prove ineffective, difficulties in estimating the potential costs and benefits of cooperation and lack of adequate financial resources. Employing cluster analyses, the author identified four distinct clusters of enterprises that are affected differently by barriers. Company size proved to be one of the major characteristics which are important for overcoming barriers to internationalisation.

In the modern world, changes imposed in one economy often result in global changes and might easily take the market out of equilibrium. Wars, natural or man-made disasters not affect only local economies, but also global communities (Miguel et al., 2004). Such effects are also debated in the present volume. The third article by Olaniyi Evans explores the phenomenon of “Trumponomics” and what it means for the global society. Trumponomics refers to the economic policies of U.S. President Donald Trump and takes an “America-first” approach to initiating trade wars. Using deadweight loss (also known as excess burden or allocative inefficiency) and Harberger’s triangle, this study shows that the trade war is devastating not just for the US and China, but for the entire global economy: (i) the prices of items that directly affect consumers’ welfare will rise; (ii) firms will face extra costs for exports; (iii) investors will become increasingly nervous; (iv) some investors will diversify into Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies; (v) the trade war could turn into a currency war; (vi) even developed countries could be hit by the trade war; and (vii) tariffs applied on developing countries’ exports would rise steeply. The article concludes with the notion that, in a trade war, everyone may lose.

Gender and its impact on different spheres of business is an important topic that is also raised in recent debates (Solevik et al, 2019; Gundry et al, 2014). This issue enlightens this topic in comparing developed and developing country contexts. The next article written by Riffat Faizan Adnan ul Haque, Antje Cockrill and John Aston enhances the body of knowledge by offering a qualitative in-depth understanding about the relationship between gender, management layers and economies of interest within one research framework. It is based on evidence collected from 91 interviews at different levels from firms operating in the logistics sector from Pakistan and Canada. Based on the in-depth qualitative analysis, this study suggests that that irrespective of the type of economy, female representation and a feminine style of leadership plays a significant role in the enhancement of the overall performances and competitiveness of firms operating in the logistic sector. The findings indicate that females play a pivotal role, enhancing culture by bringing unique social and cultural norms and attributes. Males exhibited a structured style while females demonstrated a flexible style of leadership.

The economies of developing countries often rest on natural resources (Fabricius et al., 2013). It is important to explore how the proper usage of resources can bring more value to the economic development of the countries. Such issues are addressed in the present volume. The fifth paper by Dastan Bamwesigye, Francis Nmadabuchukwu Akwari and Petra Hlaváčková investigates the usage of natural resources in Africa. This country is endowed with enormous forest resources, largely hardwood species. Over the years, demand for African hardwood and products has increased, thus contributing to the economic performance of particular nations. The goal of the study was to examine and explain the rela-

tionship between the contributions of selected forestry products, namely industrial round wood and non-coniferous, wood pulps and sawn wood, and the export performance of the forestry sectors overall in selected countries from Tropical Africa. The research carried out various diagnostic examinations grounded on pooled ordinary least-squares (OLS) residuals. The three wood products were found to have a vital influence on the overall export significance of the entire forestry sectors for the region. Industrial round wood was found to be positively significant in terms of export value. The study concludes with the statement that the forest sector in most Tropical African countries provides vital export value, some of which is not fully quantified. Certain policy tools are proposed to fully utilise the value of available resources, such as investment in public infrastructure, provision of incentives for foreign investors, and solid environment protection policy and implementation mechanisms to maintain the sustainability of forest resources.

To achieve sustainable economic development, regional and national policies and initiatives are crucial. The triple helix bottom line, however, underlines the importance of complex initiatives that might stimulate entrepreneurship and innovation activities in developing and transition economies (Kiryushin et al., 2013). This important topic is raised in this issue. The sixth paper by Janusz Pierzyna addresses the assessment of the economic effectiveness of the use of EU funds in the development of local economic activity zones in Poland. The research utilises an analysis of the literature, reports and statistical data as well as primary data in the form of a case study and interviews evaluating seven selected zones. The findings indicate that EU projects serving the development of economic activity zones show a high level of economic efficiency, which results mainly

from the high level of subsidies (85%). The development of zones generates socio-economic multiplier effects, which may be precisely measured only over a longer time period. Subsidies facilitate the creation of infrastructure, but are nonetheless only a basis for stimulating entrepreneurship. The study suggests that in order to elicit long-term effects, such projects should be complemented by economic promotion and efficient investor service by communes.

Finally yet importantly, an important problem in transition and developing countries is corruption. Individuals in transition economy countries have a high level of acceptance of corruptive behaviour. However, organisational culture and practices are changing, and the acceptance of corruption in business is dependent on the overall cultural and social norms of the society in question (Sauka and Chepurenska, 2017). Thus, raising these issues is important for both theoretical development and practical outcomes. The last article by Ivan Valdovinos, Mike Szymanski and Karina Grabowska revisits Husted's (1999) seminal article on the relationship between national culture dimensions and the perception of corruption. The authors retest his hypotheses using newly available measures of culture and go on to develop and test a follow-up hypothesis about the role of future orientation as an important predictor of the level of corruption. The article juxtaposes the results to the original ones and other key studies in corruption and culture literature (e.g. Seleim and Bontis, 2009). While the study confirmed the validity of some of Husted's (1999) findings, the authors found the effects of power distance on corruption to be directly opposed to Husted's findings. Also, the study revealed some additional effects of future orientation as a predictor of corruption levels in relation to previous studies. This study, combined with other research-

ers' findings, shows that while corruption is correlated with the level of economic development and government spending, its link to culture is very difficult to establish. It raises questions as to whether measures such as cultural distance are appropriate when transferring anticorruption practices. Instead, multinational corporations may need to refer to their managers' cultural cognition abilities and ethical leadership skills to navigate in the local corrupt environment.

The articles in this issue of *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia* provide us with valuable new insights into the specific context from developing or transition economies. We hope that this issue contributes to the development of theory and provides relevant insight for scholars, policy-makers and practitioners in CEE and developing countries.

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