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EDITORIAL

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Transformations in Business & Economics (TIBE) journal continues in providing a focused outlet for high quality research in the ever-expanding area of **Development Economics** in the field of Social Sciences and related disciplines. The field research should not be limited by any narrow conceptualisation of development economics, but embraces interdisciplinary and multi-facet approaches to *economic theory, business management, marketing, as well as general transformations in the economic, social-cultural, ecological, technological, competitive, demographic and political-legal environment*.

Therefore, we expect **original and authentic manuscripts, never published before in any format and not submitted to any other publishing institution**, which are based on fact-centred research to establish economic and business management regularities, where the theory is motivated by substantiated empirical findings, where disciplined application of economic principles is used to explain and predict the real-world behaviour of organisations, markets and industries. We will continue to seek for:

- **empirical studies**, which provide convincing and significant findings of fact. Careful establishment of an interesting or puzzling empirical regularity is of value to the field if the author has a convincing explanation for the phenomenon;
- **theoretical studies**, which stress relatively robust ideas, and combine theory with a sense of empirical magnitudes, presenting fresh viewpoints and theoretical perspectives, new literature overviews and concept classifications, where a systems' approach is a central focus of the research;
- **explanatory research studies** about a firm, an industry, or a business practice according to economic principles. Such a *case study* must go well beyond the purely descriptive by illuminating the ways in which industry practice and institutions can be understood in terms of economic principles. Factors that resist economic explanation also should be identified.

The current issue of TIBE presents guest and special papers of groups of scholars from Romania, United Kingdom. The authors investigate the influence of financial and institutional factors on business performance, exploring how organizations assess risk, manage resources, and navigate challenges related to accounting practices and access to credit.

The **guest paper** (*Mehmet Civelek, Lukas Durda, Jana Kljucnikova, Michal Cervinka*) investigates whether the impact of product, service, marketing, and organizational innovation – key components of innovation performance – on bank credit access varies based on the firms' country of origin. The findings revealed that innovation performance enhances bank credit access for Czech and Polish firms, but has no effect on Slovakian firms, while only marketing innovation influences credit access for Hungarian firms; these variations may be attributed to institutional factors, informal influences, and cultural differences.

The **regular paper** written by *Vasile Dinu, Lavinia Denisia Cuc, Dana Rad, Danusia Wysocki, Mioara Florina Pantea, Graziella Corina Batca-Dumitru*. Attention was drawn to the use of mixed research methods in order to formulate and validate the Bean Counter Scale for Romanian accounting professionals. The study revealed that this tool shows potential for assessing accountants' personality traits, supporting the creation of personalized learning paths, and gaining recognition from accounting organizations for inclusion in educational materials, thereby enhancing the training of future accountants. Additional multinational studies utilizing the Bean Counter Scale are recommended to further investigate.

The current issue of journal presents articles by groups of scholars from China, Iran, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Hungary, Vietnam, Romania, Poland, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Mongolia, and Lithuania.

All the accomplished researchers of this issue are divided into sections based on the analysis and conducted case studies. The first section is named “**USING ADVANCED ANALYTICS TO IMPROVE STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING**”, and these studies were carried out by such groups of scientists: *Jinming Zhou, Longlian Li and Shengnan Tao* (China), *Maziar Khoshsirafat and Seyed Meysam Mousavi* (Iran), *Edmundas Kazimieras Zavadskas and Jurgita Antucheviciene* (Lithuania), *Ognjen Radovic* (Serbia), *Vladan Martic, Milica Delibasic and Slavko Rakocevic* (Montenegro), *Yuntao Liu* (China), *Chengliang Wang* (China), *Reza Rostamzadeh and Mahdi Abdsharafat* (Iran), *Marko Nikic* (Montenegro), *Fakhri Bagirov* (Turkey), *Samer Khouri* (Slovak Republic), *Lei Fang, Xiaoming Jia and Xiaoxuan Wei* (China).

The “**INVESTIGATING THE INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN SUSTAINABILITY, GOVERNANCE, AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**” is argued by *Alberto Ruozzi Lopez, Carmen Paradinas Marquez and Jose Antonio Vicente Pascual* (Spain), *Jan Kubalek, Michal Kudej and Michal Erben* (Czech Republic), *Milica Nikic* (Montenegro), *Gintare Stankuniene, Irena Alebaite and Ingrida Griese* (Lithuania), *Jieqiong Wang, Xiao Zhang and Shichao Hu* (Taiwan), *Zhen Peng, Cheng Zhou and Feng Zhao* (China), *Bo Zhang and Xiaosong Zheng* (China), and these authors’ studies examine various aspects of sustainability, governance or sector challenges, focusing on the impact of external factors (environmental, regulatory or crisis-related) on business practices and decision-making.

The third platform of discussion is named “**NEW INSIGHTS ON SOCIAL COHESION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**”, and the authors’ (*Vasa Laszlo* (Hungary), *Altyn Ualtayeva, Saule A. Kaliyeva and Mukhtar Ualtayev* (Kazakhstan), *Peter Karacsony* (Slovakia), *Nguyen Thi Khanh Huyen* (Vietnam), *Laszlo Vasa* (Kazakhstan), *Nadezda Petru and Veronika Vecerova* (Czech Republic), *Martina Jakubcinova and Jaroslav Belas* (Slovenia), *Hend El Hassan* (Egypt), *Alexandra Horobet, Anca Gabriela Ilie, Diane Paula Corina Vancea and Rodica Milena Zaharia* (Romania), *Nicoleta-Ramona Dinu, Adina Titei, Irena Munteanu, Ioana-Claudia Dobre and Florin-Victor Jeflea* (Romania), *Chao Wei, Wenxuan Wei and Mingwei Li* (China)) works were focused on fresh perspectives – how fostering social ties and reducing inequality can enhance long-term economic performance and stability. Additionally, it was analysed the interplay between policies aimed at improving social cohesion. The authors used complex systems analysis in the field of on economic, social, or regulatory factors influencing different regions or sectors, from labour markets to SMEs, with an emphasis on empirical analysis and cross-country comparisons.

The last section “**TECHNOLOGICAL RELATEDNESS AND BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION: EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE**” gathered together such authors – *Joanna Kurowska-Pysz and Wioleta Gzowska-Kozyra* (Poland), *Sebastian Kot* (South Africa), *Yi-Hsin Lin, Kuancheng Huang and Feng-Jyh Lin* (Taiwan), *Xiang Lv, Tianshuo Ge, Yanyan Kong and Jixu Wei* (China), *Rui Huang and Yulian Weng* (China), *Mansour Alyahya* (Saudi Arabia), *Xin Gong, Jun Mu, Qihua Yin and Hao Cheng* (China), *Yuliyang Zhao* (Mongolia). The scholars are focused on an investigation and tried to uncover the importance of relationship between the technological capabilities of a business and its ability to undergo successful transformation. It examines how closely related technologies – either within a company’s existing technological portfolio or through strategic partnerships – contribute to business innovation and transformation processes.

A fruitful discussion on these selected articles is welcomed.

*Prof. Dr. (HP) Dalia Štreimikienė,
Editor-in-Chief*