

EDITORIAL

-----TRANSFORMATIONS IN -----
BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

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JEL classification: Y20.

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 guests and special papers of groups of scholars from Malaya and Lithuania. Their main research fields are related to education problem analysis, and their articles are based on various studies, quantitative data analysis, various literary sources. These papers discuss the problem of access or make recommendations related to the education issues.

The guest paper (*Muhammad Aftab and Izlin Ismail*) is concentrated on the issues of forming ICT based educational and sociodevelopment initiatives. It reveals the possibility of maximizing the inclusion of the poor in the mainstream system and making them capable to change their destiny. The special paper by *Arvydas Kregzde* and *Aleksas Pikturna* focuses on the funding reforms of higher education in Lithuania and discovers that the frequent changes of the funding system depend on the economic, demographic and political fluctuations in Lithuania.

The current issue of journal presents articles by groups of scholars from the Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Romania, Spain, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Malaya 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 "**Insights from the Leadership, Transformation and Management**", and these studies were carried out by such

authors: *Aurelija Stelmokiene, Aukse Endriulaitiene, Agota Giedre Raisiene* (Lithuania), *Adam Plachciak, Anetta Zielinska* (Poland). The “**Issues and Solutions in Different Industrial Sector**” argued by *Viktorija Cohen et al., Dalia Kriksciuniene* and *Virgilijus Sakalauskas, Regina Navickiene, Vilija Bite Fominiene et al.*, and *Nataliia Skopenko* and *Anastasiia Sakhnenko*, and the best practices from such countries as Lithuanian, Portugal, Ukraine were analysed and discussed. The third platform of discussion is named “**Factors Affecting Economic Development and Growth in Selected Countries**”, and the authors: *Dominik Stroukal, Daniel Słastny, Norbert Haydam et al., Jesus Lopez-Rodriguez* dealt with these factors. The last section “**Challenges of Financial Markets**” deals with financial markets and is presented by these researchers: *Boris Tusek* and *Povilas Aniuonas et al.*

A fruitful discussion on these selected articles is welcomed, because the fields of discussion are interesting, relevant and encouraging to read these actual papers.

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