

EDITORIAL

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The Contents Review

The articles in this special issue of the prestigious *Transformations in Business & Economics* journal address aspects belonging to the broad area of sustainable development.

The importance of sustainable development finds its coverage both in scientific literature (through a wide range of theoretical and empirical studies) and in policy debates. Considered as a whole, in all its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental or by components, the idea of putting the principle of sustainability at the core of our actions is present in every European and international development strategy.

In our opinion, sustainable development is, at the same time, one of the most popular, exciting and generous topics to research and debate on but also a very confusing one since, being so complex and addressing so many problems of our societies, consensus is difficult to reach.

This special issue has derived from the editors' proposal to analyze several socio-economic and business aspects of sustainability since it is their firm belief that, even though much has been debated and written about sustainable development, there are still a lot of questions to be answered and the complexity of this concept makes it far from being obsolete.

Important, engaging and noteworthy aspects of sustainability are discussed in this issue and they are grouped in four main topics, as follows:

- Relationship between activities of different industries and regional economy.
- The economic transformation: varieties of political-economic development in Romania.
- Improving education outcomes for social and economic wellness.
- Embrace interconnectedness to solve sustainability challenges in Romania.

The first part of this special issue focuses on the activity of different industries and business formation. The second part is dedicated to the economic transformation in the former communist countries, in general, and in Romania, in particular. The third section of this issue brings forward the role of education and its outcomes in economic development. The articles in the last section bring an integrated perspective on sustainability challenges in Romania.

All in all, we discover a wide range of issues, interdisciplinary approaches, theoretical and empirical contributions, aimed at enriching the existing research and at shedding new light on some aspects related to sustainability: from several examples of different industries to the institutional environment of new business formation and economic development in the European Union. Other dimensions of development such as youth employment, the quality of higher education, decreasing poverty are also discussed in an attempt to capture as much as possible of the complexity of economic and social realities.

This special issue gathers the research interests of renowned professors and researchers of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration within Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi. Also, reputed professors and researchers, friends and colleagues from other prestigious universities in Romania and from abroad, welcomed this challenge.

The editors wish to express their gratitude to all authors for accepting the invitation to disseminate their research results in this issue and to the team of Transformations in Business & Economics journal for providing this opportunity and for ensuring excellent cooperation.

It is our hope that the papers in his issue will be inspiring for further research and policy measures.

We wish you all an engaging reading and fruitful debates.

Associate Professor Andreea - Oana Iacobuta, PhD
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi
Romania

&

Professor Gabriel-Claudiu Mursa, PhD
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi
Romania