

EDITORIAL

-----TRANSFORMATIONS IN -----
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The Contents Review

Business and economic reality amazingly faces dynamic changes in almost every discipline of theory and business practice. Innovative solutions, new concepts, and brilliant ideas frequently arise unexpectedly at the intersection of the mentioned areas. According to this trend, the authors preparing the presented issue of the *Transformations in Business & Economics* (TIBE) journal have combined various perspectives of both theoretical and empirical studies conducted within the selected fields of economy and business sectors. Therefore, this publication consists of fourteen interdisciplinary research articles – prepared mostly by the researchers from the Wroclaw University of Economics and Business in Poland, and researchers from such countries as Malaysia, Montenegro, Romania, Turkey, China, Spain, and Lithuania. The discussed papers often introduce new frameworks and approaches to traditional economic problems and present noteworthy results of conducted research processes, case studies or theoretical inferences.

Altogether, articles included in this issue refer to a wide range of issues and are located within the fields of economic and organizational development as well as business management and effectiveness. The collection of articles in this TIBE issue has addressed both recent developments in the realms given and some issues revisited through a different theoretical or methodological lens leading to some new insights into the subject matter. The articles also consider several emergent research opportunities that highlight the potential value of applying specific approaches to the study of organizations, networks, and economy. Considering thematic homogeneity, we have grouped the articles into four consistent sections that concern the following topics:

- I. inter-organizational networks, especially in the context of their transformative power within selected business areas,
- II. processes of clusters development and their impact evaluation,
- III. creation of practical assessment models dedicated to effectiveness identification,
- IV. case studies from different market sectors regarding various economic issues.

We believe that all the above-mentioned parts of this TIBE edition will be highly influential, up-to-date, and applicable for contemporary organizations and managers, which was, in fact, one of the main reasons for presented articles elaboration. Hence, in the following sections, we review and present a summary of the articles included in this TIBE issue.

The first section includes five papers covering the issues related to inter-organizational networks as a modern form of organizational and business activity. The first article explains the term of Business Ecosystem Identity (BEI) – located at the inter-organizational level, comparing it to the organizational identity construct (which represents an organizational level). The second paper aims at identifying the innovation

potential throughout digital transformation projects with the indication of potential problems with the support of such methods as Social Network Analysis (SNA) and Organizational Network Analysis (ONA). The third one presents the results of empirical studies – both quantitative and qualitative – oriented to the intensity of organizational relationships (in the view of network embeddedness), and on the other hand, to the organizational strategy flexibility (called strategic flexibility). The fourth article presents the importance of the leader's role under inter-organizational circumstances, especially emphasizing leader's competencies and skills inside start-ups. The last paper in this section, based on the inductive approach, identifies the factors influencing the effectiveness of the relationships within the inter-organizational oncological network in Poland.

The second section in this TIBE issue consists of three papers, related to the cluster development subject. The authors of the first article propose to consider a new perspective for explaining and understanding the character and intensity of orientation towards cooperation, competition, and coopetition among interrelated entities operating in selected sectors, combined with the sectors' maturity level. The connection between transregional cluster policies and the process of European Union economic integration, presenting issues related to the Europe 2020 strategy, reviewing the Member States cluster policies and discussing the possibility for the common cluster policy implementation within the entire EU is the focus of the next paper. Finally, theoretical considerations about the widely understood salience of clusters under Industry 4.0 conditions are presented, supplemented by the case study analysis introducing the concept of Industry 4.0 cluster in Poland.

The third section contains also three articles – related to practical models of effectiveness identification. The papers included in this section introduce and accurately describes the term of scalability (precisely the Scalability 4.0), linking it to the Industry 4.0 features, indicating basic manifestations and providing appropriate recommendations and possible solutions for companies. In the next paper the scholars focus on estimating the manufacturing process cost using so-called activity-based costing. Finally, the research results of the internal control of services performance conducted among service providers in BPOs and SSCs are presented in the third article.

The last (fourth) section includes three articles as well, referring to selected economic issues described in the form of different case studies focused on selected market sectors. The first paper contains the study of social economy aspects from the perspective of agricultural producers from the northeast region of Romania. The next paper raises the problem of bank competition's impact on the risk of stock price crash– authenticated by the evidence from the Chinese market. In the last part of this section, the third article depicts the analysis conducted in sports centres on school campuses to identify gender-based differences in dropouts.

Summarizing, we hope that the collection of articles in this issue of TIBE will contribute to broaden knowledge in the examined research areas, will initiate further research processes within those fields and will be a useful guide for solving vital, practical problems of modern organizations and their managers – both in local and international settings. We believe that the research results presented in this issue will add an impetus to develop novel ideas and research concepts advancing relevant knowledge in the field. We also hope that readers will respond to the challenge of exploring presented topics further by considering some of the future directions suggested in the following articles.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge all those people and organizations who supported to develop this TIBE issue. First, we would like to thank the TIBE editorial team for providing us with the opportunity to join a growing community of scholars committed to advancing research at all. Secondly, we would like to express our gratitude to all the authors who submitted their articles. Third, we would like to extend our gratitude to all our reviewers.

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