

## Editorial

This issue opens a new chapter in the development process of our journal. In the period of 2013-2015 our quarterly has published only thematic issues. From 2016 onwards, we are starting to publish increasingly more general issues with a dominant topic (covered in the “**Thematic Articles**” section), followed by “**Other Articles**” section. This change was motivated by the growing interest of the academic community in EBER as a platform for publication and research results dissemination, reflected by the continuous increase in the number of submissions outside the scope of thematic issues.

The main topic for the current issue is the Economics of Higher Education. Higher education systems and higher education institutions in Europe, especially in Central and Eastern European countries, are currently facing several challenges. The origins of these problems can be found in the post 1989 period, as the former socialist countries have experienced a massive expansion and growth in the number of higher education institutions in the last two decades (Kwiek, 2007). As the result, the dynamic increase in the number of students, the emergence of private institutions and quantitative expansion of public academic centers could be observed. It is sometimes said that such developments have been a crucial factor of relative success of several transitional economies (Surdej, 2015). But now it becomes clear that these systems face hard challenges due to demographic change, limited public resources and increased international competition.

Therefore, this issue aims to address a number of these challenges by adopting a wide range of theoretical and empirical approaches.

The thematic section, including seven articles, starts with the conceptual papers: Łukasz Sułkowski in his article entitled *Accountability of University: Transition of Public Higher Education* discusses the concept of accountability in terms of the public and private universities management. Then the paper entitled *Historical and Theoretical Framework of the Relation between Higher Education Institutions and the Process of Regional Economic Development*, authored by Alexandru Cristian Fotea and Corneliu Guțu, describes the evolution in the relationship between higher education institutions and their socio-economic environment. Then the two empirical papers with a qualitative approach follow. Hanna Nowak in her paper entitled *The Role of the Polish Higher Education System in the Development of Entrepreneurship* investigates the perceived impact of entrepreneurship education in Poland. The next empirical paper entitled *Entrepreneurship Education at Secondary Level in Transition Economies: A Case of Poland*, authored by Tomasz Rachwał, Sławomir Kurek and Marta Boguś corresponds with the former one, by analyzing changes in entrepreneurship education in Poland at the lower and upper-secondary schools after the reform of the education system of 1999.

The thematic section includes also two research papers with the dominant quantitative approach. Lesław Rządziński and Anna Sworowska in their article entitled *Parametric*

and Non-parametric Methods for Efficiency Assessment of State Higher Vocational Schools in 2009-2011 investigate the technical efficiency of this very specific area of higher education in Poland. Then Krzysztof Wach and Liwiusz Wojciechowski in their paper entitled *Entrepreneurial Intentions of Students in Poland in the View of Ajzen's Theory of Planned Behaviour* analyze the determinants of entrepreneurial intentions among students from seven universities from Krakow, one of the most important academic centers in Central and Eastern Europe. The final paper from the thematic section entitled *Trends in the International Academic Migration: A Case of Spain*, authored by Antonio Mihi-Ramirez, discusses the challenges and opportunities stemming from the increasing international mobility of students.

The issue contains also three off-the-topic papers (Other Articles section). The first one off-the-topic *The Determinants of Sustainable Entrepreneurship of Immigrants in Lapland: An Analysis of Theoretical Factors*, authored by Nafisa Yeasmin, discusses the perspectives of the development of immigrant-run businesses in more peripheral and sparsely populated regions. Then Ghulam Mustafa and Rune Lines in their article off-the-topic *The Emergence and Effects of Culturally Congruent Leadership: Current Status and Future Developments* carry out an extensive and systematic review of the cross-cultural leadership literature and suggest avenues for future research developments. Finally, Jan Brzozowski and Marco Cucculelli in their paper entitled *Proactive and Reactive Attitude to Crisis: Evidence from European Firms* investigate the reaction of the companies to the recent economic crisis (2007-2009), taking into the account the concept of organizational learning (Cucculelli & Bettinelli, 2015).

Thus, we strongly believe that this issue offers an interesting blend of papers that combine the economic aspects of higher education in Central and Eastern Europe, but also immigrant entrepreneurship, cross-cultural leadership and international entrepreneurship.

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*Thematic Issue Editors*

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