Editorial

Nowadays, Social Entrepreneurship attracts the attention of both academics and practitioners, as it is supported by the growth of the theoretical literature about the topic, as well as by the rise of new scientific and not scientific communities (Zahra et al., 2009; Chell, 2007). However, in spite of this, social entrepreneurship is still a misunderstood phenomenon, challenged by competing definitions and conceptual frameworks, gaps in the research literature, and limited empirical data (Mair & Marti, 2006; Nicholls, 2006). As Cukier, Trenholm, Carl and Gekas (2011) show, the available studies about social entrepreneurship lack for consistency in definitions and the objects of focus, as well as for rigorous comparative analysis. In a content analysis of 567 unique articles concerning ‘social entrepreneur’ or ‘social entrepreneurship’, the authors highlight the existing overlapping between and among different levels of analysis, including studies of individuals (micro), studies of organisations and processes (meso), and broader studies of the economic, political and societal context (macro). They also found that the majority of the journal articles focused are more theoretically grounded than empirically based. Referring to its meaning, definitions of Social Entrepreneurship are often vague, covering a wide variety of activities and representing different models worldwide (Hoogendoon & Hartog, 2011; Kerlin, 2009; Nicholls & Cho, 2006). The multiplicity of actors involved in innovative and social activities, as well as the variety of motives which lie upon their adoption (Baccarani & Pedrollo, 2015) also improve the complexity of the phenomenon. Therefore, the need for a better understanding of social innovation processes in different contexts (e.g. Canestrino, Bonfanti, & Oliaee, 2015) was elicited, thus the present call for articles was announced.

According to the above considerations, this special issue includes two sections, namely the Thematic Articles and Other Articles. The Thematic Articles section consist of five articles. In the first article Marieshka Barton, Renata Schaefer and Sergio Canavati ask the question whether to be or not to be a social entrepreneur, and investigate the process of motivational needs influencing the intent of potential future social entrepreneurs amongst American business students. The next article, prepared by Paul Agu Igwe, Afam Icha-Ituma and Nnamdi O. Madichie and entitled ‘The Evaluation of CSR and Social Value Practices Among UK Commercial and Social Enterprises’, gives comments about social entrepreneurial intentions, which allows to explain ways of stimulating potential entrepreneurs to create a social enterprise. The next article is about the dimensions of the quality of work life (QWL) investigated in the Nigerian hotel industry by Nguwasen Kwahar and Akuraun Shadrach Iyortsuun. The authors pointed out the underlying variables for QWL for hotel employees. The fourth article written by Mohamed Mousa discusses responsible leadership among female pharmacists in the Egyptian health sector and shows the relationship between this type of leadership and work life balance. The fifth article by Agnieszka Postuła and Julita Majczyk deals with entrepreneurial competences of managers and leaders. This research article finally suggests that ‘managers usually follow imposed goals, while leaders are expected to create their own directions of organisational development’.
The second section – Other Articles consists of five articles. It starts with a conceptual article arranged by J. Hanns Pichler who reviews the theoretical and empirical literature about SMEs and their role in business environment. After that, Erik Šoltés and Mária Vojtková evaluate the relationship between work intensity and socio-economic characteristics of Slovakia’s households. The subsequent article presents determinants of regional exports base, panel analysis for Spanish and Polish regions. Tomasz Brodzicki, Laura Márquez-Ramos and Stanislaw Umiński analyse NUTS-2 level within the period 2005-2014. In the penultimate article by Marta Götz, Barbara Jankowska, Anna Matysek-Jędrzych and Katarzyna Mroczek-Dąbrowska, the governmental change and foreign direct investment flows to Poland and Hungary in the years 2010-2016 are investigated, basing on databases of UNCTAD. In the last article, Sławomir Dorocki studies changes in the market of two and three-wheeled motor vehicles in European countries between 2001 and 2014, finding that, in most countries, the PTW market was affected not only by the financial crisis, but also by legislative changes, the ageing of population, the processes of urbanization and increasing professional activity in developing countries.

Rossella Canestrino  
Marek Ćwiklicki  
Pierpaolo Magliocca  
Thematic Issue Editors

REFERENCES


The copyediting and proofreading of articles in English is financed in the framework of contract No. 799/P-DUN/2017 by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland committed to activities aimed at science promotion.