

Guest Editorial

Dear readers,

Research on CEE-China relationships has been largely neglected in mainstream literature. This special issue sheds light on a number of cross-cultural aspects of the CEE managerial research area: how to integrate and develop CEE-China cooperation in research and education; how to address common topics related to different cultures; how to understand both the differences as well as the many similarities the new generations are bringing to the globalised world; or how to find the right answers to the development of management and leadership whether it is being developed in Slovenia or China? There are more topics this special issue is raising which contribute to managerial and educational development. We would like to offer our sincere gratitude to all the contributors to the special issue. Real progresses can be brought to this world when research and education go hand in hand – but they always need champions!

There could not be a better topic to start this special issue than “Sustainability – our common language?” by S. Penger, V. Dimovski and J. Peterlin. They show how important dialogue/communication and community-building is in both Slovenian and Chinese cultural contexts; the authors propose that sustainability should represent a common frame of communication and recommend the development of sustainable leadership at the institutional level.

The research on young-generation work values of business students by N. Zupan, R. Kaše, M. Raškovič, K. Yao and C. Wang reveals the importance of national culture for work values but, as the authors find, the national culture is not the dominant one. Gender, regional cultural differences, individual items (e.g. continuous learning, fun vs. interesting work, freedom...) seem to be important determinants of work values, too. Yet, the young generation is also a more “global” generation, providing employers and educational institutions with many new challenges.

The paper entitled “Integrating stakeholders’ multiple intelligences into the leadership development of a cross-cultural entity: Evidence from the CI Ljubljana” shows the relevance of individual differences for understanding cultural orientation. The authors combine two theoretical approaches – the theory of multiple intelligences and sustainable leadership development theory. This is demonstrated through the case of Confucius Institute of Ljubljana, representing a bridge between Chinese and Slovenian cultures. This explorative qualitative study is based on 30 interviews which give interesting grounds for further longitudinal research.

A. Pearce and R. Quan contribute a report on research on international staff mobility in higher education in a cross-cultural context, a very important instrument for enhancing the internationalisation of the HE area, including CEE countries. The finding that an entrepreneurial intra-EHEA strategy cannot simply be transferred to a Sino-EHEA context provides an insight into developing further strategy on staff mobility, supported by summary recommendations and suggestions for how to approach it.

To conclude, this special issue presents not only the work of those research champions who have successfully brought together two different cultures and interesting research topics in management and beyond, but also how much we need to explore, research and share to learn and understand cross-cultural differences and similarities. We often see many different worlds and markets around us, but from an international business and management perspective there is just one – a glocal one – i.e., both local and global, connecting and integrating us irrespective of in which region or culture of the world we conduct research or teach.

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