

## Editorial

Dear readers,

it is a tragedy witnessing that the nightmare of war has returned to Central and Eastern Europe through the Russian attack on the Ukraine. We strongly condemn this act of aggression against a free nation, and we stand united with all colleagues currently working at Ukrainian universities under these conditions. We remain convinced that the pursuit of critical thinking, researching and discussing the societies and economies of the region is our main contribution against any kind of terror and suppression. Critical analyses about and from Central and Eastern Europe are more relevant than ever, especially in the wake of fake news, state propaganda, and the horrors of this war. This primary objective of our journal is also evident in this issue, which brings together studies from seven different countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

In the first article, *Ágnes Borgulya, Gábor Balogh and Ákos Jarjabka* discuss internal communication within industrial clusters, exploring whether there is a correspondence between the success of a cluster and the communication practices of its management. Using case studies and interviews undertaken in three distinctive clusters in Southwest Hungary, they found that in the two successful ones, cluster managements are able to manage communication effectively and ensure that communication supports their goals and the implementation of their strategies. In these cases, communication management organization planned and established all dimensions of the communication consciously: channels, content, frequency, method and style of communication, all of which have an impact on trust.

In the second article, *Marie Bohata, Anna Putnova, Martina Rasticova, Pavel Seknicka, Monika Szurmanova, and Andrea Cebakova* present the results of the first survey of Czech civil servants specifically targeting the domain of public ethics. Their findings show that an ethical code is the most widespread, but often the only ethics instrument implemented in Czech public administration, although it is not used effectively. Furthermore, the results confirm a positive but weak influence of the number of ethics resources on the perception of the existence of ethical problems, and a slight correlation between a higher number of resources and the perception of positive ethics development in the workplace. This empirical research illustrates that ethics has been a low-priority agenda in Czech public administration and that enhancing ethical standards will be a long-term process.

The (third) article, by *Tanja Živojinović and Nikola Zornić*, explores main drivers which influence consumers' decisions related to the usage of a sharing economy service: trust, interaction, and experience. The findings and qualitative cluster analysis provide an insight into the behaviour of sharing economy cus-

tomers, which might help sharing economy providers to thoroughly analyse target users in order to meet their preferences. The proposed approach is tested through a small-scale experiment for the peer-to-peer carsharing service in Serbia.

The fourth article contains a cross-national comparative study conducted by *Viktorija Ilieva, Aleksandra Janeska-Iliev, Stojan Debarliev, Leonid Nakov, Ljubomir Drakulevski and Thomas Brudermann*. Targeting entrepreneurs from Austria and North Macedonia, the results suggest that most of them exhibit overconfidence (and some, underconfidence) with regard to the accuracy of their knowledge. Significant differences were observed between the bias scores and confidence scores of the Austrian and Macedonian respondents, but not the accuracy scores. Moreover, the so-called “hard-easy effect,” which indicates that individuals display overconfidence when answering hard questions, but underconfidence when answering easy questions, was observed among the Austrian but not among the Macedonian entrepreneurs.

The fifth article, by *Alisher Tleubayev, Ihtiyor Bobojonov, Taras Gagalyuk and Thomas Glauben*, is dedicated to Russian agroholdings. The authors utilise panel data of 203 corporate Russian agri-food enterprises for the years between 2012 and 2017 and provide new empirical evidence that indicates a significant positive impact of agroholding affiliation on financial performance. Further analysis reveals that this positive effect might be attributed to agroholding affiliates’ better access to capital, efficient management, and stimulating executive compensation systems.

The sixth article, by *Mehmet Ali Turkmenoglu, Berat Cicek and Duygu Acar Erdur*, addresses the consequences of work alienation in both the private and the public sector of Turkey. Drawing on data from 310 public and private sector employees and middle managers in Turkey, they found that leader-member exchange negatively affects work alienation, and self-regulation mediates this relationship while tenure has a moderating effect on the relationship between leader-member exchange and self-regulation. Multi-group analysis results further demonstrate a higher impact of leader-member exchange on self-regulation in the public sector than in the private sector.

Last but not least, in their article, *Vlora Berisha and Iliriana Miftari* deal with the relationship between the individual characteristics of the CEO/CFO and the usage of management accounting techniques (MAT). Their empirical analysis is based on a survey of 154 small, medium, and large-sized Kosovar manufacturing enterprises. The results of the study showed that the experience of CFOs and CEOs had a positive relationship with the frequency of MATs usage. Positive connections for the estimated coefficients showed that the higher

the involvement of accountants in strategic decision-making processes, the more frequent the use of managerial accounting techniques.

Let's hope that peace and cooperation are restored soon!

*Thomas Steger*