

Editorial Introduction

This issue of *Research in Economics and Business: Central and Eastern Europe* includes four empirical research papers on different topics from Central and Eastern European countries taking an international perspective.

In the first paper, based on a systematic literature review, Madhav Govind and Merle Küttim have explored channels, motivations, activities and outcomes, and factors influencing university-industry international knowledge transfer (U-IKT) and how this relates to the internationalisation of R&D, innovation systems and higher education. The paper contributes to the existing body of knowledge by creating an integrated framework for understanding U-IKT.

The second paper by Laima Gerlitz presents the development of a design management model for SMEs based on the implementation of a design intervention programme using two regional SME cases and applying a process-based design intervention. The resulting model expands the potential of design integration in SMEs and may motivate SMEs to participate in design support programmes to improve their performance.

The third paper by Eunice Omolola Olaniyi and Marti Viirmäe examines the economic impact of environmental regulations on a maritime fuel production company based on a case study of Viru Keemia Grupp (VKG), which is of particular national importance to the Estonian economy, especially in Estonia's eastern region. The findings show that some maritime companies are struggling under the consequences of change in maritime fuel demand due to sulphur emission regulations because investments associated with compliance are high and risky. The findings also revealed how this regulation could pose a significant challenge to one of the objectives of the EU regulation for sustainable growth.

The fourth paper explores how to support student propensity to select an entrepreneurial career via entrepreneurship education. One of the solutions relies on the development of the metacognitive abilities of students. The article provides a practical holistic proposal for how metacognitive abilities can be developed systematically through entrepreneurship courses.

The authors of the articles considered for this issue are from Central and Eastern Europe as well as further afield. The rate of acceptance for articles submitted for the current issue of the journal was 32%. We are grateful to all the authors who submitted papers to our journal, and would especially like to thank the external reviewers for their kind assistance to the Editorial Board in the article review process.

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On behalf of the Editorial Board,

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