



Guest Editor's Foreword

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The role of knowledge in the process of value creation has been rather apparent for quite some time now. Nevertheless, its ever growing importance means that it is worth studying it in real-time and repeatedly. Paul M. Romer, one of the laureates of the 2018 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, stated as long ago as in 1986 that the endogenous accumulation of knowledge would yield economic growth (Romer 1986).

Europe belongs to the developed part of the world but there are some challenges the continent is facing in this respect. European economic actors are taking various positions in global value creation – not always the top ones, although there are positive examples as well. Also, Europe has lately been challenged by emerging economies that are quickly stepping upwards the knowledge, technology and innovation ladders.

This volume targets the wide topic of the knowledge-based economy in Europe, and discusses its selected issues from a multitude of aspects. All papers included in this special issue relate to the main topic in some way. We can first find a conceptualising paper on business intelligence, competitive intelligence and knowledge management that may help businesses and scholars to better understand their essence, relations, and impact on business success. The paper is then followed by three studies discussing various business-related aspects of the knowledge-based economy in Europe: firstly, one examines the networking of family businesses considered as an essential way of constant, quasi in-built knowledge-sharing. The next one focusses on the drivers of new product development in a comparative perspective (i.e. comparing Finland and China), while the last one analyses the growth management of service-oriented micro-enterprises in sparsely populated areas. The last two papers of this special issue focus on the higher education sector as an essential part of the knowledge-based economy: we can read about the components of effective knowledge management in higher education partnerships, as well as a case study on the cultural intelligence of students as one area of human intelligence.

All the papers included here were presented at the MakeLearn & TIIM 2018 international conference titled 'Integrated Economy and Society: Diversity, Creativity and Technology,' organised in Naples (Italy) on 16–18 May 2018. They have in fact been selected from a rather wide pool of submitted papers, and have undergone a double blind peer-review process before

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publication. The guest editor hereby expresses her thanks and appreciation to the authors, the reviewers, and the journal editorship for the smooth and fruitful cooperation resulting in this volume. Lectori salutem!

References

Romer, P.M. (1986). Increasing returns and long run growth. *Journal of Political Economy*, 94(5), 1002–1037.

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