



Guest Editor's Foreword

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What does education, industry, business and society need for a viable and successful future? The actual mega-trend of digitization and linked issues such as data management and privacy or easiness of access to technologies have a strong impact on what indeed is needed. In the context of digitization also the pressure for agility increases, i.e. the capability to adapt quickly and adequately to changes in e.g. the market or society. Organizations as well as individuals have to understand themselves as steadily learning entities, respectively persons, and have to act accordingly. Learning and knowledge are becoming again more important because they are the base to deal successfully with these challenges. Accordingly, papers in this Special Issue address challenges in a field which I might call management and role of data and learning in the era of digitization.

The authors of the first paper introduce artificial intelligence to the emotional intelligence model. The blend of artificial and emotional intelligence shall support strategic decisions in organizations. The relevance of the model is illustrated by using the US-retail giant Best Buy as an example. The second paper considers the unequal distribution of digital technologies and its impact on economic performance across countries (EU and non-EU). The basic assumption is that digital technologies lead to digital dividends which impact economic growth positively. In paper three the concept of schools as learning organizations in the Romanian educational system is discussed on a theoretical level. The authors argue that such a concept is needed due to an environment shaped by constant changes in society, technologies and trade. On the basis of a structural equation modelling and the bootstrapping method paper no. 4 examines the mediating role of skills application in the relationship between learning and continuous improvement in a knowledge-intensive company. The author's aim is to contribute to the understanding of the effects of investments in training and development in institutions. The fifth paper focuses on the construction sector. It states that the life-cycle of building objects, i.e. the needs during design, construction and the use-phase are not acknowledged effectively today, a bigger picture is missing. The paper therefore aims to form the pre-requisites for managing construction object related data adequately and to consider literature to gain the bigger picture and more effectiveness. The sixth paper consid-

ers the European General Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). These institutions have to reassess the processing of personal data. Based on literature and design science guidelines the authors provide consolidated recommendations and requirements to GDPR as well as an instrument to help HEIs to raise their GDPR awareness.

All submitted and selected papers of this Special Issue were presented at the MakeLearn & TIIM 2019 international conference held in Piran (Slovenia) on 15–17 May. They have undergone a double-blind review process and two rounds of revision. I would like to thank to all authors and especially also to all the reviewers for their constructive and focussed efforts in this process which enabled and supported the advancement of the papers. Moreover, I want to thank the Editor-in-Chief, Kristijan Breznik, for the opportunity to be a Guest Editor and for his trust and guidance.

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