
Editorial Foreword

Welcome to the 13th volume of the Review of Applied Socio-Economic Research!

It is an invitation to a new exciting journey through concepts and ideas together with authors from various countries who joined forces to an ultimate goal: to serve science and research. The topics range from social media, demographic issues, innovation and productivity to public administration, financial aspects and interesting traditions, covering a wide spectrum of interests.

A special word should be said about an article nominated among the first three runner-up articles of the research competition European Microfinance Network (EMN) Research Award 2017 – *Romanian credit unions – self-organising for financial education and inclusion*, by Ancuta Vamesu and Cristina Barna (<http://www.emnconference.org/index.php/awards-2017?layout=edit&id=207>), about the role of the Romanian credit union sector in combating financial exclusion and delivering financial education.

On the other hand, we have the privilege of publishing in this issue of our review a selection of other exceptional articles that I am happy to recommend below.

Jana Gašparíková deals with the new requirements in a time of austerity and the pressure on local political leaders, on the mayors in particular and the need of adopting new ways of working in the Slovak Republic. From Israel, Ayal Kimhi and Sarit Menahem-Carmi raises the issue of the dependence of rural income on urban centers. Professor Benjamin George from Utah University, USA, proposes a comparison between the use of a social networking site and a traditional discussion board in facilitating communication within an introduction to landscape architecture course. Two distinguished authors from Italy, Anna Maria Palazzo and Roberto Fantaccione, investigate the impact that a possible increase in fertility rates and the control of immigration have on population stationarity. A team of researchers from Italy and Greece, Marco Zitti, Efstathios and Lucqa Salvati, propose an interpretation of Mediterranean urbanities based on socioeconomic traits. From Jordan, Najm A. Najm and Alaa K. Manasrah elaborate upon the concept of *talent management* in a case study upon Jordanian banks. Aleksandra Skorupinska proposes an evaluation of information and communication technologies (ICT), organisational practices, internationalization, innovation and human capital in a sample of Polish companies and Ulrika Söderlind, from Sweden, takes a peek into eating traditions from Georgia.

Enjoy the ride!

Ruxandra Vasilescu, PhD

Editor in chief