

Editor's Letter

"Be thankful to your competitors for keeping you alert"
(Tomas Bata)

Dear readers,

Let us introduce the second issue of the ninth volume of the Journal of Competitiveness (2017). This issue is multidisciplinary, being comprised of scientific articles especially from the fields of finance, business environment, design management, macroeconomics, microeconomics, and lean management. You can find contributions from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The first paper focuses comparison the development level of digital economy in Visegrad countries at regional level (NUTS 1).

The next paper investigates whether attributes of corporate governance affect decisions on capital structure of listed companies in Sri Lanka. The sample of the study consisted of 138 non-financial listed companies for five-year period from 2009 to 2013.

The third paper assesses the effectiveness of microfinance on household income, expenditure and savings in Bangladesh. It was revealed that the level of education plays an important and statistically significant role in increasing the household income, expenditure and savings in analyzed country.

The fourth contribution examines the opinions of entrepreneurs from SMEs in Slovakia on the payment discipline issue and its consequences, including the risk of insolvency and lowered competitiveness, and to compare the results in terms of the defined social groups.

The main goal of the fifth article is to investigate the evolution of the opinions of managers regarding a design and its influence on the financial performance (generally, increases in revenue, sales or brand value) of the company.

The sixth paper analyses the educational self-assessment of Hungarian under-graduate business students, focusing primarily on the concept of accuracy as students predict and evaluate their own accountancy performance in traditional and digital (Moodle) examinations.

The seventh paper presents the practical use of the lean approach in the Nyíregyháza plant of LEGO. It was examined the background of lean thinking (employees' background knowledge, commitment, co-worker relations, motivation, problem solving and work environment).

The last paper focuses on the macroeconomic analysis of production, export, import and investment in machine tools in the Czech Republic in the context of the initiative of Industry 4.0. Machine tools (MT) are among traditional industries in the Czech Republic and the industry has an innovative and growth potential.

We would like to thank members of the editorial staff, peer reviewers and members of the editorial board for preparing this issue, and we are looking forward to our further cooperation.

On behalf of the journal's editorial staff,
Assoc. Prof. David Tuček, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief