

Editorial for the ECIC Special Issue of the Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management

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In this special issue of the Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management (EJKM) it is our pleasure to introduce to you a selection of the most topical and insightful papers which were presented at the recent 6th European Conference on Intellectual Capital ECIC 2014. The conference this year was host by the Institute of Industrial Engineering and Management, Faculty of Materials Science and Technology in Trnava, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava in Trnava, Slovakia.

As co-chairs of the conference and members of the organising committee it was with great satisfaction that we had the opportunity to meet individuals from across the Knowledge Management community. In particular the presenters who provided us with the latest research and introduced a wide range of academic and professional approaches. Also to the audience members who added to active discussions regarding the recent developments and the outlook for the future of intellectual capital and knowledge management.

We would now like to take this opportunity to introduce a range of articles which have been selected for this special issue of the EJKM. The chosen articles, in our opinions accurately reflect the diversity of content and current trends in the intellectual capital and knowledge management areas. Moreover, the articles successfully pose topical questions and outline fundamental areas for future research. As a result, the articles not only clearly illustrate the current state of the art in the field but they also contribute to defining the future knowledge management agenda.

During the 6th ECIC conference, 122 abstracts were received. After the double blind, peer review process there were 42 academic papers, 8 PhD papers and 1 Masters research paper published in the Conference Proceedings. As co-chairs, our professional research interests are in the cross-disciplinary areas of intercultural/multicultural competences and performance management. Therefore it was particularly satisfying to observe the truly global reach of the conference which clearly illustrates that knowledge management remains highly relevant within an increasingly globalised landscape.

During the conference authors from some 21 different countries presented their research, including participants from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Lithuania, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, USA, and the UK.

Articles included within the ECIC Special Issue

In the first article, **Klaus Bruno Schebesch, Eduardo Tomé and Horațiu Șoim** adopt a cross regional approach to intellectual capital formation, drawing on their own past research which characterises the features of cross border regions located in the south (between Spain and Portugal) and in the East (between Hungary and Romania). The authors suggest that whilst urban centres are widely renowned for IC creation, in contrast, border regions are areas of hidden potential.

In the second article, **Marcin Relich, Krzysztof Witkowski, Sebastian Saniuk and Paweł Kuźdowicz**, focus on the issues of measuring intellectual capital in the context of new product development (NPD). The article highlights the fact that intellectual capital is often difficult to measure, however the authors successfully propose a systematic and practical methodology adopting a fuzzy logic approach to evaluate each intellectual capital dimension.

In the third article, written by **Dagmar Cagáňová, Miloš Čambál, Katarína Stachová and Zdenko Stacho** the importance of organisational learning is highlighted as a key driver of innovation and performance enhancement. In a wide-ranging study, respondents from 340 organisations in Slovakia were selected for analysis and the subsequent research proposes recommendations for the enhancement of organisational learning practices.

In the fourth article written by **Ute Vanini and Saskia Bochert** investigate the issue of whether knowledge management maturity models can be applied on a corporate level. The research aims to address the fundamental key issue of which level of knowledge management application is effective and efficient for a company.

Taina Savolainen , Palmira Lopez-Fresno and Mirjami Ikonen, in the fifth article address the highly topical issue of trust within workplace relationships. The article studies the notion of the trust-communication dyad and presents qualitative findings regarding trust violation and breach.

The sixth article written by **Jaromira Vaňová and Zdenka Gyurák Babel'ová** draws correlations between corporate culture and key business performance indicators. The findings propose a model which establishes a set of indicators.

The seventh article by **Eduardo Tomé and Miguel Gonzalez-Loureiro** aims to establish a model for the valuation of intangible assets within organisations. The article focuses on a highly topical area of IC regarding the measurement of intangible assets and in doing so introduces the innovative notion of the intangible cube.

The final article, written by **Marian Holienka and Anna Pilkova** deals with the impact of intellectual capital and its components on firm performance before and after crisis.

In conclusion, it is evident from the selected articles that the fields of intellectual capital and knowledge management remain diverse and are becoming ever increasingly relevant in the context of competitive global environments. The articles clearly illustrate the significant diversity of the field with research on an operational level encompassing practical topics including new product development and trust and communication, also on a corporate level with research focusing upon multicultural management and performance enhancement. And finally research on a national and cross-national level to ensure the effective measurement of intellectual capital and knowledge management.

Once again we would like to express our sincere thanks to all the authors and audience participants who attended the ECIC conference in Trnava Slovakia and also the authors who have contributed to the creation of this special issue of the EJKM.