

Editorial for EJKM For the Special Issue of ECIC2013

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Intellectual Capital has evolved since the beginning of the 21st century. In early 1998, it was believed that few enterprises actually had a comprehensive intellectual capital practice in operation. Advances in technology and the way we access and share information have changed so that many enterprises now have some kind of intellectual capital framework in place. It has attracted a lot of attention, not only among academics, but also among practitioners. So, this situation allowed us to say that there is a broader recognition of the discipline in our academic community.

This special edition of the EJKM is a selection of the most significant papers challenging the known paradigms of Intellectual Capital and providing interesting insights in this dynamic field of study, presented at the *5th European Conference on Intellectual Capital* hosted by the University of the Basque Country UPV-EHU, the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Bilbao, Spain, 10-11 April 2013.

The core tracks at the Conference were Sustainable Enterprise Excellence, Innovation, Development Strategies for Intellectual Capital, Intangibles, Financial Performance, Intellectual Capital in Service Economies, Culture and Intellectual Capital, Intellectual Capital Management and Reporting in Universities, Value Creation, Intellectual Capital and its Influence on the Entrepreneurial Activities of the Organization, Intellectual Capital Management and Reporting in Universities. These topics were the main areas of interest for researchers from all over the world and the main thematic clusters of this conference.

Looking at the papers selected for the special issue, two are theoretical; one refers to the great importance of structural capital to understand the university intellectual capital, written by Bratianu and Orzea, and the other refers to the clarification of the concept of tacit knowledge, explicit knowledge and the effects of advances in technologies on the codification capability of tacit knowledge, developed by Kabir.

With respect to empirical papers, there is a great variety of issues that authors have covered: from Knowledge Management Education and Transferability of Tacit Knowledge to Value Creation, the importance of Human Capital, Leadership and Innovation.

The paper “Increasing Transferability of Tacit Knowledge with Knowledge Engineering Methods” by Tounkara shows how codified knowledge transfer should be a specific collaborative process taking into account complexity and specificity of codified knowledge, readers profiles and exchange channels.

Savolainen and López-Fresno highlight the importance of leadership by trust in enabling the growth and utilization of Human Intellectual Capital in their paper “Trust as Intangible Asset -Enabling Intellectual Capital Development by Leadership for Vitality and Innovativeness” .

“How to Innovative Management through Intellectual Capital Statements –Lessons Learned from the First Implementation in Brazil” by Augusto, Will, Fernandez and Mertins shows the challenge of integrating an Intellectual Capital Statement – ICS into a comprehensive strategic Innovative Management Process.

The paper “Rent Creation in Value Adding Webs in the Danish Offshore Industry: An Empirical Investigation in Exploring the Determinants” by Gretzinger found that common initiatives aiming to develop and to foster the absorptive capacity of members impacted not just on the synergies regarding the focal networks, but also helped to explore new business activities.

Castaneda and Toulson in their paper “The Value of Human Resources Measurement in Intellectual Capital and Knowledge sharing” show how Human Capital (HC) is really important. They found that not only employees agree that measuring Human Capital is important, but managers also have the same opinion. The final conclusion they obtained is that HC practices are central to enhancing knowledge sharing, a fundamental behavior associated to the fulfillment of organizational objectives based on knowledge.

Bedford’ case study “A Case Study in Knowledge Management Education – Historical Challenges and Future Opportunities” describes the challenges encountered and the solutions developed over the past ten years from Kent State University. She concludes by saying that knowledge management program administrators and faculty should look to and partner with other cross-disciplinary academic models.

The paper “Measuring Innovation in Agricultural Firms: A Methodological Approach” by Ariza, Rugeles, Saavedra and Guaitero show how innovation policy design for the agricultural sector must take into account the existence not only sector factors, but also subsector factors to know the key factors to measure innovation.

Human Capital and Financial Results: A Case Study written by Helena Santos-Rodrigues, Guiomar Pereira-Rodrigues and Desireé Cranfield seeks to determine how human Capital is presented and evaluated in a small company working in the logistics sector, and if it has an impact on the financial performance. The findings showed that indeed human capital is valued and the case study suggests that there is a relationship with financial performance

We would like to express our gratitude to all the authors that attended the Conference in Bilbao in April 2013, who helped us to extend our understanding of Intellectual Capital issues, providing us with theoretical and practical values to keep applying and researching on these topics. Their contributions were the success of the fifth ECIC Conference. I trust readers will find the articles of interest and encourage all those interested in the IC and KM fields to consider EJKM as a useful outlet for their work.

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