
Editorial

Kostas Metaxiotis*

Department of Informatics,
University of Piraeus,
80, Karaoli and Dimitriou,
str. 18534, Piraeus, Greece
E-mail: kmetax@unipi.gr
*Corresponding author

Francisco Javier Carrillo

Center for Knowledge Systems,
Tecnologico de Monterrey,
E. Garza Sada 2501 Sur, 64849,
Monterrey, N.L., Mexico
E-mail: fjcarrillo@itesm.mx

Kostas Ergazakis

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering,
National Technical University of Athens,
9, IroonPolytechniou str.,
Zografou 15773, Athens, Greece
E-mail: kergaz@epu.ntua.gr

Tan Yigitcanlar

School of Urban Development,
Queensland University of Technology,
2 George Street, 4001, Brisbane QLD, Australia
E-mail: tan.yigitcanlar@qut.edu.au

Biographical notes: Kostas Metaxiotis is an Assistant Professor at the University of Piraeus. Since 2004, he has been undertaking a Senior Advisor role at the Secretary for the Information Society, Greek Ministry of Economy and Finance. He has extensive experience in the fields of knowledge management, artificial intelligence, enterprise information systems, and e-government. Since 1996, he has been participating in numerous European Commission-funded projects as Senior Information and Communication Technology Consultant and Manager. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development*, and the Executive Director of the 'World Capital Institute Publication Program'.

Francisco Javier Carrillo is a Professor of Knowledge Management at Tecnológico de Monterrey, where he founded the Center for Knowledge Systems in 1992. He developed the capital systems model which has been applied in consultancy projects in several countries and is basis of an extensive knowledge management graduate curriculum. He is the President of the World Capital Institute as well as of Mexico's ADIAT Knowledge Management Commission, founding member of the New Club of Paris, and seats on the editorial boards of several international journals and knowledge management-related professional organisations. He is an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development*.

Kostas Ergazakis is an Electrical and Computer Engineer, NTUA and also holds a PhD in Knowledge Management and Decision Support Systems. He has a long professional experience as a Consultant/Project Manager for projects funded by EU and Greek national bodies in different fields: formulation of digital/knowledge cities strategies, e-participation, e-organisation techniques, monitoring and evaluation, design and development of management information systems, business development activities. He has published extensively in scientific journals and presented his research outcomes in international conferences. He is an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development*.

Tan Yigitcanlar is an Associate Professor at the School of Urban Development, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia. The main focus of his research is advocating and promoting knowledge-based urban development and sustainable urban, infrastructure and transport development in city-regions. He is one of the leading researchers in the field of 'knowledge-based and sustainable urban development', and he has been responsible for research, teaching, training and capacity building programmes on urban and regional planning, transport modelling, environmental science, policy analysis and information and communication technologies in respected Turkish, Japanese and Australian universities. He is an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development*, and the Executive Director of the 'World Capital Institute Events Program'.

Nowadays, the incredible speed with which knowledge is created, shared and applied in all parts of economy and society has led many commentators and researchers to talk about the challenge and value of the 'knowledge-based development' (KBD). During the last years, the conventional knowledge management approach has evolved into a strategic management approach that has also spread into other fields. As a result, it has found application ground and opportunities not only in the business world but also in other areas such as education, urban planning and development, governance and healthcare, etc (Ergazakis et al., 2004).

During the last few years, humanity has witnessed the rise of knowledge-based economy as main driver of global and local economic development (Yigitcanlar, 2009). In the context of the new knowledge area, concepts of knowledge, innovation and creativity have become primary factors of production and development (Durmaz et al., 2008). Knowledge-based economies depend on production, dissemination and use of knowledge and information, particularly in science and technology. The generation of knowledge is the most important factor for the progress in a knowledge-based economy. Knowledge creation requires suitable and favourable policies particularly with regard to investment in research and development.

However, the process of planning and implementing KBD approaches in neither quick nor simple. This seems to be already understood by the research community, which has begun to concentrate its efforts on the development of appropriate frameworks, methodologies, tools, systems, metrics, etc., so as to evolve the whole KBD field. A strong partnership between researchers of both the public and private sector is a necessary condition for the evolution of KBD field in order to increase productivity.

In this context, the first paper of this issue is related to micro-level aspects of KBD. Szalavetz's research is focused on the measurement of quality-based upgrading in multinational companies' (MNCs') Hungarian subsidiaries. Functional upgrading is strongly related to KBD (at the micro level), since the business functions that complement the core physical processing tasks usually involve knowledge-intensive, white collar activities.

The second paper, 'Engaging digital services for the creation of urban knowledge ecosystems: the case of Thermi, Greece' by Angelidou et al., discusses the way digital services advance urban knowledge ecosystems. It explores the benefits of using digital services in the implementation an urban knowledge ecosystem, and examines the urban knowledge ecosystem at the medium-sized city of Thermi in Greece, where in recent years a series of digital services were put in operation.

The third paper of this issue, 'Greek regions and cities in the knowledge economy: the dominance of large cities and their regions' by Markatou, examines the development of new knowledge and the production of innovation across Greek regions and cities towards the establishment of a knowledge economy. Markatou's analysis confirms that few Greek large cities and some cities related to the metropolitan area of 'Attiki' concentrate most of knowledge creation and innovation production. These regions and cities are also the major economic, industrial and commercial centers, while most of Greeks live there.

The fourth paper, 'MAKCi: a knowledge-based development metrics experience' by Garcia, advances a practical application of an emerging collaborative model for KBD metrics. It aims to identify KBD metrics indicators dynamics by depicting the process of a five-year case study on a KBD international consultation known as the Most Admired Knowledge City Awards (MAKCi) exercise. The MAKCi exercise is depicted as an intriguing quest into the KBD metrics arena, which fosters a knowledge-generating space through the connected expertise of a global networked community. By building an insider view of engaged practitioners' experiences, this paper aims to bring in a practical perspective into how KBD metrics can be collectively generated, and how these knowledge-creation efforts foster tacit knowledge conversion into explicit scholarly knowledge.

The fifth and last paper of the issue, 'Sustainable cities and the convergence of knowledge' by Thorpe et al., discusses the convergence of knowledge between previously separate scholarly disciplines that is resulting in a transformation of how professionals and other workers organise and share knowledge. Increasing pressure to design and manage buildings and cities that are environmentally sustainable puts the onus on architectural, engineering and construction workers to share their expertise. The paper confirms that sustainable cities will inevitably embed knowledge, and cadres of knowledge workers will become distributed throughout towns and cities.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to Caroline Osborne from the University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia, who provided the review of the book *Building Prosperous Knowledge Cities: Policies, Plans and Metrics* by Yigitcanlar et al.

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