
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Ieva Meidutė-Kavaliauskienė is Associate Professor and Vice-Dean at the Faculty of Business Management of the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania. She holds a PhD in Technological Science from the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University. She has authored peer-reviewed papers and some of her works have been presented and published nationally and internationally. She has authored books, book chapters and made many conference presentations. She is an editorial board member of more than ten international scientific journals and her research interests include logistics, supply chain and operations management.

This publication presents studies that were presented in the 2nd International Scientific Conference ‘Contemporary Issues in Business, Management and Education 2013’ that took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 14–15 November 2013, in the section for innovations and contemporary business issues.

As Enkel et al. (2009), and Dahlander and Gann (2010) note, innovations get this special attention because since 2003 till now researches in the field of innovations have been intensified, as well as the application of their results in modern business management theories. At the beginning, the concept of innovations was vague, difficult to determine, however, with time through literacy analysis, researches, knowledge management and transfer processes, globalisation processes and related phenomena in the business environment, this gap has been filled (Jarrahi and Sawyer, 2013).

You cannot imagine modern business without the search of innovative solutions and their application. Innovations are the mover that generates business success, therefore many companies have concentrated their attention to the researches of this field, their results (Jong and von Hippel, 2009), regardless of the sector they belong to, the economic (Transitional or Developing economies) environment they exist in (Kafouros and Forsans, 2012), the business processes they cover.

Taking into account all of this, the publication presents five articles that reveal the importance of innovations and innovative business solutions’ applicability in various business environments.

Amali Çipi, Shyqyri Llaci and Fernando A.F. Ferreira in the article ‘A Delphi investigation into the corporate governance practices of Albanian joint stock companies’ understands the management of innovations as the applicability of ‘good experience’ in foreign investment. The relevance of the article stands out even more because the mentioned authors analyse the situation taking the example of developing country, i.e., Albania. The authors try to solve rather relevant problem related to the management of companies, i.e., how to ensure ‘good’ management system of the companies that protects the rights of shareholders, regardless whether they are local or foreign investors. The

authors emphasise that such system should encourage the active collaboration between corporation and stakeholders in creating a friendly environment and seeking united economic interest.

The second article of this publication 'The technology of adaptive complex systems as an adequate synergy tool of knowledge, innovation and technology features designing universal sustainable development of country', which authors are professor Aleksandras Vytautas Rutkauskas, Irena Račinskaja and Alina Kvietkauskienė, concentrates its attention on the designing of universally sustainable development of a small country, specifically looking for the answer how to structure the cluster of knowledge, innovations and technologies, the issues of universally sustainable development become the object of analysis. This article is innovative because it gave the authors an opportunity to reveal the interaction between innovations and technologies in the context of value creation.

The third article is called 'High technologies sector under the conditions of the creation of knowledge-based society: challenges and priorities in the European Union', its author is professor Borisas Melnikas. In his work, he emphasises the importance of the development of high technologies in the European Union, which is one of the major factors that conditions a solid environment of knowledge-based society and knowledge-based economy. The author presents an original theoretical concept that is focused on creation, development and further modernisation processes in the sector of high technologies. The essence of this theoretical concept focuses on multiple interactions between various institutions and organisations that represent different activities, their functions, systems and interests in various industries, as well as between various production and service fields, different economic sectors and social life in general. As the author emphasises, there are many opportunities to implement new, innovative and non-traditional ideas for sustainable social, economic and technological development, which could be very successful in the creation context of knowledge-based society of the European Union modern challenges and knowledge-based economy.

Liudmila Lobanova and Iveta Ozolina-Ozola in the article 'Innovative trends in human resource management: a case study of Lithuanian and Latvian organisations' analyse innovative trends and significant aspects of human resource management that are important in response to the challenges of sustainable development in the context of innovations implementation in management practices. The authors carried out a theoretical analysis of functional areas of various important human resource management practices, and a comparative expert evaluation of the situation of human resource management practices in Lithuanian and Latvian organisations conditioned by European integration. According to the authors, the theoretical analysis has showed that innovative trends of human resource management are related to the ideas of sustainable development and principles of social responsibility, also to the integration of flexible employment guarantees to the practice of human resource management. The results of comparative expert evaluation of the situation of human resource management practices in Lithuanian and Latvian organisations present the tendencies of human resource management improvement, these tendencies are discussed from the position of efficiency increase of human resource management practice, and it not only performs the analysis of situation, but also suggests the directions of promising future researches.

Rasa Smaliukiene and Renata Korsakiene in the article 'Boundaryless career management: theoretical perspective on individual and institutional agency' give special attention to the management of career. The authors analyse relevant employment issues,

causes, problems and opportunities since this social phenomenon is important not only to each individual, but also to the whole country, its economic welfare. In this context, the authors give all their attention specifically to the solution of this problem, providing innovative solutions.

Therefore, this publication will be characterised by original articles, which will reveal different approaches to modern business, innovations, their application and possible economic, social effects after their implementation.

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