
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Marina Dabic is a full Professor of International Business and Entrepreneurship and at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Economics and Business, Croatia and Nottingham Business School, NTU, UK. She edited five book series published in Poland, Slovenia, Croatia and the UK. She has edited several special issues on innovation, HRM and transfer technology. She participated in more than 80 conferences and published 50 papers appeared in wide variety of international journals including *JIBS*, *JWB*, *JBE*, *IMR*, *EMJ*, *TBR IJPDLM* and *MIR* among others. In her carrier, she achieved success in working on numerous projects, as well as the primary supervisor on the projects granted by European commission.

“Good ideas may not want to be free, but they do want to connect, fuse, recombine. They want to reinvent themselves by crossing conceptual borders. They want to complete each other as much as they want to compete.”

Steven Johnson, *Where Good Ideas Come From: The Natural History of Innovation*

We are delighted to have this opportunity to present you with the new 4th Volume, issues 1–2 of the *International Journal of Transition and Innovation Systems* – the *IJTIS*. This issue has been inspired by different approaches to the area of innovation across different sectors.

The world today is more closely knit, using different means of organisation, communication and production, and thus it is more subject to rapid change than ever before. Knowledge, especially scientific knowledge, can also prove to have a relationship with the level of a country’s development. It may even be a causative factor in the survival or extinction of an entire culture. We can be sure, however, that the process of obtaining innovation in a particular society is indicative of the level of development towards which the society is moving.

The development priorities of developing countries include income growth, raising investment and exports, creating more and better employment opportunities, and benefiting from technological progress. Governments are committed to achieving these in a sustainable manner, ensuring that resources are available to future generations.

This issue is based upon the contributions of authors and reviewers, and is organised in several parts that correspond to different levels of aggregation and units of analysis. The list of contributing authors and their manuscripts are as follows: Mario Coccia: ‘Spatial relation between geo-climate zones and technological outputs to explain the evolution of technology’; Igor Barahona Torres, Alex Riba and Jian-Bo Yang: ‘Analytical tool adoption level: a case study based on an evidential reasoning approach’; Peter J. Baldacchino, Justin Baldacchino, Frank H. Bezzina and Darko Tipurić: ‘Assessing the applicability of a corporate governance index in Maltese listed entities’, Ilona Skačkauskienė and Živilė Tunčikienė: ‘The labour income taxation: Lithuanian case’; Lamberto Zollo, Giacomo Marzi, Andrea Boccardi and Micaela Surchi: ‘How to match technological and social innovation: insights from the biomedical 3D printing industry’ and Vanessa R.M.L. Maíke, Samuel Bastos Buchdid, Julián Esteban Gutierrez Posada and M. Cecilia C. Baranauskas: ‘Bringing universal design and the web of things into the supermarket’.

In economics of technical change, the interrelationship between climate zones and technological performances is hardly known. Thus, the first article entitled ‘Spatial relation between geo-climate zones and technological outputs to explain the evolution of technology’ confronts this problem to explain how the climate affects the human activity and economic development of societies that play the key role in spurring the birth and the diffusion of technological innovations. The findings show that innovative outputs are high in geographical areas with temperate climates. In effect, warm temperate climates create the appropriate natural environments for humans that facilitate the development of complex societies, efficient institutions and communications systems by an evolutionary process of adaptation and learning. These geo-economic platforms of institutions, communications and energy systems support the efficient use of human and physical capital that induce inventions, innovations and their diffusion. Overall, the linkages among the observed facts of this study show that temperate climate is one of the contributing factors for the genesis and evolution of technology.

In the second paper on ‘Analytical tool adoption level: a case study based on an evidential reasoning approach’ the adoption of analytical tools (AAT) represents a mixture of data analysis, information technology and quantitative models mainly used to specify decision-making by predicting behavioural trends and to decrease risks. The paper applied a five-level scale to explore how the analytical tools are adopted in companies and tested through four constructs: management supported by data analysis, data-based competitive advantages, systems thinking and communication with the outside actors. The data was collected from 255 decision makers on the analytical practices in their companies, and was then processed and analysed by using an evidential reasoning algorithm. The results were established with regard to the AAT such as the overall performance and distributed assessments.

The third paper entitled ‘Assessing the applicability of a corporate governance index in Maltese listed entities’ by Baldacchino et al. delves into the issue of measuring corporate governance in listed companies – namely, whether and when this may be done as well as the considerations needed to construct and disclose an index appropriately improving corporate reporting practices, reputation and access to capital markets. The fact that the research setting, including interviews and a survey, is the European island-state of Malta renders the findings and suggested index particularly relevant. However, this is not exclusive to the European Union member countries where regulation of similar measurement is as yet practically inexistent. The implications, particularly

those emerging from testing the constructed index on two comparable listed companies, point to the net advantages of companies adopting and disclosing in due course a simple cost-effective index together with its major sub-indices. By all means, this may not necessarily be in line with the principles – governance areas, benchmarks, attributes, choice of providers and assessors – proposed in the study.

Catching up is not an easy and costless process since health insurance and social security are not equally and freely available in all countries. The fourth paper on ‘The labour income taxation: Lithuanian case’ discusses the government priorities of Baltic countries which include income growth, planned labour income taxation decisions and labour income taxation by taxes and contributions: personal income tax, social security and health insurance contributions. The results of the research have shown that the comparison of the basic tax indicators, such as non-taxable minimum income and standard rates, only partially describes the national level of the labour income taxation. Labour income received by job holders for their work is the main source of personal income. Personal income tax and social security as well as health insurance taxes are imposed on labour remuneration. The Lithuanian Government is committed to achieving these in a sustainable manner, ensuring that resources are available to future generations through the labour income taxation.

In the modern innovation literature, there is a growing recognition of the importance of social aspects, outcomes, and societal issues related to innovation. Hence, the phenomenon of social innovation has recently become a brand new stream of research, especially in the fields of technology and entrepreneurship. However, scarce attention has been dedicated to the way social innovation arises and how it can be managed in relation to technological innovation. Paper ‘How to match technological and social innovation: insights from the biomedical 3D printing industry’ attempts to fill these literature gaps, specifically by investigating the transition from technological innovation to social innovation, with a particular focus on entrepreneurial motivation and awareness of such a phenomenon. The authors have analysed social outcomes and benefits linked to the 3D printing technique through multiple case studies in the Italian biomedical sector. A conceptual framework is provided aiming to illustrate the entrepreneurial motivation and the awareness about the transition from technological to social innovation, mainly focusing on the resulting social outcomes.

The last paper in this double issue, ‘Bringing universal design and the web of things into the supermarket’, deals with the correlations between an assistive device and emerging technologies that have universal designs in the supermarket. The main aim in implementing the universal design is to increase the engagement of design in times of growing usage of the web and to offer its diversity to different customers. These new enabling technologies are reshaping and reframing the practice of customers and bolstering their experience in grocery shopping, particularly of those with disabilities. At same time, it provides autonomy to different users by giving them the decision-making power independently of features such as disabilities, language or culture.

The use of an intelligent manufacturing system calls for new ways of communicating outside the enterprises. Still a much longer road lies ahead before the innovations are accepted as the main source of wealth. The road can be passed through successfully by means of intensive international cooperation in R&D, transfer of knowledge and technology within UN institutions and strategic partners, and certainly by means of dramatically changed attitude of the people and by positive legislative framework in the

countries themselves. The only resource civilisations in the global market place is the skill and inventiveness their people. Most countries cannot mine gold and diamonds or pump oil out of the ground indefinitely. They must offer them high quality education and encourage them to innovate and exploit innovations passionately. We hope your contribution will help all of us to reach this goal.