Guest editorial: Economic, diplomatic and cultural challenges

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It gives me great pleasure to present this special issue of *Prosperitas*, which focuses on research on economic, diplomatic and cultural challenges.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the armed conflicts have posed serious economic challenges for the European and global economies. While economic crises are not new to researchers, the emergence and impact of the Covid-19 crisis were a new event in economic history.

The current situation in the world has shown that the coronavirus and its global spread are already causing an extensive economic crisis (Papava & Charaia, 2020). According to the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report, the biggest economic challenges facing the world are a debt crisis, a weakening economic environment and the limits to globalization (World Economic Forum [WEF], 2023).

The five studies presented below show that any sector and any industry face many challenges every day.

The first study, authored by Nicholas Chandler, entitled *"The sustainability of hybrid learning: An investigation of how international virtual learning groups develop into effective learning teams"* examined blended learning. Through analysing the perceptions of multinational teams of students, his study aimed to explore the stages of virtual learning groups' development as such groups progress towards becoming teams. The quantitative research was based on Tuckman's group development model (Tuckman, 1965). As a result of the research, the author highlighted the importance of monitoring, and recommends allowing time for team reflection after task completion. Reflection should focus on effectiveness with constructive discussion between members and feedback from the instructor. The author also emphasized that during the initial lessons of task-based e-learning openness and criticism among students should be promoted.

The title of the second paper is *"Examining the quality of accounting data regarding reports from Hungarian MSMEs engaged in commercial activities"* authored by Ervin Denich and Áron Lajos Baracsi. In today's ever-changing economic environment, quality accounting reports are essential for management decision-making, and the quality of accounting information influences companies' responses to challenges. The authors examined the quality of the annual reports published by the enterprises engaged in commercial activities from an accounting perspective and looked into the changes that can be associated with quality. They used the Modified Jones (Dechow et al., 1995) model to examine whether the quality of data in audited annual accounts is higher than that of companies whose accounts are not audited, and for this purpose they used a constructed sample. The study highlights the importance of auditing. Overall, the authors' findings suggest that auditing is likely to improve quality accounting reporting data.

The third study examined daily logistics processes which can be affected several factors and challenges. The title of the research is *"Measurement of logistics processes for potential optimization purposes at enterprises based in a Hungarian county"* and the authors are Károly Szabó and László Szabó. With the help of qualitative sampling, the researchers identified which variables affect logistics processes in Zala County, one of Hungary's 19 counties. The results of the study highlighted that the lack of simulation prediction is a serious shortcoming of the applied technologies applied.

The fourth research focused on acquisitions. The title of the article is *"Analyzing acquisitions using bankruptcy forecasting models"* and authors are Szilárd Hegedűs and

László Zoltán Kucséber. A significant number of corporations go bankrupt in Hungary every year even in non-recession periods. The authors examined how the bankruptcy risks of corporations affected acquisitions in Hungary in the past. In their study, the researchers investigated the bankruptcy risk of the acquiring companies using two bankruptcy models by Virág and Kristóf (2005). The study states that the bankruptcy risk indicator score deteriorated in the case of a significant part of the examined companies in the years after the fusion.

The fifth study titled *"On the regulation of municipal indebtedness"* is by Erzsébet Pocsai. The research focused on the debt of the Hungarian local government sector. The research highlighted that, as a result of the regulations and controls applied in Hungary, the external indebtedness of the sector presents low risk.

From the studies presented above, we can get an insight into the challenges and risks that can arise in the management of a company or in the public sector in Hungary, and we can learn about how hybrid education can be developed in higher education, and what factors influence logistics processes.

The economic and social changes in the world in recent years have had a significant impact on all economic actors.

I believe that the studies and research published in this special issue will provide useful information for economic actors, and I hope that they will be able to incorporate in their decisions the good practices and recommendations presented by the researchers.

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

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