

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Resource is a sine-qua-non component for any project, regardless of its application. Notwithstanding its wide significance, resources are a fundamental in generating the expected results as well as for value creation. One can distinguish two main categories of resources: tangible and intangible assets. The former one, tangible assets include: raw materials, materials, semi-products and finished goods, accomplished throughout a manufacturing cycle which may become subsequent component in a new manufacturing cycle for another more complex product. This process may go on depending on the complexity of the finished product to be accomplished.

Let us remember that energy and time represent significant components of resources. Despite the potential availability of tangible assets, no finished product may be accomplished without the input of intangible assets, e.g. information and the ability of an organization to turn information into knowledge. Hence, as regards organizations operating in a similar context and field of activity, their capacity to deploy resources and turn them into value will give them a competitive advantage. An organization's sensible strategy should rely and tap on intangible assets. The long-term depletion of tangible assets has become commonplace, whereas intangible assets will be on the rise, some scholars even consider an exponential growth of information.

Ideally, organizations should solely rely on intangible assets, however in practice the great majority of goods produced by organizations are material products, and this holds true for the service industry as well.

Organizations need to cope with the challenge of drawing up such sensible strategies increasingly based on intangible resources and paying less attention to tangible resources. We might even state that the main goal of such strategies would be that the goods produced by these organizations incorporate more intangible assets and less tangible assets, hence they are also called smart products.

Human resources play a highly significant role in this complex process, also referred to by Marx as: "the human being is the most valuable asset." Therefore the human resource-based competence transfer has become increasingly significant nowadays in both microeconomic and macroeconomic contexts. Organizations and large companies will identify such strategies illustrated by the choice of their locations in highly qualified human resources areas of the world. It is precisely in such areas that organizations that have managed to capitalize on highly qualified human resources will eventually become a producer and trainer of highly qualified human resources leading to long-term sustainability.

Let us conclude that sustainable development at both macro and micro levels may be ensured by a sound strategy able to attract and retain the most competitive and highly qualified human resources.