

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Prof. Camelia OPREAN - STAN, PH.D

We live in a world that emphasizes the economic value of intangible assets. Knowledge is a crucial component of the system of economic and social contemporary development. Diffusion of innovations and high technology convergence will play a key role in accelerating the importance of knowledge in the context of globalization.

The new economy requires a growing interest to so-called employee's company based on knowledge, to intellectual capital and learning organizations. Thus, the share of intangible assets in the economy has increased. This intangible capital is made up mostly of investment in training, education, research and development, information and coordination, more precisely of investment for the production and transmission of information.

Knowledge and advanced technologies can significantly transform a nation's economy. In OECD countries, investment in research and development, in public education and computer programs increased by 3% per year since the 80s. The result is that today, not the natural treasures can explain the discrepancies between countries, but the quality of equipment and human capital. Accordingly, innovation tends to be the only means by which a firm can survive in a globalized economy and strong competition.

In the global civilization, the emerging economies that rely on innovations have a priority component, that is the technology development that can lead to a high level of competitiveness and human development. Technological progress is essential to human progress. The digital, genetic, molecular innovations open new perspectives and they "break boundaries" about how people can use technology to expand knowledge, stimulating growth and development. New technologies are disseminated, both between countries and within them.

Technological innovations affect human development. Human development and technological progress are sustained and potentiate each other:

- technological innovations can enhance human potential and skills;
- technological innovations are a means of ensuring human development;
- human development is an important means to support technological development.

Quality education, lifelong learning, fostering innovation represent core concepts also for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They represent some of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit. With these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The SDGs Report 2017, regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> goal, *Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning*, mentions that obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people's lives and sustainable development. „Major progress has been made towards increasing access to education at all levels and increasing enrolment rates in schools particularly for women and girls. Basic literacy skills have improved tremendously, yet bolder efforts are needed to make even greater strides for achieving universal education goals. For example, the world has achieved equality in primary education between girls and boys, but few countries have achieved that target at all levels of education.”

Regarding the 9<sup>th</sup> goal, *Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*, the SDGs Report 2017 affirms that investments in infrastructure – transport, irrigation, energy and information and communication technology – are crucial to achieving sustainable development and empowering communities in many countries. „It has long been recognized that growth in productivity and incomes, and improvements in health and education outcomes require investment in infrastructure. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development is the primary source of income generation, allows for rapid and sustained increases in living standards for all people, and provides the technological solutions to environmentally sound industrialization. Technological progress is the foundation of efforts to achieve environmental objectives, such as increased resource and energy-efficiency. Without technology and innovation, industrialization will not happen, and without industrialization, development will not happen.”