

## Foreword

Changes taking place in the socio-economic sphere give rise to unprecedented phenomena and processes, raising new problems that cannot be solved without appropriate research and new knowledge. These are included in each of the presented articles that make up this issue of the *Małopolska School of Economics in Tarnów Research Papers Collection*, this time focused on the contemporary subject of the functioning of economic organizations and institutions.

The journal is the work of employees of our School as well as those of other universities and research centres around the country, i.e. the University of Warsaw, the University of Lodz, the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, the University of Agriculture in Krakow, the Pedagogical University of Krakow, the Cracow University of Economics, Kozminski University in Warsaw and the Bielsko-Biała School of Finances and Law.

The articles, which are the result of scientific work carried out as part of basic and implementation research, present a great deal of interesting cognitive and application-related information, from the point of view of the theory of economics and finance, as well as management and quality. In particular, research was presented on the economic productivity of assets, from the relation of operational costs to revenues from operational activity, in the context of the development of the company's activity and the scale of production. This thematic group also includes a text devoted to the assessment of the company's accounting system as a source of data on environmental protection, the relationship between environmental protection and the financial condition of the company—important when assessing the implementation of the sustainable development postulate. Another article presents the results of the analysis and assessment of the effectiveness of mergers and acquisitions of numerous enterprises in the last ten years. In the conclusion section, the authors emphasize the growing importance of this method in creating benefits for the company.

The articles on the subject of management and quality present interesting models for managing the coincidence of production factors causing a positive synergy effect, in particular in the area of risk factor management, including the ERM concept, development of the start-up business model or corporate social responsibility (CSR) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I hope that the articles and materials presented in the 53rd issue of the *Małopolska School of Economics in Tarnów Research Papers Collection* will be met with great interest and consideration on the part of the academic community and participants in economic life. I trust that the scientific periodical of our University, which has been regularly published for 20 years, will help the broad circles of society in understanding complex issues related to social and economic issues of our country and region.

On behalf of the Authors and myself, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the creation of this journal – the Editors who made effort to express their opinions on the articles submitted to the editorial office, the Reviewers for their substantive, important and often detailed comments, as well as the entire editorial team and all collaborators.

*Leszek Koziol*  
Editor-in-Chief