

EDITORIAL

“Vadyba / Journal of Management“ is periodically published applied sciences journal by Lithuania Business College. The journal is constantly publishing articles since 2002 and has gained significant experience and international recognition. This year the journal is celebrating its 23 years anniversary. It has been well renowned by foreign scientists and number of international scholars publishing continues to increase. Currently, 41th number of the journal is released to readers. Only those articles that meet thorough requirements set by the Editorial Board are being published. Authors of these articles represent various Lithuanian and foreign countries science. From Lithuania the following institutes are represented Lithuania Business College, School of Economics and Business Kaunas University of Technology, Vilnius University Business School, Klaipėda University, Klaipėda University and other. The following institutes from foreign countries: Bucharest University of Economic Studies (Romania), Budapest Metropolitan University, Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín (Slovakia) and other.

Editorial board of “Vadyba / Journal of Management” seeks for published academic researches to cover different economic directions and to be relevant to different industries and countries around the world. At the same time, the focus remains on ongoing changes in various industries, human resources, and governance. Based on these criteria, articles are chosen for publication in the journal. Focusing on relevant areas of change is expected to encourage further scientific discourse and development of social science ideas.

The article by Vinogradov, S. and Nagy, B. presents a nuanced comparative analysis of the innovation performance of the Visegrad Group countries (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia). By integrating the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) 2024 and the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024 with Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), the study offers a dual-framework approach to assess relative innovation efficiency. Despite common historical and socio-economic backgrounds, the research identifies significant performance gaps among the countries. Slovakia emerges as a regional benchmark, showing a balanced innovation system, while Hungary’s underperformance signals the urgent need for systemic reforms. The findings underscore structural inefficiencies, such as weak commercialization processes and limited innovation collaboration, which hinder the full realization of innovation potential across the region.

The paper by Ovchynnykova, O. and Navickas, V. focuses on the sectoral structure and sustainability of the Blue Economy in EU coastal regions. Utilizing a multi-dimensional analytical model grounded in Blue Indicators data, the authors examine gross value added, employment, and structural indices over a twelve-year period. The study reveals a dual narrative—some coastal countries, dominated by labour-intensive tourism sectors, exhibit signs of economic vulnerability and declining employment trends due to automation and structural rigidity. Others, with diversified and capital-intensive maritime sectors, display greater regional resilience and sustainable development prospects. Importantly, the study highlights how digitalization, rather than COVID-19, serves as the main driver of employment transformation in the Blue Economy. These insights point to the necessity for differentiated policy approaches tailored to specific structural conditions in coastal economies.

Kordoš, M., Ivanová, E., and Struharňanská, S. contribute a timely investigation into the impact of digitization on the competitiveness and sustainability of Visegrad 4 (V4) economies. Drawing on multiple international indices (e.g., World Bank Doing Business, IMD, DESI, EIS), the authors apply correlation and regression analyses to assess how digital adaptation influences SME development in high-tech sectors. The research confirms that digital skills development and