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FOREWORD

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An escalation of protectionist measures in the middle of 2018 could spark a fresh downturn just as the global economy is picking itself up after the last one, the international body that represents the world's central banks has warned.

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said there were already signs that “the ratcheting up of rhetoric” was weighing on investment. It comes as USA president steps up hostility with some of the US's key trading partners and allies, raising fears of a full-blown trade war.

Augustín Carstens, the general manager of BIS, said an increase in protectionist measures was a key vulnerability in the global economy that threatened to undermine growth and could spread to financial markets. In its annual report on the challenges facing the global economy, BIS said that the ultra-low interest rates implemented by central banks as an emergency response to the financial crisis had served the global economy well but said loose monetary policy was posing a threat to stability. The process has begun in the US, with the Federal Reserve raising rates earlier in June 2018 for a second time this year and signalling more increases will follow in 2018.

The European Central Bank has also announced plans to phase out its bond-buying programme by the end of the year 2018, after propping up the eurozone economy for the past three years.

Recently, in June 2018, the prospect of a rate rise in August 2018 strengthened when the Bank of England's chief economist, Andy Haldane, joined two other members of the monetary policy committee voting for an immediate increase in borrowing costs.

Carstens said BIS was satisfied with the way the Fed and the ECB were communicating their plans, giving markets plenty of warning. BIS said governments should also play their part in the recovery by keeping public finances



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under control and not overspending. It warned that in some countries the banking system was still not fully healed after the financial crisis, creating vulnerabilities in some economies.

Given this global escalation of protectionism, the works appearing in this issue of the journal try to respond to some of the dilemmas of the present moment.

*The first article of this issue, entitled **Personal Income Tax Administration in the Rural Communities from Ogun State, Nigeria***, examined the effectiveness of Personal Income Tax Administration in the rural communities, focusing on assessment and revenue collection methods, effectiveness and efficiency of Relevant Tax Authorities. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the opinions of key stakeholders directly connected with Direct and Minimum Tax Assessments in six selected Local Government Areas in Ogun State, Nigeria. Testing of the hypotheses for the study was done using both simple and multiple regression analysis. The findings from the study indicate that, tax assessment method significantly encourages voluntary enrolment into the tax net and that effective collection method adopted by the relevant tax authorities ensures optimal tax revenue collection. The study recommends that government should intensify its enlightenment programmes and to introduce awards for recognition of the best rural taxpayers.

*The aim of the paper called **Rural Employment and Decent Work in Romania*** is to study the Romanian rural employment and its perspective to achieve the decent work goals. The authors say that The United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to 'promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all' (Goal 8 of 17, 2015). The decent work is a desideratum that reflects on the wellbeing of the population. The ILO's Rural Employment and Decent Work Programme aims at minimizing rural decent work deficits that include higher rates of un-employment and under-employment (especially among youth and women); an alarming prevalence of child labour; a higher incidence of precarious work as wage work is mostly seasonal or casual; widespread informal activities; limited social protection; exposure to adverse working conditions due to poor labour standards coverage and monitoring; and little or no unionization or social dialogue.

*In the third paper entitled **The Role of Interdependencies Between Critical Infrastructures in Rural Development*** the authors said that in the general context,



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the phenomenon of globalization causes an increase in risks to critical infrastructures. In order to order this set, the criteria of dependence and interdependence were imposed. Thus, the authors proposed a model with seven levels, the first being sector analysis and the second one the study of interdependencies.

The first level was organized in critical sectors and dependencies between them. This division, which engendered the public-private partnership, was shown on the EU and NATO documents.

The second level of the interdependence study aims to determine the vital elements and essential components of a system.

In the paper the authors shown some considerations on the dimensionality of interdependencies between critical infrastructures, Interdependence between critical infrastructures from the energy sector and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). After a breakdown of SCADA systems, the authors presented at the end of paper a few examples of cybernetic attack against energy infrastructures.

*The paper called **Human Rights Related to the Right to Religion and Economy in the Confluence of Cultures*** is focused on the authors' opinion, based on deep research, that religion and education go side by side and could help a lot and should be the basic law for the development, rural or urban, against the background of the nowadays European challenges. Europe confronts today with oncoming waves of immigrants from all over the world who have been invading it for several years, bringing with them cultures, customs, observances, different in many ways from. Under these circumstances, the authors would like to highlight their point of view, mainly the idea that the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: "Hate paralyzes life; love releases it. Hate confuses life; love ours harmonizes it", are much more true than ever. To keep an open mind on religious education, to be flexible, loving and understanding should be of vital importance in developing rural communities against the background of the European competitiveness.

*The work called **Changes in the National Structure of Population in the Southern Economic Region of the Republic of Moldova in the Period 1979-2014*** has as its main objective the identification of the differences in the national structure of the population in the Southern Economic Region of the Republic of Moldova, received between 1979 and 2014 as a result of the politic and economic changes in the country, the knowledge of which plays an important role in the



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elaboration of strategies for social and demographic development. For the realization of this goal a few objectives have been settled: the identification and inquiry of the specialty literature that elucidates the subject of investigation; collection, analysis and graphic and carto-graphic interpretation of the data collected based on the information from the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, through modern means of work, programs for statistical analysis Statgraphics and Instat Plus and the SIG technique; identification and description of the impact of the historical events on the population of the territory and the diversification of the national structure; temporal clause analysis of the statistical data and the emphasize of the modification tendencies in the time lap indicated; description of the particularities of the national structure of the population at the level of administrative structure in the context of the political and economic changes in that period; appreciation of the complexity of the cohabiting nationalities within the rural localities.

*In the paper entitled **ICTs and Employment: New Opportunities on the Labour Market***, is investigated the potential for increasing employment opportunities and skills availability. E-work activities differ by countries, with impact in various fields. The statistical data are used to underline the trends. E-work is an emerging process, and supports the development of a new business model. From the businesses perspective, e-work phenomenon may represent a new opportunity, and competitiveness could be improved. Also, e-work may present advantages and disadvantages with influences on the results of workers and businesses. In the paper such trends are analyzed, in a comparative approach.

*The paper entitled **Reputation and Trust in Sharing Economy Platforms: The Case of Traity*** is about the concept of reputation that is assiduously used in various fields such as communication, public relations, advertising, marketing and management. The convergence between the rise of new technologies linked to corporate communication has favored the birth of what has been called „online reputation”. Thus, unprecedented behaviors have been generated that are establishing new social forms and even some authors speak of a new economy of reputation where society would be highly connected through networks and organizations that would operate in an ecosystem of permanent influence from the interest groups. With this premise, Traity arises the project that the authors analyzed in their research and that raises a reputational score that takes advantage



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of the fingerprint information to reproduce online trust as the authors understand it in the physical world, but without trying to reduce it people into a percentage, a number or some stars.

*The paper called **Economic Factors as One of Intercultural Features Negotiating in International Management*** is talking about cultural varieties between negotiators that are constant in international business negotiation processes. The authors said that in our modern world, there is a rapid development of international connections in all kind of spheres of human activity. The major aim of this study is to analyze and develop knowledge on the characteristics of intercultural negotiation that will give opportunities to the national representatives to be determined to their particular types of cultures, as well as to endow the characteristics of different countries in some business spheres.

In order to manage the expectancies of the other side of the negotiations is important to discover in the purveyance phase the values of related partner and endeavor to manage all information in negotiation process, comprehension the values and the context of the other side of negotiation process, in right place to shape useful for us expectancies from the other side that would help to escape further conflicts in different business negotiating process.

In general, culture is notable from one another that impacts the time, the style, and the course of negotiation process. If prevented, cross-cultural connections may weaken an organization's position in the market, protect it from fulfilling its purposes and eventually lead to reverse of negotiation.

The research paper is focused in the scientific discussion on the affecting of intercultural negotiations on international business environment, it can ensure inspiration and guidance for entrepreneurs, as well as, helping them to understand the complexity of economic factors as one of intercultural negotiating features which is more interested by students who are working on cultural diversity and its impact on business. This research thoroughly connects the characteristics of various national cultures with different areas of international business and try to show the relationship and complexity of international negotiation issues in different contexts. The article should be useful resource for experts, students and researchers who are more conducting research in this sphere.

*In the paper called **The Development of Quality Management in the Tourism Industry***, the Ph.D. STUDENT Bogdan Sofronov, is talking about tourism



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like a dynamic and competitive industry that requires the ability to adapt to the customers changing needs and desires as the customers satisfaction, safety and enjoyment are the main focus of the tourism business. The author said that the development objective of tourism industry is to contribute to the enhancement of the quality and variety of tourism products and services in targeted destinations in order to increase the number of tourist visits, foreign exchange earnings and jobs. He says that tourism development mainly refers to the situation of getting quality growth in tourism sectors in terms of its development, strong plan and policies and marketing throughout the world. Moreover, the tourism development includes accessible way to reach the destination, proper facilities like hotels, means of transportation, amenities, for the tourist to have full satisfaction in the particular destination. The author concludes that quality is the most important competitive advantage of a tourism company or the key to competitiveness.

As we have seen all the articles are interesting and deserve to be appropriated by those who are interested in understanding the specific issues of the economy.

If you liked our articles please visit our website. If you want to write an article in our journal, we are waiting you to expose your ideas in new studies published by us.

Finally, hoping that you found interesting the Issue2/2018 I strongly invite you to address your comments and suggestions at ashues@spiruharet.ro and of course to submit your own paper via online submission system.

Research is the breath of the future. Let's shape the world together!

**Associate Professor Elena GURGU, PhD
Deputy Chief Editor**

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