

## EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

in November 2012 the University of Zagreb organised International workshop *Simulation modeling of research capacity at the University of Zagreb*, with particular emphasis on the role of, and professional perspectives for its younger researchers, i.e. Ph.D. students, thus one of the crucial aspects of the higher education institutions. The workshop was part of the research project *Simulation modeling of the Research Capacity of the University of Zagreb*.

This issue of the journal INDECS is the proceedings of the workshop, containing refereed versions of seven articles which were prepared based on the selected presentations held during the Workshop.

Additionally, this issue is the first thematic issue prepared as a realisation of the long-term orientation of the journal INDECS onto interdisciplinary aspects of education, as described on page ii of this issue.

First article, by H. Mataković, M- Pejić Bach and I. Radočaj Novak, provides readers with the current data regarding scientific productivity in transition countries. That is the context in which the work of young researchers is formed and channelled. Since the roots of the current situation span rather long period, scientific productivity is in fact related to the broader, societal transition. That article is to be contrasted with the second article, by M. Schatten which treats in details the intensity and span of the areas covered in scientific articles (co)authored by Croatian scientists. These two articles provide the reader with the context, first in a longitudinal analysis and the second in a transversal analysis.

Third article, by J. Stepanić, M. Pejić Bach and J. Kasać, sets the agent-based simulation model aiming to reliably present the perspectives for the younger researchers. In its present phase the model is conceptually developed, applicable for a number of universities, with the details of a particular university to be straightforwardly incorporated. That article develops the simulation tool to be used as a support in future decision making regarding the scientific policies, presumably for younger researchers.

Fourth and fifth article tackles in broader sets in which younger researchers, and the very universities, function. The article by I. Marić clarifies the types and meanings of the stakeholders of the higher education institutions, rooting in that way the causes of the observed and/or planned dynamics of the universities with the relevant societal groups and their dynamics. The article by A. Protić, B. Runje and J. Stepanić focuses onto the, currently rather intensively researched aspect of scientific work, of choosing the proper, robust (i.e. as least depending on the environment as is possible)

quantitatively expressible and straightforwardly determinable notion uniquely related to scientific productivity and other aspects of scientific work.

The article by M. Mulej et al. presents modern method for system approach to complex phenomena in a society. That article provides the readers with the useful tool for organising the longer-term work in a rather complex environment of modern societies. Finally, the article by M. Merkač Skok presents data related to life long learning, in particular the motivation of the employees for it.

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