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## Editorial

# A multidisciplinary perspective on the knowledge economy and society

The multidisciplinary perspective on the knowledge economy and knowledge society assumes an analysis of factors and components that takes into account the relationships and incompatibilities that exist between theory and practice. Such an approach relates to knowledge itself and its accumulation as an overarching issue; it also considers civilizational models of social and economic functioning, whose patterns are constantly undergoing evolutionary change. This is noticeable both in the economies of individual countries of the world, as well as in separate fields and scientific disciplines, including: management, quality, finance, economics, law, psychology, communication, sociology or social behaviour and many others. Not only consumer behaviour but also communication methods are changing, as is the hierarchy of defining needs in terms of production, service and commercial or ordinary human cooperation.

The three waves described by A. Toffler, which correspond to the various stages of socio-economic development or earlier theories of the stadial development of societies, prove the importance of distributing information and knowledge itself in post-industrial economies. Creatively applied theoretical knowledge creates innovations that are conducive to wealth and economic progress. Thus, the direction of development points to knowledge-based society as a fundamental factor in civilisational and economic evolution. Hence, issues concerning aspects of the importance of creating, transmitting, processing, storing and using knowledge in continuous processes form the basis of knowledge-based economies and societies, which in turn implies the multidisciplinary nature of the issue. Indeed, knowledge has become the leading driver of economic growth in the 21st century, and its

creation, effective absorption, transfer and application in order to accelerate economic development based on competitive advantage is the dominant element in knowledge-based economies.

The existing typology of knowledge in the literature considers two aspects: (1) codified knowledge (so-called explicit knowledge) and (2) quiet knowledge (so-called tacit knowledge). This typology makes it possible to combine structured, recorded, stored and transferred knowledge. It also enables comparison with empirics, taking into account B. Lundvall and B. Johnson's division into knowledge of facts (know-what), cause-and-effect relationships concerning the laws of nature and man and society (know-why), skills, especially expert skills, which are supported by the accumulation of knowledge in the form of experience (know-how), and the social ability to cooperate and communicate (know-who), all of which allow efficiency to be optimised.

Hence, academic reflections on this issue should include a vision of the economy and society in the future. When reflecting on the contemporary paradigm of the sciences, social sciences and economics, it is necessary to learn from the reasoning associated with the knowledge economy and its various sectors, in which the most important elements of ownership are intangible assets. Analyses of such thinking require multidisciplinary interests and research areas as they trigger a multifaceted discourse on the development and future of the knowledge economy. Today's innovation-based progress means relying on quiet knowledge that is accumulated with experience (tacit knowledge) and its practical application (know-how), with the coexistence of human resources based on social capital (know-who); this is supported by factual analysis (know-what) and analysis of the legal and legal environment (know-who), and scientifically diagnosed and described regularities between them (know-why), which are formally and systematically stored in the form of information (explicit knowledge).

The current issue of "Horizons of Politics" certainly does not cover all issues related to the multidisciplinary perspective on the knowledge economy and society. However, the articles herein address several important topics related to the extensive area concerning multiple disciplines and their view of the knowledge economy and society. Hence, the proposal of the presented research problems

linked with aspects of development and experience that foster the effective application of knowledge in economic development and the capacity to generate, adapt and diffuse it.

I invite you to read the articles in this issue, to analyse the theses and arguments presented in them, and then to create your own reflections on the multidisciplinary perspective on the knowledge economy and society. It is my hope that the articles presented in this volume will encourage readers to search further for solutions and interdependencies that provide answers to the challenges, opportunities and constraints of the 21st century as the polemic concerning the impact of aspects of a multidisciplinary view on the knowledge-based economy and society is still open.

Joanna Małecka  
theme issue editor