

Conference review

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CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ECONOMICS, BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT - EBM 2012

December 13-14, 2012, Faculty of Economics - University of Kragujevac, Serbia

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The Second International Scientific Conference on *Contemporary Issues in Economics, Business and Management* – EBM 2012 was held at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Kragujevac on December 13th-14th, 2012.

At the Conference, the current problems of the modern business environment characterized by the global economic crisis, increased competition and a need for change management were being discussed. The Conference was an opportunity for researchers from Serbia and abroad to present their research results and point out new economic concepts and models and the possibility of their implementation, with the objective of achieving a sustainable, environmentally and socially responsible economic development. Also, through the exchange of researchers' ideas and experiences, a contribution was made to the development of the existing forms of academic cooperation and the establishment of the new ones.

The Conference Program Committee consists of 22 reputable professors and researchers, 10 of which are

from the Serbian state faculties of economics, and 12 from abroad, namely from: Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Ukraine, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro. The president of the Program Committee is Professor Verica Babić, full professor and dean of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Kragujevac.

The second biennial EBM 2012 Conference aroused the considerable interest of scientists and experts from the country and abroad. The opportunity to present their recent studies to a wider scientific and professional community was given to 118 authors, 88 of which work at higher-education and scientific-research institutions in Serbia, and 30 of them came from abroad. A total of 39 out of 63 positively peer-reviewed and accepted papers were presented at the Conference. Beside the authors from respectable Serbian scientific institutions, the authors from Norway, Portugal, Poland, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia took part in the Conference work as well. The high quality of the papers presented is also guaranteed by the double-blind peer-review which all submitted papers had undergone.

The Conference Program consisted of the plenary, final and four parallel sessions:

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- Key Issues in Management and Marketing;
- Globalization and Rationalization;
- Accounting and Business Finance;
- Quantitative Methods and Models in Economics and Management.

The Conference was officially opened on December 13th, 2012 by Professor Verica Babić, president of the Program Committee, whose speech was then followed by the welcoming remarks of Lu Brefort, the World Bank's country manager for Serbia. Within the plenary session, the keynote speeches were made by:

- Professor Bjørn Olsen, University of Nordland, Norway: "Organizing for Permanent Whitewater: What Must the West Do in Order to Compete in the Global Knowledge Economy?";
- Professor Goran Putnik, University of Minho, Portugal: "When 'Sustainability' is Sustainable", and
- Professor Marijan Cingula, University of Zagreb, Croatia: "Entrepreneurial Competences in Contemporary Management".

After the Conference opening speeches and the plenary session, the Conference proceeded to the presentations of the submitted papers and to discussions organized within the parallel sessions. The working language of the Conference was English.

On the second Conference day, December 14th, during the final session, the moderators of the parallel sessions gave an overview of the presented papers and the main conclusions reached in the papers and during the discussions. Special attention was paid to contemporary economic theories and concepts, as well as to new business models that could make a significant contribution to solving the problems posed by the economic crisis and the turbulent business environment.

The positively evaluated reports will have been published in the Conference Proceedings after corrections have been made by the editors. The authors of the selected papers will be given an opportunity to publish the complemented and improved versions of their papers in the scientific journal *Economic Horizons*, published by the Faculty of Economics of the University of Kragujevac.

Verica Babić is a professor of Management and Decision Theory at the Faculty of Economics University of Kragujevac, Serbia. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from the Faculty of Economics University of Kragujevac. Her current research interests are corporate governance, entrepreneurship and knowledge management.