ISSN: 2247-6172; ISSN-L: 2247-6172
Review of Applied Socio- Economic Research
(Volume 29, Issue 1 / 2025), pp. i-ii
URL: http://www.reaser.eu
e-mail: editors@reaser.eu

Editorial Foreword

The new developments in the economic and political landscape, at the planetary scale, worry not only political decision-makers but also business people and common people as well. The world is shaken by military conflicts (the Ukraine war and, more recently, Israel's army involvement against Iran), which can lead to bigger ones. Moreover, the economic decisions of the USA, such as differentiated tariffs, are reshaping international trade for many years ahead. And these are just a few examples of world instability.

It is a turbulent environment that requires a new strategic vision at the country and company levels. There is an urgent need to reevaluate how we do business, to prioritise certain industries that have been left aside – such as the defense industry. The EU is actively developing its defense industrial policy to bolster its security and strategic autonomy. European Defence Industrial Strategy (EDIS) and the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) focus on boosting joint procurement, strengthening the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB), and supporting the production of ammunition and other critical defense products. Recently, NATO concluded a historic Summit in The Hague on 25 June 2025. Allies decided to invest 5% of GDP in defence – laying the foundation for a strong, united NATO in the years to come. So, a legitimate question arose: Are we preparing for war? Didn't humanity understand a thing from past world wars?

Is the generous concept of Open Science vanishing? How can Open Science be fostered in a world dominated by army conflicts and instability, a lack of trust, and disregard for humankind's well-being? A shift of research interest will develop, from civil to military research, but how society/communities will benefit from it. We just went through the threat of a global pandemic, which affected many industries, people's circulation and human interaction. Are we healed? Not really. Society, local communities have just started to recover, and yet a new challenge has arisen: Should we fear a military conflict in Europe?

Despite all, the scientific community, from all over the world, should remain united for a generous purpose: to develop human knowledge for the benefit of people and society. Therefore, we strongly support publishing cutting-edge research papers as well as practical problem-solving approaches, looking to provide our readers with diverse content.

Our current issue hosts articles coming from all over the world, from Peru to Indonesia, from Northern Europe to South Africa, from Ecuador to South Korea, tackling interesting topics such as: international economic relations, innovation and competitiveness, trust, uncertainty and herd behaviour, cryptocurrency and financial health. We invite our readers to discover the content of these articles and to join our community of authors and reviewers.

Enjoy reading!

Manuela Epure, Deputy Editor-in-Chief