

# Social, economic, and academic leadership: an opening

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**Abstract** Leadership is a topic that has been relevant for researchers since the beginning of human history. The concept of leadership can be found in psychology, history, economics, physics, mathematics, computer sciences, and virtually any other field of science one can think of.

The more one starts digging into the topic of leadership, the more she or he realizes how important are the leaders and leading ideas and concepts for growth and development of humankind. Identifying these leaders and leading ideas and concepts constitutes an important part of human progress and the need to get constantly moving forward. This short introductory paper provides some opening remarks as well as a brief introduction for the Proceedings from the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Social, economic, and academic leadership (ICSEAL 2019) that was organized in Prague, Czech Republic, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 by the Prague Institute for Qualification Enhancement and gathered researchers, academics, businessmen, and practitioners from 10 countries.

## 1 Introduction

Leadership appears to be an endless and limitless topic that has many realms and dimensions. It is ubiquitous and penetrating to every corner of social and natural sciences (see e.g. Zehetner and Steinkellner 2014; or Schoemaker et al. 2018).

If one had just two words to describe the Proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on social, economic, and academic leadership (ICSEAL 2019), the most suitable ones would be “*multidisciplinary and ground-breaking*”.

These Proceedings originated from the materials of the international conference that took place in Prague, Czech Republic, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 (see PRIZK 2019). The ICSEAL 2019 conference was envisaged as the next conference in the line of successive events following the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference “Social, economic, and academic leadership for the future sustainable development of business and education” held in Prague during from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2017. The 2017 Conference resulted in the publication of the Springer Proceedings in Business and Economics book of proceedings that was released in 2018 (Strielkowski and Chigisheva 2018), while the subsequent events and conferences also yielded very relevant and popular publications (see e.g. Strielkowski 2018; or Strielkowski 2019).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference succeeded in bringing together researchers and stakeholders from the fields of business, economics, education, social sciences, psychology, behavioural sciences, pedagogy, and linguistics, as well as policy-makers responsible for the creation and maintenance of the sets of rules for the future sustainable development of business and education.

## 2 Scope and structure

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on social, economic, and academic leadership organized in Prague by the Prague Institute for Qualification Enhancement featured a number of highly relevant keynote speeches, oral presentations and poster presentations, as well as roundtables, workshops, and vivid discussions.

After careful and strict selection of contributions, those found worthy and compiling with rigorous academic and ethical standards, were put under a rigorous double-blind peer-review. In total, 70 papers were selected to be published in a form of online Proceedings. The selected papers represent a number of fields ranging from the social sciences and humanities to natural sciences. However, all of them have one unifying topic being the leadership in its social, economic and academic forms.

All the papers were collected and clustered into the six Conference tracks covering similar thematic spheres which allowed the organizers to present the contributions in a logical and structured way. Thence, the overall final structure of the Proceedings from the ICSEAL 2019 Conference can be described as arranged along the six main tracks:

- Leadership as a social and cultural phenomenon

- Leadership in business and economics
- Leadership in education
- Leadership in sustainable energy
- Leadership and digitalization
- Leadership in international relations and politics

It has to be mentioned that the conference organizers managed to achieve a truly international blend of outstanding contributors from ten countries such as Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, and Ukraine. Some of the papers are mono-thematic, however many are also of the interdisciplinary nature and are written by the teams of researchers from several countries. This fact increases the relevance and the multidisciplinary nature of these Proceedings.

### **3 Concluding remarks**

Overall, one can see that the Proceedings from the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on social, economic, and academic leadership yield a remarkable mixture of multidisciplinary research from many fields of science bounded together by the idea of leadership in all its realms and manifestations.

Our Proceedings bear the views of scientists, businessmen and practitioners from 10 countries and have a multinational reach. The Proceedings might constitute an interesting read for the policymakers, stakeholders, researchers, and academics alike. In addition, they might be an interesting source of information for the representatives of the general public who are keen on learning more about leadership in relation to this or that field of science or business.

Finally, we believe that our Proceedings will become a source of inspiration for many people: those already proficient in the field of leadership studies and those considering embarking on the exciting path of understanding the true nature and essence of leadership in all its forms.

### **References**

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