

University of Maribor
**Faculty of
Economics
and Business**

Borut
Milfelner

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Sabina
Veršič

EDITORS

EKONOMSKO-POSLOVNA FAKULTETA



**Research Achievements
and Impact**



University of Maribor Press





University of Maribor

Faculty of Economics and Business

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Editors

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ULTETA

Introduction

Borut Milfelner

The Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Maribor (FEB) by its very nature fosters an environment dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the advancement of understanding. Its research work plays a particularly vital role for several key reasons. Economic and business school research pushes the boundaries of existing knowledge across diverse fields. Through rigorous inquiry and critical analysis, researchers tackle unanswered questions, challenge established theories, and generate new discoveries. This continuous creation of new knowledge fuels progress in various sectors, improving the lives and well-being of individuals and societies.

Also, we act as a training ground for the next generation of researchers and scholars. Engaging in practical and research projects allows students to develop critical thinking skills, hone their analytical abilities, and gain practical experience in conducting research. This encourages a culture of inquiry and innovation, preparing students to become future leaders in their respective fields and contribute meaningfully to the ongoing advancement of knowledge.

The mission of the FEB, which is the starting point of the Development Strategy of the FEB for the period 2022–2030, considers the quality standards of the international professional accreditations and the commitment of the FEB to innovation, to the principles of sustainable development and to continuous quality improvement in all activities and processes.

In accordance with FEB's mission and the strategic development directions of the University, FEB's strategy consists of a set of ten pillars with strategic goals aimed at strengthening an inclusive, innovative and connected higher education space that supports active, critical and responsible individuals, and ensures the quality of education and research, academic integrity and the sustainable development of society, thereby following the guidelines of the Rome Ministerial Communiqué 2020 and the principles of the Magna Charta Universitatum 2020.

FEB's Strategic Plan (in line with the UM strategy) emphasizes the importance of research freedom and institutional autonomy, the development of lifelong learning, digitization, and the green transition. Accordingly, we also follow the national strategic directions in the field of higher education development, as defined in the Resolution on the National Program of Higher Education in Slovenia until 2030, which were adopted in 2022; these involve innovation, educational and research excellence, growing quality on an international scale, stimulating work and study conditions, high standards of academic culture and ethics, responsiveness to the current and future needs of the economic and non-economic spheres, and the general social environment, respect for institutional autonomy, social responsibility, integrity and trust, equality and non-discrimination, dignity, justice and inclusiveness, and commitment to comprehensive and effective creation conditions for achieving the welfare of society.

In this report, we aim to present a comprehensive overview of the FEB's research activities from 2021 to 2023. It constitutes an integral component of our strategic initiative aimed at realizing meaningful and impactful research outcomes through the lens of innovation and the sustainable, socially responsible development of the school's research domains. By undertaking this research endeavour, the school aligns itself with the overarching goal of contributing significantly to the academic landscape and beyond.

The first section delves into the school's rich history, outlining its founding principles and evolution. We further articulate our mission, vision, and core values, providing a clear understanding of our guiding principles. Additionally, the school's strategic orientations for the period 2022–2030 are outlined, highlighting our commitment to continuous improvement and innovation. Our memberships in various professional and academic organizations are presented, demonstrating our dedication to collaboration and internationalization. Finally, we introduce the research ethics committee and its role in ensuring the integrity and responsible conduct of research.

The research highlights section introduces the most impactful recent research conducted at the FEB over the last three years. This section provides a glimpse into the diverse range of topics explored by our school and their significant contributions to the field. A separate section is devoted to introducing the research institutes within the school, along with their research focus and expertise, offering a deeper understanding of the specialized research conducted within these research units.

The research projects section provides an overview of the various research projects undertaken by the school, categorized as follows: international projects, national projects, applied projects for businesses, and student projects. By categorizing projects, we provide insight into the school's breadth of engagement and its impact on different levels.

The section on research output by publications delves into the scholarly impact and intellectual contribution of the FEB. Various types of publications produced by the school and the school are presented, including research articles in both top-ranked journals and other publications, as well as scientific monographs. This shows the diversity and depth of the school's research contributions.

The report further highlights the school's broader research impact beyond publications. It details the school's involvement in editorial boards of scientific journals, demonstrating their leadership within their respective fields. The Scientific journal and conference section presents the school's Scientific Journal and its Scientific Conferences, embodying its commitment to scholarly dissemination and academic exchange. The Scientific Journal serves as a platform for publishing groundbreaking research findings, inspiring intellectual discourse, and

contributing to the advancement of knowledge within the academic community. Likewise, the Scientific Conferences provide avenues for researchers, scholars, and practitioners to convene, share insights, and collaborate on emerging trends and challenges in their respective fields.

Additionally, the report presents doctoral dissertation theses by students, highlighting the school's commitment to fostering the next generation of researchers and presenting the most innovative research in the field. Furthermore, we explore the social and sustainable development goals (SDGs) addressed through the school's research, demonstrating its alignment with global challenges.

Finally, the report emphasizes the variety of opportunities for active participation by students in research activity and professional work, underlining the school's commitment to providing students with valuable research experience.

As we conclude the introductory chapter of this report, I would like to extend sincere gratitude to all the dedicated researchers and thesis supervisors whose commitment and insightful contributions have significantly advanced our understanding of diverse fields of study. Special thanks are also due to the editorial team and reviewers, whose expertise ensured the highest standard of academic integrity and quality in presenting our findings. Additionally, the efforts of those who prepared and carefully reviewed the summaries of their projects and articles have been invaluable in achieving the clarity and precision necessary for effective communication of complex information. This collective work enriches the academic discourse and sets a solid foundation for ongoing and future research initiatives. Together, we continue to push the boundaries of knowledge and innovation, making a meaningful impact on both academic and practical levels.

EKONOMSKO-POSLOVNA FAK



ULTETA

School History¹



On July 2nd, 1959, the two-year post-secondary School of Commerce was established in Maribor. This act constituted the foundation of the current Faculty of Economics and Business as well as the University of Maribor. The purpose of the establishment was to bridge the gap between secondary and university education in economics.

In 1963, the School of Economics and Commerce underwent a name change to the School of Economics and Business, commonly known by its Slovenian acronym 'VEKŠ' across the country. The evolution of VEKŠ signalled not only qualitative growth but also internal maturation. By 1969, VEKŠ had become the first and, for several years, the sole higher education institution in Maribor.

In 1971, the exemplary academic staff structure and quality work laid the foundation for a postgraduate study program. The year 1976 marked a milestone, as VEKŠ awarded its first Ph.D. title, simultaneously marking the University of Maribor's inaugural Ph.D. distinction.

By 1989, the formal expansion of VEKŠ reached its zenith, with the school being renamed the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB). Since then, FEB has actively advanced its undergraduate and postgraduate study programs, earning international acclaim.

Recognizing the significance of its graduates' competitiveness in Slovenia, the European Union, and globally, FEB has dedicated over sixty years to ensuring the distinctiveness of its study programs and the employability of its graduates. The international accreditations received for study programs serve as affirmations of these efforts. In 2008, FEB received accreditation from the European Council of Business Education (ECBE). A year later, in 2009, it earned accreditation from the Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), and reaccreditation in 2019. The process of external accreditations continued by first accreditation in 2018 from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), a symbol of excellence since 1916 and successful reaccreditation in 2023. Currently, the school is in the process of acquiring EFMD program accreditation, which constitutes a benchmark for what is considered an internationally recognized peer-reviewed program.

These international accreditations underscore FEB's unwavering commitment to progress and the continual enhancement of its study programs and research. Graduates with internationally recognized degrees from FEB are well-positioned to compete in the market for both global education and labour.

Today, FEB employs seventy-four Faculty members and researchers active within fourteen departments, organized by disciplines: Department of Accounting and Auditing, Department of Business Law, Department of E-Business, Department of Economic Policy, Department of Entrepreneurship and Business Economics, Department of Finance, Department of Foreign Business Languages, Department of General Management and Organization, Department of International Economics and Business, Department of Marketing, Department of Political Economy, Department of Quantitative Economic Analyses, Department of Strategic Management and Company Policy, Department of Technology and Entrepreneurial Environment Protection. Altogether, there are one hundred and six employees at FEB (110.2 full time equivalents - FTE).

FEB Faculty members are also active researchers within fifteen research institutes: Institute of Accounting, Auditing and Taxation, Institute of Business Law, Institute of Economic Analysis and Forecasting, Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management, Institute of Finance and Artificial Intelligence, Institute of International Economic and Business Studies, Institute of Languages and Foreign Business Languages, Institute of Marketing, Institute of Operational Research, Institute of Management and Organization, Institute of Project Management, Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurial Environment Protection, Institute of Tourism and Business Logistics, Institute of Corporate Governance and Strategic Management, and Institute of E-Business and Information Technology Management.

FEB employs thirty staff members. To provide more efficient support for education, research and professional activities, our professional staff offices were reorganized in spring 2022. Since then, professional staff have been organized across two centres and five independent offices: (1) the Centre for Education, comprising the Students Affairs Office, Study Affairs Office and Office for Development, Support and Quality Assurance of Study Programs; (2) the Centre for Legal and Human Resource Affairs and Administration, which consists of the Office for Legal and Human Resource Affairs; (3) the Office for Research and Cooperation with the Business Environment; (4) the Library and Information Services Center; (5) the Student Career Centre and the Office for Administration and Maintenance; the Finance and Accounting Office; (6) the International Office; and (7) the IT Department.

¹ The chapter has been reproduced from FEB (2024a)



OUR MISSION

The Faculty of Economics and Business contributes to the holistic development of individuals and the sustainable development of the economy and society in the national, broader European and global environment through innovative research and education in economics and business.

OUR VISION

The Faculty of Economics and Business aspires to be renowned at the national and broader European level as an excellent research-oriented and globally-connected school of economics and business.



School Mission, Vision, and Values²

Shaping a compelling mission, vision, and set of values becomes not only a strategic imperative but also a guiding light illuminating the path forward. These foundational elements serve as the compass, shaping the organization's identity, guiding its decisions, and rallying its stakeholders behind a common cause. In this section, we delve into our mission, vision, and values, elucidating the principles that define our ethos and steer our actions towards realizing our collective aspirations.

Mission

The FEB contributes to the holistic development of individuals and the sustainable development of the economy and society in the national, broader European and global environment through innovative research and education in economics and business.

Vision

The FEB aspires to be renowned at the national and broader European level as an excellent research-oriented and globally connected school of economics and business.

Values

Knowledge and critical thinking

We create, broaden, and apply interdisciplinary and socially responsible knowledge, which we successfully disseminate to our students and to academic and business communities at both regional and international levels.

We are aware that critical thinking is the foundation for the development of any society. Therefore, we encourage and develop it in our interpersonal relations, and study programs, as well as within our research and professional work.

Cooperation

Educational and research activities are based on multifaceted cooperation within our institution and on an open dialogue with the broader community. Successful cooperation is based on trust in the FEB as an independent and unbiased knowledge institution, which builds on credibility and ethical action. In this way, we maintain a strong bridge of cooperation between the FEB and its students, the regional environment, and numerous partners in Slovenia and abroad.

Personal and social responsibility

We encourage and reward the responsibility of each individual for excellence in their teaching and research, as well as for excellence in their professional and voluntary work undertaken for the benefit of students, employees, and the broader society. Our activities in support of personal and intellectual growth of all stakeholders encourage socially responsible decision-making with a global outlook.

Sustainability

In our activities related to education, research, and professional and societal work, we consider the economic, social, and environmental viewpoints, aim to reduce negative environmental impact, promote economic prosperity, and encourage sustainable behaviour and social responsibility, thereby contributing to the well-being of employees and students, and to a positive impact on the society at large.

Equality and democracy

We strive for everyone to work and study in an atmosphere of respect, dignity, and inclusion. We promote cultural diversity, and we actively support full inclusion of persons with special needs. We ensure the spirit of open dialogue with all our stakeholders via democratic and transparent decision-making processes for key decisions.

Credibility and ethical behaviour

We embrace open communication, transparency of processes, and clearly defined responsibilities, a combination that encourages ethical action and helps build the credibility of the FEB.

Innovativeness and entrepreneurship

We actively co-shape the university innovation ecosystem and thus contribute to the co-creation of conditions for creativity and for the implementation of innovative economic and business solutions from both employees and students.

We encourage creativity, innovativeness and entrepreneurship, and we educate individuals to perceive and exploit business opportunities by prudent risk-taking. We implement these values in practice by being actively engaged in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

² The chapter has been reproduced from FEB (2024b)









**School Strategic
Orientations 2022–2030³**

Strategic orientation encompasses the deliberate choices and actions that we at FEB undertake to position ourselves effectively in the business school marketplace, respond to emerging challenges, and capitalize on opportunities. It reflects our commitment to adaptability, innovation, and alignment with our mission and vision. In the following section, we outline the key pillars of our strategic orientation.

Organization

The school's organization supports the mission of the School and builds the reputation of the School based on its achievements.

Education

Study programs and life-long education, based on quality and innovativeness, address the sustainable and socially responsible aspects, and are in line with changes in the business environment and the needs of the labour market.

Research

Achieving meaningful, impactful research results based on innovativeness and sustainable and socially responsible development of the school's research areas.

Stimulating working environment

Providing ongoing support for the development of higher education teachers and professional staff, along with a stimulating working environment.

Students

Contributing to the holistic development of students and achieving the school's mission in partnership with students.

Internationalization

Strengthening the visibility of the school in the European and global environment, based on innovation and the implementation of the sustainability principles in research and education.

Development through the quality system

Strengthening the culture of quality as the foundation for the long-term successful operation and development of the school.

Embeddedness in the environment

Further contribution to the strengthening of the innovation ecosystem that is based on knowledge transfer to the environment and on socially responsible action by the school, which contributes to the sustainable development of the economy and society at large.

School premises development and infrastructure

Developing the school's infrastructure in line with the needs of users and the principles of sustainability.

IT support

Increasing the digitization of the school and strengthening IT support for the school's internal and external environment.

³ The chapet has been reproduced from FEB (2024b)







THE ASSOCIATION TO ADVANCE COLLEGE
CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

University of
Faculty of Economic

for achievement of the highest standard of quality
for demonstrating a sustained commitment to high

Extension Business A

June 202

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Caryn Beck-Dudley".

Caryn Beck-Dudley
President and Chief Executive Officer

The AACSB logo, consisting of the letters "AACSB" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a small square icon to the right.



Memberships and Accreditations⁴

The active participation of the FEB in several national and international organizations and associations holds paramount importance for a dynamic and collaborative academic environment. Engaging with these entities allows the school to stay abreast of the latest developments, trends, and best practices within the field of economics and business on both national and global scales. This active involvement facilitates the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and innovative ideas among professionals, researchers, and educators, thereby enhancing the quality and relevance of the academic programs and research initiatives undertaken by the school.

Additionally, participation in these networks provides valuable opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, establishing meaningful partnerships, and staying connected with the broader academic and professional community. By being an active member of such organizations, the school not only contributes to the advancement of its own standing but also plays a vital role in shaping the discourse and progression of economic and business education and research on a broader stage.

FEB has currently acquired three international accreditations. These signify that the school meets rigorous standards in areas like curriculum, faculty qualifications, research, and student outcomes. This assurance of quality empowers students to make informed choices about their education, knowing their chosen institution adheres to internationally recognized standards. Secondly, it enhances the global recognition and reputation of the university, attracting diverse students and researchers, and encouraging international academic collaboration. International accreditations offer a valuable stamp of approval for both institutions and individuals, promoting confidence and facilitating success in the global market.

FEB has acquired the following international accreditations:

- Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)
- Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)
- European Council for Business Education (ECBE)

FEB is an active member in the following:

- Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)
- Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)
- European Council for Business Education
- ATLAS
- Consortium of International Double Degrees (CIDD)
- European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD)
- Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM)
- Microsoft Certified Exam Provider
- Microsoft Dynamics Academic Alliance (DyAA)
- Microsoft IT Academy Program Member
- SAP University Alliances.

⁴ This chapter has been reproduced from FEB (2024c) and FEB (2024d)







FEB Research Ethics Committee⁵

The key values of the FEB emphasize personal and social responsibility, sustainability, equality and democracy, credibility, and ethical behaviour. The Research Ethics Committee at the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Maribor was established in 2022 and serves as an advisory body to the FEB's Research Committee. It promotes and establishes conditions for ethically responsible research among university professors, associates, researchers, and students at all study levels within the school.

The Committee addresses the research, research tasks, and projects of university professors, associates, researchers, and students at all study levels at the FEB. It engages in the ethical assessment of research, research tasks, and projects conducted. This includes work involving people using research methods in economic and business sciences, along with related social sciences and humanities, as well as non-invasive psychophysiological or neurophysiological instruments and methods, in a manner that requires ethical evaluation.

The Committee has a president, a vice president, and three regular members. Among the three regular members, one represents the students. The members of the Committee are appointed and confirmed by the FEB Senate. The term of office for Committee members is four years, while the term for student member is one year.

⁵ The chapter has been reproduced from FEB (2024e)



A magnifying glass with a black frame and handle is positioned over a document. The lens is centered on a white rectangular area. The number '100' is printed in a simple, black, sans-serif font within this area. The document has some faint lines and a dark grey rectangular shape on the left side. The background is a light grey surface.

100



Research Highlights (2021-2023)⁶

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS (2021–2023)

3 International accreditations



2362 Students

(Study year 2023/2024)

822 Graduates

(University education programme, Professional higher education programme and 2nd-cycle study programme) from 2021 to 2023

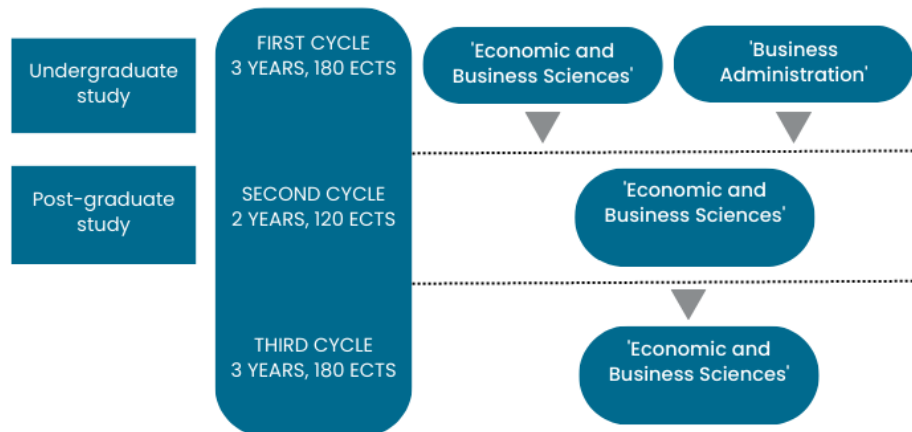
63 PhD Students

(Study year 2023/2024)

14 PhD theses defended

(from 2021 to 2023)

STRUCTURE OF STUDY PROGRAMMES (3+2+3 MODEL)



5 2 5 1

Pure citations of scientific work in the last 10 years (2013–2023)

2 4 8

Scientific articles published

3 1

Books and monographs (2021–2023)

9 5

Chapters in monographs (2021–2023)

⁶ Data was retrieved from FEB internal student, FEB research databases, and the Slovenian Current Research Information System (2024).



The above figure offers a comprehensive overview of the research highlights at the FEB for the period from 2021 to 2023.

FEB offers a diverse range of study programs, including undergraduate and master's programs, alongside a PhD program. The provision of programs in both Slovenian and English enhances accessibility and attracts domestic and international students, thus contributing to a more diverse academic environment.

In the academic year 2023/2024, the total number of students enrolled in the school was 2362. This number gives us an idea of the school's size and its potential impact on various academic and research initiatives. During the three-year period from 2021 to 2023, the school produced 822 graduates. The school maintained three international accreditations during this period, signifying its commitment to upholding high academic standards and recognition on a global scale.

The school employed seventy-four researchers in 2023, underscoring its dedication to a serious research environment. Over the three-year period, the school engaged in five international projects, and thirty-three national projects financed by Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency. This includes three research programs and twenty-four bilateral projects. Additionally, with forty-three applied projects for businesses undertaken, the school demonstrates its commitment to engaging with industry partners, addressing real-world challenges, and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, all of which are essential for economic development. The school also facilitated six student projects during the period.

As of 2023, FEB had sixty-three PhD students who were enrolled and being trained to become the next generation of scholars and researchers, contributing to the advancement of knowledge, and driving innovation. During the specified period, fourteen PhD theses were successfully defended, indicating the effectiveness of FEB's investment in nurturing these students.

Concerning the academic intellectual output, a total of 248 scientific articles, thirty-one books and monographs, and ninety-five chapters contributed to monographs were published, demonstrating the school's contribution to scholarly dissemination and knowledge creation across various disciplines.

The school garnered a substantial number of citations, with 5251 citations received in JCR and Scopus indexed journals over the past decade, showing the impact produced by the school's research output within the academic community.



A high-angle, blue-tinted photograph of a woman in a dark business suit and white blouse with a black bow at the neck. She is leaning over a desk, looking intently at several documents. One document features two pie charts and the text 'Business report'. To her left is a laptop keyboard, and to her right is a notebook with a grid pattern. The scene is brightly lit, creating a professional and focused atmosphere.

Research Institutes⁷

At the FEB, scientific research and consulting work are organized within the framework of institutes. The scientific research activities are funded by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation, other ministries of the Republic of Slovenia, from EU funds, as well as by Slovenian and foreign companies.

Research work is implemented in the context of fundamental and target research, consulting work, and life-long learning. Researchers also collaborate with companies, where they engage in applied and developmental projects.

Researchers actively engage in the international research arena, primarily participating in framework research programs where the school collaborates as a partner. This includes programs such as Erasmus+ - Strategic Partnerships, Jean Monnet, transnational programs like Interreg: Mediterranean, Danube, Central Europe, Alpine Space, cross-border cooperation for Austria, Hungary, and Croatia. Research collaboration also extends to bilateral partnerships with foreign universities.

Currently (31/12/2023), there are seventy-four Faculty members (78.2 FTE, according to Slovenian legislation, including teaching assistants and other supporting lecturers) active within fifteen research institutes organized by disciplines.

Researchers contribute to various fields, including international entrepreneurship and the internationalization of small and medium-sized enterprises, economic policy in the process of integration and globalization, the study of econometric models for simulating mechanisms and behaviour in open economies, international economic relations, public sector financing, corporate law, securities law, marketing, mathematics in economics, operations research, innovative business, human resources management, comprehensive quality management, business digitization, project-oriented business, strategy and strategic management, accounting, auditing and corporate taxation, environmental management, quality of logistics processes, and optimization of internal transport.

FEB Faculty members are active researchers within fifteen research institutes:

- Institute of Accounting, Auditing and Taxation,
- Institute of Business Law,
- Institute of Economic Analysis and Forecasting,
- Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management,
- Institute of Finance and Artificial Intelligence,
- Institute of International Economic and Business Studies,
- Institute of Languages and Foreign Business Languages,

- Institute of Marketing,
- Institute of Operational Research,
- Institute of Management and Organization,
- Institute of Project Management,
- Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurial Environment Protection,
- Institute of Tourism and Business Logistics,
- Institute of Corporate Governance and Strategic Management,
- Institute of E-Business and Information Technology Management.

Institute of Accounting, Auditing and Taxation

The Institute of Accounting, Auditing, and Taxation was founded in 1992, evolving from its previous incorporation into other organizational units. It is a dedicated research center focused on accounting, auditing, taxation, and related fields. The institute emphasizes both academic rigor and practical application, providing a comprehensive curriculum that combines theory with real-world experience. It collaborates with industry professionals and engages in innovative research, offering expert insights into contemporary practices in accounting, auditing, and taxation.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Lidija Hauptman**, associate professor (lidija.hauptman@um.si)
 Dr **Robert Horvat**, senior lecturer
 Dr **Iztok Kolar**, assistant professor
 Dr **Andreja Lutar Skerbinjek**, assistant professor
 MSc **Neca Tešić**, teaching assistant
 Dr **Daniel Zdolšek**, assistant professor

Research areas

- Financial accounting,
- Cost Accounting,
- Tax accounting,
- Managerial Accounting
- Sustainability Accounting
- Environmental Accounting
- Forensic Accounting
- Accounting information systems
- Accounting and reporting standards (IFRS, SAS)
- Sustainability accounting and reporting standards (IFRS-S)
- External Auditing,
- Internal Auditing,
- Tax auditing,
- Governmental auditing,
- Sustainability auditing

⁷ The chapter was reproduced from FEB (2024f), and the data were retrieved from FEB internal research databases.

- Taxation, tax compliance and governance, tax optimization
- Financial analysis,
- Strategic and operational controlling

Institute of Business Law

The research areas of the Institute of Business Law include corporate law, insolvency law, contract law, tax law, and EU law. Within the field of corporate law, the research activities of the institute's staff in recent times have been particularly focused on the legal aspects of sustainable corporate governance. Institute staff, among other things, participate in a research project, funded by the national research agency and dealing with the sustainable duties of directors. In addition, this institute collaborates intensively with companies and the public sector, providing legal studies and legal opinions.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Peter Podgorelec**, associate professor (peter.podgorelec@um.si)
 Dr **Borut Bratina**, full professor
 Dr **Dušan Jovanovič**, associate professor
 Dr **Andreja Primec**, associate professor

Research areas

- Corporate law
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Securities (security) law
- Compulsory settlement, bankruptcy law and winding up
- Finance law
- Taxation law
- Corporate governance
- Contractual law
- Public procurement law
- Competition law
- Intellectual property law
- International business law
- EU law
- Arbitration law
- Insurance law

Institute of Corporate Governance and Strategic Management

The Institute of Corporate Governance and Strategic Management at the University of Maribor's FEB conducts pivotal research contributing to the fields of corporate governance and strategic management. It focuses on areas such as corporate governance, examining structures ensuring transparency and ethical behaviour, and strategic management, investigating strategies for long-term success. Additionally, the institute explores the process, instrumental, and institutional dimensions of

management, corporate integrity and business compliance, organizational culture, and business ethics. Research addresses developmental issues across diverse entities, including profit and non-profit organizations, SMEs, large companies, and family businesses, fostering collaboration, publication, and knowledge advancement within the academic community.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Jernej Belak**, full professor (jernej.belak@um.si)
 Dr **Mojca Duh**, full professor
 Dr **Tjaša Štrukelj**, associate professor

Research areas

- Corporate governance
- Strategic management
- Process, instrumental and institutional dimensions of management
- Corporate integrity and business compliance
- Organizational culture
- Business ethics
- Company credibility
- Organizational philosophy
- Corporate social responsibility

Institute of Economic Analysis and Forecasting

The Institute for Economic Diagnosis and Prognosis has been operational since 1977 and has a rich history of scientific research and knowledge dissemination. Researchers and lecturers, working within the institute, strive to use and expand up-to-date economic knowledge. For its clients, the institute offers scientific and professional research, consulting, and education in micro- and macroeconomics and applied econometrics.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Silvo Dajčman**, full professor (silvo.dajcman@um.si)
 Dr **Jani Bekó**, full professor
 Dr **Vito Bobek**, associate professor
 Dr **Darja Boršič**, full professor
 Dr **Mejra Festič**, full professor
Nejc Fir, MSc, teaching assistant
Marko Senekovič, MSc, teaching assistant

Research areas

- Economic policy in the process of integration and globalization
- Price mechanisms in integration processes
- Sector analysis
- International comparison of prices and wages

- Economic movements
- Econometric models for simulating the functioning of open economies
- Labour market analysis in Slovenia and the EU
- Functioning of the EU Single Market
- Economic aspects of migration
- Market analysis for companies

Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management

The Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management conducts research on entrepreneurship in Slovenia and internationally. Its focus is on the development and support of small and medium-sized enterprises, and its studies address market trends and innovation strategies to improve conditions for growth and development. The Institute's work provides policymakers and companies with access to findings essential for fostering innovation and competitiveness. The Institute strengthens the entrepreneurial ecosystem and provides effective solutions to the challenges of today's entrepreneurship through active engagement with a range of stakeholders.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Barbara Bradač Hojnik**, full professor (barbara.bradac@um.si)
 Dr **Katja Crnogaj**, associate professor
 Dr **Ivona Huđek**, assistant professor
 Dr **Dijana Močnik**, full professor
 MSc **Samuel Plečko**, MSc, teaching assistant
 MSc **Matej Rus**, senior lecturer
 Dr **Karin Širec**, full professor
 Dr **Polona Tominc**, full professor
 Dr **Zdenka Ženko**, full professor

Research areas

- Establishment, development, and growth of SMEs
- Evaluation of business planning and entrepreneurship ideas
- Female entrepreneurship
- International entrepreneurship
- Digital entrepreneurship
- Family business
- Corporate entrepreneurship
- Social entrepreneurship
- Sustainable entrepreneurship
- Inclusive entrepreneurship
- Business economics
- Environmental economics
- Networking and business cooperation
- Researching the business environment
- Research and development of efficient and profitable business models

- Innovativeness of companies
- Innovation management
- Organisational and managerial conditions for innovation processes

Institute of E-business and Information Technology Management

The E-business and Management Information Institute at the FEB, University of Maribor, operates at the intersection of technology and business and is dedicated to augmenting the performance of digital organisations in local and global ecosystems. It explores a broad spectrum of areas, from the evaluation and management of information systems, to the strategic and operational design of digital transformation initiatives. Our team comprises experienced and young researchers with a significant external network in business and research.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Igor Perko**, associate professor
 Dr **Samo Bobek** full professor
 MSc **Sara Cokan**, MSc, teaching assistant
 MSc **Zdenko Deželak**, lecturer
 Dr **Simona Sternad Zabukovšek** full professor
 MSc **Irena Šišovska Klančnik**, MSc, teaching assistant

Research areas

- Information systems evaluation, implementation, management and governance
- Digital transformation strategies and action plans
- AI in business information systems
- Robotic process automation
- E-business models and systems
- Enterprise resource planning systems
- Customer relations management systems
- Digital marketing tools and applications
- Business use of social media
- Business intelligence and artificial intelligence integration
- Visualization, multimedia, virtual and augmented reality in business processes
- Sustainability and ethics in digital business practices
- Big data analysis and governance
- Data privacy and governance

Institute of Finance and Artificial Intelligence

The institute offers solutions in the field of artificial intelligence and data science for finance, as well as for other fields (industry, service sector, medicine, etc.) in the form of new products and software solutions. The members

are experts in the field of risk management. The Institute cooperates with governmental and regulatory bodies in Slovenia and around the world. We work in the field of health economics, where we are members of the expert group at the WHO. We provide consulting work in the field of finance, banking, insurance, and public finance. We carry out certified training sessions and participate in the training of auditors and appraisers.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Timotej Jagrič**, full professor
(timotej.jagric@um.si)

Aleksandra Amon, MSc, teaching assistant

Aljaž Herman, MMath, teaching assistant

Dr **Vita Jagrič**, associate professor

Dr **Tanja Markovič Hribernik**, full professor

Dr **Žan Jan Oplotnik**, full professor

MSc **Sabina Taškar Beloglavec**, senior lecturer

Research areas

- Corporate finance
- Banking
- Insurance
- Health economics
- Quantitative methods in finance
- Risk management
- VAR models
- Stress testing
- Behaviour finance
- Experimental economics
- Data science
- Artificial intelligence
- Machine learning

Institute of International Economic and Business Studies

The Institute for International Economic and Business Studies (IIEBS) was founded in 1975. Its members are university teachers and researchers in the field of international economics and business. The aim of the Institute is to contribute to and promote the development of international economics and business, with a focus on sustainability in international trade.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Dejan Romih**, assistant professor
(dejan.romih@um.si)

Dr **Romana Korez Vide**, associate professor

Dr **Žan Jan Oplotnik**, full professor

Research areas

- International economic relations

- International marketing and international business
- Management of intercultural differences in international business
- International finance and international corporate finance
- International economic trends
- Public sector financing
- Regional and sectoral topics
- International economic relations of Slovenia
- Long-term development strategies of Slovenia
- International economics (international finance, international trade)
- International business (international marketing)
- International economic relations

Institute of Languages and Foreign Business Languages

The Institute of Languages and Foreign Business Languages focuses on foreign languages as languages for specific purposes – primarily English and German (i.e., specialized terminology, business communication in foreign languages, commercial correspondence), LSP teaching and learning (i.e., teaching methods, resources, assessment, and lifelong learning to support foreign business language acquisition and proficiency), and interdisciplinary topics (i.e., intercultural communication and competences in business). Additionally, it offers a number of business communication-related language courses, language editing services, and academic/professional writing instruction.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Nataša Gajšt**, lector (natasa.gajst@um.si)

MSc **Tosja Kobler Jovanovič**, lector

Tatjana Koropec, lector

MSc **Alenka Plos**, lector

Research areas

- Research in foreign languages as languages for specific purposes:
 - specialized terminology and terminography,
 - corpus analysis of languages for specific purposes,
 - communication patterns, business communication in foreign languages,
 - business correspondence.
- Research in LSP teaching and learning:
 - modern and creative methods of foreign business language teaching and learning,
 - tools and materials for foreign business language teaching and learning,
 - foreign business language assessment, international standards,
 - academic and professional writing instruction,

- lifelong and non-formal learning of foreign languages.
- Interdisciplinary research:
 - intercultural communication and intercultural competences for business.
 - use of foreign languages as an element in business culture and competitiveness of organisations.

Institute of Management and Organization

The institute is engaged in researching management topics, topics in the field of organization, human resource management, organizational behavior, and well-being, as well as the effects of digitization on these topics. There are seven researchers working under the auspices of the institute. The most important international projects of the institute are: SMART PRODUCTION, REGIO HELP, and CHANCE4CHANGE.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Simona Šarotar Žižek**, full professor (simona.sarotar-zizek@um.si)
 Dr **Vojko Potočan**, full professor
 Dr **Sonja Treven**, full professor
 Dr **Duško Uršič**, full professor
 Dr **Zlatko Nedelko**, full professor
 Dr **Vida Sruk**, senior lecturer

Research areas

- Organizational Behaviour,
- Management of Human Resources in the Company,
- Encouraging Creativity among Employees,
- Overcoming Stress among Employees,
- Well-being Management,
- Safety and Health,
- Performance Management,
- Business Quality Management Systems (ISO 9000 consultancy),
- Information Security (consulting for ISO 17799),
- Organization of Production and Service Organizations,
- Design and Development of Organizational Models for Business Support,
- Development of Management Solutions for the Operation of Companies,
- Management of Business Processes,
- Artificial intelligence and Management of Human Resources,
- Artificial intelligence and Management,
- Well-being society 6.0.

Institute of Marketing

The Institute of Marketing was established on September 17, 1969, as the first institute at the FEB. It was founded with the

aim of developing scientific research work and involving students and companies in research activities and mutual connections between the school and the business environment. The first head of the institute was Professor Bogomir Deželak, PhD. Today, the institute has seven members and continues to follow the key ideas behind the institute's founding, which it enhances by transferring research results directly into the teaching process, adding additional value to the study of marketing at the FEB.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Damijan Mumel**, full professor (damijan.mumel@um.si)
 Dr **Matjaž Iršič**, assistant professor
 Dr **Domen Malc**, teaching assistant
 Dr **Borut Milfelner**, full professor
 Dr **Aleksandra Pisnik**, full professor
Nika Rakuša, MSc, teaching assistant
 Dr **Bruno Završnik**, full professor

Research areas

- Marketing research
- Marketing mix (product, price, promotion, and distribution)
- Strategic marketing
- Marketing in culture
- Marketing for commercial organizations
- Marketing for non-profit organizations
- Services marketing
- Relationship marketing
- Customer relationship management
- Purchasing management
- Product management
- Internal marketing
- Social marketing
- Organization, product, and brand image
- Consumer behaviour
- Macroeconomic trends and marketing
- E-marketing

Institute of Operational Research

The Institute of Operational Research operates within the FEB, University of Maribor, in the framework of scientific research and consulting activities. Members of the Institute of Operational Research have high-quality, up-to-date research achievements in the field of quantitative research methods and mathematics, in conjunction with various aspects of the modern business environment and economic theory, validated through project collaboration. High levels of expertise from national and international scientific and professional engagements of institute members are demonstrated and incorporated into its activities.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Blaz Frešer**, assistant professor
(blaz.freser@um.si)

Dr **Vesna Čančer**, full professor

Dr Techn. **Alenka Kavkler**, R Avstrija, full professor

Dr **Janko Marovt**, full professor

Dr **Maja Rožman**, assistant professor

Research areas

- Mathematics for economics
- Actuarial mathematics
- Mathematical statistics
- Economic statistics
- Econometrics
- Operations research
- Quantitative models for decision-making
- Artificial intelligence

Institute of Project Management

The Institute of Project Management focuses on advanced studies and innovations in the field of project-related and project-oriented strategic management. With its research and applied work addressing the role of projects in implementing strategies, managing strategic and business crises, and achieving sustainable success for business systems, the Institute is dedicated to understanding and creating effective solutions that enable organizations to successfully navigate dynamic business environments. In doing so, the Institute contributes to the theoretical foundations of project management and the sustainable success of organizations.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Igor Vrečko**, full professor (igor.vrecko@um.si)

Aljaž Kocet, MSc, teaching assistant

MSc **Andrej Smogavc Cestar**, lecturer

Patrick Šumandl, MSc, teaching assistant

Research areas

- Strategy and strategic management,
- Projects and project management,
- Global, strategic, and business crises,
- Strategy and project design,
- Strategy initiation and project launch,
- Project programs and multi-project operations,
- Information communication and AI technology to support project-oriented business,
- Project-oriented business processes,
- Project management in the areas of research, development, and innovation in international project collaboration,
- Knowledge and experience transfer in the field of project management.

Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurial Environment Protection

Since 1988, the Institute's team has been conducting applied and fundamental research in the fields of technology development and corporate environmental protection, knowledge transfer and educational activities in line with the needs of partners in business practice, as well as providing expert support and advice to a wide range of companies and institutions. The professional profile of the Institute's researchers is engineering, but the knowledge we provide and the research we conduct extends across the various functional areas of companies. We collaborate with other research and academic institutions in Slovenia and abroad.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Matjaž Denac**, associate professor (matjaz.denac@um.si)

Dr **Gregor Radonjič**, full professor

Research areas

- Environmental management research
- Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)
- Carbon footprint
- Development and eco-design of packaging

Institute of Tourism and Business Logistics

The institute of Tourism and Business Logistics has been founded to address research challenges in these two fields of expertise. The institute covers all major topics, e.g., destination management and marketing, hospitality, travel, and business logistics, all through the prism of excellence-driven sustainability.

Researchers

Head: Dr **Sonja Sibila Lebe**, full professor
(sonjasibila.lebe@um.si)

Dr **Klavdij Logožar**, associate professor

Research areas

- Sustainable tourism development for destinations (elaborating strategic development plans)
- Destination management – choosing optimal development plans for each destination
- Development of trendy and sustainable tourism products for destinations
- Cultural and creative tourism development in a destination

- Tourism development in rural environments
- Consulting on development of active holidays (culture, recreation, e.g., cycling, hiking)
- Marketing plans for destinations (setting the destination's USP, elaborating the 4P)
- Sustainable operations in the hospitality sector
- Human resources management in tourism
- Consulting enterprises by applying for the EU Ecolabel certificate
- Event management
- Wellness tourism
- Wine- and gastronomy tourism
- Tourism marketing (destinations, enterprises)
- Determination and minimisation of logistics costs
- Optimisation of internal transport and warehousing
- Inventory management







Research Projects⁸



International projects

FEB participates as an active partner institution in international projects, particularly those funded by the European Union, including Erasmus+, Horizon, and other EU initiatives. Engaging in these projects opens unique opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and exposure to diverse perspectives within the global academic and professional community.

Beyond the immediate academic benefits, active involvement in EU-funded projects strengthens the school's international network, promoting cross-cultural partnerships and facilitating the exchange of best practices. Additionally, these projects contribute to the school's reputation and visibility on the global stage, attracting top talent and establishing it as a hub for innovative research and collaborative initiatives.

By embracing these international opportunities, the school not only enriches its educational and research environments but also actively contributes to the broader goals of European collaboration and knowledge dissemination.

1. E-laboratory for digital education (LaDiEd)

Project title	E-laboratory for digital education (LaDiEd)
Financing Entity	Erasmus+
Institute	Institute of Accounting, Auditing and Taxation
Project leader	Lidija Hauptman
Researchers	Igor Perko, Andreja Lutar Skerbinjek, Nuša Basle, Dušan Jovanovič
Project summary	The project aims to enable enduring collaborations among higher education institutions in the EU. Its objective is to enhance the capacity for implementing (e-)teaching and (e-)learning through the cultivation of digital pedagogical skills among educators. This involves devising innovative approaches to deliver top-notch and accessible digital education, alongside the creation and utilization of high-calibre digital content and contemporary (e-)tools. By attaining this objective, the project supports higher education institutions in delivering exceptional and inclusive digital education. This will be achieved by supporting professors in developing their digital skills and by enhancing education

	and training systems to address these evolving challenges.
Practical relevance	The project promotes collaboration among higher education institutions through the exchange of knowledge and experiences. It focuses on enhancing the digital pedagogical skills of teaching staff, creating an e-learning platform, and analyzing online examination methods. By bringing together institutions from Ireland, Slovenia, and Croatia, the project facilitates diverse perspectives on shared topics, enriching it with varied cultural and ideological viewpoints.

2. MICE Next Evolution (MICE.N.E)

Project title	MICE Next Evolution (MICE.N.E)
Financing Entity	Erasmus+
Institute	Institute of E-business and Information Technology Management
Project leader	Igor Perko
Researchers	Vojko Potočan, Sonja Sibila Lebe
Project summary	The project defines and shares aims, methods, and tools for a model of transnational cooperation between HEIs and MICE sector players in Italy, Spain, Belgium, Lithuania, and Slovenia. It takes the form of a stable partnership to conceive, design, test, and disseminate a new MICE Management HE curriculum that valorises, in young European students with a background in economics, an integrated set of managerial, digital and green skills to make them into real change agents in the MICE sector.
Practical relevance	The MICE project will result in a MICE Management HE Curriculum implemented in the HE programs of Italy, Spain, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Belgium. It will provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Microlearning pills and narrative branching scenarios for the development of green, digital, and managerial skills of students from economic backgrounds - A MICE teaching manual created to cover transformational team coaching and WBL – Piloting of the Curriculum-- with eighty students from the four countries

⁸ The data were retrieved from the FEB internal research databases.

	-Hybrid mobility for twenty-four University Professors for live testing of the Manual
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3. Small diameter wood utilization with innovative stand management for multifunctional forests and a growing sustainable bio-economy (SMALLWOOD)

Project title	Small diameter wood utilization with innovative stand management for multifunctional forests and a growing sustainable bio-economy (SMALLWOOD)
Financing Entity	Horizon 2020, Era-Net, ForestValue JTC 2017
Institute	Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
Project leader	Zdenka Ženko
Researchers	Damijan Mumel, Alenka Kavkler
Project summary	Trees from Small Diameter Stands (SDS), resulting from thinning, coppicing, forest fire prevention cutting, and linear areas such as roadsides, are a largely underutilized wood resource with high potential to support the growth of the forest-based bioeconomy in Europe. Aiming at increasing harvesting efficiency and reducing operational costs, the Smallwood project will develop and bring two Harvesting and Extraction Innovations (HEIs) of specific SDS relevance closer to the market. These include 1) Multi-tree harvesting techniques combined with new working methods; and 2) Combined harvesting and chipping. The overall objective is to increase the sustainable utilization of small-diameter wood through improved management to generate higher long-term value and stability of forests and to further boost new SMEs and work opportunities in rural areas.
Practical relevance	Proposed new options or solutions for forest management, early thinning and harvesting of overgrown areas, fire prevention, harvesting and transportation, and sales opportunities for biomass have been included in the final research report. New multi-tree harvesting techniques result in greater cost efficiency and less damage to the remaining trees, forest land and roads. New techniques are innovative for private forest owners and forest management, seedling

	stand tending and sales of biomass. Cost effective production makes small wood a more interesting resource for heating plants, biorefineries, other product buyers and small buyers for wood heating. At FEB, a new business model for these activities has been developed.
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4. Spatial and economic science in higher education – addressing the playful potential of simulation games (Spationomy 2.0)

Project title	Spatial and economic science in higher education – addressing the playful potential of simulation games (Spationomy 2.0)
Financing Entity	Erasmus+
Institute	Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
Project leader	Simona Sternad Zabukovšek
Researchers	Polona Tominc, Samo Bobek
Project summary	The project aims to establish a platform for knowledge exchange between staff/teachers and students in the field of “geo-informatics” and the economy. Objectives of the project include bringing together students from different fields through blended mobility, where they will help develop novel approaches in spatial economic data analysis, bringing together scientists with different backgrounds to establish new cooperation within the domain of “spatial economics”, assessing the potential of playful, experiential and simulation game-based learning in this context, devising an interdisciplinary and multinational course that facilitates interconnection between economics and geoinformatics, developing an open access methodology for spatial exploration of economic data, and establishing a simulation game scenario to model real-world problems and their solutions.
Practical relevance	The project has significant practical relevance because it fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative learning methodologies in higher education. Bringing together students from diverse fields and scientists with varying backgrounds facilitates the development of novel approaches in spatial economic data analysis. Incorporating playful,

	simulation game-based learning enhances student engagement and provides a practical framework for understanding complex real-world problems in spatial economics. Moreover, establishing an open-access methodology for spatial exploration of economic data ensures accessibility and transparency in research practices. Ultimately, the project aims to address pressing societal and economic challenges by equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary for informed decision-making and problem-solving in the dynamic field of spatial economics.
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	utilizing game dynamics were entered to be used proactively by business leaders and consumers willing to combine fun with socially and environmentally desirable activities. The platform's innovative idea consists of gathering novel and tested solutions in one place, thus enabling quick and easy access to various ideas that can potentially create a sustainability-conscious approach by/for the public. By utilizing game dynamics, which have proven effective in encouraging consumers to behave in a certain way, businesses can gain essential benefits from marketing, relationship building and CSR-related merits. The platform is also helpful for consumers with a sustainability-conscious mindset to help them find socially- or eco-friendly solutions, connect with relevant businesses and support the initiatives. https://econosteam.eu/assignments/
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5. Economics of Sustainability (EOS)

Project title	Economics of Sustainability (EOS)
Financing Entity	Erasmus+
Institute	Institute of Corporate Governance and Strategic Management
Project leader	Tjaša Štrukelj
Researchers	Mojca Duh, Jernej Belak, Barbara Bradač Hojnik, Simona Sternad Zabukovšek, Romana Korez Vide
Project summary	The project integrates sustainability into tertiary education curricula, addressing core environmental and social issues. It proposes a new subject, "Economics of Sustainability," covering diverse areas such as business sustainability, environmental relations, and sustainable finance. Through joint curriculum development, the project fosters global collaboration among partner institutions. A coursebook supports students and educators, providing secondary access as an open-access resource. The project promotes sustainable behaviours among businesses and consumers by leveraging technology diffusion and game dynamics. Results are disseminated via an open-access platform, facilitating proactive engagement with sustainability-conscious activities, and supporting businesses in marketing and CSR efforts. https://econosteam.eu/
Practical relevance	The project's results were disseminated by creating an open-access platform where ideas for

National projects

Research Programs funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Among the research activities of FEB, research programs represent a public service in the form of a cohesive area of research work, expected to remain relevant and applicable over an extended period and of significant importance to Slovenia.

Public service in the field of research and development activities, in the form of research programs, is conducted by research program groups within public research institutions, higher education institutions established by the Republic of Slovenia, and (based on concession) program groups organized within legal entities of private and public law. These research programs play an important role in fostering the intellectual and technological advancement of Slovenia. Their importance lies in their ability to address complex challenges, drive innovation, and contribute to the overall progress of society. By engaging in sustained and focused research efforts, these programs not only expand the frontiers of knowledge but also cultivate a culture of inquiry and critical thinking within the academic and research communities (ARIS, 2024a). FEB currently participates in three research programs, in two as a leading institution. Research programs are funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency of the Republic of Slovenia.

1. Adjustment of the Slovenian economy and development identity of Slovenia in the EU

Project title	Adjustment of the Slovenian economy and development identity of Slovenia in the EU
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Institute	Institute of Economic Analysis and Forecasting
Project leader	Žan Jan Oplotnik
Researchers	Jani Beko, Darja Boršič, Mejra Festić, Timotej Jagrič, Simona Šarotar Žižek, Aleksandra Amon, Aljaž Herman
Project summary	The research program focuses on analysing convergence processes and asymmetries in the EU, particularly in Slovenia, subsequent to the global recession. Interdisciplinary analysis explores new paradigms in economics and social sciences. Key areas include nonfinancial and financial sector convergence, game theory methodology, and the impact of Cross-Border Mergers & Acquisitions (C-B M&A) on strategic industries. Research also delves into international financial architecture, risk modelling, and the sustainability imperative, emphasizing collaborative, interdisciplinary efforts to address socio-economic challenges. The initiative aligns with calls for comprehensive research in top scientific journals, advocating for agent-based modelling, mathematical simulations, and social data mining for informed decision-making.
Practical relevance	The research program aims to bolster Slovenia's assertive position in the EU, enhancing its economic and political identity. A significant concern for emerging markets like Slovenia is the lack of robust financial regulatory frameworks, which are crucial for preventing financial crises. It highlights the need for appropriate financial arrangements to support Slovenia's economic development. It critiques linear economic strategies, such as raising value-added taxes without considering cyclical societal impacts, demonstrating how such approaches often fail. The research advocates for nonlinear thinking and the application of mathematical models to navigate out of crises and improve decision-making. Moreover, it underscores the role of innovation and human capital management in boosting economic activity, efficiency, and productivity. The findings aim to enrich educational and research programs, elevating the quality of undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

2. Entrepreneurship for Innovative society

Project title	Entrepreneurship for innovative society
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Institute	Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
Project leader	Polona Tominc
Researchers	Jernej Belak, Samo Bobek, Barbara Bradač Hojnik, Katja Crnogaj, Vesna Čančer, Silvo Dajčman, Mojca Duh, Blaž Frešer, Ivona Hudek, Borut Milfelner, Dijana Močnik, Matjaž Mulej, Zlatko Nedelko, Vojko Potočan, Gregor Radonjič, Miroslav Rebernik, Karin Širec, Tjaša Štrukelj, Romana Korez Vide, Simona Sternad Zabukovšek, Samuel Plečko
Project summary	The research program aims to address Slovenia's lag in innovation and entrepreneurship by modelling multidimensional variables affecting economic growth. Three pillars underpin the research: understanding interconnected variables, international comparisons, and interdisciplinary approaches. Key areas include studying urban entrepreneurial ecosystems, the gig economy's impact on digitization, and the role of intrapreneurship in fostering a proactive business culture. The research also delves into high-growth potential enterprises, financial aspects, and sustainable entrepreneurship, emphasizing environmental integration. The research will be upgraded with an investigation of the conditions for expansion of high-growth potential enterprises and for fast growing enterprises, with the emphasis on financial aspects. In-depth analysis of sustainable entrepreneurship and the sustainability aspects of business operations are considered.
Practical relevance	The main research results – GEM research findings – are instrumental in shaping policy decisions and public administration practices, particularly focusing on SMEs and entrepreneurship support. Initially, the TEA index drew significant attention, but over time, other indicators gained prominence. Today, many vital policy documents either cite GEM data or include GEM

	<p>indicators to evaluate policy effectiveness. At the Slovenian Government level, the Slovenian Industrial Policy sets out industry and economic development priorities, integrating several GEM measures to boost competitiveness, nurture entrepreneurship, spur innovation, tackle societal challenges, and promote sustainable industrial growth. Additionally, the Operational Programme for the Implementation of EU Cohesion Policy and the Slovene Smart Specialisation Strategy rely on GEM findings to inform their strategies. Furthermore, ministries like the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities incorporate GEM results into their discussions and initiatives, including those targeting female entrepreneurship. SPIRIT Slovenia extensively employs GEM data to bolster entrepreneurship, innovation, technology development, internationalization, and foreign direct investment. Similarly, the IMAD (Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development) employs GEM research for monitoring, analysis, forecasting, and strategic decision-making in economic and development policy.</p>
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	<p>integrating neural network-based systems for product development support, and studying ergonomic design for evolving workspaces. Shifting towards customized production emphasizes optimal scheduling for efficient resource utilization. Additionally, new project management metrics tailored to project typologies will be developed. In dimensional metrology, emphasis lies on advancing measurement techniques like laser interferometry and form measurements to maintain competitiveness in international markets. The research program promises practical applicability and scientific value for industry advancement.</p>
Practical relevance	<p>The development of new metrics and key performance indicators tailored to specific project typologies and stakeholder requirements ensures the practical relevance of this research segment. This innovative approach enables organizations to respond more effectively to the dynamic business environment, improve the monitoring and evaluation of project performance and ensure sustainable development and competitiveness in the market. By improving project strategies through measurable, tailored indicators, the research contributes directly to the optimization of project management, resulting in greater efficiency, lower costs, and better alignment with corporate strategies. This aspect of the research provides key insights for companies looking to improve their business outcomes through more accurate planning, execution, and evaluation of projects, which is particularly important in rapidly changing industry sectors.</p>

3. Advanced concepts of production management and dimensional metrology

Project title	Advanced concepts of production management and dimensional metrology
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Institute	Institute of Project Management
Project leader	Bojan Ačko (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering) Igor Vrečko (Faculty of Economics and Business)
Researchers	/
Project summary	The largest European research on production management in the Industry 4.0 era focuses on analysing the impact of new technology on manufacturing companies. Objectives include developing a supportive environment for SMEs,

Other Research Projects funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Within the framework of national research, FEB research activities are conducted through basic, and target research programs, also co-financed by the Slovenian research and Innovation agency.

Basic research projects represent a multifaceted approach to advancing knowledge, encompassing basic research that explores the fundamental principles of various disciplines. The financial support provided by the Public Agency for Research underscores the strategic importance of these projects in fostering scientific excellence and addressing key challenges to propel the nation's research landscape forward (ARIS, 2024b).

The Target research program constitutes a form and method of implementing the Development Strategy of Slovenia and the Research and Innovation Strategy of Slovenia. It is designed as an instrument for connecting the state, the research sphere, and the broader public on specifically defined priority topics. Such projects provide targeted research support in the preparation of long-term development planning documents, in monitoring and evaluating implementation of the fundamental directions, and in adjusting or changing their goals and measures for implementation based on changed circumstances. This program is financed by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency, together with various ministries (ARIS, 2024b).

In the period from 2021 to 2023, FEB participated in two basic research projects and four target research programs.

1. Corporate social responsibility, as directors' responsibility

Project title	Corporate social responsibility, as directors' responsibility
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency – basic research project
Institute	Institute of Business Law
Project leader	Rado Bohinc (Science and Research Centre Koper) Borut Bratina (University of Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business)
Researchers	Andreja Primec, Dušan Jovanovič
Project summary	The project investigates the impact of bank ownership (domestic vs. foreign) on corporate governance within the context of the banking union in Central and Eastern European countries. It addresses concerns raised by the euro area crisis regarding national banking control and resolution inadequacies. The study focuses on countries with high numbers of foreign-owned domestic banks and explores how supranational supervision affects banking governance. Additionally, it examines macro-prudential measures introduced by National Central Banks to prevent economic overheating. The European Central Bank aims to prevent excessive risk,

	enhance financial sector resilience, and promote a systemic perspective in financial regulation.
Practical relevance	Corporate governance of banks in the context of foreign or domestic ownership is another topical issue in the transition to green project finance and sustainable development. Bank ownership has an important influence on banking strategy and of the prioritization of financing for green and sustainable projects. Also, the owners of a bank determine the composition of the supervisory board or board of directors, which then selects and appoints the bank management. It is then up to the bank management to determine the level of socially responsible financing that takes into account and prioritizes green and sustainable projects. The results of this research can provide a good basis for further research into the influence of bank ownership and the composition of the bank management or boards of directors on the responsible and prioritized financing of green and sustainable projects.

2. Corporate governance of public services – between efficiency and social responsibility

Project title	Corporate governance of public services – between efficiency and social responsibility
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency – basic research project
Institute	Institute of Business Law
Project leader	Rado Bohinc, (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences) Mejra Festič, (University of Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business)
Researchers	Borut Bratina, Peter Podgorelec
Project summary	The scientific background of the proposed research is the critique and upgrading of a new public management based on the concept of social responsibility, which derives from the following values: public interest, social justice (in terms of solidarity and equal access to public services and goods for all), a democratic type of management and individual responsibility. The aim of the research is to define and elaborate a balanced model of organization and corporate

	governance in the field of public services in the Republic of Slovenia, based on both efficiency and social responsibility. The latter covers the field of economic, legal, and ethical responsibility, as well as discretionary responsibilities. Choosing a model that will optimally match its specialties and tradition and maintain an adequate range of public services and regulatory activities is crucial for the further successful development of the Republic of Slovenia.
Practical relevance	<p>Corporate governance practices, which are enshrined in the Corporate Governance Codes, are relevant for responsible management of multiple sectors in the economy that are relevant for improvements in Slovenia. There are various legal arrangements of corporate governance in individual countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stock Exchange rules for the admission of securities to regulated markets, - Different business rules and operating methods in national contexts, - Different cultural values and socio-economic traditions. <p>The principles of Corporate Governance Codes across countries are similar, and their relevance is increasing. Thus, when investing in a company, potential investors decide on the basis of the financial results of the company's operations, as well as the corporate governance of the company. Given the high degree of comparability of Codes across countries, the convergence of corporate governance practices could be discussed, with Codes being a mechanism for further convergence of corporate governance systems.</p> <p>Corporate Governance Codes are not legally binding. If the Codes were to be integrated into the European continental-civilian concept of legal sources, they could, by their very legal nature, constitute, to a certain extent, the customs and business practices that should apply in the field of Corporate Governance.</p>

	The importance of good corporate governance has come to the fore in the wake of the economic and financial crisis that began in 2007, when it emerged that corporate governance was not working as expected, and that shortcomings and weaknesses in corporate governance were, to some extent, also reflected in the scale of the economic and financial crisis.
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3. The analysis of the situation and development of the economic space abroad in connection with the Slovenian economy

Project title	The analysis of the situation and development of the economic space abroad in connection with the Slovenian economy
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency - target research program
Institute	Institute of Operational Research
Project leader	Maja Rožman
Researchers	Polona Tominc, Tatjana Horvat, Metka Tekavčič, Igor Vrečko, Karin Širec, Borut Milfelner, Aleksandra Pisnik, Domen Malc, Jernej Belak, Katja Crnogaj, Ivona Hudek
Project summary	The analysis focuses on the economic environment and activities in Slovenian-connected regions abroad, aiming to understand challenges and opportunities. Development initiatives include investment promotion, infrastructure improvement, and fostering a favourable business climate. Strengthening economic ties with border communities fosters mutual prosperity through increased cooperation and employment. Encouraging entrepreneurship among youth abroad enhances economic synergy and market expansion. Support mechanisms such as education, financing, and mentorship are crucial. Active involvement in analysing and developing foreign economic spaces is essential for Slovenia to leverage cooperation, knowledge exchange, and influence, benefiting both Slovenia and its connected communities.
Practical relevance	The results of the project would enable a better understanding of economic connections and mutual

	<p>influences between Slovenia and other countries. This could lead to more effective and targeted economic cooperation. Information obtained from this research could help in the formulation of better economic policies to promote cooperation and economic development both in Slovenia and abroad. A better understanding of the economic space abroad could help in the identification of new trade opportunities for Slovenian companies, which would stimulate growth and employment. Analysis of economic trends and opportunities abroad could lead to a better understanding of the investment environment, which could attract more foreign investment to Slovenia and vice versa. The results of the project could contribute to a more balanced regional development by improving connections and cooperation between different economic regions in Slovenia and abroad. A better understanding of the economic space and opportunities for cooperation could encourage innovation and technological development, which could lead to greater competitiveness of the Slovenian economy on the global market. Better understanding and cooperation between economies could also contribute to socio-economic development both in Slovenia and abroad, which would improve the living conditions and well-being of the population.</p>
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Project summary	<p>The project addresses two key content areas that are important for the proposed project: the motivation and habits of congress guests and their consumption when attending business meetings and thus a congress destination. Both areas are first discussed based on the most important scientific results and implications, as well as the findings and recommendations of experts. On this basis, we design a measurement tool (questionnaire) and conduct an analysis of the results, which allow the profiling of congress guests by the extent of their consumption. The proposed problem approach dictates the implementation of project activities and analytical methods, which together allow for a holistic treatment and a view from different perspectives, i.e., ones that are interdisciplinary in nature, which is also reflected in the interdisciplinary composition of the working group.</p>
Practical relevance	<p>The results will make it possible for the Slovene Tourism Board to plan its promotion activities for the field of event organization, as well as making promotion more targeted. The same goes for all destinations included in the research: they will be able to plan future events more successfully, as they will be able to better recognize their target segments, as well as their target markets and event organisers in Slovenia and abroad.</p>

4. Research of congress guests, their habits and consumption in Slovenia

Project title	Research of congress guests, their habits and consumption in Slovenia
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency- target research program
Institute	Institute of Tourism and Business Logistics
Project leader	Marko Kukanja (University of Primorska, Faculty of Tourism Studies - Turistica) Sonja Sibila Lebe (University of Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business)
Researchers	/

5. Reform of the enrolment process on public faculties in Slovenia

Project title	Reform of the enrolment process on public faculties in Slovenia
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency - target research program
Institute	Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
Project leader	Gregor Dugar (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law) Polona Tominc (University of Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business)
Researchers	Maja Rožman
Project summary	The project aims to analyse and reform Slovenia's outdated application-selection process for higher education, which has remained unchanged since 1995. It

	<p>evaluates the impact of the process on student success and explores alternative selection methods. Seeking a fairer system, it considers all candidate achievements and potentials, drawing from experience in EU countries. The reform aims for broader access while maintaining academic standards. Legal analysis will address regulatory changes, involving various stakeholders. Additionally, the project explores the introduction of career counselling to aid students' study choices. Collaboration among three Slovenian universities ensures a comprehensive approach. The project's output will propose updated selection models, informing Slovenia's higher education application processes.</p>
Practical relevance	<p>The project brings the following practical implications regarding enrolment in public universities in the Republic of Slovenia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of the current application and selection process for enrolment in undergraduate university and higher education programs since 1995; - Evaluation of the current application and selection process and analysis of its effects on the academic success of admitted candidates in higher education and later in the labour market; - Evaluation of the current application and selection process and analysis of its effects on the realization of candidates' potential in higher education and later in the labour market; - Analysis of how different types of entry requirements contribute to more open access to higher education and promote student mobility in Europe; - International comparative analysis of the application process and entry requirements for enrolment in undergraduate higher education programs in selected EU countries; - Preparation of proposals for different models of application

	and selection processes for enrolment in undergraduate study programs in Slovenia.
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6. Fiscal capacity of Slovene municipalities

Project title	Fiscal capacity of Slovene municipalities
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency - target research program
Institute	Institute of International Economic and Business Studies
Project leader	Vladimir Prebilič (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences) Žan Jan Oplotnik (University of Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business)
Researchers	Silvo Dajčman, Dejan Romih
Project summary	<p>Local communities face challenges from economic globalization and financial instability. Fiscal decentralization and financial autonomy are crucial for them to respond effectively. Vertical and horizontal tax equalization principles ensure proportional resource allocation. Fiscal autonomy allows communities to tailor financial policies to local needs. Stable and clear taxes are essential, alongside the ability to set service tariffs. Within the relationship between the state and local communities, we adopt the principle of vertical tax equalization, which means proportionality between obligations for the tasks transferred to the local level and the allocated resources, and horizontal equalization, which presupposes proportional distribution of resources among local government units. An optimal system that would ensure an adequate ratio between revenues and the cost of carrying out tasks in all local communities is merely an ideal; therefore, in practice there are divergences between these categories.</p>
Practical relevance	<p>This research emphasizes the need for local communities to adapt and thrive amid challenges such as economic globalization, market instability, and financial crises. It highlights the critical role of fiscal decentralization and financial autonomy, enabling local governments to deliver quality public services while managing citizen</p>

	demands and national frameworks. The project advocates for balanced resource allocation through vertical and horizontal tax equalization, acknowledging the practical challenges in achieving an ideal fiscal system. It proposes fiscal autonomy as a means for local communities to tailor resources to their needs, emphasizing the importance of stable, clear, and sufficient local taxes. Additionally, it suggests allowing local governments to set service tariffs, aligning financial strategies with community goals. The necessity for a detailed fiscal autonomy analysis and revenue stream comparison among municipalities is underscored, with the aim of optimizing local financing systems and enhancing fiscal autonomy, since Slovenia's position on the Local Autonomy Index suggests room for improvement.
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Bilateral projects funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

International bilateral projects are funded by the Slovenian research and innovation agency and a partner agency from a partner country. This scheme co-finances bilateral collaboration to strengthen scientific and research cooperation with partner countries, establish new sustainable international partnerships, and increase the participation of young researchers in consortia of international research projects (ARIS, 2024c).

Projects of this nature are important as they facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise, promote the establishment of enduring international collaborations, and contribute to the professional development of younger researchers. The support provided by the agency enables the formation of robust partnerships, enhancing the overall impact and innovation potential of international research initiatives. In the period from 2021 to 2023, FEB participated in twenty-four bilateral projects.

1. Generation Z Career Management: Strategy to Prevent Human Capital to Flight Out of Motherland

Project title	Generation Z Career Management: Strategy to Prevent Human Capital to Flight Out of Motherland
Participant country	University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Economics (Serbia)

Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Vojko Potočan
Researchers	Zlatko Nedelko, Daniel Zdojšek

2. Digital transformation and social responsibility of higher education in Croatia and Slovenia

Project title	Digital transformation and social responsibility of higher education in Croatia and Slovenia
Participant country	University of Split, Faculty of Economics, Business, and Tourism (Croatia)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Zlatko Nedelko
Researchers	Vojko Potočan, Daniel Zdojšek

3. Generation Z and modern technologies in higher education - a comparative study of Montenegro and Slovenia in the function of the development of smart education (Smart Education)

Project title	Generation Z and modern technologies in higher education - a comparative study of Montenegro and Slovenia in the function of the development of smart education (Smart Education)
Participant country	University of Montenegro, Faculty of Economics (Montenegro)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Zlatko Nedelko
Researchers	Vojko Potočan

4. Maturity model of e-government digital transformation

Project title	Maturity model of e-government digital transformation
Participant country	University of Montenegro, Faculty of Economics (Montenegro)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Simona Sternad Zabukovšek
Researchers	Samo Bobek, Irena Šišovska Klančnik

5. Are banking regulation and supervision challenged by neobanks?

Project title	Are banking regulation and supervision challenged by neobanks?
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Participant country	University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna (Austria)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Vita Jagrič
Researchers	Timotej Jagrič, Aleksandra Amon, Sabina Taškar Beloglavec

6. From responsible to sustainable information: Comparison of companies from the USA and Slovenia

Project title	From responsible to sustainable information: Comparison of companies from the USA and Slovenia
Participant country	Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff (Arizona, USA)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Vojko Potočan
Researchers	Zlatko Nedelko, Sonja Treven, Daniel Zdolšek

7. Social responsibility and Generation Z: Comparison of the USA and Slovenia

Project title	Social responsibility and Generation Z: Comparison of the USA and Slovenia
Participant country	Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff (Arizona, USA)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Zlatko Nedelko
Researchers	Vojko Potočan, Daniel Zdolšek

8. A Hybrid Platform for real time intrusion detection framework based on cyber security Intelligence monitoring system

Project title	A Hybrid Platform for real time intrusion detection framework based on cyber security Intelligence monitoring system
Participant country	Indian Institute of Information Technology (India)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Simona Sternad Zabukovšek
Researchers	Samo Bobek, Polona Tominc, Maja Rožman

9. Developing smart cities/communities maturity from smart regions perspectives with focus on one road one belt initiative

Project title	Developing smart cities/communities maturity from smart regions perspectives with focus on one road one belt initiative
Participant country	Dalian Minzu University, Dalian, Liaoning (China)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Simona Sternad Zabukovšek
Researchers	Samo Bobek, Polona Tominc, Maja Rožman

10. Methodology for measurement of perceived quality and satisfaction with e-banking services

Project title	Methodology for measurement of perceived quality and satisfaction with e-banking services
Participant country	University of Rijeka, Faculty of Economics and Business (Croatia)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Borut Milfelner
Researchers	Aleksandra Pisnik, Domen Malc, Damijan Mumel

11. Readiness of manufacturing enterprises for Industry 4.0 – a comparison of Slovenia and Hungary

Project title	Readiness of manufacturing enterprises for Industry 4.0 – a comparison of Slovenia and Hungary
Participant country	Óbuda University, Keleti Faculty of Business and Management (Hungary)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Zlatko Nedelko
Researchers	Vojko Potočan, Simona Šarotar Žižek, Živana Veingerl Čič, Blaž Frešer

12. The analysis of lacking competences among students and education models in the field of culture and creative industries in Bosnia and Hercegovina and Slovenia

Project title	The analysis of lacking competences among students and education models in the field of culture and
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	creative industries in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia
Participant country	University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Economics (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Simona Šarotar Žižek
Researchers	Damijan Mumel, Borut Milfelner

13. Analysis of the impact of using different teaching methods on the development of transversal competences of students

Project title	Analysis of the impact of using different teaching methods on the development of transversal competences of students
Participant country	University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Economics (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Tjaša Štrukelj
Researchers	Mojca Duh, Jernej Belak, Simona Sternad Zabukovšek, Romana Korez Vide

14. The impact of economic policy uncertainty on unemployment in the euro area

Project title	The impact of economic policy uncertainty on unemployment in the euro area
Participant country	Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), School of Business and Governance (Estonia)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Silvo Dajčman
Researchers	Alenka Kavkler, Dejan Romih

15. Readiness of enterprises for Industry 4.0 – a comparison of Slovenia and Finland

Project title	Readiness of enterprises for Industry 4.0 – a comparison of Slovenia and Finland
Participant country	Centria University of Applied Sciences (Finland)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Zlatko Nedelko
Researchers	Vojko Potočan, Maja Rožman, Polona Tominc

16. Management challenges of Industry 4.0: Comparative analysis of Slovenia and Norway

Project title	Management challenges of Industry 4.0: Comparative analysis of Slovenia and Norway
Participant country	Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Economics and Management (Norway)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Zlatko Nedelko
Researchers	Vojko Potočan, Maja Rožman, Polona Tominc

17. Unethical practices of future employees regarding promotion in Slovenia and Lithuania – a comparative study

Project title	Unethical practices of future employees regarding promotion in Slovenia and Lithuania – a comparative study
Participant country	Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (Lithuania)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Zlatko Nedelko
Researchers	Vojko Potočan, Maja Rožman

18. The impact of managerial characteristics, practices and ideologies on decision making in Slovene-German company internationalization relations

Project title	The impact of managerial characteristics, practices and ideologies on decision making in Slovene-German company internationalization relations
Participant country	Universität Regensburg, Faculty of Business, Economics and Management Information Systems (Germany)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Zlatko Nedelko
Researchers	Vojko Potočan, Maja Rožman

19. ICT enabled business networks in multi-ethnic environment with emphasis on “One belt one road (OBOR)” efforts

Project title	ICT enabled business networks in multi-ethnic environment with
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	emphasis on “One belt one road (OBOR)” efforts
Participant country	Dalian Minzu University, International Business College (China)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Polona Tominc
Researchers	Samo Bobek, Simona Sternad Zabukovšek, Blaž Frešer

20. The impact of monetary policy on international trade

Project title	The impact of monetary policy on international trade
Participant country	National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow (Russia)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Silvo Dajčman
Researchers	Alenka Kavkler, Dejan Romih

21. Management practices in business of modern organizations: Research of utilization of human resource management' solutions in Slovenian's and Russian's organizations

Project title	Management practices in business of modern organizations: Research of utilization of human resource management' solutions in Slovenian's and Russian's organizations
Participant country	St. Petersburg University, Graduate School of Management (Russia)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Sonja Treven
Researchers	Vojko Potočan, Zlatko Nedelko, Maja Rožman

22. Development trends of entrepreneurship activities (IT-based forms of entrepreneurship and e-business models)

Project title	Development trends of entrepreneurship activities (IT-based forms of entrepreneurship and e-business models)
Participant country	Abilene Christian University (Texas, USA)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Polona Tominc

Researchers	Samo Bobek, Simona Sternad Zabukovšek, Blaž Frešer, Maja Rožman
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23. The effects of uncertainty in financial markets on selected macro-economic categories

Project title	The effects of uncertainty in financial markets on selected macro-economic categories
Participant country	Wabash College (Indiana, USA)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Silvo Dajčman
Researchers	Alenka Kavkler, Dejan Romih

24. How economic behaviour of enterprises stakeholders' effects on corporate social responsibility of supply chains in Slovenia and USA?

Project title	How economic behaviour of enterprises stakeholders' effects on corporate social responsibility of supply chains in Slovenia and USA?
Participant country	Auburn University (Alabama, USA)
Financing Entity	Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Project leader	Vojko Potočan
Researchers	Zlatko Nedelko, Sonja Treven

Applied projects for businesses

FEB has a long tradition of engaging in research projects and providing consulting services for organizations, including companies and state ministries. This has substantial importance for the academic, corporate, and public spheres. Research projects conducted by school institutes often delve into industry-specific challenges, and innovative solutions, providing companies and state ministries with access to the latest knowledge and advances in the field of business and economic sciences.

Moreover, the impact of such collaborations extends beyond the corporate landscape into society at large. Research projects and consulting engagements contribute to the development of sustainable practices, business solutions, and solutions to societal challenges. By addressing real-world problems faced by organizations, FEB as academic institution plays a role in shaping policy, influencing industry practices, and enhancing the overall well-being of communities. In the period from 2021 to 2023, FEB participated in more than forty such projects. We

provide a project summary and practical relevance information only for projects with a budget over 15,000 EUR.

1. Pilot project: A bridge between academic knowledge and innovative green digital business practice

Project title	Pilot project: A bridge between academic knowledge and innovative green digital business practice
Financing Entity	Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation and European Union
Institute	Institute for Project Management
Project leader	Igor Vrečko
Researchers	Igor Vrečko (Faculty of Economics and Business) Patrick Šumandl (Faculty of Economics and Business) Aljaž Kocet (Faculty of Economics and Business)
Project summary	The pilot project "Bridge between academic knowledge and green digital business practice" at the FEB, aims to engage with and effectively introduce digitization and sustainability to graduates of the higher education program. It involves mapping current program content and competences in digitization and sustainability, enhancing the curriculum to focus more on these areas, and understanding the interplay between economic content and sustainability. The pilot project encompasses seven sets of activities: 1) Mapping existing course units for the development of green and digital skills; 2) Designing educational modules for micro-credential integration; 3) Creating digital and virtual reality educational materials; 4) Establishing a technical environment for module delivery; 5) Implementing modules in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 academic years; 6) Conducting ongoing performance monitoring and annual self-evaluation; 7) Managing and promoting the project and its outcomes.
Practical relevance	This pilot project enhances the educational process by integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sustainability, green transition, and digitization into its curriculum. Utilizing Curriculum Mapping, it critically analyses and

	improves study programs, preparing students and school for future professional challenges. This pilot project introduces innovative modules incorporating digital didactics and virtual reality (VR), all of which enhance pedagogical approaches and the relevance of practical skills. It not only elevates learning experiences but also boosts graduate employability by focusing on technologies crucial in the job market. Serving as a model for educational innovation, the pilot project significantly contributes to updating educational spaces technologically and preparing students for a digitized and sustainable future.
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2. Acquiring digital competences in the information society for the use of advanced digital technologies

Project title	Acquiring digital competences in the information society for the use of advanced digital technologies
Financing Entity	Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of Digital Transformation and European Union
Institute	Institute of E-business and Information Technology Management
Project leader	Simona Sternad Zabukovšek
Researchers	Samo Bobek, Zdenko Deželak, Irena Šišovska, Sara Cokan
Project summary	The project aimed to enhance young people's proficiency in advanced digital technologies to improve their employability. Through comprehensive training, participants gained practical skills in utilizing ICT tools, particularly focusing on the global Odoo platform, an open-source solution covering diverse business processes and web content production. By mastering Odoo, participants acquired a deep understanding of organizational workflows and gained independence in its application. Additionally, the project emphasized cloud computing, specifically Microsoft Azure, empowering companies with versatile service options. With over seven million users, Odoo is recognized as one of the world's fastest-growing business platforms, ensuring participants are well-

	equipped to navigate modern digital landscapes and secure employment opportunities.
Practical relevance	This project has significant practical relevance because it directly addresses the growing demand for digital literacy and proficiency among young people entering the workforce. By providing hands-on training in advanced ICT tools like the Odoo platform, and cloud computing services such as Microsoft Azure, the project equips participants with practical skills essential for modern businesses. Mastery of these tools enhances employability and empowers participants to contribute effectively to organizational efficiency and innovation. With Odoo's widespread adoption and Microsoft Azure's prominence in the industry, participants gain a competitive edge in the job market, positioning them as valuable assets to potential employers. Overall, the project bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, ensuring that young people are well-prepared for the digital-centric nature of contemporary workplaces.

3. Global Entrepreneurship Monitor – GEM for the years 2020 and 2021

Project title	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor – GEM for the years 2020 and 2021
Financing Entity	SPIRIT Slovenia, Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investment and Technology
Institute	Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
Project leader	Miroslav Rebernik
Researchers	Polona Tominc, Karin Širec, Barbara Bradač Hojnik, Katja Crnogaj, Matej Rus
Project summary	The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) project, in which Slovenia has participated actively since 2002, unveiled two pivotal reports for 2020 and 2021: "Entrepreneurship in a New Reality: GEM Slovenia 2020" and "Resilience of Entrepreneurial Activity: GEM Slovenia 2021." These reports encapsulate the resilience and adaptability of Slovenia's entrepreneurial sector amidst global challenges, highlighting how

	entrepreneurs navigated and thrived during these transformative periods. Highlighting the agility of the Slovenian entrepreneurial ecosystem, the studies offer a deep dive into the enduring nature of the entrepreneurial spirit, emphasizing innovation and resilience. The insights gleaned from these analyses serve as invaluable resources for stakeholders, aiding in the development of policies and strategies to bolster a robust entrepreneurial landscape in Slovenia and beyond.
Practical relevance	The practical relevance of the GEM Slovenia reports for 2020 and 2021 extends far beyond academic interest, offering a roadmap for policy makers, educators, and entrepreneurs to navigate the evolving landscape of entrepreneurship. These insights illuminate the resilience and adaptability required in the face of global disruptions, guiding strategies for fostering a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem. By detailing the challenges and opportunities encountered by Slovenian entrepreneurs, the reports underscore the importance of supportive policies, innovative educational programs, and targeted investment in entrepreneurship. This knowledge aids stakeholders in crafting interventions that not only address immediate needs but also lay the groundwork for long-term entrepreneurial success and sustainability, ensuring that Slovenia remains at the forefront of entrepreneurial innovation and resilience.

4. Slovenian entrepreneurship observatory for the years 2020 and 2022

Project title	Slovenian entrepreneurship observatory for the years 2020 and 2022
Financing Entity	SPIRIT Slovenia, Public Agency for Investment, Entrepreneurship, and Internationalization
Institute	Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
Project leader	Barbara Bradač Hojnik
Researchers	Karin Širec, Miroslav Rebernik, Katja Crnogaj, Dijana Močnik

Project summary	<p>The Slovenian Entrepreneurship Observatory Project has been carried out annually since 2002.</p> <p>From 2020 to 2022, we conducted an annual analysis of Slovenian businesses and compared their demographics with those across Europe. The study examined several variables, including the number of companies, size, turnover, labour costs, and value-added across different sectors and sizes. Furthermore, each year, the study is focused on an important issue in the development of entrepreneurship and SMEs. In 2020–2021, we examined business restructuring in Slovenian companies. In 2021–2022, we focused on digitisation processes in Slovenian SMEs. Our findings are thoroughly documented and shared annually through a scientific monograph, providing valuable knowledge to both academic and business communities.</p>
Practical relevance	<p>The Slovenian Entrepreneurship Observatory project provides a comprehensive understanding of SMEs and entrepreneurship in Slovenia, in comparison to the wider European landscape. The study offers profound insights into the demographics and strategic orientations of Slovenian companies, emphasizing current trends and future development. The analysis provides a strong basis for evidence-based policy recommendations to strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem. Policymakers can develop informed strategies, and entrepreneurs can be empowered by identifying areas for innovation and growth, enhancing the competitiveness of the Slovenian business landscape.</p>

5. Introduction of a new system for the management of Student Dormitories at the University of Maribor

Project title	Introduction of a new system for the management of Student Dormitories at the University of Maribor
Financing Entity	Student Dormitories at the University of Maribor
Institute	Institute of E-business and Information Technology Management

Project leader	Simona Sternad Zabukovšek
Researchers	Samo Bobek, Zdenko Deželak, Irena Šišovska Klančnik, Uroš Zabukovšek
Project summary	<p>The feasibility study and the proposed IT solution for the UM Student Dormitories aim to solve existing operational challenges and increase efficiency. Starting with an analysis of the current situation, the study identified areas for improvement. We then provided comprehensive functional requirements for the new system, considering the diverse needs of dormitory management. By reviewing available products and their suitability, the study ensured informed decision-making. Recommendations were made to introduce a new management system per UM objectives and budget constraints. The study may also qualify as technical documentation for the tender, where the necessary standards and specifications have been considered. By carefully addressing operational needs and technical requirements, the proposed solution simplifies dormitory management, which will benefit both students and administrative staff.</p>
Practical relevance	<p>The feasibility study for UM Student Dormitories holds immense practical relevance by offering a structured approach to addressing operational inefficiencies and enhancing management systems. The study provides actionable insights for improving dormitory operations by thoroughly analysing the situation and identifying functional requirements. Moreover, examining the products on the market ensures that any proposed solution aligns with industry standards and best practices. The recommendations generated from this study will serve as a roadmap for implementing a new management system tailored to UM's specific needs and constraints. Furthermore, as technical documentation for tender purposes, the study ensures transparency and accountability in the selection process for information solution developers. Ultimately, this feasibility study promises to optimize dormitory management, fostering a conducive</p>

environment for student living and administrative efficiency.

6. Global Entrepreneurship Monitor – GEM for the years 2022 and 2023

Project title	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor – GEM for the years 2022 and 2023
Financing Entity	SPIRIT Slovenia, Public Agency for Investment, Entrepreneurship, and Internationalization
Institute	Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
Project leader	Karin Širec
Researchers	Polona Tominc, Barbara Bradač Hojnik, Katja Crnogaj, Matej Rus, Miroslav Rebernik, Ivona Hudek
Project summary	The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) is an international research project that has been conducting comprehensive yearly assessments of entrepreneurial activity, aspirations, and attitudes of individuals in a wide range of countries since 1999, with Slovenia participating since 2002. During 2022 and 2023, the project continued its examination of Slovenia, yielding two significant national reports: “Two Decades of Dynamic Entrepreneurial Development: GEM Slovenia 2022” and “Entrepreneurship for a Sustainable Future: GEM Slovenia 2023.” These publications delve into the evolution and dynamism of Slovenia’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, providing insights into its resilience, trends, challenges, and achievements over the past two decades. By providing an extensive analysis, the studies offer a detailed examination of the evolution of entrepreneurial activity in Slovenia, highlighting the motivations behind entrepreneurial endeavours and the obstacles entrepreneurs face. The achievements of the Slovenian entrepreneurial landscape are documented, highlighting how the ecosystem has adapted and grown over time.
Practical relevance	The practical relevance of these reports lies in their detailed examination of the resilience of the Slovenian entrepreneurial ecosystem, and its growth over two decades. They offer evidence-based insights into the factors that drive entrepreneurial success and the

challenges that entrepreneurs face, thereby informing policy formulation and educational curriculum development aimed at fostering a more robust and innovative entrepreneurial environment. By documenting the progress of entrepreneurial activities, these reports provide stakeholders with the knowledge needed to tailor support mechanisms, enhance entrepreneurial education, and create policies that encourage innovation and sustainability. Furthermore, the insights gained from analysing twenty years of entrepreneurial data facilitate strategic planning and decision-making for future economic and entrepreneurial development initiatives in Slovenia and beyond.

7. LCA analysis of a security safe

Project title	LCA analysis of a security safe
Financing Entity	PRIMAT tovarna kovinske opreme d.d. Maribor
Institute	Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurial Environment Protection
Project leader	Matjaž Denac
Researchers	Gregor Radonjič
Project summary	The main objective of the present analysis was to carry out an environmental life cycle analysis of the existing (currently manufactured) and modified Starprim security safe, using the LCA method, namely a cradle-to-gate study. The analysis was limited to the wall of the safe, which comprises multiple components. The LCA analysis was carried out in accordance with the recommendations, guidelines and requirements of ISO 14040 and ISO 14044, and the EU guidelines on implementing the LCA method given in the International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) manual. The environmental life cycle model of the Starprim security safe was modelled computationally, using the licensed software tool (SimaPro Analyst 9.3.0.2). We used the ReCiPe 2016 and ReCiPe 2008 methods to evaluate the life cycle environmental impact of the existing security safe wall. For the

	Starprim security safe example, we calculated the life cycle environmental impact by characterisation, normalisation, and weighting. Eighteen environmental categories were considered for the midpoint analysis, and twenty-two environmental categories for the endpoint analysis.
Practical relevance	<p>There are evident differences between components in terms of the intensity of their environmental impact over their life cycle. The impact of component mass is also evident, since all the heaviest components are among the most environmentally burdensome. The LCA analysis confirmed the considerable impact of suppliers on its environmental profile.</p> <p>A comparative analysis of the existing and the modified wall of the security safe showed that within the chosen system boundaries ('cradle to gate'), methodological features and data used, there are noticeable differences between the two options in terms of their environmental impact over their life cycles. We found that the life cycle environmental impact of the modified Starprim security safe wall is significantly lower than the existing one. Through LCA analysis, we confirmed that increasing the recycled content and material substitution can significantly change the cumulative environmental impact.</p>

	The data were collected from September 14 to October 15, 2022, through the Internet, using a structured and programmed questionnaire (CAWI). The collected data were analysed using various statistical methods, and basic descriptive statistics were presented in tables and graphs for all questions included in the questionnaire, defining customer segments and differences between them using cluster analysis, and the position of Kopija Nova among competitors based on the most relevant purchasing factors in a perceptual map using multidimensional scaling. Based on the findings, further activities for the Kopija-Nova company were proposed.
Practical relevance	The results of the research offer management numerous guidelines for future company development, especially because they are defending a leading position in the segment. Considering the relatively high percentage of purchases in physical stores and assuming a desire for growth, the company management is faced with the decision to enter the segment of physical stores and the format of such stores. In communication with customers, the research provides a solid foundation for the content of messages and suggestions for introducing new communication channels. The results of the customer survey provide the company management with an essential basis for making strategic decisions regarding the company's future development and for planning tactical and operational marketing activities.

8. Quantitative research on the position of Kopija-Nova in the school supplies market

Project title	Quantitative research on the position of Kopija-Nova in the school supplies market
Financing Entity	KOPIJA-NOVA d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Marketing
Project leader	Aleksandra Pisnik
Researchers	Damijan Mumel, Borut Milfelner
Project summary	The main purpose of the research was to determine the position of the Kopija-Nova company in the school supplies market. The research sample was a representative sample of potential, former, and existing customers, including 669 respondents from all over Slovenia.

9. Slovenian entrepreneurship observatory for the years 2022 and 2024

Project title	Slovenian entrepreneurship observatory for the years 2022 and 2024
Financing Entity	SPIRIT Slovenia, Public Agency for Investment, Entrepreneurship, and Internationalization
Institute	Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
Project leader	Barbara Bradač Hojnik

Researchers	Dijana Močnik, Karin Širec, Katja Crnogaj, Matej Rus
Project summary	<p>The Slovenian Entrepreneurship Observatory Project has been carried out annually since 2002.</p> <p>From 2022 to 2024, we confidently conducted an annual analysis of Slovenian businesses and compared their demographics with those across Europe. Our study thoroughly examined variables, including the number of companies, size, turnover, labour costs, and value-added across different sectors and sizes. Furthermore, each year, we confidently focus on an important issue in the development of entrepreneurship and SMEs. In 2022–2023, we thoroughly analysed the characteristics of Slovenian start-ups and scale-up companies. The following year, 2023–2024, our focus was on youth entrepreneurship in Slovenia and Europe. Each year, we publish a scientific monograph documenting the results, providing valuable knowledge to both academia and industry.</p>
Practical relevance	<p>The Slovenian Entrepreneurship Observatory project provides a comprehensive understanding of SMEs and entrepreneurship in Slovenia, in comparison to the wider European landscape. The study offers profound insights into the demographics and strategic orientations of Slovenian companies, emphasizing current trends and future development. The analysis provides a strong basis for evidence-based policy recommendations to strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem. Policymakers can develop informed strategies, and entrepreneurs can be empowered by identifying areas for innovation and growth, thus enhancing the competitiveness of the Slovenian business landscape.</p>

10. Certification of the Panorama room rental facility for an EU Eco-label

Project title	Certification of the Panorama room rental facility for an EU Eco-label
Financing Entity	Panorama, Metka Gutschli s.p.
Institute	Institute of Tourism and Business Logistics

Project leader	Sonja Sibila Lebe
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11. Certification of three tourist accommodations for an EU Eco-label

Project title	Certification of three tourist accommodations for an EU Eco-label
Financing Entity	Multidisciplinarni raziskovalni institut Maribor
Institute	Institute of Tourism and Business Logistics
Project leader	Sonja Sibila Lebe

12. A business German course

Project title	A business German course
Financing Entity	Tehnior d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Languages and Foreign Business Languages
Project leader	Alenka Plos

13. Analysis of the corporate-legal dimensions of the integration of subsidiaries (especially Intereuropa d.d. as a public company) - into the management system of the Pošta Slovenija group

Project title	Analysis of the corporate-legal dimensions of the integration of subsidiaries (especially Intereuropa d.d. as a public company) - into the management system of the Pošta Slovenija group
Financing Entity	Pošta Slovenije d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Business Law
Project leader	Peter Podgorelec

14. Practical training models and their importance for the economy

Project title	Practical training models and their importance for the economy
Financing Entity	CNC P&K - Pušnik d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of E-business and Information Technology Management
Project leader	Simona Sternad Zabukovšek

15. A packaging analysis for the Qbis One facade panel

Project title	A packaging analysis for the Qbis One facade panel
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Financing Entity	Trimo, arhitekturne rešitve, d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurial Environment Protection
Project leader	Matjaž Denac
Researchers	Gregor Radonjič

16. LCA analysis of glass packaging (gray)

Project title	LCA analysis of glass packaging (gray)
Financing Entity	Steklarna Hrastnik, d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurial Environment Protection
Project leader	Gregor Radonjič
Researchers	Matjaž Denac

17. Consulting and support in the preparation of the application for interest in obtaining a concession for implementing the state GJS for the incineration of municipal waste and the establishment of public infrastructure

Project title	Consulting and support in the preparation of the application for interest in obtaining a concession for the implementation of the state GJS for the incineration of municipal waste and the establishment of public infrastructure
Financing Entity	Javno podjetje Energetika Maribor, d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Finance and Artificial Intelligence
Project leader	Žan Jan Oplotnik

18. Slovenian corporate risk monitor 2022

Project title	Slovenian corporate risk monitor 2022
Financing Entity	Slovenian coalition for public health, environment, and tobacco control (SCTC)
Institute	Institute of Finance and Artificial Intelligence
Project leader	Vita Jagrič
Researchers	Timotej Jagrič, Aleksandra Amon, Sabina Taškar Beloglavec

19. A pilot project for the creation of a mobile application regarding young people and tobacco-related products, in relation to food, movement and alcohol use within the framework of the Erasmus+ program

Project title	A pilot project for the creation of a mobile application regarding young people and tobacco-related products, in relation to food, movement and alcohol use within the framework of the Erasmus+ program
Financing Entity	Slovenian coalition for public health, environment, and tobacco control (SCTC)
Institute	Institute of Finance and Artificial Intelligence
Project leader	Timotej Jagrič
Researchers	Dušan Fister

20. Analysis of European insurance companies using artificial intelligence methods

Project title	Analysis of European insurance companies using artificial intelligence methods
Financing Entity	Agencija za zavarovalni nadzor
Institute	Institute of Finance and Artificial Intelligence
Project leader	Timotej Jagrič
Researchers	Iztok Kolar, Vita Jagrič, Robert Horvat, Danel Zdošek

21. Audit and review of investment documentation

Project title	Audit and review of investment documentation
Financing Entity	Energija in okolje, d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Finance and Artificial Intelligence
Project leader	Žan Jan Oplotnik

22. LCA analysis for the modification of process equipment or processes in the food processing industry

Project title	LCA analysis for the modification of process equipment or processes in the food processing industry
Financing Entity	Silurus, projektiranje in druge storitve, d.o.o.

Institute	Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurial Environment Protection
Project leader	Matjaž Denac
Researchers	Gregor Radonjič

23. LCA Analysis for Glass Packaging (green)

Project title	LCA Analysis for Glass Packaging
Financing Entity	Steklarna Hrastnik, d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurial Environment Protection
Project leader	Gregor Radonjič
Researchers	Matjaž Denac

24. Certification of four tourist accommodations

Project title	Certification of four tourist accommodations
Financing Entity	Multidisciplinarni raziskovalni institut Maribor
Institute	Institute of Tourism and Business Logistics
Project leader	Sonja Sibila Lebe

25. The MS Excel 2019 course

Project title	The MS Excel 2019 course
Financing Entity	Klub mariborskih študentov
Institute	Institute of E-business and Information Technology Management
Project leader	Zdenko Deželak
Researchers	Irena Šišovska Klančnik

26. Qualitative research on the position of Kopija-Nova in the school supplies market

Project title	Qualitative research on the position of Kopija-Nova in the school supplies market
Financing Entity	KOPIJA-NOVA d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Marketing
Project leader	Aleksandra Pisnik
Researchers	Damijan Mumel, Borut Milfelner

27. Quantitative methods for company development in light of expansion into new sales markets with proposals for the subsequent use of the research findings in the company EMA, družba za inženiring, trgovino in storitve, d.o.o.

Project title	Quantitative methods for company development in light of expansion into new sales markets with proposals for the subsequent use of the research findings in the company EMA, družba za inženiring, trgovino in storitve, d.o.o.
Financing Entity	EMA, družba za inženiring, trgovino in storitve, d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Operational Research
Project leader	Maja Rožman
Researchers	Tjaša Štrukelj

28. Quantitative analysis of improvement in internal aspects of engagement among age-diverse employees with suggestions for later application

Project title	Quantitative analysis of improvement in internal aspects of engagement among age-diverse employees with suggestions for later application
Financing Entity	MARNIT d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Operational Research
Project leader	Maja Rožman
Researchers	Tjaša Štrukelj

29. Research concerning the interdependence of SWOT analysis and company policy with suggestions for later application use in the company

Project title	Research concerning the interdependence of SWOT analysis and company policy with suggestions for later application use in the company
Financing Entity	EMA, družba za inženiring, trgovino in storitve, d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Corporate Governance and Strategic Management
Project leader	Tjaša Štrukelj
Researchers	Maja Rožman

30. Research concerning the impact of development opportunities on a company's corporate strategy

Project title	Research concerning the impact of development opportunities on a company's corporate strategy
Financing Entity	MARNIT d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Corporate Governance and Strategic Management
Project leader	Tjaša Štrukelj
Researchers	Maja Rožman

31. Individual remote business German course

Project title	Individual remote business German course
Financing Entity	Spar Slovenija d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Languages and Foreign Business Languages
Project leader	Alenka Plos

32. A study of the legal validity and possibilities of SODO d.o.o. in decisions regarding the regulatory framework and legal bases, along with guidance on entitlements and consequent responsibilities of company management and supervisory authorities

Project title	A study of the legal validity and possibilities of SODO d.o.o. in decisions regarding the regulatory framework and legal bases, along with guidance on entitlements and consequent responsibilities of company management and supervisory authorities
Financing Entity	SODO d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Business Law
Project leader	Dušan Jovanovič

33. NTFC week at FEB

Project title	NTFC week at FEB
Financing Entity	NTFC School of Business, Noida, India
Institute	Institute of Project Management
Project leader	Simona Sternad Zabukovšek
Researchers	Samo Bobek, Igor Vrečko, Aleksandra Pisnik, Tjaša Štrukelj, Simona Šarotar

	Žižek, Zlatko Nedelko, Vojko Potočan, Barbara Bradač Hojnik
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34. Analysis of project management processes and design of project management process optimization in CETIS company

Project title	Analysis of project management processes and design of project management process optimization in CETIS company
Financing Entity	CETIS, d.d.
Institute	Institute of Project Management
Project leader	Igor Vrečko

35. Program for a group of NTPC managers

Project title	Program for a group of NTPC managers
Financing Entity	NTFC School of Business, Noida, India
Institute	Institute of Project Management
Project leader	Simona Sternad Zabukovšek
Researchers	Samo Bobek

36. Inclusive entrepreneurship policy country assessments 2022–23

Project title	Inclusive entrepreneurship policy country assessments 2022–23
Financing Entity	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Institute	Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
Project leader	Katja Crnogaj
Researchers	Ivona Hudek

37. Slovenian Corporate Risk Monitor 2023

Project title	Slovenian Corporate Risk Monitor 2023
Financing Entity	Slovensko združenje za tveganja in zavarovanja (SI.RISK)
Institute	Institute of Finance and Artificial Intelligence
Project leader	Vita Jagrič
Researchers	Timotej Jagrič, Aleksandra Amon, Sabina Taškar Beloglavec, Daniel Zdolšek

38. An Expert Opinion on the Adequacy of EOM Calculation

Project title	An Expert Opinion on the Adequacy of EOM Calculation
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Financing Entity	Odstop finance d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Finance and Artificial Intelligence
Project leader	Žan Jan Oplotnik

39. Certification of four tourist accommodations for the EU Eco-label

Project title	Certification of four tourist accommodations for the EU Eco-label
Financing Entity	Multidisciplinarni raziskovalni institut Maribor
Institute	Institute of Tourism and Business Logistics
Project leader	Sonja Sibila Lebe

40. Certification of ten tourist accommodations for the EU Eco-label

Project title	Certification of ten tourist accommodations for the EU Eco-label
Financing Entity	Multidisciplinarni raziskovalni institut Maribor
Institute	Institute of Tourism and Business Logistics
Project leader	Sonja Sibila Lebe

41. A German course

Project title	A German course
Financing Entity	TEHNIOR d.o.o.
Institute	Institute of Languages and Foreign Business Languages
Project leader	Alenka Plos

42. Proofreading of a scientific monograph

Project title	Proofreading of a scientific monograph
Financing Entity	University of Maribor, Faculty of Organizational Sciences
Institute	Institute of Languages and Foreign Business Languages
Project leader	Alenka Plos

43. Proofreading of a scientific monograph

Project title	Proofreading of a scientific monograph
Financing Entity	University of Maribor, Faculty of Organizational Sciences
Institute	Institute of Languages and Foreign Business Languages
Project leader	Tatjana Koropec

Student projects

Within student projects, students collaborate with both an educational mentor and a representative from an organization to address real-world challenges, spanning both economic and non-commercial areas. The university and school advertise opportunities for student involvement through a formal application process.

Such student projects are crucial as they provide a platform for experiential learning, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios. By working alongside mentors from academia and industry, students gain insights, skills, and experiences that prepare them for future professional endeavours. Additionally, these projects encourage collaboration, innovation, and problem-solving abilities, contributing to the development of well-rounded and capable individuals ready to address the complexities of the modern world.

Student challenges (ŠI:UM)

By using an innovative, problem-based, and group approach to solving local student challenges, students can develop competences and gain practical knowledge and experience. Working in interdisciplinary groups and guided by a mentor, students tackle challenges faced by firms and organizations. Within Student Challenges (ŠI:UM) this approach yields benefits to all parties involved, including the possibility of long-term cooperation. During the application process, students can express their interest in seeking new knowledge and be involved in the implementation of project proposals. As part of the NOO's activities on: "Higher education reform for a green and resilient transition to Society 5.0" and within the framework of the pilot project "Single entry point for employers and innovative forms of cooperation with students", the Student Challenges of the University of Maribor (NOO) (ŠI: UM (NOO)) were also implemented (UM, 2024). These activities aim to promote cooperation and bridge the gap between higher education and the environment, with a focus on integrating and addressing the content of the digital and green transition.

I. Laboratory for digital economy (ŠI:UM)

Project title	Laboratory for digital economy
Financing Entity	University of Maribor
Institute	Institute of Business Law
Project leader	Andreja Primec
Students	Izak Ravnak (UM EPF), Matej Dogša (UM EPF), Luka Krajšek (UM EPF), Luka Fale (UM FS), Nina Šajt Duh (UM FF), Lana Bračič (UM MF), Tomi Milošič (UM FERI), Gal Pastirk (UM PF)
Project summary	The European Union actively implements the EU Digital Strategy 2019–2024, which aims to achieve

	digital transformation in support of climate neutrality by 2050. The Commission has proposed the European Declaration of Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade, ensuring human rights, solidarity, freedom of choice, security, and sustainability in the digital environment. The project focuses on the challenges of digital transformation for the Slovenian economy and society, addressing complex issues in an interdisciplinary manner. Students have practically and theoretically addressed digitization, developed solutions for real problems, and established lasting cooperation between the academic sphere and the real economy. This yields important experiences for work in the 21st century and digital competences for the society of the 21st century.
Practical relevance	The project addressed various aspects of the digitization of the economy and society. The results of the interdisciplinary project team are compiled in a professional monograph, which is available for open access to all who encounter the challenges of digitization. The findings presented can contribute to greater efficiency, cost reduction, or improvement in the quality of existing processes in companies, the public sector, or other organizations.

	digital and green technologies in the Slovenian economy. Activities included a literature review, analysis of best practices, and a dialogue with experts from companies. Students gained green and digital competences crucial for entering the job market. The collaboration between the university and the Maribor Society of Economists as well as the companies, brought significant experiences in the process of digital and green transformation of the Slovenian economy and society.
Practical relevance	Within the scope of addressing the green and digital transition towards a sustainable economy and society, the project team developed solutions for promoting green energy and green finances. By encouraging their "green" products more effectively, companies can increase their sales or usage, contributing to environmental sustainability by reducing their carbon footprint and preserving natural resources.

Project work for the acquisition of practical experience and knowledge by students in the working environment

The University of Maribor has completed activities for projects that were submitted under the public call "Project Work for the Acquisition of Practical Experience and Knowledge of Students in the Work Environment 2022/2023" (PDŠ UM 2022/2023). The aim of this call for proposals was to promote cooperation and integration between the higher education system and the environment, such as the economic sector, the non-commercial sector, and the non-profit sector in the local and regional areas. The main objective was to implement flexible forms of learning. Four projects were executed under the leadership of mentors from FEB (UM, 2024).

2. Laboratory for a green economy (ŠI:UM (NOO))

Project title	Laboratory for a green economy
Financing Entity	University of Maribor
Institute	Institute of Business Law
Project leader	Andreja Primec, Dejan Romih
Students	Nik Berčnik (EPF UM), Nejc Buzeti (EPF UM), Mia Filipič (EPF UM), Rene Mohar (EPF UM), Jakob Polegek (FERI UM), Jure Špital (FERI UM), Alen Višnar (FERI UM), Petra Zelič (EPF UM)
Project summary	The project is focused on finding solutions for the green and digital transition of two participating companies. Eight students from the University of Maribor, under the mentorship of academic mentors and industry professionals, researched the implementation of

1. Employee awareness model concerning the circular economy, sustainability, and digital orientation of the company, along with the development of innovative company activities in the field of the circular economy, sustainability, and digitization

Project title	Employee awareness model concerning the circular economy, sustainability, and digital orientation of the company, along with the development of innovative
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	company activities in the field of the circular economy, sustainability, and digitalization
Financing Entity	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
Institute	Institute of Management and Organization
Project leader	Simona Šarotar Žižek
Students	Andreja Kumer, Anej M. Irgolič, Nomi Hrast, Eva Gradišnik, Nina Kitel, Robert Šket, Nejc Časar, Vasilka Saklamaeva, Janja Orovič, Lina Zorman
Project summary	In this project, students participated in the identification and remediation of illegal dumpsites, as well as in developing additional innovative proposals for processing material acquired from these dumpsites and selling it on the market. With the assistance of their work mentor and other colleagues from the company Nigrad d.o.o., students were involved in the process of identifying clients for the processed material. Through this, they gained new knowledge while contributing to solutions for material issues in urban areas, thereby assisting in strengthening the circular economy and preparing the company for providing the foundations of a smart city (traffic light systems and sewage infrastructure). They also prepared a model for raising awareness among employees about the circular economy, sustainability, and the company's digital orientation, as well as developing innovative activities for the company in the areas of the circular economy, sustainability, and digitization.
Practical relevance	The model involved raising awareness among employees about the circular economy, sustainability and digital orientation of the company and the development of innovative activities in the field of the circular economy, sustainability and digitization, and the development of innovative ways of transferring knowledge between employees. With its emphasis on all types of mentoring, such intergenerational cooperation can be useful in all types of organizations. The options identified and defined for the reuse of waste, with special emphasis on sweepings, sludge, asphalt, and other waste, can be applied to

	organizations in the field of construction.
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2. Model for identifying potential researchers, enhancing their research potential and connecting them with economic entities in the Pomurje region and other organizations

Project title	Model for identifying potential researchers, enhancing their research potential and connecting them with economic entities in the Pomurje region and other organizations
Financing Entity	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
Institute	Institute of Management and Organization
Project leader	Simona Šarotar Žižek
Students	Nomi Hrast, Nina Kotnik, Davor Ornik, Maša Jazbec, Andreja Kumer, Vasilka Saklamaeva, Dominik Škrinjar, Robert Šket
Project summary	In collaboration with the Doctors of Science from Pomurje (PAZU – Pomurska Akademsko Znanstvena Unija), students sought solutions for improving the situation regarding the encouragement of young researchers and the strengthening of research activities and innovations in the Pomurje region. A thorough analysis of companies' needs in Pomurje led to proposals for improvements and the development of a model to enhance the research potential of young researchers and their integration with local organizations. The project focuses on improving research, development, and innovation activities in the region, along with promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing the skills of employees. The comprehensive model for identifying young researchers represents a key contribution to the development of Pomurje.
Practical relevance	The resulting comprehensive model for the identification of young researchers with the potential for research and innovation and their connection with the economy and other organizations can be used in various geographical units (municipalities, regions, or countries). In practice, approaches to the development of various

	competences among young people as well as those already employed are also useful. The project's contribution is key to further development of the Pomurje region, which is one of the least developed regions in Slovenia.
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3. Development and production of high-pressure gas products for entry and strengthening of presence in the medical-veterinary industry

Project title	Development and production of high-pressure gas products for entry and strengthening of presence in the medical-veterinary industry
Financing Entity	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
Institute	Institute of Project Management
Project leader	Igor Vrečko
Students	Nina Horvat, Metka Vrečko, Matic Rantaša, Luka Črnčič, Lovro Korošec Tinkara Kovačič in Petra Šaruga
Project summary	In cooperation with Pulko Valves Ruše d.o.o., the students developed and designed the production of high-pressure gas valves for use in medicine and veterinary medicine. The aim of the project was to develop a product or at least a product design for medical use, in particular the conversion of an existing mechanical valve into an electromagnetic one. The valve is intended to regulate the oxygen in an oximeter and thus facilitate the work of medical personnel in an increasingly dynamic healthcare environment. The electromagnetic valve automatically regulates the patient's oxygen demand, ensuring that no more oxygen is consumed than necessary. This solves one of the main problems of hospitals with high occupancy rates, namely the shortage of oxygen.
Practical relevance	This project addresses a critical challenge in healthcare – oxygen management in times of high demand. By developing an electromagnetic valve for oxygen regulation in medical and veterinary applications, it has a direct impact on the efficiency and safety of patient care. The innovative valve design aims to replace traditional mechanical valves and provide more precise, automated control of

	oxygen flow for patients. This not only reduces the workload of medical staff by eliminating manual adjustments, but also minimizes the risk of wasted oxygen and ensures that patients receive exactly what they need. In practice, the results of the project could significantly improve hospital processes, especially in emergency rooms and intensive care units where the management of oxygen supply is crucial. Furthermore, by ensuring optimal oxygen utilization, the project contributes to the conservation of resources, which can lead to a reduction in operating costs in healthcare facilities.
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4. Smart4Sustainable

Project title	Smart4Sustainable
Financing Entity	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
Institute	Institute of Business Law
Project leader	Andreja Prímec
Students	Ožbe Drašler, Grega Mulec, Izak Ravnak, Gregor Rihtarič, Tilen Račnik, Aljaž Herzog, Veronika Poštrak, Nikola Jovanović, Gal Pastirk, Tinkara Prímec
Project summary	The Sfera All3 project, carried out with the assistance of students, aims to increase the competitiveness of the partner company in international markets and facilitate a green transition in the company's production and management. It focuses on establishing a multimedia learning centre, which will serve as the foundation for establishing a factory of the future, benefiting all stakeholders, including the University of Maribor. The project aligns with the directions of the Slovenian Smart Specialization Strategy S5, emphasizing the transition to a green economy and sustainable production. Project activities are divided into four pillars: economic, technological, educational, and legal, where students integrate the professional orientations of their study programs and innovative learning methods into an interdisciplinary whole.
Practical relevance	The research work of the project team, which was based on a four-pillar structure (economic,

	<p>technological, educational, and legal pillars), brought numerous practical solutions to the company participating in the project. Since the central goal of the project was a set of activities that would direct the operation of the emerging multimedia centre towards the factory of the future, the results of the project activities ranged from demonstrating the possibilities of using artificial intelligence tools, economic analysis of impacts, and promoting the multimedia centre, to education in acquiring digital competencies, to sustainable corporate governance.</p>
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... qui ose publier la scandaleuse robe
... Lindbergh est alors le seul
... l'oublierai jamais !»
... de John Galliano en deve
... artistique de Dior.

En 1996, le créateur allemand
à propos de Peter Lindbergh
femmes est toujours d'actual
intemporelle». Il est aussi un o
le photographe lorsque celui-c
Lumière, en lui confiant plusieu
notamment la première campag
sa propre marque, Lagerfeld, réal
bretonnes avec le modèle Lynne
de Lindbergh. « Cette époque, Lagerfeld,
1954 après avoir importé l'Internat
Prize tout d'abord, es Saint Laurent
collection de la collection de Saint Laurent
à partir de 1963-1978 et
pre noté par Fendi, mais au
réation de la création de Fendi, mais au
me po il est nommé dire
o Cha t démodée depuis f
marqu d, maison alors cor
tad mb t démodée depuis f
no c agerfeld parvient à
es c des versions classi
d, en couture comme
vec humour, par exemple
a collection automne 199
rington et Linda Evangelis
rper's Bazaar (page 261). D

le magazine de Babet
Haider Ackermann, qui
après de John Galliano, qui
ible de le remplacer
Gaultier ont fait
Patou dont la
part de Christian
7) qui souhaite
oix - natif d'Arles,
l'inspiration de
la porte en 2009
cène ainsi qu'une col-
chiaparelli à l'automne
Vendôme fondée par
sa fermeture. La nou-
nequin franco-algérienne Farida
et gourou des styles, qui fut aussi
n Paul Gaultier et d'Azédine Alaïa
s et rejoignit l'atelier d'Alaïa en 1995
prendre en 2002 la tête du salon de haute
re de Gaultier.

Pour façonner l'image des marques, Lindbergh
partage la vision d'une femme forte, à la silhouette
conquérante et la féminité minimaliste, avec des
créatrices comme Jil Sander, l'Américaine Donna
Karani et l'Italienne Miuccia Prada. Franca Sozzani,
rédactrice en chef du *Vogue* Italie, qui travaille avec
Lindbergh depuis l'époque de son magazine *Le*
en 1980, déclare que « Peter est un photographe qui
marquera l'histoire de la photographie car il n'est
pas prisonnier des tendances. Il a sa propre identité :
ce n'est pas un photographe de mode. Il se sert de
la mode pour parler aux femmes et pour parler des
femmes, ce qui est très différent. »

Giorgio Armani, qui a aussi collaboré avec Lindbergh
sur diverses commandes, explique : « Il y a tout un
monde dans les yeux d'un photographe, une faculté de
comprendre et de rassembler des expériences et
des personnes qui peuvent changer notre regard. Le
visage des femmes, par exemple. Leur corps et leurs

Natif de Gibraltar, J
qui rencontre Lindi
du *Vogue* britannique
le créateur britanni
le photographe « p
lancé sa propre liq
en 1995-1996 avr
triole Alexander M
qui a appris le mé
les boutiques de l
Italien Romeo Gig
pour se consacrer
en 1992 et repris
assistante Sarah
quatorze ans (pe
Italien Riccardo
directeur de la cr
par Audrey Hepb
et McQueen. Qu
Galliano, Sarah P
Phoebe Philo, C
McCartney,
de l'école
l'aube r
Ruff

... arc
... arrête
... quittent même
... ang en 2006,
... du groupe Prada,
... créant des sculptures loin de
... de la marque éponyme ; Jil
... sienne trois fois. D'abord en
... de sa maison au groupe Prada,
... en 2003 et repartir l'année suivante
... Sander en 2012 pour succéder à Galliano
... Dior. Et Jil Sander (page 22, image 20) fait son
... retour en 2012 pour (une nouvelle fois) la désert

Research Output by Publications

Borut Milfelner, Sabina Veršič

Research output by publication type

This chapter aims to provide an overview of various research outputs classified by type. We present information on articles published in globally recognized journals indexed by databases such as Web of Sciences (WOS), the Journal Citations Report (JCR), and SCOPUS's

discourse, and enhance their professional standing within the academic community.

Figure 1 illustrates the quantity of scientific articles by FEB researchers published in journals indexed by JCR and SNIP, as well as in other international scientific publications. In total, researchers contributed eighty-eight articles in 2021,

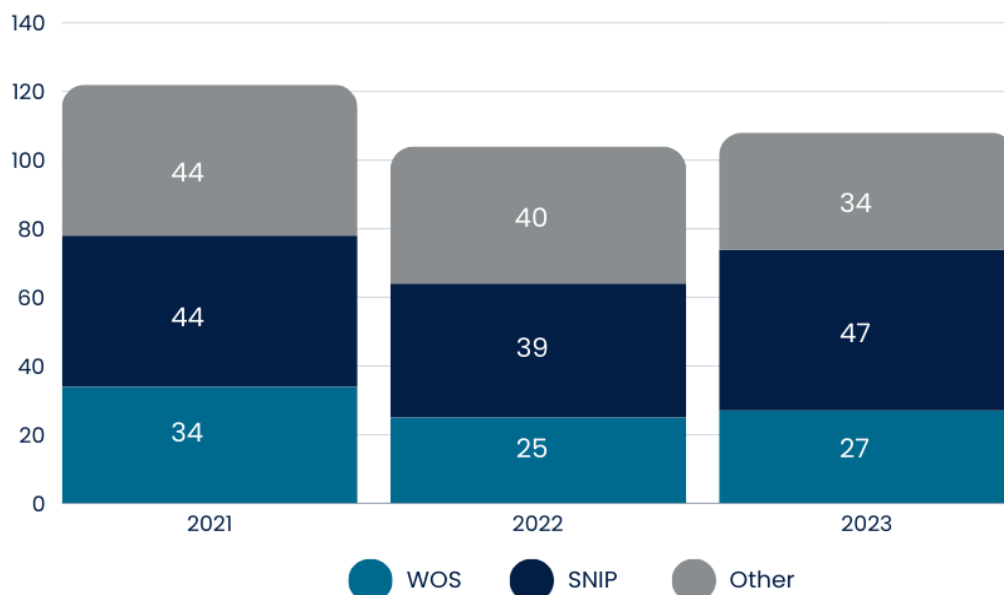


Figure 1: Number of scientific articles, by journal index published by FEB researchers from 2021 to 2023

Source: Slovenian Current Research Information System, 2024

Source-Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP) index, as well as other scientific journals, monographs, independent scientific chapters within monographs, and contributions made by FEB researchers to scientific conferences.

The impact factor (IF), a metric provided by JCR, and source normalized impact per paper (SNIP) provided by SCOPUS are measures of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year. Those two indices are the most acknowledged measures of journal quality in the Republic of Slovenia, the University of Maribor and in comparison with international research institutions.

Publications in WOS and Scopus indexed journals are widely recognized as reputable sources of scholarly information, and they often undergo rigorous peer-review processes to ensure the quality and validity of the research published within them. Being associated with such journals enhances the credibility and reputation of the researchers, as it indicates that their work has met the standards set by the academic community. Additionally, WOS and Scopus indexed journals are frequently consulted by researchers, scholars, and professionals globally. By publishing in these journals, researchers contribute to the dissemination of knowledge on a broader scale, reaching a diverse and international audience. Publishing in JCR and Scopus indexed journals is essential for researchers seeking to establish their expertise, contribute to the global academic

seventy-nine in 2022, and eighty-one in 2023. It is noteworthy that the predominant share of these publications appeared in SNIP indexed journals, and that the number of scientific article publications remains stable over the period.

Figure 2 presents an overview of the prevalent themes explored in scientific articles authored by researchers affiliated with the FEB. Notably, these topics align with the school's research focus on economics and business, as well as the school's mission. Through word cloud analysis, it becomes apparent that most articles delve into impact studies pertaining to areas including the economy, business processes, sustainability, markets, development, Slovenia, and cultural and social issues. Additionally, reflecting the current global landscape, research addressing the COVID-19 crisis is also prominently featured.

In addition, we present the citation frequency of scientific articles, which is a metric used to evaluate the impact of a school's research output. Citation rates serve as a measure of the quality and excellence of a school's research. It indicates that the work produced by school and students is influential, respected, and considered valuable by peers and scholars in the field. It is integral to assess its academic impact, reputation, and overall contribution to knowledge.

members, researchers, and students to connect with peers, experts, and potential collaborators. Attending conferences allows school and researchers to stay informed about the latest trends, developments, and innovations in their respective fields, and provide a platform for economic and business schools to showcase thought leadership.

Between 2021 and 2023, researchers from FEB collectively published thirty-one scientific monographs, ninety-five independent scientific chapters in scientific monographs, and 128 scientific conference contributions (Figure 4). Following the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a resurgence in the number of conference contributions, whereas prior to this, there was a higher number of independent scientific chapters published.

Scientific articles in top-ranked journals⁹

Publishing research articles in top-tier scientific journals enhances the reputation and prestige of academic institutions. Such articles are considered high-quality contributions to the field, indicating expertise and

credibility to potential students, faculty, researchers, and collaborators. Moreover, publications in top scientific journals allow economic and business schools to disseminate cutting-edge research findings to a wider audience. These articles can influence and shape the discourse in their respective fields by reaching readership in academia, industry, and policymaking circles. Such dissemination of knowledge not only advances the frontiers of research but also fosters innovation and informs decision-making processes in business, economics, and policy realms.

In this chapter, we present the scientific articles published by FEB researchers between 2021 and 2023 in Q1 and Q2 journals within the Web of Science (WOS) and SCOPUS databases. These journals are recognized for their rigorous peer-review process, high impact factor, and wide readership, making them desirable outlets for displaying impactful research conducted by scholars affiliated with economics and business schools. From 2021 till 2023, twenty-nine such articles have been published in the first quartile and forty-five in the second quartile.

Journals Indexed in WoS and Scopus (First Quartile)

1. Triplat, M., Helenius, S., Laina, R., Krajnc, N., Kronholm, T., Ženko, Z., Hujala, T. (2023). Private forest owner willingness to mobilise wood from dense, small-diameter tree stands. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 148(Mar.). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2022.102901>
2. Potočan, V., & Nedelko, Z. (2023). How personal values follow the societal lockdown due to COVID-19: Case of business students in Slovenia. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 14(Apr.). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.987715>
3. Rožman, M., Tominc, P., & Štrukelj, T. (2023). Competitiveness through development of strategic talent management and agile management ecosystems. *Global Journal of Flexible Systems Management*, 24(3), 373–393. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40171-023-00344-1>
4. Dabić, M., Maley, J. F., Črešnar, R., & Nedelko, Z. (2023). Unappreciated channel of manufacturing productivity under industry 4.0: Leadership values and capabilities. *Journal of Business Research*, 162(Jul.). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2023.113900>
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9. Krupnik, S., Wagner, A., Koretskaya, O., Rudek, T., Wade, R., Mišić, M., Akerboom, S., Foulds, C., Smith Stegen, K., Denac, M., et al. (2022). Beyond technology: A research agenda for social sciences and humanities research on renewable energy in Europe. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 89(Jul.), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2022.102536>
10. Rožman, M., Oreški, D., & Tominc, P. (2022). Integrating artificial intelligence into a talent management model to increase the work engagement and performance of enterprises. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13(Nov.), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.1014434>
11. Rožman, M., & Milfelner, B. (2022). The importance of intergenerational leadership praxes and availability of key information for older employee burnout and engagement in the context of firm size. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13(Apr.), 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.858134>

⁹ Source: Slovenian Current Research Information System, 2024

12. Jagrič, T., Brown, C. E., Fister, D., Darlington, O., Ashton, K., Dyakova, M., Bellis, M., & Jagrič, V. (2022). Toward an economy of wellbeing: The economic impact of the Welsh healthcare sector. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 10(Oct.), 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2022.953752>
13. Dajčman, S., Kavkler, A., Merzlyakov, S., Pekarski, S. E., & Romih, D. (2022). International transmission of conventional and unconventional monetary policy and financial stress shocks from the euro area to Russia. *Journal of Central Banking Theory and Practice*, 11(1), 227–247. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jcbtp-2022-0010>
14. Tong, J. T., Potočan, V., et al. (2022). The impact of gender-role-orientations on subjective career success: A multilevel study of 36 societies. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, 138(5), 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jvb.2022.103773>
15. Sternad Zabukovšek, S., Bobek, S., Zabukovšek, U., Kalinič, Z., & Tominc, P. (2022). Enhancing PLS-SEM-enabled research with ANN and IPMA: Research study of enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems' acceptance based on the technology acceptance model (TAM). *Mathematics*, 10(9), 1–28. <https://doi.org/10.3390/math10091379>
16. Potočan, V., & Nedelko, Z. (2021). The behavior of organization in economic crisis: Integration, interpretation, and research development. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 174(4), 805–823. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-021-04928-8>
17. Dabič, M., Stojčić, N., Simić, M., Potočan, V., Slavković, M., & Nedelko, Z. (2021). Intellectual agility and innovation in micro and small businesses: The mediating role of entrepreneurial leadership. *Journal of Business Research*, 123(C), 683–695. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2020.10.013>
18. Zdolšek Draksler, T., & Širec, K. (2021). The study of entrepreneurial intentions and entrepreneurial competencies of business vs. non-business students. *Journal of Competitiveness*, 13(2), 171–188. <https://doi.org/10.7441/joc.2021.02.10>
19. Mosić, D., Dolinar, G., & Marovt, J. (2021). EP-quasinilpotent decomposition and its generalizations. *Revista de la Real Academia de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales. Serie A, Matemáticas*, 115(4), 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13398-021-01083-7>
20. Huđek, I., Tominc, P., & Širec, K. (2021). The impact of social and cultural norms, government programs and digitalization as entrepreneurial environment factors on job and career satisfaction of freelancers. *Sustainability*, 13(2), 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13020779>
21. Nedelko, Z., & Potočan, V. (2021). Sustainability of organizations: The contribution of personal values to democratic leadership behavior focused on the sustainability of organizations. *Sustainability*, 13(8), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13084207>
22. Schröder, L.-M., Bobek, V., & Horvat, T. (2021). Determinants of success of businesses of female entrepreneurs in Taiwan. *Sustainability*, 13(9), 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13094842>
23. Kukovec, D., Milfelner, B., Mulej, M., & Šarotar Žižek, S. (2021). Model of socially responsible transfer of parent organization culture to the subsidiary organization in a foreign cultural environment concerning internal communication, stress, and work satisfaction. *Sustainability*, 13(14), 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13147927>
24. Potočan, V. (2021). Technology and corporate social responsibility. *Sustainability*, 13(15), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13158658>
25. Rožman, M., Sternad Zabukovšek, S., Bobek, S., & Tominc, P. (2021). Gender differences in work satisfaction, work engagement and work efficiency of employees during the COVID-19 pandemic: The case in Slovenia. *Sustainability*, 13(16), 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13168791>
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27. Hintringer, T. M., Bobek, V., Milost, F., & Horvat, T. (2021). Innovation as a determinant of growth in outperforming emerging markets: An analysis of South Korea. *Sustainability*, 13(18), 1–22. <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/18/10241>
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29. Rožman, M., Radman Peša, A., Rajko, M., & Štrukelj, T. (2021). Building organisational sustainability during the COVID-19 pandemic with an inspiring work environment. *Sustainability*, 13(21), 1–22. <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/21/11747>

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1. Crnogaj, K., & Rus, M. (2023). From start to scale: Navigating innovation, entrepreneurial ecosystem, and strategic evolution. *Administrative Sciences*, 13(12), 1–19. <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-3387/13/12/254>
2. Rožman, M., Tominc, P., & Milfelner, B. (2023). Maximizing employee engagement through artificial intelligent organizational culture in the context of leadership and training of employees: Testing linear and non-linear relationships. *Cogent Business & Management*, 10(2), 1–30. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/23311975.2023.2248732?needAccess=true&role=button>
3. Tominc, P., & Rožman, M. (2023). Artificial intelligence and business studies: Study cycle differences regarding the perceptions of the key future competences. *Education Sciences*, 13(6), 1–22. <https://www.mdpi.com/2227-7102/13/6/580>

4. Dabić, M., Egri, C. P., Potočan, V., & Nedelko, Z. (2023). The stimulus of European Union accession on the personal values formation process: A study of Croatia and Slovenia. *Ekonomska Istraživanja*, 36(1), 1–27. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1331677X.2023.2167222>
5. Rožman, M., Oreški, D., & Tominc, P. (2023). A multidimensional model of the new work environment in the digital age to increase a company's performance and competitiveness. *IEEE Access*, 11(Mar.), 26136–26151. <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/10068534>
6. Čančer, V., Tominc, P., & Rožman, M. (2023). Multi-criteria measurement of AI support to project management. *IEEE Access*, 11(Dec.), 142816–142828. <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=10355961>
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11. Hlastec, A., Mumel, D., & Hauptman, L. (2023). Is there a relationship between self-enhancement, conservation and personal tax culture? *Sustainability*, 15(7), 1–23. <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/15/7/5797>
12. Zdošek, D., & Taškar Beloglavec, S. (2023). Sustainability reporting ecosystem: A once-in-a-lifetime overhaul during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Sustainability*, 15(9), 1–22. <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/15/9/7349>
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18. Plečko, S., Tominc, P., & Širec, K. (2023). Digitalization in entrepreneurship: Unveiling the motivational and demographic influences towards sustainable digital sales. *Sustainability*, 15(23), 1–19. <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/15/23/16150>
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42. Golubić, I., & Marovt, J. (2021). Preservers of partial orders on the set of all variance-covariance matrices. *Filomat*, 35(2), 3015–3030. <https://journal.pmf.ni.ac.rs/filomat/index.php/filomat/article/view/11985>
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44. Alfirić, N., Potočan, V., & Nedelko, Z. (2021). Students' values, professional socialization and the mental gap of corporate social responsibility perceptions. *PLoS One*, 16(12). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0261653>
45. Nedelko, Z. (2021). What drives the usage of management tools supporting industry 4.0 in organizations. *Sensors*, 21(10). <https://doi.org/10.3390/s21103512>

Scientific monographs⁹

This chapter provides an overview of the scientific monographs published by researchers affiliated with FEB between 2021 and 2023. Monographs represent the culmination of scholarly endeavours and reflect the diverse research interests and expertise within our academic community.

During this period, FEB researchers made significant contributions to the intellectual landscape by producing a

range of monographs that demonstrate their commitment to advancing knowledge and addressing key issues in economics and business studies. It is worth noting that some of these monographs have been published by renowned international publishers, highlighting the global reach and recognition of our school's research output. Meanwhile, others have been disseminated through the University of Maribor Press, revealing our commitment to fostering academic excellence and scholarly discourse within our institution and beyond.

⁹ Source: Slovenian Current Research Information System, 2024

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2. Širec, K., Tominc, P., Bradač Hojnik, B., Rus, M., Crnogaj, K., Širec, K., & Crnogaj, K. (Eds.). (2023). *Dve desetletji dinamike podjetniškega razvoja: GEM Slovenija 2022* (1st ed.). Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Univerzitetna založba. <http://ipmmp.um.si>
3. Zdolšek, D. (2023). *Napovedni model za poročanje revizorjevega dvoma*. Pearson.
4. Rus, M., Močnik, D., Crnogaj, K., & Bradač Hojnik, B. (Eds.). (2023). *Podjetniška demografija in značilnosti startup in scaleup podjetij: Slovenski podjetniški observatorij 2022* (1st ed.). Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Univerzitetna založba. <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/771>
5. Rus, M., Močnik, D., Crnogaj, K., & Bradač Hojnik, B. (Eds.). (2023). *Podjetniška demografija in značilnosti startup in scaleup podjetij: Slovenski podjetniški observatorij 2022* (1st ed.). Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Univerzitetna založba. <http://ipmmp.um.si>
6. Jovanovič, D., Bratina, B., & Črešnik, D. (2023). *Podjetniško (korporacijsko) in davčno pravo* (1st ed.). Maribor: Založba WD.
7. Bobek, S., Deželak, Z., Šišovska Klančnik, I., Zabukovšek, U., & Sternad Zabukovšek, S. (2023). *Raziskava ponudnikov poslovnih informacijskih rešitev za digitalno transformacijo podjetij* (1st ed.). Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Univerzitetna založba. <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/792>
8. Jagrič, T., Taškar Beloglavec, S., Zdolšek, D., Amon, A., Herman, A., Jagrič, V., & Jagrič, T. (Eds.). (2023). *Slovenian corporate risk monitor 2023*. Harlow: Pearson. [https://bookshelf.vitalsource.com/reader/books/9781800068544/epubcfi/6/2\[%3Bvnd.vst.idref%3DCover\]!/4/2/2/%4051:2](https://bookshelf.vitalsource.com/reader/books/9781800068544/epubcfi/6/2[%3Bvnd.vst.idref%3DCover]!/4/2/2/%4051:2)
9. Sternad Zabukovšek, S., & Bobek, S. (2023). *Sprejemanje poslovnih informacijskih rešitev in digitalna transformacija v podjetjih* (1st ed.). Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Univerzitetna založba. <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/791>
10. Milfelner, B. (2023). *Tehnike za zagotavljanje veljavnosti in zanesljivosti podatkov v marketinških raziskavah in analiza podatkov v marketingu* (1st ed.). Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Univerzitetna založba. <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/810>
11. Vrečko, I., & Čelesnik, G. (2022). *Krizni – agilni – projektni management (raz)reševanja poslovnih kriz* (1st ed.). Ljubljana: Slovensko združenje za projektni management. <http://zpm.si/monografija-02-2023/>
12. Vrečko, I. (2022). *Od strateške krize do trajne strateške konkurenčnosti: s kreativnostjo in inovativnostjo, s strateško in projektno odličnostjo, s celovitostjo*. (1st ed.). Ljubljana: Slovensko združenje za projektni management. <https://zpm.si/monografija-01-2023/>
13. Bradač Hojnik, B., Hudek, I., Močnik, D., Rebernik, M. (Eds.), & Bradač Hojnik, B. (Ed.). (2021). *Podjetniška demografija in značilnosti digitalizacije malih in srednje velikih podjetij: Slovenski podjetniški observatorij 2021*. Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Univerzitetna založba. <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/673>
14. Bradač Hojnik, B., Hudek, I., Močnik, D., Rebernik, M. (Eds.), & Bradač Hojnik, B. (Ed.). (2022). *Podjetniška demografija in značilnosti digitalizacije malih in srednje velikih podjetij: Slovenski podjetniški observatorij 2021*. Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Univerzitetna založba. <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/673>
15. Malnar, A., Jagrič, T., Amon, A., Jagrič, V., & Jagrič, T. (Eds.). (2022). *Slovenian corporate risk monitor 2022*. Harlow: Pearson.
16. Duh, M., & Primec, A. (2022). *Strateški in pravni vidiki nasledstva družinskega podjetja*. Ljubljana: Lexpera, GV Založba.
17. Kocbek, M., Bratina, B., Odar, M., Plavšak, N., Podgorelec, P., Prelič, S., Prostor, J., & Kocbek, M. (Eds.). (2023). *Veliki komentar Zakona o gospodarskih družbah. 4. Knjiga. Komentar novel ZGD-II, ZGD-IJ in ZGD-1K*. Ljubljana: Lexpera, GV Založba.
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19. Rebernik, M., Tominc, P., Bradač Hojnik, B., Crnogaj, K., Rus, M., Širec, K., & Rebernik, M. (Eds.). (2022). *Vzdržljivost podjetniške aktivnosti: GEM Slovenija 2021* (1st ed.). Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Univerzitetna založba. <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/674>
20. Jagrič, T., Jagrič, V., & Fister, D. (2021). *Ekonomski odtis na regijski ravni in regionalizacija zdravstvenega sektorja v Sloveniji*. Harlow: Pearson.
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23. Potočan, V., & Nedelko, Z. (2021). *Procesna obravnava oskrbovalnih verig*. Harlow: Pearson.

24. Iršič, M., & Snoj, B. (2021). *Prodaja: temeljni koncepti in njihova uporaba v procesu prodajanja [znanstvena monografija]*. Harlow: Pearson Education.
25. Jagrič, T., Fister, D., Jagrič, V., Pivec, J., Mun, J., & Jagrič, T. (Eds.). (2021). *Slovenian corporate risk monitor 2021*. Harlow: Pearson.
26. Močnik, D., Crnogaj, K., Bradač Hojnik, B., Širec, K., & Rebernik, M. (Eds.). (2021). *Slovenska podjetja in značilnosti poslovnega prestrukturiranja : Slovenski podjetniški observatorij 2020*. Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Univerzitetna založba. <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/563>
27. Močnik, D., Crnogaj, K., Bradač Hojnik, B., Širec, K., & Rebernik, M. (Eds.). (2021). *Slovenska podjetja in značilnosti poslovnega prestrukturiranja: Slovenski podjetniški observatorij 2020* (1st ed.). Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Univerzitetna založba. <http://ipmmp.um.si/slovenski-podjetniski-observatorij/spo-monografije>
28. Rožman, M., & Štrukelj, T. (2021). *Soodvisnost izbranih dejavnikov strateškega managementa podjetja in zavzetosti starejših zaposlenih kot osnova za inovativnost podjetja: Znanstvena monografija* (1st ed.). Harlow: Pearson.
29. Rebernik, M., Tominc, P., Bradac Hojnik, B., Crnogaj, K., Rus, M., Širec, K., & Širec, K. (Eds.). (2022). *Resilience of entrepreneurial activity: GEM Slovenia 2021: Executive summary* (1st ed.). Maribor: University of Maribor Press. <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/675>
30. Štrukelj, T., Meolic, D., Rožman, M., & Deželak, Z. (Eds.). (2022). *Trije stebri trajnostnega razvoja: Teoretično ozadje, študija primera in kvantitativne ekonomske analize [Scientific monograph]* (1st ed.). Maribor: Bio energija.
31. Širec, K., Tominc, P., Bradac Hojnik, B., Rus, M., Crnogaj, K., Širec, K., & Crnogaj, K. (Eds.). (2023). *Two decades of dynamic entrepreneurial development: GEM Slovenija 2022: Executive summary* (1st ed.). Maribor: University of Maribor Press. <https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/book/773>





Editors of and Positions on Editorial Boards of Scientific Journals¹¹

For researchers, serving as editors or members of editorial boards provides opportunities to actively engage with the scholarly community, shape the direction of research within their field, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge. By assuming editorial roles, researchers gain insights into the peer-review process, enhancing their understanding of academic publishing standards and methodologies. Additionally, editorship offers a platform to share expertise, establish professional networks, and collaborations with fellow scholars globally, ultimately enriching their academic and professional development.

Furthermore, for the school, having faculty members and researchers involved in editorial positions enhances its reputation and visibility within the academic community. It demonstrates the expertise and research excellence present within the institution, attracting top-tier faculty, researchers, students, and collaborators. Overall, editorship of and membership in international research journals play an important role in advancing both individual researchers' careers and the overall academic standing of the school. Several FEB researchers serve as editors and members of editorial boards for various domestic and international scientific journals (Table 1).

Table 1: Editorial positions and positions in Editorial Boards for the period from 2021 to 2023

Researcher	Journal	ISSN	Editor/Member of editorial board
Jani Bekó	International journal of sustainable economy	1756-5804	Member of editorial board
Jani Bekó	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Jani Bekó	Managing global transitions: international research journal	1854-6935	Member of editorial board
Jernej Belak	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Samo Bobek	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board

Vito Bobek	Mathematics	2227-7390	Editor
Vito Bobek	Mednarodno inovativno poslovanje: strokovno-znanstvena revija za področje poslovanja in poslovnega izobraževanja	1855-6175	Member of editorial board
Vito Bobek	International journal of regional development	2463-7939	Member of editorial board
Vito Bobek	European journal of international management	1751-6757	Member of editorial board
Vito Bobek	FAIMA Business & Management Journal	2344-4088	Member of editorial board
Vito Bobek	IBS poročevalec	1855-8011	Member of editorial board
Vito Bobek	International Journal of Electronic Trade	1742-7525	Member of editorial board
Vito Bobek	International journal of trade and global markets	1742-7541	Member of editorial board
Vito Bobek	International journal of diplomacy and economy	2049-0887	Member of editorial board
Darja Boršič	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Editor
Darja Boršič	Ekonomia	2658-1310	Member of editorial board
Darja Boršič	Mednarodno inovativno poslovanje: strokovno-znanstvena revija za področje poslovanja in	1855-6175	Member of editorial board

¹¹ The data were retrieved from the Slovenian Current Research Information System (2024).

	poslovnega izobraževanja		
Borut Bratina	Podjetje in delo: revija za gospodarsko, delovno in socialno pravo	0353-6521	Member of editorial board
Vesna Čančer	Acta Informatica Pragensia	1805-4951	Member of editorial board
Vesna Čančer	Croatian review of economic, business and social statistics	1849-8531	Member of editorial board
Vesna Čančer	Ekonomska revija	1512-8962	Member of editorial board
Vesna Čančer	Entrepreneurial Business and Economics Review	2353-883X	Member of editorial board
Vesna Čančer	International journal of e-services and mobile applications	1941-6288	Member of editorial board
Vesna Čančer	Notitia	1849-9066	Member of editorial board
Silvo Dajčman	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Mojca Duh	International journal of economics, finance and management sciences	2326-9553	Member of editorial board
Mejra Fetić	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Nataša Gajšt	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Lidija Hauptman	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board

Timotej Jagrič	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Alenka Kavkler	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Romana Korez-Vide	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Editor
Romana Korez-Vide	Journal of world economic research	2328-7748	Member of editorial board
Romana Korez-Vide	World journal of social science research	2332-5534	Member of editorial board
Sonja Sibila Lebe	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Sonja Sibila Lebe	Tourism review	1660-5373	Member of editorial board
Klavdij Logožar	Journal of management and sustainability	1925-4725	Member of editorial board
Klavdij Logožar	Medzinárodné vzťahy	1336-1562	Member of editorial board
Borut Milfelner	International journal of sustainable economy	1756-5804	Member of editorial board
Borut Milfelner	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Borut Milfelner	Zbornik radova Ekonomskog fakulteta u Rijeci: časopis za ekonomsku teoriju i praksu	1331-8004	Member of editorial board
Borut Milfelner	Akademija MM: slovenska	1408-1652	Member of

	znanstvena revija za trženje		editorial board
Zlatko Nedelko	Izzivi managementu: revija o izzivih in dosežkih sodobnega managementa	2350-5435	Editor
Žan Oplotnik	Lex localis: revija za lokalno samoupravo	1581-5374	Editor
Igor Perko	Strategic management: International journal of strategic management and decision support systems in strategic management	1821-3448	Member of editorial board
Igor Perko	Kybernetes	0368-492x	Member of editorial board
Peter Podgorelec	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Peter Podgorelec	Podjetje in delo: revija za gospodarsko, delovno in socialno pravo	0353-6521	Member of editorial board
Vojko Potočan	Informing science	1521-4672	Member of editorial board
Vojko Potočan	Interdisciplinary journal of knowledge & learning objects	1552-2210	Member of editorial board
Vojko Potočan	Izzivi managementu: revija o izzivih in dosežkih sodobnega managementa	2350-5435	Member of editorial board
Vojko Potočan	Journal of information technology education: research	1547-9714	Member of editorial board
Vojko Potočan	Scientific journals International: One-Stop forum	1556-6757	Member of

	for Research and Creative Work		editorial board
Gregor Radonjič	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Simona Šrotar Žižek	Izzivi managementu: revija o izzivih in dosežkih sodobnega managementa	2350-5435	Member of editorial board
Karin Širec	Journal of competitiveness	1804-171X	Member of editorial board
Karin Širec	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board
Tjaša Štrukelj	Acta economica: časopis za ekonomiju	1512-858X	Member of editorial board
Tjaša Štrukelj	Journal of Research and Innovation for Sustainable Society	2668-0416	Member of editorial board
Tjaša Štrukelj	Oeconomica Jadertina	1848-4956	Member of editorial board
Igor Vrečko	Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja	0547-3101	Member of editorial board







**Doctoral
Dissertations Defended¹²**

The third cycle doctoral study program Economic and Business Sciences is aimed at students who want to delve into intricate economic and business dynamics both nationally and internationally. They engage in individual research endeavours, presenting their findings for assessment by professors, peers, and industry experts. The doctoral study program is part of the University of Maribor's doctoral school.

FEB doctoral program equips students with a comprehensive understanding of economics and business sciences in the field of finance, macro, and microeconomics, as well as behavioral economics, strategic management, marketing, accounting, statistics, and mathematical modeling. Through the curriculum, students gain a nuanced perspective of their chosen field, allowing them to critically evaluate theories and research, while also mastering the ability to develop and implement original research that contributes to the advancement of knowledge in their area of specialization.

The scientific work of doctoral students plays an important role in advancing knowledge and driving innovation across various fields. As new researchers, doctoral students bring fresh perspectives and insights through their analysis, investigations, and experiments, pushing the boundaries of existing knowledge. Their work often lays the foundation for new discoveries, shaping the trajectory of future research endeavors. Additionally, doctoral research includes critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and interdisciplinary collaboration, nurturing the next generation of scholars and scientists who will tackle complex global challenges.

In 2023, 46 doctoral students were enrolled in the FEB Economic and Business Sciences doctoral program. During the period from 2021 to 2023, 14 candidates successfully defended their doctoral dissertations.

Name and surname	Blaž Frešer
Advisor/co-advisor	Tominc Polona (advisor) Širec Karin (co-advisor)
Title of doctoral dissertation	The model for determining the impact of the perceived availability of selected growth determinants on high-growth enterprises performance
Abstract	This doctoral thesis examines the relation between multidimensional factors influencing financial accessibility and measures taken by high-growth enterprises (HGEs) in Slovenia. Based on an empirical analysis, a conceptual model linking entrepreneurial orientation, intangible capital and financial performance is validated. The results

	show that entrepreneurial orientation has a significant impact on access to finance, while the effect of intangible capital varies. The results shown are beneficial for enterprises as well as for the needs of entrepreneurial policies, which increasingly focus on the creation of conditions for achieving healthy, high growth, along with the preservation of access to financial banking resources and expansion of the impact of alternative sources of financing.
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Name and surname	Alenka Naglič
Advisor/co-advisor	Klavdij Logožar (advisor) Polona Tominc (co-advisor)
Title of doctoral dissertation	The model of dynamics market diversification as an instrument of firm internationalization and market growth
Abstract	The fundamental goal of this doctoral dissertation is to establish how Slovenian companies that are part of the domestic institutional framework of the (post-)transition of the economic system and institutions are responding to dynamic processes of globalisation, accelerated internationalisation, and liberalisation of business. It delves into Slovenian companies' export reliance, advocating a dynamic market diversification model for international growth in the face of globalization, and analyses global economic regionalization, internationalization theories, and strategic advantages of diversification. It underscores the challenges in modern markets, urging companies to expand into foreign markets despite lingering obstacles. In the empirical part of the dissertation, which is divided into qualitative and quantitative research, we test eight hypotheses. The qualitative part of the empirical research is a basis for establishing that the nature of market opportunities differs significantly from market to market, which demands that companies be very adaptable and ingenious in business.

¹² The data were retrieved and reproduced from the Digital Library of the University of Maribor (2024) and FEB internal student databases.

Name and surname	Nataša Pivec
Advisor/co-advisor	Vojko Potočan
Title of doctoral dissertation	The impact of the strength of organizational culture on the process of internal development of knowledge
Abstract	The dissertation researches the effects of the strength of organisational culture on individual phases of the knowledge cycle, the setting up of self-directed learning centres, and the effect of employee values on the knowledge cycle. The doctoral dissertation is divided into theoretical and empirical sections. The empirical study, which was conducted among medium and large Slovenian organisations, has led to the finding that with regard to the strength of organisational culture, a strong culture prevails, which is associated with the characteristics of the ownership structure and the legal organisational form of these organisations. The effect of the strength of organisational culture and employee values on individual phases of the knowledge cycle has been confirmed, as well as a positive linear connection between the strength of organisational culture and the setting up of self-directed learning centres. The synthesis of the theoretical and empirical findings has made it possible to design a comprehensive model of the effects of the strength of organisational culture and employee values on the knowledge cycle, and the setting up and activity of self-directed learning centres.

Name and surname	Rok Črešnar
Advisor/co-advisor	Zlatko Nedelko
Title of doctoral dissertation	Development of a model for assessing the readiness of manufacturing organizations for Industry 4.0
Abstract	This doctoral thesis focuses on developing a comprehensive model to assess a manufacturing organization's readiness for Industry 4.0. While Industry 4.0 promises improved productivity through advanced technology integration

Abstract	and modern business philosophies, its implementation poses challenges. Existing readiness models lack empirical testing and overlook critical factors like management tools, key competences, and productivity. The study assesses the reliability and consistency of the combination of Acatech (Frauenhofer) and of models from the University of Warwick,. From those, based on empirical analysis, the study obtained a basic model for determining readiness for Industry 4.0, which is a starting point for improving the model. A combination of models was used because the two models consider different factors. The combination of two models incorporates broad and comprehensive dimensions of organizational operation; however, none of these models has yet been empirically applied to determine their simultaneous effect on other areas of organizational operation. Furthermore, these two models overlook two key areas of successful organizational operation in the circumstances of Industry 4.0, i.e., the use of key management tools and the focus on the use and development of key competences.
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Name and surname	Eva Lorenčič
Advisor/co-advisor	Mejra Festić
Title of doctoral dissertation	The Impact of Macroprudential Policy Instruments on Financial Stability
Abstract	This doctoral dissertation comprehensively explores macroprudential policy, addressing systemic risk, transmission mechanisms, policy instruments, and regulatory frameworks. It investigates the effectiveness of macroprudential tools in six euro-area countries from 2015 to 2018, using panel econometrics. Findings suggest certain instruments, like common equity tier one ratio, influence credit and house price growth, impact financial stability. The study partially confirms its hypotheses, owing to varied impact among instruments. Overall, it advocates for tailored

	macroprudential policies to ensure financial stability, aligning with contemporary research. Considering the results, a case can be made for the use of carefully crafted macroprudential policy instruments that target selected financial and macroeconomic variables with the goal of attaining financial stability for the financial system as a whole.
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Name and surname	Sabina Veršič
Advisor/co-advisor	Tjaša Štrukelj (advisor) Polona Tominc (co-advisor)
Title of doctoral dissertation	Impact of the perceived changes in multidimensional ecosystem of the (external) company's environment on the company's strategic business focus and performance
Abstract	This doctoral dissertation investigates how the unpredictable external environment impacts a company's strategic focus and performance. Surveying 378 companies, it found that external factors influence strategic decisions, and various strategies affect financial and non-financial performance differently. The study's relevance is highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing the importance of understanding and adapting to environmental unpredictability. The measurement scales that were developed contribute to identifying environmental unpredictability, business strategies, and company performance comprehensively. The findings underscore the need for companies to monitor and respond to external environmental dynamics for success and survival amid uncertainty.

Name and surname	Daniel Zdošek
Advisor/co-advisor	Kolar, Iztok (advisor) Jagrič, Timotej (co-advisor)
Title of doctoral dissertation	Prediction and factors of auditor's doubt
Abstract	The doctoral dissertation presents three studies in relation to the auditor's consideration regarding an entity's ability to continue as a going concern. Studies focus on predicting the auditor's going-concern opinion

	and analysing characteristics of the audit firm and the auditor-in-charge that affect the auditor's reporting behaviour. First, a prediction model for predicting going-concern opinions for reporting entities is developed. Users are allowed to calibrate the model according to the users' desired preferences (i.e., a preference that, with the model's use, the minimum costs of the model's incorrect predictions are achieved). In the second and third studies, research results reveal that the characteristics of audit firms and auditors in charge at least partly influence auditors' reporting behaviour (i.e., an auditor's propensity for aggressive reporting). Based on Slovenian data, the studies offer insights into audit practices and contribute to the understanding of auditor's going-concern opinion reporting.
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Name and surname	Ivona Hudek
Advisor/co-advisor	Karin Širec (advisor) Polona Tominc (co-advisor)
Title of doctoral dissertation	The emergence of gig economy under the impact of digitalization - model of the success factors of freelancers
Abstract	This dissertation explores the rise of the gig economy, focusing on freelancing within the context of digitalization. It investigates how technology enables remote work and project-based tasks through online platforms, reshaping traditional career structures. Examining Slovenia's freelance landscape, the study delves into career satisfaction and the fulfilment derived from project-based work. Drawing on Van den Born and Van Witteloostuijn's freelancer success model, it incorporates the external environment, including government programs, cultural norms, legal systems, and digital support. By evaluating freelancers' perceptions, the dissertation provides insights for policymakers amid ongoing digital transformation in Slovenia and across the EU.

Name and surname	Dušan Fister
Advisor/co-advisor	Timotej Jagrič (advisor) Matjaž Perc (co-advisor)
Title of doctoral dissertation	Artificial intelligence for managing the portfolio of stocks
Abstract	This work addresses the development and implementation of an automated trading system capable of generating and executing trading decisions independently. Two groups of trading strategies, the classics, traditionally not capable of adapting or learning, and two strategies with the capacity for adapting and learning, based on the latest artificial intelligence methods, one of them a representative of the third-generation neural networks, are implemented. Comprehensive simulation experiments and tests are concluded using data about the German stock market in past ten years, with additional digital and purely analogue hardware experiments on the dedicated equipment. Results of the experiments show that the universal model that manages several financial instruments concurrently behaves in a manner similar to a range of specific models that specialize in a single financial instrument at a time, as well as newly discovered experiences on propagation and exploitation of the latest third-generation neural networks.

Name and surname	Janez Rogelj
Advisor/co-advisor	Klavdij Logožar (advisor) Bojnec, Štefan (co-advisor)
Title of doctoral dissertation	Connectivity between export and innovation intensity in the business services sector in Slovenia
Abstract	The research explores the distinct characteristics of services and their impact on international trade, emphasizing innovation in business services. A model was developed to assess the economic effects of export and innovation activities in Slovenia's business services sector. Findings reveal the significance of innovation for success in foreign markets, with innovative firms demonstrating higher competitiveness. Investment in

	research and development (R&D) positively correlates with increased export activities. However, confirming the reciprocal relationship between export and innovation activities proved challenging because of estimation risks. Overall, the study underscores the importance of innovation and investment in driving export-oriented growth in the business services sector.
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Name and surname	Sandra Jordan
Advisor/co-advisor	Simona Sternad Zabukovšek
Title of doctoral dissertation	Impact analysis of critical success factors and maturity of a company on the life cycle of document management system
Abstract	This dissertation explores the imperative of digitizing business processes for companies to maintain competitiveness. Drawing on previous literature, it underscores the strategic importance of digitization for efficiency, profitability, and competitive advantage. Emphasizing the role of business information solutions like ERP, CRM, and DMS, it highlights the benefits of digitization, including workflow automation, data-driven decision-making, and environmental sustainability. The study advocates for DMS adoption as essential for competitiveness and environmental responsibility, offering insights for successful implementation and maximizing effectiveness in companies. It offers new findings that will enable companies to transition from paper-based to paperless operations more easily and with greater success.

Name and surname	Aleksandra Hlastec
Advisor/co-advisor	Lidija Hauptman (advisor) Damijan Mumel (co-advisor)
Title of doctoral dissertation	The analysis of the relationship between personal values and personal tax culture regarding the perception of tax system fairness in Slovenia among accountants and non-accountants
Abstract	This doctoral dissertation develops a model for analysing the relation

	<p>between personal values and personal tax culture based on the perception of the tax system in Slovenia for a group of accountants and another of non-accountants. The results of the empirical research confirmed the existence of a relation between personal values such as self-improvement, self-transcendence, and conservatism, and personal tax culture, defined as tax compliance, attitudes towards tax evasion, and the tax system. The link between openness to change and personal tax culture was not confirmed. Differences were found between the two target groups. The model can be used by tax policy makers at the macro level and in organizations to measure tax culture in the context of social responsibility and the goals of the 2030 Agenda.</p>
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Name and surname	Domen Malc
Advisor/co-advisor	Aleksandra Pisnik (advisor)
Title of doctoral dissertation	Influence of purchase context factors on price unfairness perceptions and consumer complaint behaviour
Abstract	<p>This dissertation investigates price unfairness perceptions and their impact on consumer complaint behaviour across various contexts. It develops and tests a model of price unfairness perceptions, exploring the role of emotions and consumer involvement. Through two experimental studies, the research reveals that negative emotions heighten perceptions of price unfairness, leading to increased complaint behaviour. However, positive emotions mitigate these effects. The study sheds light on the dynamics of consumer responses to perceived price unfairness, highlighting the importance of emotional reactions and unfairness perceptions in shaping complaint behaviour.</p>

Name and surname	Dejan Romih
Advisor/co-advisor	Silvo Dajčman (advisor) Alenka Kavkler (co-advisor)
Title of doctoral dissertation	The impact of systemic financial stress in the euro area on bilateral exports of goods
Abstract	<p>This dissertation examines the impact of systemic financial stress in the euro area on bilateral exports of goods, using static panel data gravity models. Analysing data from 2000 to 2014 for various countries, the study finds that systemic financial stress negatively affects bilateral exports, aligning with expectations. Even excluding third countries from the sample, the impact persists. By addressing this gap in the literature, the research contributes to understanding the consequences of financial stress in the euro area, aiding policymakers in implementing measures to mitigate its effects on trade and economic activity.</p>



1 NO POVERTY




2 ZERO HUNGER



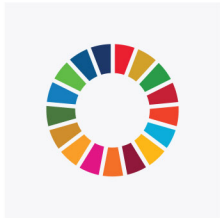
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Integrating Sustainable Development Goals Into Research at the FEB

Igor Vrečko

In the current era, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have emerged as a foundational framework for nations and institutions to measure and guide progress towards a sustainable future. Conceived in 2015 under the auspices of the United Nations, these seventeen goals embody a universal commitment to eradicating poverty, while ensuring quality education, gender equality, clean water, affordable energy, and innovation, among many other challenges facing modern society.

In the context of higher education and scientific research, universities, including business and economics faculties, have a key role to play in promoting and implementing these goals. Through their research, education, and social engagement, they can make a significant contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, not only at local and national levels, but also internationally.

Research that incorporates the Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME) and the SDGs transcends traditional academic boundaries, providing a comprehensive framework for developing innovative strategies that catalyse positive change in global economies and societies. Alignment with PRME's mission to transform management education reflects a growing trend among business schools to develop leaders capable of creating value for both business and society. This commitment to integrating the SDGs into business education and practice demonstrates the pivotal role of academic institutions in leading the way towards sustainable development.

A commitment to sustainable business research and teaching is increasingly becoming a hallmark of business education worldwide, in line with the principles of PRME. This commitment highlights the essential role of business schools in equipping future leaders with the skills and knowledge needed to address the environmental and societal challenges highlighted by the SDGs. Academic institutions' efforts in this regard are further supported by the world's leading accreditation bodies for business and economics programmes, such as AACSB and EFMD. These organisations have explicitly encouraged the integration of SDG goals into academic curricula, as well as into the broader operational framework of business schools. They recognise the major influence that educational institutions have in shaping a future in which business contributes positively to society and the environment.

AACSB and EFMD's support for SDG-related initiatives is not just a passing trend, but part of a strategic direction that reaffirms the relevance and urgency of sustainable development in contemporary business education. Recognition by these accreditation bodies represents a growing consensus that integrating the SDGs is essential to the mission of developing responsible leaders and creating a sustainable global economy.

It is not surprising, therefore, that certain SDGs are being pursued more frequently in the research efforts of business

and economics faculties. Goals such as "decent work and economic growth" (SDG 8), "industry, innovation and infrastructure" (SDG 9) and "reducing inequality" (SDG 10) are frequently highlighted in academic output. This focus aligns closely with traditional business school topics such as entrepreneurship, market strategies, and corporate governance, reflecting the inherent connection between these areas of study and the broader goals of sustainable development.

At the FEB, we are committed to conducting research that not only reflects these global orientations, but also contributes to local and national development in line with our specific needs and context. Our efforts to weave the SDGs into academic practice reflect the university's broader commitment to sustainable development and social responsibility.

The next section details how the Sustainable Development Goals have been integrated into our research projects between 2021 and 2023, our strengths and challenges, and how we intend to align our research efforts with the needs and expectations of contemporary society.

Global trends and benchmarking: The pursuit of the SDGs in business and economics faculties

Research in business and economics faculties has increasingly begun to reflect a commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. These goals, which are broad in scope, intersect with many areas of economic research, including sustainability in business operations, corporate social responsibility, and economic policies that promote inclusive growth.

Academic institutions around the world have recognised the need to contribute to the SDGs through their research agendas. Many have incorporated SDG-centred research into their strategies, focusing on areas such as social impact, climate change, and inclusive growth. This work provides valuable insights into how companies can operate sustainably and ethically, while still achieving economic success.

SDGs at the forefront of business research

Several SDGs stand out for their relevance to the field of economics and business studies. Goals such as SDG 8, SDG 9 and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) are a natural fit for business-related research, owing to their alignment with economic growth, innovation, and sustainable practices.

A comparative study of the research output of economics and business faculties reveals a diverse approach to the SDGs. Institutions around the world are following different paths in integrating SDGs into their research agendas, reflecting the unique strengths and strategic focus of each

school. For example, some faculties place a strong emphasis on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, closely aligned with SDG 9, while others focus on sustainability challenges such as clean energy and climate action, reflecting their commitment to SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) and SDG 13 (climate action). This diversity of focus points to the richness and complexity of integrating the SDGs into academic research and illustrates a wide range of contributions to global sustainability challenges.

SDGs in the business curriculum

Integrating the SDGs into the curriculum is becoming increasingly common, as educational institutions recognise the need to adapt to the challenges of the 21st century. A growing number of business schools around the world have introduced robust sustainability curricula, setting new standards for comprehensive education in sustainable practices. These programmes immerse students in learning experiences that equip them with the knowledge and skills to make balanced decisions that consider not only economic outcomes, but also environmental stewardship and social equity. This shift towards sustainability in business education reflects a broader understanding of the need for future leaders to navigate the complexities of achieving economic success while making a positive contribution to society and the planet.

In line with this progress, the FEB has undertaken a strategic initiative to align our courses and study programmes with the SDGs. This initiative represents our proactive stance in weaving sustainability and responsible management education into our academic offerings. It marks a deliberate shift towards embedding these global goals at the heart of our educational ethos.

Consistently strengthening these aspects of our curriculum ensures that our graduates are not only well versed in the language of business, but also attuned to the broader societal and environmental implications of business practices. Our school’s commitment to this cause has involved a systematic review and adaptation of course content to reflect SDG-related knowledge and competences, ensuring that each programme provides a pathway to understanding and contributing to these universal goals.

Furthermore, this alignment with the SDGs extends beyond the curriculum to our research efforts. As we delve into the details, we will show how our research reflects global trends and how it has been influenced by our concerted efforts to align our education programmes with the SDGs. This symbiosis between education and research fosters an environment where academic inquiry and pedagogical practice are mutually reinforcing, advancing our unique regional and national economic context within the global framework of sustainable development.

With this foundation, we are ready to build on our achievements and explore new avenues to further integrate the SDGs into our institutional strategy. In doing so, we will continue to evolve as a school that not only educates future leaders in economics and business, but also instils in them a deep sense of responsibility to foster sustainable and inclusive growth.

Reflecting global trends in local research: Integrating the SDGs at the FEB

As institutions around the world adapt to integrate the SDGs into their research agendas, it is instructive to observe how these efforts reflect and resonate in specific local

FEBs’ Research Projects according to SDGs 2021 - 2023

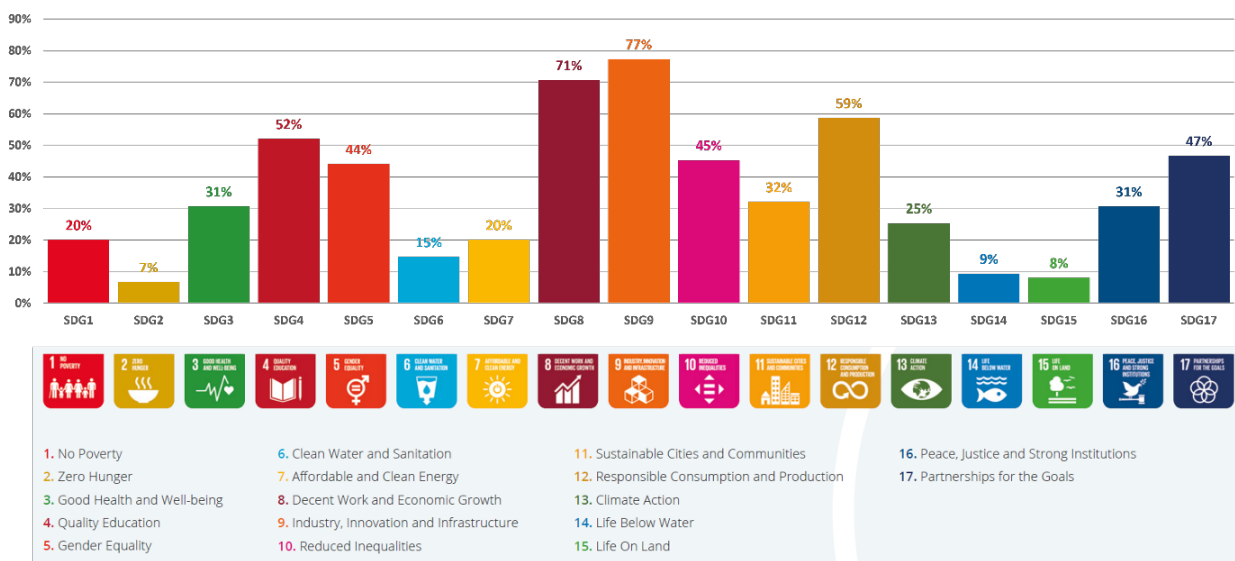


Figure 5: SDG integration into research projects at the FEB (2021-2023).



contexts. At the FEB, our research efforts from 2021 to 2023 are evidence of this growing alignment with the SDGs.

Our methodological approach began with an extensive mapping exercise, in which ongoing and completed research projects were assessed against each of the 17 SDGs. This process included not only a quantitative assessment of the prevalence of SDG-related themes in our research, but also a qualitative assessment of the depth and impact of our work on these goals.

The analysis revealed a notable focus on SDGs such as “industry, innovation and infrastructure” (SDG 9), “decent work and economic growth” (SDG 8) and “quality education” (SDG 4) (Figure 5). This concentration is indicative of FEB’s strong tradition in promoting economic development, supporting innovation, and advancing educational excellence.

The predominant focus on SDG 9 and SDG 8 underscores a research focus on economic resilience and industrial competitiveness, areas of critical importance in our regional context. The significant representation of SDG 4 reflects our commitment to developing educational frameworks that are not only rigorous, but also responsive to the evolving needs of society.

Compared to the research output of other business and economics faculties globally, our focus on SDG 9 is consistent with a shared academic interest in promoting innovation as a driver of economic prosperity. However, our strong commitment to SDG 8 and SDG 4 underscores a distinctive approach that links economic growth with human capital development, setting us apart in our emphasis on education as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

Conversely, our research has been less engaged with SDGs such as “life below water” (SDG 14), “life on land” (SDG 15) and “climate action” (SDG 13). While this pattern of engagement – or lack thereof – may seem like an oversight, it is in fact a strategic decision that stems from our institutional capabilities and areas of focus. Given the vast scope of the SDGs, it is unrealistic to expect any single institution to address all areas with equal depth and intensity. Our emphasis on certain SDGs over others reflects our strategic decision to leverage our strengths and areas of expertise. As a result, while some SDGs are less represented in our research output, this does not diminish our commitment to sustainable development as a whole. Rather, it highlights the need for selective focus and the importance of collaboration between institutions to collectively address the broad range of sustainability challenges. This scenario provides an opportunity to broaden our research agenda to include a more holistic approach to the SDGs in the future, thereby strengthening the integration of environmental sustainability into our economic and business research paradigms. It also highlights the importance of strategic partnerships and collaborations with other institutions that have

complementary strengths, enabling a collective and comprehensive approach to addressing the SDGs.

In planning our way forward, we recognise the need to cultivate a more balanced engagement with all the SDGs. This will involve proactive measures to broaden our research portfolio to include topics such as sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17). By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and seeking partnerships with industry, government, and civil society, we aim to increase the impact and relevance of our research.

Our ambition is not only to maintain our strengths in SDG-related research, but also to become a leader in integrating the environmental and social dimensions of sustainability into our core research themes. This evolution will ensure that FEB remains at the forefront of contributing to a sustainable future, guided by the compass of the SDGs.

The societal impact of FEB

The societal impact of FEB academic and research work can be demonstrated through various activities and metrics, such as media presence, and appearances on radio and TV programs, podcasts, interviews, etc. Another example is the impact in the corporate world and leadership positions in academic and/or professional associations.

In summarizing FEB’s stakeholder engagement and the strength of societal impact of the activities and initiatives undertaken, Figure 6 shows FEB’s model of internal and external stakeholder engagement and societal impact at the regional, national, and international levels. The strength of engagement is illustrated by high, medium, and low levels of engagement. Internal stakeholders include employees (unions), students, and alumni, while external stakeholders include potential learners, academics, businesses, governments, the public sector, non-governmental organizations, and academic quality assurance organizations. The model also considers the media, potential sponsors, former employees, and broader society. The level of engagement is represented by the size of the bubbles and the strength of the societal impact by the colour (see the legend below the Figure 6 for detailed explanations).

Final reflections and strategic directions

From 2021 to 2023, the FEB made considerable progress in aligning its research efforts with the SDGs. This alignment is more than a metric of engagement: it is an indication of FEB commitment to addressing the complexities of today’s global challenges through rigorous academic research.

Our research is strongly aligned with the economic and industry-related SDGs, particularly industry, innovation,

and infrastructure (SDG 9), and decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). Strength in these areas reflects the strategic priorities of FEB and the socio-economic fabric of our region, which prides itself on a robust industrial sector and a dynamic workforce.

While we have made commendable progress in some areas, our analysis also identifies SDGs where our commitment is less pronounced. This is not a shortcoming, but an opportunity to broaden our research horizons and integrate a wider range of SDG themes into future projects.

Our strategy going forward will be multi-faceted. We will foster a research culture that:

1. Encourages interdisciplinary approaches to addressing complex SDG-related issues.
2. Expands partnerships with industry and government to increase practical impact.

3. Introduces initiatives to strengthen research in under-represented SDGs, particularly those related to environmental sustainability.
4. Continues to align our curriculum with our research agenda, ensuring that the knowledge we generate is disseminated through teaching.

As we look to the future, the FEB stands ready to play a pivotal role in the sustainable transformation of our society. We will continue to harness the power of our research to generate insights that are both locally relevant and globally resonant. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to a future that is sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous for all.

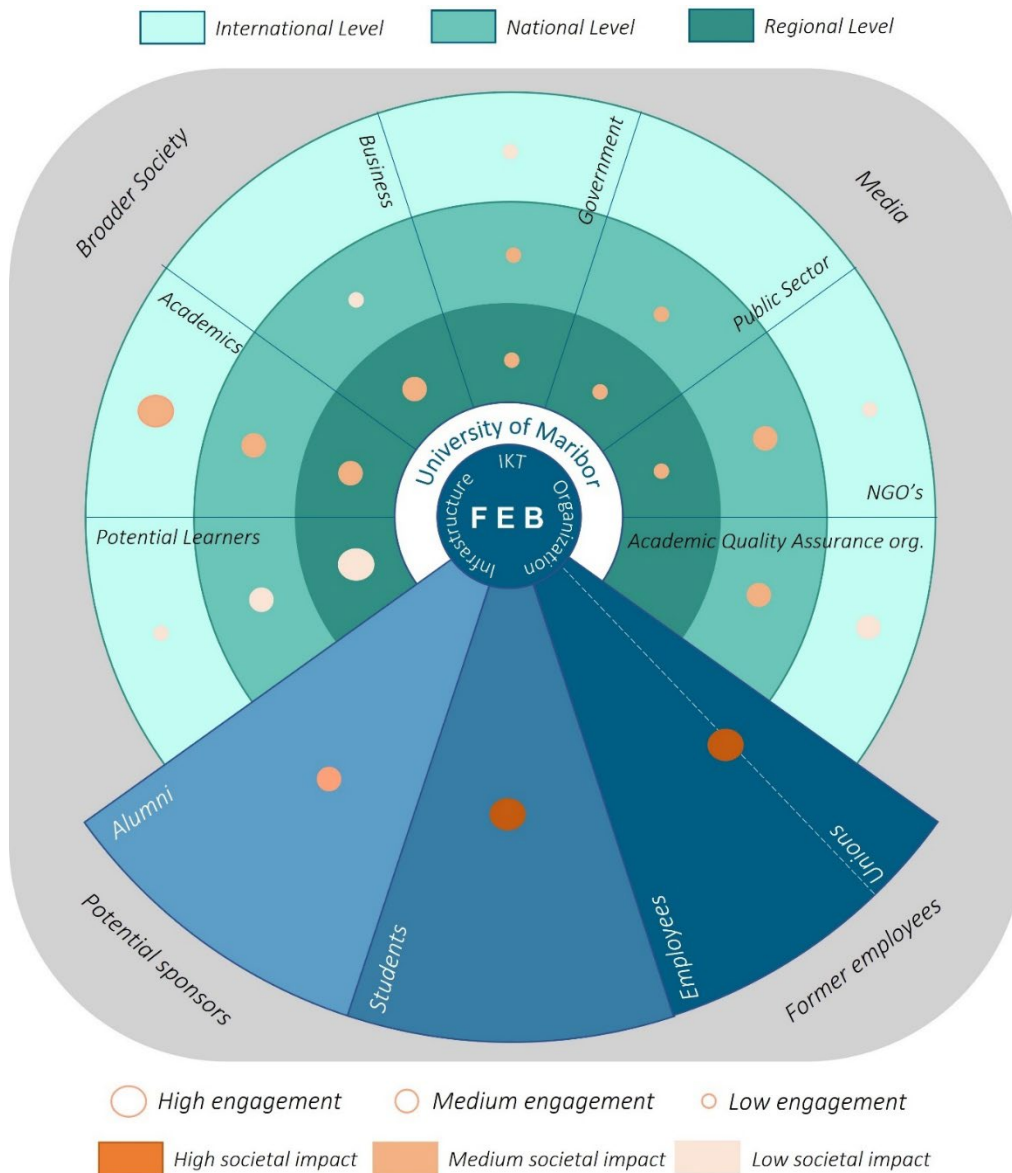


Figure 6: FEB Model of Internal and External Stakeholders' Engagement and Societal Impact



University of Maribor

Faculty of Economics and Business



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NAŠE GOSPODARSTVO
Revija za aktualna ekonomska in poslovna vprašanja

OUR ECONOMY
Journal of Contemporary Issues in Economics and Business

Scientific Journal and Scientific Conferences

Igor Vrečko, Jernej Belak

Our Economy: Journal for Transformative Dynamics in Economics and Business

Since its inception in 1955, *Our Economy* (<https://journals.um.si/index.php/oe/Home>) has been at the forefront of scholarly discussion and embodies a rich tradition of promoting transformative dynamics in economics and business. Published by Sciendo on behalf of the FEB, this international, open access, double-blind, peer-reviewed academic journal has become a pioneering platform for academic discourse, attracting contributions from the global research community.

Founding mission and vision

Deeply rooted in the distinguished traditions and academic rigour of the FEB, *Our Economy* stands as a beacon of knowledge that aims to transcend the conventional boundaries of academic scholarship. The journal's mission, ambitiously broad and inherently focused, goes far beyond the mere dissemination of scholarly articles. It serves as a dynamic forum designed to stimulate a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the complex and constantly evolving economic and business terrain. This mission is driven by a commitment to explore and elucidate the multifaceted impacts of digitalisation, sustainable development, geopolitical shifts, and the increasingly vital role of corporate social responsibility in shaping global and local business ecosystems.

Through its interdisciplinary approach, the journal acts as a vital connector, bridging diverse perspectives from national and international research communities. It actively fosters a collaborative space where scholars, practitioners, and policymakers come together to share insights, debate critical issues and collectively contribute to the evolving discourse on economic and business innovation. The journal encourages the submission of both original research and review articles that rigorously examine and critically assess the dynamics of economic and business processes. These contributions are instrumental in proposing forward-looking directions and pioneering innovative approaches that promise to redefine contemporary economic and business models and strategies.

The vision of *Our Economy* is anchored in the belief that understanding the transformative dynamics within the economic and business sectors is crucial to addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities of the 21st century. It aims to be a central source of knowledge that not only enlightens the academic community but also influences decision-makers, inspiring policies and practices that promote sustainable growth, ethical business practices and inclusive economic development. The journal is committed to highlighting the importance of technological advances, the imperatives of sustainability, the consequences of geopolitical development, and the

ethical obligations of business towards society and the environment.

In addition, *Our Economy* seeks to map the trajectory of future economic and business trends, providing the predictive insights and strategic foresight essential for navigating the complexities of the modern world. It provides a critical platform for examining how digital transformations are reshaping market structures, changing consumer behaviour and redefining the nature of competitive advantage. At the same time, it delves into the realm of sustainable development, exploring how businesses can balance profitability with environmental stewardship and social responsibility to foster a more sustainable and equitable global economy.

Our Economy is, indeed, more than a journal; it is a movement to create a more informed, ethical, and sustainable world through the power of academic inquiry and scholarly exchange. By uniting diverse voices in a common pursuit of knowledge and innovation, the journal continues to pave the way for transformative momentum in the fields of economics and business, shaping the future of these disciplines for generations to come.

Editorial excellence and integrity

The Editorial Board, led by an Editor-in-Chief who is recognised for his or her scholarly contribution to the fields covered by the journal, and supported by Associate Editors, a Managing Editor, and a Technical Editor, ensures the highest standards of academic integrity and quality. Editorial Board members serve four-year terms with the possibility of reappointment, signifying a continuing commitment to excellence. This collective of distinguished scholars and professionals works tirelessly to solicit high quality articles for publication, recruit appropriate reviewers, and suggest new editorial board members, thereby maintaining the journal's position as a leading publication in its field.

A tradition of access and impact

Our Economy is distinguished by its offer of unrestricted access to its content, facilitating the broad dissemination of knowledge without the barrier of article processing charges (APCs). The journal's commitment to open access is reflected in its availability on numerous prestigious platforms, including the Digital Library of Slovenia, DOAJ, EBSCOHost, EconBiz, EconPapers and Google Scholar. This widespread presence not only extends the reach of the research it publishes, but also underlines the journal's role in promoting the accessibility of scholarly resources.

Rigorous peer review process

To uphold the integrity of academic publication, each manuscript undergoes a rigorous, double-blind peer review process involving at least two independent experts

specialising in the relevant content area. This fundamental principle ensures the publication of articles that make a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in economics and business and promotes robust academic discourse.

Indexed for global recognition

The journal's inclusion in prestigious bibliographic databases such as Cabell's Journalytics, CEJSH, CNKI Scholar, EconLit and ERIH PLUS signifies its recognised scholarly value and the impact of its content. These indexes not only increase the visibility of the journal in the academic community, but also confirm its status as a critical resource for researchers, educators, and practitioners in the field of economics and business.

A commitment to the future

The publication of *Our Economy* is co-funded by the Slovenian Research Agency, symbolising a shared commitment to advancing the frontiers of knowledge in economics and business. As we look to the future, the journal remains committed to embodying its founding vision of fostering transformative dynamics in the field by providing a platform for scholarly debate and innovation that shapes the contours of current and future economic and business practices.

Our Economy is a testament to the enduring value of academic inquiry and the transformative power of shared knowledge. Through its commitment to open access, rigorous peer review and interdisciplinary discourse, the journal continues to make a significant contribution to the understanding and development of economic and business strategies.

International Week and the International Scientific Conference organized by FEB in 2021, 2022, 2023

The International Relations Office at the FEB held the 15th traditional event "International Week" between May 15th 2023 and May 19th, 2023. The purpose of the event was to increase the recognisability of the FEB among partner institutions from abroad and at the same time to promote international scientific and research cooperation in an international academic environment. As part of International Week, lectures and workshops of foreign lecturers from as many as sixty-seven different partner faculties and from thirty-one European and non-European countries took place; these were additionally enriched with a social program. As part of International Week, the 7th International Scientific Conference titled "Strengthening resilience by the sustainable economy and business – towards the SDGs" was held on May 16th, 2023. After the opening address by Professor Jernej Belak, PhD, Vice-Dean for International Cooperation, and welcome addresses by Professor Zlatko Nedelko, PhD, President of the Programme

Committee, and Sanja Kocijan, MSc, Chair of the organizing committee, the conference participants had the opportunity to listen to as many as three invited plenary lectures.

The first plenary lecture was given by Professor Tiit Elenurm from the Estonian Business School in Estonia on the topic "*Innovative Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development*". As part of his lecture, he highlighted the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development for innovative entrepreneurs and investors who are interested in startups with green plans. He highlighted the perspective on the discourse on sustainable development, which is aimed at reversing the trend of globalisation and developing self-sufficiency among local communities, with an innovative start-up logic focused on scalable business models and digital tools for involving entrepreneurs and customers in multiple countries in saving and recycling resources. It advocates initiatives from small countries since these can build bridges between communities globally, including all levels of society – from citizens to businesses and government institutions, and promotes international networking by contributing to knowledge sharing and financial sustainability.

The second plenary speaker was Professor Thomas Schøtt, PhD, from the University of Southern Denmark. The lecture was on the topic "*Born sustainable: Promoted by the ecosystem for sustainable entrepreneurship*". In his lecture, he pointed out that institutions and resources intended for entrepreneurial engagement through sustainability in the country form a "national ecosystem for sustainable entrepreneurship". The sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem provides the context for businesses in their quest for sustainability. His study looked at whether the ecosystem promotes companies born sustainable by following sustainability strategies and practices from the outset. His epilogue was that building national ecosystems for sustainable entrepreneurship is more of a driver of sustainability efforts in new enterprises than in older companies. His talk contributed to the theoretical basis of the link between entrepreneurial ecosystems and business efforts towards sustainability.

The final plenary lecture was on the topic "*Global South Perspective on Circular Economy – the Case of India*," given by Professor Rahul Singh, PhD, from the Birla Institute of Management Technology in India. In his lecture, he presented a study from India showing that environmental degradation, waste management, and energy poverty are inherent problems of India's linear model of industrialization. India aims to transform its carbon and waste load by 2023, undergoing a real transformation from linear to circular biotreatment methods that produce compressed natural gas (CNG) and contribute to energy and agriculture for the country's needs.

In 2022, between May 16th 2022 and May 20th, 2022, the FEB International Relations Office held the 14th "International Week". As part of this international event, the 6th

International Scientific Conference titled "Challenges in Economics and Business in the Post-COVID Times" took place. After the opening address by the Vice-Dean for Educational Activities, Professor Darja Boršič, PhD, and welcome addresses by Professor Zlatko Nedelko, PhD, President of the Programme Committee, and Sanja Kocijan, MSc, Chair of the organizing committee, participants of the conference had the opportunity to listen to the invited plenary lectures.

The first plenary lecture was given by Professor Emeritus Rod Parnell from Northern Arizona University on the topic "Applying sustainability knowledge and skills to post-covid challenges". As part of his lecture, he emphasized the role and importance of sustainable development and the application of its principles to solving the challenges of a post-COVID era. He underlined the importance of knowledge of and competences in sustainable development in the context of the circular economy and the creation of more efficient supply chains.

This was followed by the second plenary lecture by Professor Nikša Alfirević from the University of Split, Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism on the topic "Pro-social and pro-environmental outcomes of higher education in the post-COVID world". In his lecture, he highlighted the importance of education for the responsible functioning of management in organizations to increase care for society and the natural environment. This highlights the possibility of integrating these principles into the curricula and related tasks of higher education organisations.

In the framework of promoting internationalization and knowledge transfer in the international academic environment, a conference was organized via MS Teams on May 18th 2021: the 5th International Scientific Conference on the topic "Is It Time for a Total Reset?" The guiding principle of this year's conference was to highlight new challenges in economic and business sciences, especially related to the challenges arising from the COVID-19 epidemic, the digitisation of the organization, teleworking, and other challenges in the field of economic and business sciences. The programme of the scientific conference consisted of one plenary lecture and twenty-one presentations of papers by foreign and domestic scientists and researchers. This year, we hosted twenty-eight foreign professors from eleven different European and non-European countries. After the opening address by the Vice-Dean of the PEF UM for International Cooperation, Professor Žan Jan Oplotnik, PhD, and the welcome speeches by Professor Darja Boršič PhD and Professor Zlatko Nedelko PhD, conference participants had the opportunity to listen to the invited plenary lecture. The plenary lecture was given by Professor Ivan Malbašić, PhD from the Faculty of Organization and Informatics, University of Zagreb, on the topic: "COVID-19 & Management: Business Nightmare or a unique Opportunity for Success?" He presented key changes in the management of organizations resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic.

Since internationalization is an important part of the school's strategy, the FEB also plays a key role as the co-organizer of various international scientific conferences, events and meetings. In 2022 the School co-organized ITEMA 2022, WAICHL 2022, the Profeedback conference – COST 2022, the International Regional Developmental Conference and the 34th Sedlar Meeting.







Research Work in Laboratories

Igor Vrečko

InnoLab: The future incubator of education

At the heart of our research and teaching infrastructure is the InnoLab, a true incubator of the future, one which combines cutting-edge technology with pioneering pedagogical practices to open up new dimensions in learning and teaching. Realized at the close of 2023 and the beginning of 2024, this state-of-the-art laboratory is not just a room, but a dynamic environment where students and professors work together to explore, experiment with and develop innovative teaching models.

Equipped with several VR (virtual reality) headsets, powerful computers for processing VR content, three HD cameras and state-of-the-art video studio equipment, the InnoLab facilitates the creation of VR/AR videos, didactic content, podcasts, and promotional videos that go beyond traditional teaching methods. In this way, the lab acts as a catalyst for innovation, supporting the development of new pedagogical approaches and enabling the testing of alternative teaching methods.

In addition to technological innovation, InnoLab offers a unique learning experience through the regular organisation of lectures and workshops in small groups, promoting interactivity and collaborative learning. Its infrastructure, including trapezoidal tables for flexible arrangements, a large Smart Board, and a large television, supports a dynamic and adaptable learning environment.



Figure 7: InnoLab at the FEB

InnoLab provides a solid foundation for the education of the future, enabling students and professors to transcend traditional educational boundaries and collaboratively create knowledge that will shape future generations. It is a place where technology and pedagogy meet in harmony, creating the conditions for innovative learning and teaching, while laying the foundations for a revolution in education.

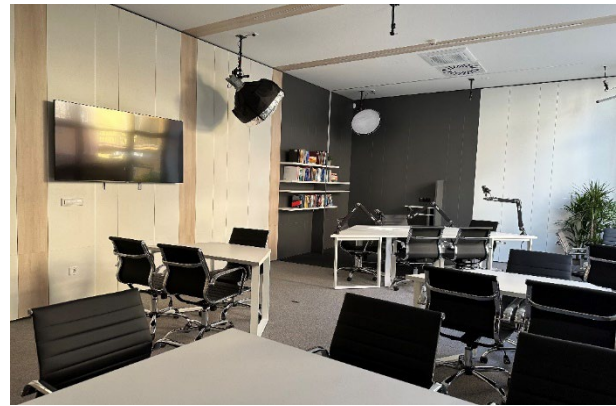


Figure 8: InnoLab at the FEB

DataScienceHub: The gateway to the world of data science

In the spirit of innovation and progress, our institution is proud of the DataScienceHub, a technological hub realized at the close of 2023 and the beginning of 2024. This state-of-the-art facility is equipped with high-performance computers, along with exclusive access to specialised software and databases that serve as a foundation for in-depth understanding and innovative research in the fields of data science and business analytics.

With seventeen workstations equipped with high-performance computers, the DataScienceHub provides an ideal environment for analytical maestros. Specialised software such as SPSS 28, SPSS AMOS, MATLAB, Python (Anaconda), Risk Simulator, and StockTrak and access to selected databases allow students and researchers to delve into analysis and develop advanced solutions.

Data security and integrity are paramount at DataScienceHub, so access to licensed databases is only possible by prior arrangement. This ensures the exclusivity and security of the research environment.

The diversity of teaching methods, including the regular use of specialised software and databases, together with the delivery of lectures and workshops within the Data Science and Business study programme, ensures that learning in the DataScienceHub is dynamic, practical, and closely linked to real-world challenges.

Each of the seventeen computer workstations is equipped with two large monitors, providing students with an optimal working environment for data analysis and project development. Additional equipment, such as a state-of-the-art Smart Board and a large television for displaying cryptocurrency price movements and market activity, as well as a ticker for displaying current movements on global stock markets, further enhances the learning experience and gives students direct insight into the dynamic world of finance.



Figure 9: DataScienceHub at the FEB



Figure 10: DataScienceHub at the FEB

DataScienceHub is more than a classroom; it is a laboratory of the future, where theory meets practice, ideas are tested in the real world, and students and researchers explore new dimensions in the world of data and analytics. It is a place where innovation is born, shaping the future of business intelligence and data science.





Student Participation in Scientific Research and Professional Work

Borut Milfelner

The University, in collaboration with FEB, places great importance on involving students in research and professional work. This approach recognizes the significant impact it can have on their academic and professional growth. By providing students with opportunities to engage in research and professional work, we ensure that they have a chance to apply their theoretical knowledge to real-world situations. This hands-on experience enables them to develop critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and creativity, making them capable of contributing actively to their respective fields upon graduation.

Moreover, student involvement in research and professional work facilitates mentorship and collaboration between Faculty members and students, creating a dynamic learning environment where knowledge is co-created and shared. Through these experiences, students not only gain practical skills and industry insights but also develop a sense of ownership of and pride in their academic pursuits, acquiring a lifelong commitment to learning and professional growth. Furthermore, including students in research and professional work is important for FEB since it promotes a culture of innovation, excellence, and academic rigor. By nurturing a community of student researchers and professionals, the school cultivates a vibrant intellectual ecosystem where ideas are continually challenged, refined, and expanded upon.

In this context, students at FEB can engage in 10 diverse activities.

Co-authoring articles or other scientific papers

Students can collaborate with their mentors to co-author scientific papers such as articles, monographs, or conference contributions at different study levels (bachelor's, master's, doctoral):

- participation in scientific research and project work outside the courses of the study program,
- mentorship of master's theses and doctoral dissertations, and
- inclusion in the program for students with above-average results

Participation in research projects

Students can get involved in various projects taking place at our school:

- projects financed by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency - ARIS (research programs, research projects, and bilateral projects)
- international projects (Erasmus+, Cohesion Policy, Horizon Europe, and other international projects)
- Applied projects for Businesses

Laboratory/Field/Other Work

Laboratory work can be conducted by students as part of research projects:

- In InnoLab and
- In DataScienceHub

Cooperation in projects with the environment (ŠI:UM, ŠI:UM NOO, IŠRI:UM)

In these types of projects, students work with a pedagogical mentor and a mentor from an organization to solve practical problems, both economic and non-economic. The university and school announce available positions for students through a call for applications.

- Student challenges (ŠI:UM)
- Student challenges of the NOO (ŠI: UM NOO)
- Project work for the acquisition of practical experience and knowledge of students in the working environment
- DEMOLA (the DEMOLA Network promotes collaboration between students, businesses, and higher education institutions. Companies affiliated with DEMOLA present project tasks that are tackled by student groups under the guidance of companies and researchers from the University of Maribor. These project tasks are designed to be solved by teams of students with diverse backgrounds and skill sets. The aim of the project is to transform the problem and idea outlined on paper into a working prototype. Student teams are provided with a shared space where they can exchange creative ideas with representatives of firms and the University of Maribor.).

Independent student projects (proposed and carried out by the students themselves)

These projects are organized by the EPF Student Council and aim to promote help, cooperation, networking, and a healthy lifestyle, while developing skills in collaboration, teamwork, intercultural understanding, and project work under the motto "Students for students!". This encompasses a range of projects, including tutoring, graduate assistance, charitable initiatives, welcoming events for new students, the Business Evening with Erasmus Students, student conferences, and professional counselling services.

Participation in competitions and networks

Our school hosts various independent and mentor-guided events and competitions for students to participate in.

At our school, we organize competitions for students, such as

- The FEB Future Forge (FEB FutureForge addresses some of the main challenges (present and future) faced by our school. One of these challenges is to enhance relationships with firms, other organizations, and the wider social environment. To tackle this challenge, the school is organizing two major events: the Media Magnet Hackathon competition, and the Career MIX & Pitch FEST.
- EPF Data Hackathon
- Marketing race

There are other competitions, implemented by other organizations, and often involving EPF students, such as the following:

- CFA Research Challenge Competition
- 'Innovative All-nighter'

The school also supports the following initiatives:

- FEB Marketing Club, which enables networking of students interested in marketing and implementation of marketing activities.
- The Young Project Managers section, which brings together ambitious students from various fields who seek practical knowledge about managing and working on projects, and companies that seek to connect with young people interested in creating and participating in practical projects.

Traineeships abroad for students

Erasmus+ is a program that enables students to fulfil some of their academic requirements abroad, in any program or at any level of study, including the preparation of bachelors, masters, or doctoral theses. This program allows them to study at a partner institution, instead of at their home school.

Professional excursions (visiting potential work environments, etc.)

Professional excursions for students include organized visits to potential work environments at the school and school chair levels.

Organization of round tables/conferences/congresses/other professional events

Every year, the school organizes an international scientific conference, as well as scientific conferences in cooperation with other universities and organizations, where students can participate in the organization. Additionally, we host various round tables and professional events. Students are welcome to participate in the organization of these events.

Every year the school does the following:

- We organize an international scientific conference and an international week - IWAC
- We co-organize a conference with the Society of Economists.

Involvement in testing research instruments or equipment

The school allows student involvement in testing the research equipment in two laboratories:

- InnoLab;
- DataScienceHub.

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UNIVERSITY OF MARIBOR FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT 2021 – 2023

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This research report comprehensively overviews the research activities of the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) between 2021 and 2023. It shows the significant academic and practical contributions made by the FEB in various research fields, highlighting its commitment to addressing contemporary challenges and achieving excellence. The report outlines the various achievements of the FEB, such as research projects, applied projects for businesses, publications, citations, scientific journal publications, conferences organized, and doctoral dissertations. It also emphasizes the significant involvement of students in research, showcasing the FEB's dedication to practical experience and its adherence to research ethics and alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report presents a balanced view of the Faculty's research landscape, highlighting successes and ongoing development areas. It is a detailed document that effectively communicates the vibrant research culture at the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Maribor, and its significant contributions to academic and practical fields.



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