



Preface

It is with great pleasure that we present the second issue of *Research Papers in Economics and Finance* (REF) for 2024. This volume features nine articles that address pressing topics in contemporary economics and finance, offering novel perspectives and practical insights to advance academic discourse and policymaking.

Yanina Dymitrowska, from Poznań University of Economics and Business, provides a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between natural resource funds, institutional quality and governance, exploring their role in mitigating the “resource curse”. Her systematic literature review highlights the importance of robust institutions in enhancing the effectiveness of resource funds and identifies areas for future research in this critical domain.

Zofia Polkowska, affiliated with the Warsaw School of Economics, examines the development of innovation in the Polish banking sector, with a focus on the interplay between regulatory frameworks and technological advancements. Her study emphasises the need to balance the adoption of innovative financial solutions with customer protection and sector stability, underlining the importance of collaboration between banks, regulators and FinTech entities.

Kamil Gemra, from the Warsaw School of Economics, and Piotr Kwestarz, an independent researcher, investigate the relationship between investor demand during initial public offerings (IPOs) and long-term stock price performance on the Warsaw Stock Exchange. Their findings provide valuable insights for investors, highlighting how IPO dynamics influence post-debut stock behaviour over different time horizons.

Izabela Witczak, from the University of Łódź, explores the significance of tax risk for Polish companies, drawing on empirical research conducted in the Wielkopolska region. Her article underscores the growing awareness among managers of tax-related challenges and the necessity for tailored tax risk management strategies to mitigate potential financial and reputational consequences.

Lenka Přečková, from Silesian University in Opava, and Eva Vávrová, from Masaryk University, analyse the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the finan-

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cial health of commercial insurance companies in the Czech Republic. Their study highlights the resilience of the sector and the critical role of digitalisation in navigating crises, with particular emphasis on the contrasting effects on life and non-life insurance.

Piotr Manikowski, from Poznań University of Economics and Business, Weronika Szymczak-Łączna, an independent researcher, and Bojan Srbinoski, from the University St. Kliment Ohridski, delve into the insurability of cryptocurrency wallet risks, offering a pioneering perspective on incorporating cryptocurrency-related risks into the insurance sector. Their research contributes to the growing discourse on digital asset management and risk mitigation in modern financial systems.

Jacek Jankiewicz and Przemysław Garsztka, both from Poznań University of Economics and Business, and Jyoti Thakur, from the National Council of Applied Economic Research in India, present a comparative analysis of the economic activities of women in Polish and Indian families. Their study sheds light on the influence of cultural norms and education on women's participation in market and non-market activities, revealing both similarities and differences in these two distinct contexts.

Damian Luty, from Poznań University of Economics and Business, and Rafał Iwański, from the University of Szczecin, address the Duhem-Quine problem in economic methodology, proposing a multi-criteria framework for evaluating economic theories. Their conceptual research offers a robust approach to improving the rationality and reliability of economic models, with significant implications for theory development and policy applications.

Finally, Constantinos Challoumis, from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, introduces the concept of Economocracy, a novel economic framework that integrates democratic governance with economic stability. Through quantitative analysis, the article illustrates how Economocracy can address global debt challenges and promote sustainable economic development while fostering equity and inclusion.

These articles collectively reflect the journal's commitment to fostering innovative research and interdisciplinary dialogue. We extend our deepest gratitude to the authors for their invaluable contributions and to the reviewers for their meticulous assessments, which ensure the high standards of this publication. We hope this issue will inspire further research and contribute to meaningful discussions among academics, practitioners and policymakers.

Yours faithfully,

Piotr Lis
Editor-in-Chief