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## PREFACE

### Dear Readers,

We have the pleasure of presenting to you the next issue of our research journal entitled "Research Papers in Economics and Finance" (REF), published by the Faculty of Economics at Poznań University of Economics and Business. Caring about the highest level of the content of our publications, we publish only the manuscripts which have received two reviews under the "peer review" procedure, after initial verification done by the Editorial Committee. The articles published within REF are available online in English, in an open mode.

REF is a quarterly journal, with the third issue containing three research articles. Two of the articles focus on the economic aspects of development, one of which discusses the relationship between agricultural productivity growth and economic development, and the other describes the relationship between income inequality and economic growth. The final article presents the world economic trends of alternative energy. Let us bring you closer to the outcomes of the works presented in volume 3.

The article entitled *The economic and environmental productivity of agriculture in the process of development* by **J. Staniszewski** reviews the economic theories which describe the relationship between agricultural productivity growth and economic development. The review proves that improvements in the productivity of agriculture is both a precondition for economic development and its catalyst. The article also describes a negative impact of agriculture industrialization on the environment. The present process of extending the traditionally understood economic sense of productivity to ecological aspects is also explained. Finally, calculation of environmental productivity is presented as a still unsolved problem.

The article entitled *Income inequality in Israel between 2003 and 2014* by **B. Tzarfati** aims to describe the distribution of income in Israel and provide solutions for a more equal distribution of income. The author also discusses the impact of income inequality on economic growth. Empirical studies show the fact that the increase in inequality measured by the share of the highest income is positively related to the economic growth. While in the case of the overall dispersion of income (measured by the Gini coefficient), the results of empirical studies are inconclusive.

The article entitled *Ukrainian perspectives of using world experience in investing in energy innovations* by **D. Lazarenko** and **I. Krutogorskyi** presents the world economic trends of alternative energy. An analysis of international programs and innovative projects that are implemented and used in the energy sector is introduced. Conceptual proposals and innovative research in the field of alternative energy are represented. The authors also suggest ways of formation of effective energy management and rational energy policy.

This issue of Research Papers would not have come to fruition if it had not been for the help, work, trust and support of the Reviewers, Authors, the members of the Editorial Committee and others who have been engaged in editing and publishing. Let this issue of our journal become an enjoyable reading as well as an inspiration for scientific research and discovery in the field of contemporary finance and economics.

**Yours faithfully,**

dr hab. Edyta Małeczka-Ziemińska, prof. nadzw. UEP  
– Member of the Editorial Committee