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Every society and major industry depends on energy. In turn, the energy market is shaped by political, economic and ecologic factors. Increasing concern over climate change and environmental degradation has placed the energy sector in the public spotlight. Finding a way to produce energy in an efficient and environmentally friendly way is one of the greatest challenges facing humankind. The field of energy is currently in a process of change. As researchers, we want to help move the world in a positive direction in order to find solutions to connect and integrate world resources in a proper way to reduce major conflicts and wars.

Energy is one of the most important fields of study for our contemporary society. This is the main reason that this volume of the *Management & Marketing. Challenges for the Knowledge Society* is dedicated to this topic. The second reason is related to the new attention placed on energy research at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE) at FABIZ (Faculty of Business Administration in foreign languages) and UNESCO Chair for Business Administration. Here we have an intensive research activity dedicated to energy business and sustainability. In 2014, FABIZ established in collaboration with the business environment a new MBA program “Entrepreneurship and Business Administration in Energy”. This program confirms the experience in Entrepreneurship research and in Master Programs for Entrepreneurship that have been accumulated in FABIZ since 2004 when it first introduced the Entrepreneurship course in its curriculum.

There has been a great amount of experience gained in the last five years in research projects related to energy and in research in the field of Energy Business at the PhD School of Business Administration. These research studies in energy are a sample result of the collaboration between FABIZ and researchers and specialists from the energy industry in the EU. The aim is to consolidate this collaboration and to extend it in order to promote excellence in research for energy business.

The main subjects which are analyzed in this thematic issue are related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, business models for energy and thermal strategy. Thermal strategy is an important subject for research in EU and it is also very important for Romania because there is a huge potential for an improvement in efficiency. Aureliu Leca conducted research based on his great theoretical experience as professor coordinating many research papers and research PhD theses in this field. Furthermore, he served as Member of the Romanian Technical Science Academy and as formal President of the National Electricity Enterprise. Unfortunately, Professor Leca passed away before the publication of this issue. We thank him postmortem for his contribution on research in the energy field and for his long, active life dedicated to the industry.

The research of Robert Staiger and Tanțău Adrian is concentrated on energy efficiency which is one of the pillars that support the EU Policy Agenda for 2030 and

2050. Robert Staiger has a great deal of experience in the field of heat pumps and heating systems having six patents registered in Germany at the time of this publication. Tanțău Adrian acts as coordinator of research papers and PhD theses in the field of energy, primarily focused on renewable energy and business models.

Gregor Weber is a specialist with more than 15 years' experience in the field of renewable energy in Germany and is preparing his PhD thesis at the Doctoral School for Business Administration at the Bucharest University for Economic Studies. His research targets the current state of knowledge in environmental sustainability energy economics and their impact on European enterprises. Alexandra Chinie has experience gained in the oil and gas field at OMV. Roxana Clodnițchi is a consultant and a researcher in the field of biogas. Both authors are also associate professors at FABIZ, UNESCO Department for Business Administration. Their article aims to analyze the development of renewable energy sectors in European Union through methodological comparison of data between Germany and Romania.

Dan Moraru presents a review of the theories and suppositions regarding the meaning of win-win regulations in the renewable energy sector. Dan Moraru is the CEO of an energy trading company and associate professor at FABIZ and has made important contributions to the establishment of the MBA Energy Business Program at FABIZ as co-founder. Sustainable business models are assessed by Maria Nichifor based on hypotheses that take into account the current legal and the renewable energy context. Her research consists in a comparative study between sustainable models in the field of wind and solar energy sector in Romania. Maria Nichifor is a researcher focused on sustainable business models for renewable energy and she is currently preparing her PhD thesis in this field.

All these research papers are complementary and respond to the main development perspective of EU that has to insure the EU independence and security regarding to energy. One main aim at the EU level is to connect and integrate the energy network in EU in a proper way that has to take into account energy efficiency and climate protection. From an economic point of view, the main indicator that can be used as a reference to compare research studies is energy efficiency. It could be adapted to different types of energy and different methods of producing and distributing energy for traditional or renewable sources.

We would like to thank all of the authors for their valuable research contributions published in this special issue and to all the other researchers with articles that are currently under review.

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Guest Editor for the Special Issue on Business Energy

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