

## INTRODUCTION

Presented here 75th number of Scientific Notebooks of Silesian University of Technology in the series "Organization and Management" entitled "The role of innovation in the development of modern society" continues the presentation of the results of the scientific research of staff of Faculty of Organization and Management and Department of Applied Social Sciences of Silesian University of Technology, doctoral students and theoreticians and practitioners cooperating with the Department and dealing with innovation from different perspectives. Subject matter raised in the articles covers broadly understood innovations: social, educational, technological, organizational, and their impact on the functioning of modern society and institutions (organizations) operating in it, recognized from the perspective of management, sociology, law, ethics and philosophy sciences.

Articles are arranged in alphabetical order by authors' name. Overview of important issues proposed in the publication is covered in sixteen theoretical and empirical articles. Issues concern, *inter alia*, the quality of education and knowledge management in higher education institutions, taking into account the resource model, the spiral of knowledge model and the process model; education of key competences, in particular those of the ethical issues related to the development of new technologies and the need to apply ethical framework for the implementation of innovation processes and innovative ways of doing philosophy using ethical proposals from Tischner, consisting of a multi-faceted analysis of relationships in order to properly explore the world of values.

Many articles pay attention to social innovation and innovation in social welfare institutions. There are presented, among others, issues relating to the matters of institutional changes in functioning of a foster care, and a new way of functioning of childcare centers, based on a professionally prepared teaching staff or innovation in the field of social work in relation to the new profession, which is to assist the family. For this group of the issues raised in the articles we shall include social innovation within the social enterprise or a reference to social innovation as a basic element of the functioning of modern society, affecting the improvement of the quality of life. Voice in the discussion on innovation are also articles on the Internet's impact on the public sphere, a new approach to resolving disputes through mediation and the use of public relations tools to shape a positive image of public administration institutions.

Processes of innovation raising are also shown from the perspective of philosophy of history, and from the perspective of a particular use of tools of innovation. Thematic variety and showing the extent of innovation issues from different perspectives is a major advantage of the presented periodical. Theoretical content were also complemented with empirical research and practical proposals of the application in social and organizational life. In the individual articles there can be found also ethical threads which in the long development of modern civilization are particularly important and worth noting, and including into scientific and social discourse.

Aleksandra Kuzior