

Introduction

Management as a scientific discipline is a little more than 100 years old, which, in comparison to other scientific disciplines, is not a particularly impressive age. What may be impressive, however, is the richness, diversity and multiplicity of scientific problems with which the researchers of management sciences have to deal, explaining them and seeking ways of efficient operation, that is, the prompts for managers of various organizations and levels of hierarchy.

The subject of research as part of management sciences are numerous and often complex processes in organizations and their environment – primarily of an economic, social, and technological nature – at local, regional and global levels.

The complexity of these processes forces an inter- and multidisciplinary approach to the analysis, which is reflected in the very desirable triangulation convention and preference for methodological pluralism.

Out of the reasons outlined above, management is often metaphorically referred to as “jungle” or is compared to a river whose numerous “tributaries” are other disciplines, from which management gladly borrows specific research perspectives as well as general and specific methodologies or the conceptual apparatus used.

The vitality of management sciences is confirmed, above all, by the ever-growing number of scientific journals related to it as well as numerous monographs and textbooks. This monograph is part of a very rich heritage of management sciences. It is dedicated to selected current issues occurring in the theory and practice of management, especially:

The first part (*Dilemmas of management philosophy*) is dedicated to the dilemmas of a philosophical character and, therefore, significant from the point of view of fundamentals and essence of management. The topics analysed by the Authors of subsequent chapters are existential dilemmas, problems of management as well as “contagion” and “resistance” as some states of the organization understood in system terms.

The second part (*Using management concepts*) contains deliberations on the challenges and experiences related to the use of selected management concepts. The authors show in it – among other things – the role of quality as a component of the concept of management, as well as problems related to the implementation of Lean Management and issues of knowledge management in virtual organizations.

In the third part (People in the organization) the subject of discussion is the man as the main element of the social system of the organization. As part of the explanation of doubts related to the presence of people in the organization, the authors highlighted the current dilemmas, such as, the problem of leadership, risks associated with those key persons and the phenomenon of professional burnout.

Finally, the fourth part (*Sectorial problems of management*) – the last – discussed management issues that are specific to the organization of the selected sectors. The sectors, which caught the attention of authors include: local administration, the banking sector and the sector of water management.

The authors, when recommending reading the monograph, hope that it will be favourably received.

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Editors