**SPECIAL ISSUE OF “IZVESTIYA” JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPECIALTY
“INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS”**

Guest Editor:

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The specialty "International Economic Relations" in the University of Economics-Varna was created as a result of the changes in the Law on Academic Autonomy in the early 90s of the XX century in Bulgaria, **Prof. Dr.** which gives a legal basis for each university to develop new structures for competitive education in line with the democratic reality.

The decision to establish the specialty was taken by the Academic Council of VINS "D. Blagoev" on June 18, 1990. The interest in the specialty was vast and large-scale, regardless of the initial three admission exams. The reasons were related to the new market needs of the business and financial sector in the Varna region. Subsequently, there was a serious demand for qualified staff in foreign trade, diplomatic missions, and branches of foreign companies. After the accession of Bulgaria to the European Union in 2007, many students of the specialty started working in the European institutions.

Started with 20 students in the bachelor's degree, ten years later the specialty already formed 372 international economists in a bachelor's program in International Economic Relations, 110 master-degree students in the International Business program, and accepted 8 PhD students. For the period 2015-2020, 537 more students have graduated from the specialty, 108 people have obtained successfully a master's degree in this specialty, and 6 PhD students are studying and doing research.

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30 years after the establishment of the specialty "International Economic Relations" in the University of Economics-Varna, there is a good occasion for the scientific expression of academic capabilities of various colleagues who work in the field of international economic relations. Moreover, the main factor for the development of the potential of the specialty over the years is the effective cooperation of our department with the related departments of "International Economic Relations" in the Academy "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov and "International Economic Relations and Business" in UNWE-Sofia. The Department of International Economic Relations in the University of Economics-Varna also establishes fruitful partnerships with other academic structures such as VUZF-Sofia (Higher School of Insurance and Finance) and Bucharest University of Economics. That is why the current issue of "*Izvestiya*" journal of UE-Varna (written in English by the authors themselves) is the result of the established network of professional relations between all these five universities.

The topics proposed for discussion in the current issue cover important aspects of the European economic integration, including the financial framework of the European Union after 2020, the guidelines for the development of the circular economy in Europe and the world, the crisis in supply chains due to Covid-19, the challenges to trade in services in the EU-27, the research methodology for forecasting the future contracts using the ARMA (Autoregressive Moving Average Process) econometric model. The role of the UK with its consequences of the Brexit process has not been missed either. Other interesting headlines in the issue discuss Bulgaria's role in the European policy and in particular Bulgaria's readiness to enter the Euro area, the policy of emigration, return migration and reverse migration during a crisis, purchase decisions of young Bulgarians.

The authors present in the articles not only their views on the mentioned topics but also include the results of their independent empirical research. This is extremely valuable for assessing the quality of scientific activity in the professional field "Economics" in Bulgaria.

We remain with the expectation that the inquiring readers of "*Izvestiya*" journal of UE-Varna will use this special scientific forum in the field of international economic relations to broaden the horizon of their knowledge and get acquainted with the opinion of each author.