

## Preface

*To a Collection of the Sixth International Scientific Conference "Business and Regional Development" (BRD2021), held on 24-25 June 2021 in Starizagorski bani, Bulgaria.*

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Chairman of the Conference

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It is a great pleasure to share a collection of papers presented at the **Sixth International Scientific Conference "Business and Regional Development"**.

We extend our sincere gratitude for your interest and participation in the Sixth International Scientific Conference "BUSINESS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT" organized by the Faculty of Economics, Trakia University!

We do hope that you have found the conference informative and worthwhile. Over 300 participants from 13 countries and 35 universities and business organizations contributed to the success of the scientific sessions. We thank all of you for the excellent presentations you delivered at our conference!

The conference aimed to provide an exchange platform of experience and discussions of problems and challenges to effective collaboration between science, business, and public institutions.

The papers in the collection focus on two key economic and social challenges in the next decade – the transition to a green economy and digital transformation to achieve the ultimate policy goals of increasing the competitiveness and sustainability of the national economy. The challenges of restructuring the national economy and search for solutions at the regional level are addressed, given the ambiguous effects of the transition to a low-carbon economy on employment and income.

Studies recognize the need for green transition and the restructuring of the economy within the accelerated digitalization. Some expected results are emerging new production, accelerated technology transfer, and increasing innovation and investment activities.

Some of the papers present significant researches on contemporary challenges faced by main socio-economic sectors. Research focuses on the changing education system, which seeks to respond to emerging and improved professional competencies that express skills development and training of stakeholders in using new technologies.

We sincerely hope that the presented scientific results and discussions will contribute theoretical and practical problems solving for future economic and social development.

We hope our cooperation will continue and look forward to seeing you at the next conference in 2023!

**Assoc. prof. Blaga Stoykova**

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