Foreword

In the twenty-first century, there are less and fewer projects and solutions, which are lineal and simple. Nowadays not just our ordinary life, but also the economy is more complex, where the changing of the relation of the enterprises and the interior processes of the companies are much faster than before. Owing to the technological developments space and time have shrunk to a degree that humanity has never seen before. Globalization presents new challenges for us every day. Moreover, ideas previous held as unshakeable were made useless and inadequate. The question is how the SMEs can develop in this kind of environment which is constantly changing and accelerating. This book offers various answers for this question by examining comprehensively the topic of knowledge management and point it out how important is the role of knowledge management for small and medium scale enterprises.

It is well-known that they could not compete with the multinational companies pertaining to aspects such as capital, size, and transnational roles and relations, but knowledge management could be a resource for increasing their competitive edge. Those SMEs could survive and develop which are able to adjust to the constantly changing environment and react properly to new challenges. This is an area where knowledge management could help SMEs. It generates the knowledge of the people. It also makes the human and the institutional synergies in the company stronger and supports the development of the SMEs. Besides these, it can also facilitate the capability for responding to the changes in the environment. The knowledge management requires us to encounter continuously with ourselves and our environment. It can also contribute to the self-knowledge regarding the enterprise, motivates the changes and supports a proactive approach.

The book introduces not only the basic definitions of knowledge management but also its different aspects such as innovation, HR, process-organization, strategy, logistics and alike by demonstrating how they could affect for SMEs. Furthermore, this work also deals with the importance of those different approaches which can offer useful information for both legislative and operative levels. The authors of the fine studies compiled into this volume point out that the knowledge management could make SMEs more successful. The tools of the knowledge management could also assist to find common values and interests, and makes stronger the enterprises in a long-term. The open-mindedness for acquiring new knowledge effectively and quickly as well as the implementation of that is vital for development. This current work also emphasizes the human factor by demonstrating how it would be possible to reach a better result from a personnel, a team, and integrate it into business, firms and companies that may function as an incentive to the development. By doing so knowledge-management can make companies more successful and their employees contented and pleased. It is a characteristic of knowledge that by sharing it, the person who possessed it before will also benefit from its distribution. The book provides information about how the share of knowledge facilitates the interest of any company and throws light on the necessity of development and integration of the knowledge through a mentoring process.
Foreword

I wholeheartedly recommend this book to the academic world – both for professors and students – since it could be used as a concise handbook for university students, which transfers structured material and it was written in a practice-orientated approach in mind. Moreover, I also hope that the executives of the economic sphere will also find this book interesting for the aforementioned reasons as well as useful since it fills a gap that has been lacking for years. By reading the pages of this well-crafted work, it is my sincere hope that the readers shall find useful and valuable thoughts in it that can be implemented in their companies and respective enterprises.

Barnabas Kovacs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hungary, Hungary

Barnabás Kovács received both his law degree and also his degree in economics (international relations) in 1995. He spent several semesters in an international environment, for example in Austria, Germany, Spain, and Russia. After these experiences, he chooses the Mediterranean area again, and he got his degree at Academy of Diplomacy in Madrid. During this time he also started to work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hungary at the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, where, by 2000, he became the head officer. He worked as a professor in several Hungarian higher education institution, and also as a leader counsel of Magyar Telecom Nyrt. From 2009 he continued his career in Károli Gáspár University, where he was in charge as a strategic director. In 2015 he was appointed to be the consul general of Hungary in Barcelona with a diplomatic rank of an ambassador.