## Editor's note

Dear scientists, readers and colleagues,,

I am delighted to introduce scientific journal "Proceedings of the Faculty of Economics in East Sarajevo" (Zbornik radova Ekonomskog fakulteta u Istočnom Sarajevo) one of the best journals in Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the area of economics and business. The journal was, according to the Ministry of Scientific and Technological Development, Higher Education and Information Society Republic of Srpska, won 34 out of a possible 40 points, and thus classified in the first category of scientific journals. The Journal is indexed in ERIH Plus, Bergen, Norway; Sherpa Romeo – JISC, United Kingdom; DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals, Hovedstaden, Denmark; ProQuest, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.; Google Scholar; EBSCO Publishing, Ipswich; INDEX COPERNICUS International, Warsaw, Poland; CABELL'S Directories (Cabell's Directories of Publishing Opportunities), Texas, USA; C.E.E.O.L (Central and Eastern European Online Library), Frankfurt am Main, Germany; BASE (BASE – Bielefeld Academic Search Engine), Bielefeld University Library, Germany; JEL (Journal of Economic Literature) / EconLite, (American Economic Association's Electronic Database), Pitsburg, USA; DOI Srpska, Banja Luka; CrossRef, Oxford, United Kingdom.

The journal publishes the papers of the scholars from the Faculty of Economics in East Sarajevo and outside the Faculty as well. This issue features five original research articles addressing key topics in economic development across diverse regions. The first paper examines the adverse effects of rising public debt on GDP growth in transitional post-socialist economies. Another study analyzes the impact of trade liberalization on poverty reduction in West Africa, emphasizing the role of institutions and macroeconomic stability. Regional economic integration is further explored through a comparative analysis of trade blocs in Africa, highlighting divergent outcomes of intra- and extra-regional trade. The issue also includes a contribution on peer-to-peer (P2P) lending as a digital-era alternative to traditional financing, and an empirical study of public expenditure and human capital development in Nigeria. Together, these articles provide valuable insights into fiscal dynamics, trade policies, and innovative financial solutions shaping contemporary economic systems. The papers refer to the broad area of economic science, and their main prerequisites are scientific contributions to economic theory and practice. The papers can be of theoretical and methodological-analytical nature, and may include areas ranging from national economic policies to business policy. Manuscripts are written in English language.

Needless to say, any papers that you wish to submit, either individually or collaboratively, are much appreciated and will make a substantial contribution to the early development and success of the journal. Best wishes and thank you in advance for your contribution to the scientific journal "Proceedings of the Faculty of Economics in East Sarajevo".

Editor-in-Chief Nemanja Šarenac, PhD Assoc. Prof.