

**EDITORIAL**

SYNERGY, the journal of the Department of Germanic Languages and Business Communication of the Academy of Economic Studies – Bucharest, comes to you with a friendly message from all those who have supported the idea of a publication that may bring together contributions from various areas of foreign language education and research. Its concept springs from the conviction that – for all our distinct professional and academic concerns – we all share a very basic commitment to human communication and to the enlightenment of the mind. There is a strong synergy between diverse academic ventures and by working together we can help each other in many different ways. We therefore believe that separate threads can be brought together between the covers of a single publication, to interweave into a wider and more complex pattern that will benefit us all.

SYNERGY is directed towards capitalizing on the most relevant results of academic research connected with communication in foreign languages, in business and other professional fields. Articles and studies on languages for specific purposes (LSP), language teaching methodology, linguistics, pragmatics, cultural and literary studies are all welcome.

The sections included in this first issue reflect some of the main areas of concern of our Department members, as well as of colleagues from other universities, who kindly answered our invitation to contribute. Their articles cover a wide variety of topics, ranging from theoretical and practical aspects involved in the study and teaching of LSP, to cultural studies devoted to issues that affect professional communication in international contexts, or to other areas of current interest. A special section of our journal is devoted to studies on educational projects and programmes, meant to provide descriptions of such projects, as well as relevant theoretical aspects and results of empirical research.

Since progress in one domain triggers development and change in many others, we hope that colleagues in other departments of our Academy and in other higher education institutions will consider **SYNERGY** an adequate vehicle for disseminating innovative ideas, helping to increase and diversify scientific research. We welcome future contributions on partial and final results of research projects carried out within the Academy of Economic Studies and elsewhere, which will ensure closer links between research teams, stimulating sharing of ideas and experience. Meanwhile, we would be delighted to receive any comments you may have on this or any of the future issues.

Finally, we wish to thank all contributors and all our colleagues who made comments and suggestions and encouraged us while we were working on this venture.

We are particularly grateful to Professor Ioan Gh. Roșca, Rector of the Academy of Economic Studies, whose permanent support and encouragement actually made **SYNERGY** possible.

Our thanks also go to Mrs. Liliana Matei and the editorial team of the Academy of Economic Studies Publishing House, who devoted great care and attention to putting the material together.

We now invite our readers to take this opportunity of leaving their individual paths for a moment, by stepping onto what may at times be less familiar ground, to discover, or, perhaps, rediscover and recognize different perspectives on the wide professional territory that we all share.

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