

Dear readers, dear authors,

Over the past year, it has become common for texts (not just those of scientific papers) to begin with the observation that the world is in significant economic trouble due to the global pandemic and that new challenges lie ahead. As much as I have consciously tried to avoid such statements, I have obviously not succeeded. The only excuse I have for stating the facts, which are more than familiar to everyone, namely that we are in trouble and facing new challenges, is that I believe that this is a great opportunity to do better in all our endeavors and to start with something new, which could open up new prospects for the future. This optimistic attitude stems from the fact that after several years, scientific journals published by university institutions in Croatia are once again being funded. Since the journal Promet - Traffic&Transportation also belongs to this category, we welcome the abolition of a harmful provision that strongly discriminated against scientific journals published by higher education institutions. It could have led to the irregular publication of some scientific journals in recent years and the loss of their categorization, which certainly had a negative impact on their quality.

However, as stated at the beginning of this editorial letter with reference to the well-known negative circumstances in which we find ourselves, this adverse decision, which will be reversed as of this year, has opened up some new opportunities for collaboration and development. The Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, which owns and publishes the journal, has clearly recognized its importance for the development of scientific and research activities and has taken responsibility for the regular publication and quality of the journal. With the new composition of the Editorial & Scientific Board, we have set the desired course for the future. We have established cooperation with renowned European institutions and associations in the fields of transport and logistics. One of the activities we are looking forward to is undoubtedly the thematic issue Logistics Challenges, which we are preparing for the end of this year. There is a lot of interest in this topic and the collaboration with other important European faculties has been outstanding. I am also pleased that we continue to receive excellent contributions from our field, worldwide. Preparations are in full swing for our International Conference - Science and Development of Transport (ZIRP2021), which will take place in September 2021. Here we continue our cooperation with Springer, so that also this year the scientific papers will be published in the Springer - EcoProduction series referenced in WoS. All of this suggests that challenging times are actually an opportunity for development and bold steps forward. I am glad to see that we are making the best possible use of this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

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Editor-in-Chief*