

*Optimizing the Future: Management Innovation  
for a Sustainable World*



Eds. Gabriela Proștean  
Budapest: Trivent, 2026  
eISBN 978-615-7058-33-0  
Available online at <http://trivent-publishing.eu/>

## INTRODUCTION

### Optimizing the Future: Management Innovation for a Sustainable World

Gabriela Proștean

Politehnica University of Timișoara, Romania

**DOI: 10.22618/TP.SIM2025.intro**

*This is an Open Access article distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0) license, which permits others to copy or share the article, provided original work is properly cited and that this is not done for commercial purposes. Users may not remix, transform, or build upon the material and may not distribute the modified material (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>)*

# INTRODUCTION

---

Gabriela Proștean

"Optimizing the Future: Managerial Innovation for a Sustainable World" is the theme of this volume, which brings together the studies of the 18<sup>th</sup> International Management Symposium (SIM 2025). The papers grouped here represent a creative response by engineering and management researchers to the rigor of economic reality, triggered by artificial intelligence and the expanded expression of cutting-edge technologies.

The effort of the authors of this volume has succeeded in harmonizing the theory and practice of specialist professionals and didactic staff from engineering and management universities in Europe and beyond, managing to bring the sustainable needs of organizations closer to the current and spontaneous needs of society, by generating algorithms, methods and theories for the complexity of digital transformation and organizational resilience.

The following chapters discuss organizational challenges, through studies and experiments, determined by academics, doctoral students, and specialists with experience in the fields of engineering and management. The discussions of the results obtained generated innovative solutions, which were the basis for the fusion of interdisciplinary fields, and the breadth of the conclusions highlighted the synergy of the academic environment with the trends of the real economy. It is worth noting contributions that outline innovative entrepreneurship, with the aim of minimizing the gap between the reality of small and medium-sized enterprises and the trends of the European economy. The academic discussions focused on competitiveness based on collaborative models, on the effervescence of emerging technologies, aiming at the configuration of startups based on digitalization and artificial intelligence, on sustainability, on the reduction of operational risks and on the integration of intelligent mechatronic systems in industrial evolution.

A substantial part of the research included in this volume offers practical and complex scenarios, dedicated to sustainability and environmental responsibility in its various manifestations, from ecology and inter-industrial cooperation in the pulp and paper sector to the management and transformation of urban and industrial waste and from circular social entrepreneurship to renewable energy projects carried out in a conflict regime. This research highlights and emphasizes the certainty that economic and social progress, achieved without exhausting natural resources, strongly depends on responsible management, regardless of whether it concerns industrial systems, energy infrastructures or public administration.

The volume also illuminates the challenges in the field of health and safety at work, with selected real studies that focus on reducing risks in construction, fuel storage, car repair services and production environments.

It is worth noting the presence of digital monitoring and management techniques, respectively process management, through the active involvement of cutting-edge technologies, complemented and granted by the human factor, framed in organizational standards. The support of such complex approaches has also attracted studies for the design of educational programs, guarded by leadership in current higher education institutions and physical exercises in office work in the organizational environment, respectively, the role of academic codes of conduct in the formation of ethical leaders in business was highlighted.

Last but not least, several studies address digital inclusion in education or governance, through research on e-voting, seen as a sustainable pillar of digital governance, or knowledge bases, useful for the process of digital self-learning in social management.

In light of these approaches, taken together, the chapters of this volume are presented in a deep scientific manner, which offers a multidimensional perspective on how managerial innovation can generate perspectives of a more sustainable, resilient and equitable future. The editor of this volume would like to thank all authors, reviewers and participants of SIM 2025 for their erudition and dedication, which made possible the harmonious combination of the works of this volume, and hopes that the collected value of these studies will inform both academic research and practical decision-making in the years to come.