

In memory of Professor Włodzimierz Sroka



Professor Włodzimierz Krzysztof Sroka

(15 August 1967 – 21 January 2023)

Editor-in-Chief of *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia*. Polish economist, manager, associate professor (doctor habilitatus) of economic sciences within the scope of management and quality sciences, and scholar associated with WSB University.

Włodzimierz Sroka was a renowned academic specialising in the areas of strategic management, strategic alliances, innovation and entrepreneurship, and corporate social responsibility. His career was highly dynamic, and his activities were wide-ranging and multifaceted.

He graduated from the University of Economics in Katowice, where he defended his doctoral thesis in management sciences in 1999. In 2012, he was awarded the title of Doctor Habilitatus of Economic Sciences at the University of Žilina on the basis of his dissertation entitled *Management as the Key Success Factor of Alliance Networks*.

For the past 24 years, Professor Sroka was associated with WSB University, where he held the positions of Professor, Vice-Rector for Science, Deputy Head of the Department of Management, and Editor-in-Chief of *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia*. At his Alma Mater, Professor Sroka fulfilled numerous organisational and scientific tasks, e.g. as a supervisor of doctoral theses, reviewer in promotion proceedings, manager of research grants, mentor and academic tutor, and chairman of university committees.

A special role in Professor Sroka's achievements was played by activities carried out internationally: he was an animator, initiator and great promoter of the internationalisation of research as well as broad academic cooperation. His important work was a series of international scientific conferences under the common title "New trends in management and production engineering – regional, cross-border and global perspective", which have taken place continuously at WSB University since 2014. Those events (as well as post-conference materials published in renowned scientific periodicals) have attracted the attention of world-class researchers from six continents each year.

Professor Sroka constantly sought to strengthen cooperation with foreign academic centres. He lectured and conducted research at universities in Lithuania (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Aleksandras Stulginskis University and Kaunas University of Technology); Slovakia (the University of Žilina); Spain (CESTE International Business School in Zaragoza and the University of Huelva); and the Czech Republic (Mendel University in Brno and the Silesian University in Opava). Two periodic international projects directed by Professor Sroka have had a great scientific impact in particular, namely "Problems of contemporary management", on which he collaborated with the University of Žilina, and "Trends of business ethics and corporate social responsibility in central European Economics", which were implemented in cooperation with Corvinus University of Budapest and Mendel University in Brno.

Professor Sroka's scientific achievements include over 180 publications with a citation index reaching 2,400. He was the author and co-author of publications that have already become canonical in the represented discipline, including monographs and academic textbooks (published by e.g. Springer, Shaker Verlag and Cambridge International Publishing), as well as articles and scientific dissertations (indexed e.g. in Scopus and WoS databases). He held the positions of Editor-in-Chief

of the international journal “Forum Scientiae Oeconomia” and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the “European Journal of International Management”. He formed part of the editorial teams of respected journals, including the “International Journal of Emerging Markets”, “Amfiteatru Economic”, “Cogent Business & Management” and “Organizacija”, and also served on the scientific advisory boards of numerous periodicals, including: “Sustainability”, “Engineering Management in Production and Services”, “Central European Business Review”, “Administrative Sciences”, “Marketing and Management of Innovations”, “Central European Journal of Public Policy”, “Journal of Tourism and Services”, “Journal of Eastern European and Central Asian Research”, “Marketing Instytucji Badawczych i Naukowych”, and “Cultural Management: Science and Education”.

Professor Sroka successfully combined science with his managerial activities, and held strategic positions in the corporate sector throughout his career. At Huta Katowice SA, he served as Deputy General Manager for Restructuring and Development (1992–2002). Afterwards, he held the positions of Vice-President of the Management Board at HK Stal Service Sp. z o.o. (2003–2006), Vice-President of the Management Board and Managing Director at KEM Profil sp. z o.o. (2006–2007), and Vice-President and later President of the Management Board at RAPZ sp. z o.o. (since 2008). He also served as a member of the supervisory boards at corporations including Huta Bankowa sp. z o.o., HK Grupa Kapitałowo-Inwestycyjna SA, Sentel sp. z o.o., GZNF “Fosfory” sp. z o.o. and WRA Sp. z o.o.

As a recognised scientist, teacher and expert, Włodzimierz Sroka was the holder of numerous awards and distinctions, of which perhaps the most prestigious was the Medal of the Commission of National Education from the Minister of National Education in recognition of his tireless, lifelong services to education.

We have lost an outstanding, wonderful and sensitive human being, an extraordinary teacher and researcher, and a renowned and respected expert. He made a great contribution to the development of science, the discipline of economics, intercollegiate and international cooperation, and his Alma Mater – WSB University. Professor Sroka’s scientific achievements will remain a legacy and a source of inspiration for future generations.

Dr hab. Zdzisława Dacko-Pikiewicz,
Professor, WSB University
Rector of WSB University

Dr hab. Katarzyna Szczepańska-Woszczyna,
Professor, WSB University
Vice-Rector for Science and Education