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EDITORIAL PREFACE

We are pleased to present the first issue of the 19th volume of the SEEU Review for this year. The papers published have been carefully selected with the belief that they contribute significantly to their respective fields of science and research. The process of selecting manuscripts represented a challenging task considering that the interest to publish in the SEEU Review is increasing. The SEEU Review applies the *Ithenticate* similarity check system for plagiarism detection, and we are delighted to present you the articles that successfully passed the procedure, alongside the peer-review process.

The research papers in this issue are in the fields of social sciences, law, economy, international relations, as well as computer and technological sciences and environment and health.

This issue of the SEEU Review, as presented by the Board of Editors, endeavours to provide a comprehensive examination of various significant topics in today's challenging times. Notably, in this issue, we feature a white paper that explores the integration of the unknown and the vague in peacebuilding through anthropological perspectives, promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and highlighting regional insights from Southeast Europe against prevailing North Atlantic paradigms.

In this issue of the SEEU Review, we present a diverse array of studies that address critical issues across various disciplines. The comparative analysis of property rights for non-marital partners in North Macedonia and selected EU countries offers valuable insights into legal frameworks and social implications. An in-depth look at Tetovo's journey in waste management highlights the region's efforts toward sustainable practices. Additionally, a case study on EFL students' familiarity with Howard Gardner's theory at South East European University sheds light on educational approaches and their impact on learning. The automation

of data validation processes in banking, specifically focusing on Albanian identity numbers, underscores the importance of technology in enhancing financial accuracy and security.

Furthermore, we explore the empowerment of diversity through policies for gender equality in STEM education and workforce progression in North Macedonia, providing a roadmap for future advancements. An analysis of the determinants of economic growth in the Republic of Kosovo offers critical perspectives on regional economic strategies. The paper on prescription discusses various types, deadlines, and the legal consequences, providing a comprehensive understanding of this legal concept. We also delve into the role of migration policy in enabling anticipatory governance in North Macedonia. A notable study on the ethno-fusion genre examines the integration of music and technology, highlighting the potential for advanced computational methods to enrich musical exploration through a comparative analysis with established datasets. Lastly, a statistical analysis of occupational fatal accidents contributes significantly to the field of risk assessment, emphasizing the importance of safety in the workplace.

The Review is the main scholarly journal of the South East European University, an internationally oriented higher-education institution located in the Republic of North Macedonia. All contributors have submitted their papers for review on a transparent basis; the reviewers are not paid for the review process and are not permitted to know the identity of the contributor(s), whose work they are assessing. The SEEU Review does not endorse any of the views presented in these papers; the judgments and arguments made herein are solely those of the respective authors. Similarly, the SEEU Review operates on the basis of academic good faith, having accepted these papers in the same spirit. The authors are ultimately solely responsible for the content of the papers, which they have submitted as their own.

We hope that the findings of the published articles will broaden the horizon for new knowledge and contribute to new developments in education and research.

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SEEU Review Editor-in-Chief