

## **Preface of the publisher**

### **18. Journal for Facility Management: Science meets Practice**

During the last months, I visited several international conferences. Most of them concentrated on Real Estate and Facility Management others were more generally focusing on topics like risk and change management, but also on emerging technologies in general. The presentations of the real estate conferences took up the topic in their headlines but tried to prove that digitalisation is not a topic that will have a big impact on this industry. All other conferences were looking into the possibilities of disruptive changes, the efficient usage of emerging technologies to gain strategic advantages, offer new human centric services and products and the new possibilities for their industries. Most impressive was a real estate agent that told me it is too much effort for him, to give human centric services and the WOW effect to all his clients. My question to this is easy. WHY is this impossible or too expensive? Just look up the client in the social media and look at his or her likes, comments etc. This takes 5 to 10 minutes and give a first glimpse of the demands, wishes, social environment etc. This information can be used to select more precise the objects that the real estate agent suggests and the approach to the client. This will automatically provide the WOW effect. This is not rocket science but low level use of the new technologies. But it takes us out of the bailer room, and enables us to take up the management part of our job. Therefore we selected also more strategic papers for this issue of our journal.

This issue of Journal für Facility Management provides you with several insights into these topics:

- Flexibility and Wellbeing for Office Performance
- Facility Management Strategies in Hospitals
- Energy Efficiency Improvement of Buildings by Using Linear Programming

The first paper gives an insight into the strong relations between the facilities and business performance. The main part of the paper is to evaluate the level of performance and wellbeing of people from Romanian companies that already have introduced new ways of working as flex / home office and co-working plus the general awareness for this topic.

The second paper describes the current use of FM-strategies in Swiss acute hospitals. Based on theory about corporate strategy, health care and facility management, a quantitative online survey addressed to FM leaders (C-level) was compiled. It was determined for which FM areas

strategies were formulated and which contents they cover. The research provides an initial systematic overview of how Swiss hospitals use FM-strategies. This overview should encourage hospitals to develop their own FM strategies and refine them. Although this research relates to Switzerland, it can be assumed that numerous results also apply to other countries

In the third paper, a linear programming model of IMSCP is proposed to construct an energy efficiency improvement plan for buildings. The main aim is to choose the actions, which give the desired labels at minimum cost. An illustrative example is presented to demonstrate the applicability of the proposed model. Solution results prove that this model is appropriate for energy efficiency improvement of buildings.

The suggested solutions of the papers can be used directly by practitioners to solve day-to-day problems or to offer new services. At this point, I want to thank all international researchers who sent us numerous abstracts and papers for the double-blind review. The decline rate was kept high with more than 50%. The high quality research handed in enabled us to increase the quality of the IFM journal over the last years. Thanks for your help, and we are looking forward for your future support. I also want to thank the members of the editorial and the scientific board for their terrific work. They supported me in reviewing first the abstracts and then the full papers and gave a lot of input to the authors.

The high decline rate, the high reputed members of the editorial and the scientific board and the supporting universities ensure that the articles are not only having a high scientifically quality, but also that practitioners can put them into practice easily.

I also want to thank my team, especially Claudia Höhenberger and Larissa Locsmandy without their personal engagement, the journal would not be available in this high quality.

I wish you all the best from Vienna, an enjoyable read, a lot of input for your research and/or for your daily work. I look forward to a lot of new abstracts and papers for the next call for papers for the 12<sup>th</sup> IFM Congress 2019.

Yours

Alexander Redlein

Head of Editorial Board

To my family Barbara, Caroline Sidonie und Alexander David