

PREFACE



In the hands of the readers, we present the first special issue of the "Journal of Finance and Financial Law", whose leading theme is the economics of healthcare systems. Readers will find five articles devoted to current problems in healthcare economics. The articles published in this issue focus on areas related to the challenges in the delivery and financing of the healthcare sector.

This issue opens with an article on the calculation and assessment of the costs of absence due to employee sickness in Europe. The authors of the text, Katarzyna Miszczyńska, Elżbieta Antczak, and Valentina Prevolnik Rupel, have estimated and subsequently assessed absenteeism among working-age people. This study demonstrated that there is variation in the cost of sickness absence across European countries, although no clustering relationship was identified from a geographic perspective.

The authors of the next article will focus on the development of the concept of financial literacy. The study presented in this article, based on bibliometric analysis, covers the period from 1991 to 2023, and the tool used to conduct the analysis, the VOSviewer package program, is impressive in its scope and capabilities. This allows for the detection of many interesting and worthwhile connections between the articles analysed in the database.

The third article in this special issue is devoted to a comparison of the healthcare models in Poland and Italy. Although the systems in Poland and Italy have been transformed in a completely different way, Bartłomiej Krzeczewski and Cesare Hassan have identified similarities between them and pointed out solutions that both countries could use to improve the efficiency of their operations.

The article, titled "Next Pandemic? Yes, Please! How the COVID-19 Pandemic Improved the Financial Condition of Polish Hospitals," examines the financial situation of hospitals during the pandemic. The authors, Agnieszka Bem,

Paweł Prędkiewicz, Rafał Siedlecki, Paulina Ucieklak-Jeż, and Jan Žukovskis, reach some seemingly controversial conclusions in their article, asserting that due to the special rules and financing, combined with underperformance, the financial condition of Polish hospitals has slightly improved.

The final article discusses the topic of health education among the students. Katarzyna Hampel, Agnieszka Bem, Paulina Ucieklak-Jeż and Zuzana Hajduova examine the influence of health education on students' attitudes towards caring for their own health, the health of others, and creating a healthy environment. The authors reached significant conclusions that emphasise the importance of implementing health education in schools to increase students' awareness and motivation to engage in activities that promote and maintain good health. These conclusions are of paramount importance from the perspectives of health, social, and educational roles, and the impact of education on society.

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