

# Preface

The logistics of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is not only a buzzword, it becomes the philosophy of the flow management as a basic part of industrial business and service management. What were the reasons and conditions for this?

1. Globalisation of the world and world trade and dynamic growth of the volume of material, information and financial flows.
2. Unbalanced allocation among resources, production and consumption.
3. Development of the new management, logistics, mathematics and information and communication technology.
4. The current potential of mechanisation, automation and informatization was exhausted.
5. Development of logistic science, education of specialists within university logistic study programmes.

Companies' management understood that the logistic activity costs are about 40 – 60% of the total cost of products and services. Optimal logistic system can be a big competitiveness advantage.

Nowadays the logistics is important part of the management in the macro and micro level. The papers are results of research and application in logistic area by groups of top international experts in logistics from academy and industry areas. The main goal of this journal issue is to support the development of logistic theory, education, design and practical application mainly in the Central Europe territory.

Peter Kačmáry and Dušan Malindžák