

University of Technology, Faculty of Organization and Management

Doctoral dissertation

„Knowledge security management in public universities”

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Abstract

The doctoral dissertation addresses the issue of strategic knowledge management in Polish public universities. Particular attention was paid to the inventory of knowledge assets and ensuring their security. The main objective of the dissertation was to assess the impact of the awareness of the highest authorities of the university on the implementation of mechanisms for protecting knowledge assets in the managed unit.

Literature research indicates a lack of studies concerning strategic knowledge management in universities, both Polish and foreign. The published works focus on particular areas of university functioning, such as science, education, IT system security or intellectual property protection. Simultaneously, researchers draw attention to the lack of a holistic approach to knowledge management in universities. The problem is all the more important because as the knowledge-based economy, innovation and strong cooperation between science and industry are indicated as determinants of the development of both the economy and modern society. For this reason, unique knowledge assets held by organizations require, planned development on the one hand, and protection - on the other.

In the university environment, there is a visible conflict between the strategy of sharing knowledge, as an inherent feature of an educational institution, further strengthened by a "liberal" organizational culture and the strategy of protecting knowledge which should be implemented due to the protection of key assets, especially since it is also becoming a formal and legal requirement.

The empirical study was carried out in the form of a questionnaire interview with representatives of the highest authorities of 16 Polish public universities occupying the top places in the Ranking of Higher Education Institutions conducted by the Tygodnik Perspektywy. The analysis and synthesis of research data allowed to draw the conclusion that the holistic and strategic knowledge security management is not implemented in the universities studied. Furthermore the role of the university authorities' awareness of the implementation of knowledge security management mechanisms is inadequate to the legally required standard, operational mechanisms and tools for knowledge protection.

Key words:

knowledge management, knowledge assets, high education, universities, knowledge security, information security, awareness of the authorities, knowledge security management mechanisms

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