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## Preface

On 20<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2012 Wrocław hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> International QOL Science Conference titled “Quality of Life and Sustainable Development.”

The conference has been regularly organized since 1999 by the Department of Statistics at the Wrocław University of Economics. The originator of the idea that has become so popular among both domestic and foreign academics is Professor Walenty Ostasiewicz, who for many years was also the head of the Department of Statistics. The 2012 edition became possible thanks to inspiration and involvement of Professor Ostasiewicz and many other workers of the Department, who had taken active part in the preparations.

Sixty five lectures were given during the conference. The subjects they touched included not only the issues of sustainable development, but also those of social justice, economic and social polarization, and fair access to health care, education and cultural goods.

Expanded versions of the speeches were then prepared in the form of academic papers. After being positively reviewed the papers were published in two scholarly volumes prepared in Polish and English.

This volume, titled *Quality of Life and Sustainable Development*, includes the papers written in English. The overview of the most important of quality of life issues are presented in the introductory paper by K. Ostasiewicz. The author emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of the research by referring to abundant and varied literature published on the subject, including the papers published herein.

I would like to thank the authors for all the papers, and the reviewers for their thorough work and detailed insights, thanks to which this volume maintains a proper level of academic discourse.

I am particularly grateful to the co-editor of this volume, Katarzyna Ostasiewicz, Ph.D., for her involvement, and enormous effort put into completing this publication.

My last words of gratitude are directed towards the employees of the publishing press for their professional approach, cooperation and general kindness.

*Zofia Rusnak*