

Note from the Editors: TEC Empresarial at twenty

Nota de los editores: TEC Empresarial cumple veinte años

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Abstract: This year marks the 20th anniversary of TEC Empresarial. To celebrate this milestone, this editorial note offers an insider's perspective about the journal's evolution. We highlight recent trends that are impacting our mission and discuss how recent contributions address these issues. We highlight key achievements in the journal's development and review the contribution of the most cited publications. We also emphasize scientific rigor, internationalization, and openness as guiding commitments for the journal's future roadmap. In this note, the anniversary is presented as both a celebration of collective achievement and a renewed commitment to responsible scholarly impact.

Keywords: TEC Empresarial · Academic publishing · Scholarly impact · Open access.

Resumen: Este año se cumple el vigésimo aniversario de TEC Empresarial. Para celebrar este hito, esta nota editorial ofrece una perspectiva desde dentro sobre la evolución de la revista. Destacamos las tendencias recientes que están influyendo en nuestra misión y analizamos cómo las últimas contribuciones abordan estas cuestiones. Resaltamos los logros clave en el desarrollo de la revista y repasamos la contribución de las publicaciones más citadas. También hacemos hincapié en el rigor científico, la internacionalización y la apertura como compromisos rectores para la hoja de ruta futura de la revista. En esta nota, el aniversario se presenta tanto como una celebración del logro colectivo como un compromiso renovado con el impacto académico responsable.

Palabras clave: TEC Empresarial · Publicación académica · Impacto científico · Acceso abierto.

1. On the 20th anniversary of TEC Empresarial: an Editorial retrospective

In 2026, *TEC Empresarial* celebrates its twentieth anniversary. This milestone invites us to look back with gratitude, but also to look forward with renewed responsibility. Academic journals are not built only through publication schedules, indexing targets, or citation metrics. Scientific publications are built through communities: authors who trust the journal with their research, reviewers who invest time to improve submitted manuscripts by providing informed judgment, editors who protect the quality and fairness of submitted studies, and institutions that understand scholarly publishing as a public good. For *TEC Empresarial*, reaching twenty years is much more than an institutional achievement and it also represents a collective achievement.

TEC Empresarial was launched in 2006 by the School of Business of the Costa Rica Institute of Technology. From its origin, the journal sought to provide a rigorous forum for research on strategic management, business economics, entrepreneurship, innovation, finance, marketing, and other related areas. The initial identity of the journal was strongly connected to the needs and realities of Costa Rica and Latin America. This regional orientation gave the journal a clear purpose: to publish research capable of improving our understanding of firms, entrepreneurs, and markets in contexts that have often been underrepresented in mainstream research.

But, over time, *TEC Empresarial* has become more than a regional publication outlet. The journal has progressively evolved into a scholarly platform with global reach. This transformation has not required abandoning our Latin American roots. On the contrary, the journal's internationalization has been strongest when it has treated Latin America not as a peripheral setting, but as a source of theoretically meaningful questions and empirically valuable evidence. Today, *TEC Empresarial* publishes work by authors from Latin America, North America, and Europe, and we welcome research that connects local realities with global debates in different fields ranging from strategic management and business economics to operations management and work safety.

Looking back, the most visible expression of the journal's transformation process has occurred in the last five years. *TEC Empresarial* was included in Scopus in 2021, and its trajectory has been clearly positive, moving from Q4 in 2021 to Q2 in 2026. In addition, the journal was first indexed in Web of Science in 2022. Since then, the evolution of the journal's impact factor has been more than encouraging: from 0.3 for 2022, reported in 2023, to 2.2 for 2025, reported in 2026. These indicators signal the growing visibility, quality, and international reception of the work published in the journal.

But we must emphasize that indexing metrics are not our final objective. Instead, these metrics are the outcome of a long process of editorial work, reviewer commitment, author engagement, institutional support, and a shared belief that a journal based in Costa Rica can contribute to global scholarly conversations.

The journal's recent publication record illustrates this evolution ([Table 1](#)). Based on figures extracted from Web of Science databases as of June 7, 2026, the journal's leading articles address some of the central debates currently shaping management and business economics research.

Recent highly cited studies published in the journal have advanced research on digital transformation and entrepreneurial ecosystems by examining digital technology trends, entrepreneurial resilience, and the configuration of digital ecosystems in Latin America ([Dana et al., 2022](#); [Acs et al., 2022](#); [Rojas-Segura et al., 2023](#)). Also, these studies have contributed to the literature on innovation and SME development by analyzing the role of intellectual capital on innovation ([Rideg et al., 2023](#)), collaborations between startups and large firms ([Kantis et al., 2023](#)), marketing strategy and its influence on competitiveness ([Moreno-Gomez et al., 2023](#)), the entrepreneurial activity of university students ([Lafuente-Gonzalez and Leiva, 2022](#)), and the institutional allocation of entrepreneurial talent ([Vaillant, 2022](#)). Finally, highly cited work on sustainable entrepreneurship and the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainability performance shows the journal's

increasing engagement with sustainability-oriented research (Benavides-Sanchez et al., 2022; Maldonado-Guzman and Pinzón-Castro, 2022).

This development reflects a broader editorial commitment. *TEC Empresarial* has sought to improve its standards while preserving its openness to different organizational problems methods, contexts, and levels of analysis. This pluralism is central to the journal's identity. Social science fields are shaped by complex problems, and complex problems require methodological diversity, theoretical clarity, and empirical transparency.

Table 1. Top 10 most cited papers published in *TEC Empresarial*'s first 20 years (as of June 7, 2026) (data retrieved from Web of Science)

Rank	Author(s)	Publication year	Article title	Volume/issue, page numbers	Digital object identifier (DOI)
1	Dana, Leo-Paul; Salamzadeh, Aidin; Mortazavi, Samira; Hadizadeh, Morteza; Zolfaghari, Mahnaz	2022	Strategic futures studies and entrepreneurial resiliency: A focus on digital technology trends and emerging markets	16(1), 87-100	10.18845/te.v16i1.6038
2	Acs, Zoltan J.; Lafuente, Esteban; Szerb, László	2022	A note on the configuration of the digital ecosystem in Latin America	16(1), 1-19	10.18845/te.v16i1.5926
3	Rideg, András; Szerb, László; Varga, Anna Roza	2023	The role of intellectual capital on innovation: Evidence from Hungarian SMEs	17(2), 1-19	10.18845/te.v17i2.6695
4	Kantis, Hugo; Menendez, Cecilia; Alvarez-Martínez, Paola; Federico, Juan Rojas-Segura, Javier; Faith-Vargas, Margie; Martinez-Villavicencio, José	2023	Collaboration between startups and large firms: A new way to engage in open innovation	17(1), 70-93	10.18845/te.v17i1.6544
5	Moreno-Gomez, Jorge; Londoño, Juan Carlos; Zapata-Upegui, Luis Felipe	2023	Conceptualizing digital transformation using semantic decomposition	17(3), 63-75	10.18845/te.v17i3.6850
6		2023	Marketing strategy and competitiveness: Evidence from Colombian SMEs	17(2), 48-64	10.18845/te.v17i2.6701
7	Lafuente-Gonzalez, Paola; Leiva, Juan Carlos	2022	Perceived new venture creation speed: The relevance of the university's context and entrepreneurial experience	16(1), 20-43	10.18845/te.v16i1.5980
8	Benavides-Sanchez, Elba Patricia; Moya-Clemente, Ismael; Ribes-Giner, Gabriela	2022	Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development Goals: a bibliometric analysis	16(1), 101-122	10.18845/te.v16i1.5994
9	Vaillant, Yancy	2022	Allocation of entrepreneurial and innovative talent: An economic model based on institutionally-driven relative rewards	16(3), 1-15	10.18845/te.v16i3.6356
10	Maldonado-Guzman, Gonzalo; Pinzón-Castro, Sandra Yesenia	2022	Financial resources, eco-innovation and sustainability performance in automotive industry	16(2), 34-54	10.18845/te.v16i2.6169

2. On the 20th anniversary of TEC Empresarial: a milestone on a long journey

Looking ahead, our responsibility is to consolidate the progress of the journal without losing our identity. We believe that the next step of *TEC Empresarial* should be defined by three commitments. First, we will continue strengthening the journal's scientific rigor by prioritizing theoretically meaningful, methodologically sound, and clearly positioned contributions. Second, we will work to increase the internationalization of the journal by attracting high-quality manuscripts from different regions. And, finally, we will continue to protect the integrity, accessibility, and service orientation of the journal by sustaining a transparent editorial process, responsible peer review, and open access publication.

After twenty years of hard work, *TEC Empresarial* has entered a new stage. The journal is now more visible, more selective, and more connected to global conversations than ever before. Nevertheless, our mission remains grounded in the same conviction that inspired the journal's creation: rigorous research can help us to better understand organizations, improve decision-making, inform public policy, and contribute to economic and social development.

We celebrate this anniversary with gratitude for the path traveled so far, and with enthusiasm for the work ahead. To our authors, reviewers, readers, editors, and institutional partners: thank you for making *TEC Empresarial* possible.

The anniversary also offers an opportunity to recognize the invisible work behind the journal's success. Every improvement in indexing, visibility, and impact is supported by hundreds of decisions that readers rarely see: careful editorial evaluations and discussions, constructive reports by reviewers, revisions, copyediting, layout work, and communication with authors. We are deeply grateful to the members of the Editorial Committee, authors, reviewers, readers, technical staff, and the institutional authorities who have supported *TEC Empresarial* during these twenty years. Their contributions and trust explain why the journal has been able to evolve and become today in an internationally indexed journal with a growing global audience.

The next twenty years will bring new research questions, new methods, new technologies, and new challenges for firms and societies. Our commitment is to ensure that *TEC Empresarial* will remain a trusted, rigorous, open, and internationally relevant forum for addressing them.

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