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Foreword

Applications of methods and techniques first developed in physics (especially in statistical physics) to multitude of problems emerging in various branches of economics and social sciences are focusing still increasing amount of attention. Effectiveness of physical approach is the fact of life, generally acknowledged even in circles reluctant to any form of quantitative analysis.

Econophysics and sociophysics are genuinely interdisciplinary activities gathering together researchers from physics, economy, finance, and social sciences as well as practitioners. Apart from being already rather well established parts of science, there is a big chance, that due to complexity and importance of contemporary stock and exchange markets, derivative instruments, forecasting of economical and financial time series, risk assessment, modeling and analysis, decision making, and many other enterprises, they will also become indispensable tools for leaders and analysts from modern firms and organizations.

This volume of *Acta Physica Polonica A* is a direct consequence of the 5th Symposium on Physics in Economics and Social Sciences held at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW, Warsaw, Poland, November 25–27, 2010. It consists of 24 thoroughly reviewed scientific articles prepared by 45 authors representing more than 20 different research, educational, and commercial institutions. Such a collection provides a rich source of ideas, concepts, solutions, and perspectives for nontrivial applications, related to econophysics, sociophysics, and other interdisciplinary subjects. I do believe that results presented in this volume will be useful for all researchers, experts, and even to some business practitioners, which are dealing with different aspects of quantitative methods in economics and social sciences. Published papers are ordered alphabetically, according to the surnames of the first-named authors.

I would like to express my gratitude to all members of the Scientific and Organizing Committees as well as to the Board Members of the “Physics in Economics and Social Sciences” section affiliated to the Polish Physical Society. I am also deeply indebted to Andrzej Jakubiec for his help with preliminary adjustment of submitted papers to the desired format and to Zbigniew Gawryś (Publishing Executive Editor) for enormous and crucial help with TeX assisted preparations of this special issue. Last but not least I would like to thank Witold D. Dobrowolski (Editor-in-Chief) for his kindness, patience, and valuable suggestions.

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