

FOCUS ON SUCCESS (15th anniversary issue editorial)

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“Success is not a gift but the result of single-minded and sustained efforts of individuals and organisations.”

At early years of publishing our journals, from the year 1996 on, the general principal focus was put on gradually instituting Slovakia in European and global financial, economic and political structures up to the NATO, European Union, and to adoption of the Euro.

In our Quality Innovation Prosperity (QIP) journal we strived to present theoretical and practical fitness of Slovakia in the field of engineering and quality management. In the process we leaned on long-term traditions and especially on development of research, education, business-making and life in both Slovakia and the European Union in the twentieth century. Today, on the verge of the second decade of the twenty-first century, our foremost issue is the debt crisis of several EU and other countries, and in this situation we believe that it is most appropriate to focus our efforts to success, whilst we take it that success is a sustainable prosperity of individuals and organisations.

In the journal we intend to cover especially intensive improvements, i.e. innovations, their resolving, realizing and submitting the results attained to the general public of as Slovakia, so the EU and wherever in the world.

The success concept

According to ISO 9004:2009, lasting success is result of abilities of organisations to continuously attain and maintain their objectives. Entirely generally and considering thematic focus of our QIP journal we can phrase understanding of success as:

“Success is sustainable financial and non-financial prosperity of the people and organisations in the given environment and time.”

Critical points of sustainability of such postulated concept of success are:

- Assessing processes at all levels of managing;
- Concepts of the quality and quantity of whatever optimum;
- Securing of a sufficient number of loyal and solvent customers.

Evaluating understanding of the situation

The current EU situation, generally termed as the “debt crisis”, can be based on diagnosing methods of engineering and quality management quite positively and without speculating if the quality management systems have been explicitly applied or not worded as follows:

“Failing is quality of work management and its results not only on the top EU level but also on the level of related countries and banks.”

Our evaluating understanding is supported also by the article (Enrich, D. & Schaefer Muñoz, S., 2011) published in the Wall Street Journal on results of the European banks load test, and by the future scenario presented by Gregory H. Watson, Chairman and Academician of International Academy for Quality and past-chairman and fellow of American Society for Quality who concludes that:

“The concepts and tools of quality must have a definite role in the scientific process. Involvement of the quality profession is the only suitable option. We must help to create a world where science informs and instructs policymakers.”

Attaining success

For evaluating understanding of the situation of our concern applied to the information that are necessary to attaining success must be its understanding.

Then, attaining success comes complicated for the subject of our interest is a situation determined the triplet of mutually correlated entities: work, production, and life, as it is illustrated in Fig. 1.

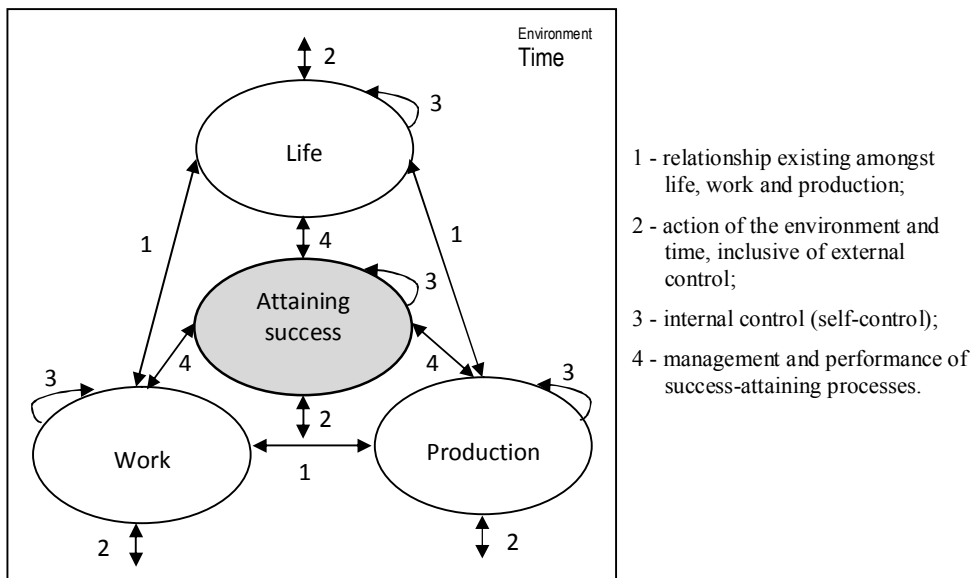


Figure 1 – To the issue of attaining sustained prosperity of individuals and organisations

Resulting from Fig. 1 are numerous applicable particularised solutions the main features of which should include:

- in-depth evaluating knowledge of the SR and EU situations;
- elaborated cultivation of awareness of the correlation between quality of life and that of work and production;
- persistent cultivation of accountability for consequences of one's actions.

The incentive to act should be in all cases based on answers to these questions:

- 1) Does attainment of success fall within desirable limits?
- 2) May attainment of success be achieved by improved management?
- 3) Which are the principal reasons of failure? (Performers of functions or the time factor?)

In her report, Andrea Broughton, 2011 concludes that EU Member States face similar challenges in terms of improving the quality of work even though there are differences between national approaches. It stresses the need for continuing focus on issues such as:

- low participation in lifelong learning;
- health and safety and working conditions;
- reconciliation of work and family life (particularly in the context of an ageing population);
- promotion of more flexible forms of employment.

The report also notes the need to revise the complex concept of quality of work.

“As a matter of principle, situational corrective leadership should be applied to a specific horizon of time.”

The situational leadership is described e.g. in (Mosley et al., 2010: p. 232).

Summary

We believe that in the current situation underlined by deep debt crisis the focus on success in the sense of both financial and non-financial prosperity and in loyalty of concerned natural and physical persons is extremely relevant and useful as for individuals so for organisations operating in the SR, EU and worldwide.

Falling among main features of such a focus on success should:

- in-depth evaluating knowledge of current situation in Slovakia, of Slovakia within the EU, and in the EU in the broader sense;
- complex cultivation of the quality of work culture, of production and of life in Slovakia;
- awareness of accountability for results and consequences of one's actions.

Our wish and goal:

“Let that what is Slovak be also masterly.”

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