

## **Preface**

The third international PhD workshop, organized by the Doctoral School in Economics at the University of Szeged, took place in April 2018. Just like in the previous year, the workshop was held in parallel with the international conference of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. In a special section, four participants of the Hungarian New National Excellence Program also presented their results. This offered PhD students a special opportunity for personal interactions with senior and young researchers from several countries. From the 30 presentations we selected and peer-reviewed 18 papers with authors coming mainly from our doctoral school but including also international students.

This time we invited again papers, addressing the national and international challenges of economic policies. The broadly defined subject offered the possibility to the participants to concentrate on the topic, most relevant from the point of view of their theses. This is why the topics and approaches of the volume are rich and varied.

The first chapter of the book deals with financial issues, mainly with stock and bond markets, interest rates and the problems of equilibrium. All six papers are built on sophisticated methodological background. The geographical coverage includes Hungary, other new EU member states as well as two African countries. The next chapter analyses competitiveness on regional and national level, highlighting colorful aspects of the broad and popular topic: the impact of government spending, different university models, mobility infrastructure – with a focus on self-driving cars –, and responsible innovation. The third part is dedicated to several social issues like foreign students' motivation, consumption/ nutrition habits of the young generation, and the experiences with the displacement of a Roma segregate. Three papers of the fourth chapter deal with current European issues: the state of the four freedoms, the competition regulation challenges in new industries and health policy. The last study elaborates on the resource curse in Ecuador – which is not a real threat for most European countries but might be important globally.

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*The Editors*