

Preface

The Doctoral School in Economics at the University of Szeged aims at organizing a series of international PhD workshops. In 2017 this event joined the workshop of distinguished scholars, supported by the European Association for Comparative Economic Studies. On the parallel PhD workshop, entitled “Challenges in national and international economic policies”, 23 papers were presented. It is our pleasure to publish 10 selected and peer-reviewed articles with authors coming from seven countries in this volume.

Considering the complexity of challenges in the post-crisis period and the international background of the PhD students, who concentrate mainly on the problems of their own homeland, the broad coverage of the topics is hardly surprising. Nevertheless, there are two common features of most studies: they analyse their subject in the context of the Great Recession, and they are built on a well-founded methodological background.

The papers are grouped into four parts. The first includes two case studies dealing with different aspects of the European Union: the “exceptional” case of Slovenia, its route from the neo-corporatist system to substantial structural reforms, followed by the investigation of EU aid for trade to Vietnam. The second part of the book is devoted to fiscal and monetary policy issues: an empirical analysis of Euro-Hungarian Forint exchange volatility; tax incentives encouraging research and development activities and some methodological aspects of fiscal sustainability. Part Three includes two papers on agriculture and the food industry. One of them elaborates a model of Hungarian food export; while the other one investigates factors influencing the technical inefficiency of livestock production in Kenya. The first paper of Part Four also explores the problems of Africa, namely the relation between the capital flight and the external debt in heavily indebted poor countries in Sub-Saharan regions. We are particularly pleased that these two interesting papers were written by the first students of our English doctoral program. The last contributions of Part Four under the heading “Free movement of goods, capital and persons” join to this aspect by analyzing the foreign students’ motivations and expectations in a Hungarian University, as well as the effect of political conflicts and terrorism on tourism in Turkey.

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The Editors