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Editors

M. Veysel Kaya

Patrycja Chodnicka - Jaworska

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Efficiency of the Croatian healthcare system through the users' lens: A qualitative approach

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Abstract

The aim of the research is to investigate the user's perception of the efficiency of public and private health care in relation to availability, quality, costs and affordability. The perception analysis is based on primary qualitative data collected through in-depth interviews with users of public and private health services. The results show that patients, despite the wide coverage of services within the public health system, in some cases use private health services, citing long waiting lists for public health services and the time flexibility of private health service providers as the main reasons. The following influencing factors are most often cited for the decision to choose between public or private health services: the price of the service and affordability for the user, own and others' previous experiences, the reputation of the doctor, the tendency to seek a second professional opinion, the equipment of the health institution and the way the medical procedure is performed. The analysis of primary data identified key factors of user satisfaction after using a particular service, which is related to the perception of the quality and efficiency of the health service: the speed of solving the health problem, active interaction between the doctor and the patient, open communication and the kindness and friendliness of the medical staff, understanding and willingness to help the patient, the expertise and knowledge of the medical staff, the atmosphere, approach and dedication to each individual patient.

Keywords: Croatia, healthcare, efficiency, users' perception, qualitative approach

Jel codes: H41, I11, I19

Evaluating the influence of non-financial reporting on climate change disclosures by major corporations in Croatia

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Abstract

In the last year, there's been a significant change in the business world. Being transparent about sustainability aspects has shifted from something companies could choose to do to something most competitive businesses in the EU must do. Key stakeholders are increasingly recognizing the critical importance of relevant, reliable, and comparable sustainability information. They rely on this information to make informed decisions regarding companies' long-term sustainability and ethical practices. Large corporations, with their significant social and environmental impact, are crucial in steering the shift to a climate-friendly economy in the initial phase. They have the potential to make a big difference by cutting emissions and adopting measures to tackle climate change. An article explores how large Croatian companies report on climate issues, revealing significant gaps in their reporting practices. Alarmingly, only approximately 28% of these companies acknowledge the impacts of climate change in their reporting, with a mere 10% addressing these issues at the senior management level. Furthermore, a meagre 20% of companies report on climate-related risks, opportunities, and mitigation strategies. Astonishingly, adaptation strategies are informed by only 10% of the studied entities, highlighting a prevailing lack of awareness regarding the business significance of climate change. According to research, the European Union's efforts have remained relatively the same in how major Croatian companies disclose climate change-related information. This highlights the pressing need for more advanced laws on sustainability reporting, especially in large Croatian companies, to better report on climate change matters. In conclusion, this study underscores the growing demand for transparency in non-financial reporting and the critical role of large corporations in addressing climate change. It serves as a clarion call for legislative enhancements and improved compliance to facilitate the effective integration of climate-related reporting practices among major Croatian enterprises.

Keywords: environmental impact, non-financial reporting, corporate sustainability reporting, large companies, impact, climate changes, reporting on climate change

Jel codes: G34, K32, M14, O44, Q01

Pricing and information transparency in the age of multichannel retail

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Abstract

Multichannel grocery retail is still developing due to mostly logistics challenges and the specificity of the products they are selling. Although consumers are slower in accepting online channels for grocery purchases, their behavior is changing and adapting to new channels for other purposes. Online communication channels are frequently used for weekly or monthly purchase planning, through which consumers gather information about the offer and prices. This paper aims to research the importance and challenges of pricing and information transparency in multichannel retail. A preliminary study conducted on consumers indicates that consumers of all ages tend to search for information through different media channels. Consumers do not find online channels to be completely transparent and easy to use as a source of information and prices, which creates opportunities for multichannel strategy improvements. Further, middle-aged consumers use online channels to save time and effort to access useful information and prices. There are many opportunities for grocery retailers to improve their digital communication strategy through mobile apps and influencers to attract younger consumers.

Keywords: information transparency, grocery sector, multichannel retail, pricing, consumer behavior

Jel codes: M31, L81

The effects of budget balance and trade openness on economic growth in MINT countries

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Abstract

This research investigates the effects of budget balance on economic growth by using panel data techniques for MINT countries (Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Turkey) with data spanning the period 1996–2022. Among the panel data techniques, pooled ordinary least squares (POLS), fixed effect (FE), and random effect (RE) techniques were used in this study. The findings of the study demonstrate that budget balance has a positive effect on economic growth. In other words, budget deficits hinder economic growth in MINT countries. Moreover, according to the research findings, increases in trade openness reduce economic growth. MINT countries are import-intensive countries compared to their export capabilities. Therefore, increases in trade openness reduce economic growth. Also, increases in foreign direct investments and labor force participation rates support economic growth. According to the findings of this study, policymakers should strictly adhere to the balanced budget approach in order to achieve stronger economic growth in MINT countries.

Keywords: Economic Growth, Budget Balance, Trade Openness, MINT Countries.

Jel codes: H61, O47, Z18

Signals during takeovers : A game-theoretic model

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Abstract

The success of a takeover offer hinges on the strategic deployment of signals, emanating from diverse sources including target and bidder management, as well as other stakeholders. The legal and factual frameworks governing the generation of informative signals play a pivotal role in determining which party holds the reins of the offer's success. Precise and widely disseminated signals empower shareholders to coordinate their actions effectively. In this study, I present a takeover offer game characterized by multiple equilibria with conditions of complete information. The adaption of the information structure following the approach of Carlsson & van Damme (1993) engenders a unique threshold equilibrium defined by a specific threshold of a noisy signal concerning the target value. Notably, while opportunistically biased signals may impede efficiency, reliable signals can pave the way for efficiency-enhancing offers, thereby surmounting the free-rider dilemma outlined in Grossman & Hart (1980b). The probability of a signal falling short of this critical value provides a measure of the likelihood of a successful takeover. In the event of a successful acquisition, the financial gains are apportioned between the bidder and target shareholders.

Keywords: takeover offer, signaling, management recommendations, fairness opinions, game theory.

Jel codes: C72, D82, G34

Bibliometric analysis on influencer marketing

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Abstract

Influencers are individuals who typically possess a substantial following and specialize in specific fields such as fashion, beauty, travel, fitness, and technology. Exerting influence in diverse domains, influencers gain the trust of their followers and significantly impact their purchasing decisions. Through social media posts, videos, blog articles, product reviews, or sponsored content, influencers promote brands and provide recommendations to their followers. This study aims to identify the past, current, and future thematic trends in research on influencers and to reveal key trends in article, author, country, and journal performance. The research contributes to the literature by offering insights into future research gaps in the marketing field and providing a comprehensive overview.

Keywords: influencer, influencer marketing, bibliometric analysis, thematic analysis.

Jel codes: C38, C50, M30, M31.

Analysis of the practical applicability of selected methodologies for assessing the investment climate of countries¹

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Abstract

1) Purpose. The main objective of the research is to conduct a comparative estimation of the most commonly used methodologies for assessing the investment attractiveness of countries along two primary dimensions: information coverage and ease of use, and classify them according to the Applicability Matrix.

2) Methodology. The research methods based on the study of the literature in the field of investment climate assessment were used in the paper. Methods of systematic and critical analysis contributed to a thorough investigation of the selected approaches, allowing for the identification of their key characteristics, advantages and disadvantages. At the second stage of the study, a weighted comparative assessment of the applicability of the approaches, as well as their subsequent classification, was carried out using the expert assessment method.

3) Findings. The research results include a comparative evaluation of the practical applicability of selected methodologies for assessing the investment climate, as well as their classification into groups with relevant qualitative characteristics in accordance with Applicability Matrix.

4) Practical Implications. The research results can be used: to make informed decisions regarding the selection of an investment climate assessment methodology – by capital owners (when choosing a potential investment country), as well as by governmental bodies (to identify problematic areas within their own country's investment climate); in the development of improved assessment methodologies – by scientific institutions, rating agencies and other stakeholders.

5) Originality/Value. In the economic literature, there are no comprehensive studies of the practical applicability of investment attractiveness assessment methodologies from the perspective of third-party users. Therefore, the paper can fill the existing gap in this area and become the basis for the improvement of existing approaches. Additionally, the authors introduced the authors' own Applicability Matrix for the first time during the analysis to classify the methodologies.

Keywords: influencer, influencer marketing, bibliometric analysis, thematic analysis.

Jel codes: C38, C50, M30, M31.

¹ Project financed by the National Center for Research and Development "Solidarity with scientists" (SzN/2/129/MDCDPECBPB/2022).

Examination of the monetary transmission mechanism: Effectiveness of the credit channel in Turkiye (2013Q1-2022Q4)

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Abstract

The effects of monetary policy changes on the real economy occur through various transmission channels. In order for the central bank to achieve its policy objectives, it is essential to accurately assess the potential effects of the implemented policy on the real economy. To enable accurate evaluation, a comprehensive and current literature is necessary. This study aims to contribute to the literature by examining the effectiveness of the credit channel in Turkey for the period of 2013q1-2022q4 through the Impulse Response Analysis. The analysis results indicate that the credit channel was not effective during the examined period.

Keywords: transmission channels, credit channel, impulse response analysis.

Jel codes: E52

Economic discomfort in European Union – Insights from several crisis episodes and impact on meeting sustainable development goals

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Abstract

The regional economic discomfort felt by people before and after a crisis period has become a matter of concern for decision makers at the national and European levels, as the European Commission Joint Research Centre acknowledges. Against this background, the aim of the paper is twofold: a) to investigate the degree of economic burden felt by the inhabitants of the EU member countries, during various periods of crisis that occurred in the last two decades, by building an alternative measure of economic performance called misery index; b) to evaluate its influence on several major outcomes envisaged at the national and international level related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In particular, the research approach relies on the computation of a misery index for each member state of the EU, which is intended to serve as a barometer for civil society and policy makers, signaling the status of the economic well-being of residents and their further impact on sustainable goals. The research approach is comprehensive and multifaceted, consisting of: i) computation of a country-level Misery Index over the years 2009-2022 to analyze its historical pattern; ii) ranking of countries at selected time points to identify those countries that recorded peaks in the degree of economic dissatisfaction; iii) correlation analysis; iv) quartile analysis; v) causality tests for the interplay between the economic misery level and relevant SDGs. The findings emphasized that the highest level of economic discomfort during the last 13 years belongs to the contemporaneous period (2022 year-end data) and is mainly due to the adverse developments of the inflation rate. Some EU countries tend to position themselves toward the lower bound, while others toward the upper bound of economic misery. During 2011-2019, Greece has persistently recorded the highest index values, while in 2020 and 2022 Lithuania became the worst country in terms of economic dissatisfaction. Furthermore, the level of economic discomfort appears to influence the achievement of some SDGs.

Keywords: misery index, macroeconomic fundamentals, sustainable development goals, global financial crisis, pandemic crisis

Jel codes: C23, E24, Q01

Qualitative position of universities of V4 countries in World Rankings

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Abstract

Universities are a source of strength in the knowledge economy of the 21st century. They are increasingly seen as a key driver of innovation and a 'major driver of economic growth'. Universities are a key factor that plays a central role in the knowledge economy. Today, the role of the modern university goes beyond teaching and performing basic research. Universities cooperate with the business sector and/or the public sector with the main goal of exchanging knowledge to develop and use the results of science and research-based education in order to increase competitiveness and maintain the competitive advantage of the regions. For this reason, it is necessary to build and develop a high-quality, highly competitive university environment, which thus becomes the main driving force of innovation and is the main factor in the economic growth of states. It is therefore necessary for universities to achieve the required quality level and position within the competitiveness of world universities. The aim of this paper is to identify the qualitative and quantitative position of the universities of the V4 countries within the position of the world's universities in the five most important international rankings.

Keywords: V4 countries, universities, world rankings, quality education, higher education

Jel codes: B00

The role of universities in developing strategic leadership competencies

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Abstract

Leadership and strategic leadership competencies in self-government is an important topic all over the world. It is the Universities that aim to educate and nurture leaders who can connect the results of current research to the use of innovative elements of management and further lead society in the context of sustainable development. Foreign approaches to designing standards and requirements for leaders in self-government environment are well developed, but they deal less with strategic leadership competencies. The paper deals with the identification of the perception of the importance of the strategic competences of the leader in self-government as a conceptual framework for defining the leadership competencies of leaders in the specific environment of municipal self-government. For identification, we were based on the original methodological procedure of perception of the competency model according to Porvazník (Porvazník et al., 2017). After defining goals and analyzing foreign and domestic approaches, competence standards and researches of effective leadership for strategic management, we identified the perception of the importance of the leader's strategic conferences at the level of municipal self-government.

Keywords: Leader, Strategic Competences, Self-Government, Municipality, Universities, Innovation

Jel codes: B00

The industry effects of monetary policy in a multi-sector economy

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Abstract

I examine the industrial effects of monetary policy transmission in a multisector sticky price new Keynesian model. I construct a multisector DSGE model with heterogeneous production sectors, which have different production technologies and use the goods and services produced in other sectors as material or investment goods in their own production process. The Input-Output Matrix is utilized to reflect inter-industry linkages or dependencies. The level of price stickiness, which is based on the Calvo type, is allowed to differ across sectors based on the degree of monopolistic competition. By estimating the model via the Bayesian approach using Korean data, I find the level of price stickiness differs across sectors, which contributes to generating sectoral asymmetric responses to monetary policy shocks. The results are consistent with empirical evidence reported in previous studies.

Keywords: Monetary policy transmission, New Keynesian DSGE model, Multisector economy

Jel codes: E52, E32, E58, E31

Social media communication and impacts of purchase intentions and product knowledge

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Abstract

The main objective of this research paper was to analyze and certify the impact of social media in customer behavior in this marketing transition process of shifting from traditional to online. Furthermore, to understand this shift, in this research paper has been analyzed the impact of product communication on social media in the customer's decision to purchase. The study used a structured questionnaire to collect the primary data and collected a sample of 216 responses from participants in Kosovo, using google forms as an online survey tool. The results showed that social media had a significant impact on changing consumer behavior, respectively in the decision to purchase. The use of social media has also changed the way consumers are informed about products they want to purchase. Nowadays, customers rely on social media to find out about the product, they do not necessarily have to go to the store to verify the quality of the product. Due to the frequent appearance of products while browsing in social media, consumers often decide to buy products without really needing them.

Keywords: Social media, Marketing, Advertising, Customers, Purchase intention, Product knowledge

Jel codes: P42, M00

Global challenges, local responses: Examining foreign competition's influence on pharma industry

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Abstract

This study investigates the impact of competition (foreign vs. domestic) on domestic firms' total factor productivity (TFP). A sample of 343 local enterprises was chosen based on specific criteria that required foreign promoters to have a minimum equity participation of 10%. The variable competition is constructed for a 5-digit NIC level, highlighting the intensity of product-level competition. The Levinsohn and Petrin (2003) methods were used to calculate TFP, and dynamic panel data estimators were applied to estimate the impact of foreign competition on TFP. The research findings indicate that foreign competition has a notable and statistically significant influence on the productivity levels of domestic firms. In contrast, the impact of domestic competition is found to be inconsequential. This research addresses policy debate by providing convincing evidence that the existence of MNEs can increase local business productivity through knowledge spillovers and competitiveness.

Keywords: Foreign competition; Domestic Competition; Total Factor Productivity; Pharmaceutical Industry

Jel codes: 030, 031, 032, 034

Innovation system development mechanisms and strategies

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Abstract

The modern global competitive economic environment engages states and economic entities in a strong competitive struggle, where the most effective way to achieve success is to activate innovative processes and promote the introduction of technologies and innovations in the economy. Changes in the content of the competitive environment and the increase in the scale of innovative activities made it necessary to have an orderly system consisting of certain elements - the innovation system - which today determines the effectiveness of innovative activities. The purpose of the research is to identify the main problems by observing the modern trends of the formation and development of the innovative system of Georgia and to develop effective mechanisms and long-term strategies to overcome them. The methods of functional analysis, component analysis, qualitative data comparison was used within the qualitative research. In the quantitative research, we were guided by statistical data analysis and quantitative data comparison methods. The theoretical value of the work is expressed in the enrichment of the theoretical-methodological base on innovation systems, as the main provisions of the research can be used by those interested in the issue. The practical value of the work is determined by taking into account the research results and recommendations presented in it and its implementation in practice. We consider the speciality of the research not to formulate the general directions of development, but to concretize the proposed mechanisms and strategies.

Keywords: innovation; innovative development; innovation system; development mechanisms; development strategies.

Jel codes: O11, O31, O38

On the current value of historical war losses - the case of Poland during the WW2

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Abstract

The article focuses on the methods of determining the contemporary value of historical war losses in the example of Poland during World War II. The basis for the variety of methods used is the determination of the opportunity cost of the damage suffered. The article illustrates in detail how to carry out the valorization of historical value. It contains accurate estimates of the opportunity costs incurred by the Polish society as a victim of war and compares the contemporary value of these losses obtained using various economic indexes. Particular attention is paid to distinguishing the situation when the aggressor occupies the entire country. From the point of view of accruing the economic cost of the conflict, this situation is significantly different from the loss of the GDP stream, when the country is constantly under the control of its rightful owners. This issue is discussed and illustrated with actual numbers.

Keywords: economic cost of conflict, indexation, contemporary value, alternative cost, World War II

Jel codes: N14

Changing trends in the European emerging markets: Opportunities and challenges

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Abstract

Emerging markets around the world have experienced considerable changes as a result of the great instability caused by the Coronavirus and the war in Ukraine. Changes have also occurred in the European emerging economies, which are facing new challenges and questions about how to turn these challenges into opportunities. Bearing in mind that emerging markets are attractive for foreign capital, the question is how the changes that have occurred will affect the potential of European emerging markets for attracting foreign investments. Answering this question requires a detailed analysis of the macroeconomic situation and an overview of the uncertain and volatile economic outlook that now characterizes business across European emerging markets. In this regard, this paper takes a closer look at macroeconomic trends across European emerging markets, focusing on trade and investment aspects. Consequently, this kind of analysis enables the identification of opportunities and challenges for doing business in European emerging markets. The analysis covers the period from 2001 to 2022, for five countries that, according to MSCI, belong to the group of European emerging economies. These are Czechia, Greece, Hungary, Poland and Turkey. In addition, current and potential future risks for doing business in these countries are identified in the paper, allowing us to make suggestions for business transformation and the adoption of new strategies, necessary to adapt to the resulting changes. With this said, this paper contributes to the ongoing debate on building resilience in emerging economies around the world.

Keywords: European emerging markets, trade, FDI, doing business

Jel codes: F14, F21, F23, F43, O57

Human capital and economic growth: The case of Croatia

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Abstract

Impact of human capital on economic growth is a widely researched topic going back to the works of Adam Smith. Extensive empirical research has been done with the emerging of endogenous growth models in the period from 1980 – is. Nevertheless, empirical evidence based on causality tests on this topic has been scarcely. In this paper the impact of human capital on GDP of Croatia is researched. Data for the period of a quarter of a century, from 1995 to 2020 are used and the standard Cobb – Douglas production function is employed. The connection between variables is examined by applying Engle Granger causality test using the vector autoregression (VAR) model.

Keywords: human capital, VAR model, Granger causality, Croatia, economic growth

Jel codes: O47, C32

Convergence, inequality and inflation synchronization

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Abstract

This paper studies the impact of real convergence in the EU countries on inflation synchronization between these countries and the Eurozone. We report three major results. First, higher relative GDP per capita in the EU countries leads to stronger inflation co-movement. Second, the impact of real convergence on the inflation synchronization is non-linear. Third, lower income inequality results in greater inflation interdependence. Our findings suggest that real convergence in the Eurozone will lead to stronger inflation synchronization and more effective common monetary policy in the long run. Our results underline the importance of catching up before adopting the euro.

Keywords: real convergence, inflation synchronization, monetary union, income inequality, panel data regression

Jel codes: C23, E31, E32, E42, O15, O47

Impact of food inflation on economic stabilization measures during the post covid period: A case study of Lithuania

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Abstract

The study aims at analyzing the reasons for increasing the price of food and beverages and its effects on economic stabilization measures during the post-COVID period in Lithuania, which is alarmingly crossing the EU average food inflation rate level. This study will analyze how the government and designated authorities have taken initiatives to handle this food price hike and briefly outline how effectively their recommendations work on the food market. Some experts have identified greedy retailers and middlemen as profit makers in this situation, while there are some critics, e.g., milk wars, against this statement where price volatility is powerful enough to bring severe consequences for the suppliers as well. On the other hand, some academicians are recognizing energy and raw material price hikes as the driving force behind this price hike in the food market, where the food retailer successfully transfers the additional cost to the final consumers. As a consequence, to some extent, consumers are intended to reduce their demand for food and beverages. A zero-rate VAT on food supplies was proposed to handle this situation, but the Lithuanian government doubted its effectiveness and finally denied it. They consider that state intervention in both the primary agricultural production market and the price regulatory tools for the final consumer will make this situation more complicated and ultimately disturb the market. The research methods are used here as follows: comparative analysis, correlation analysis, and regression analysis. The results represent how the manufacturing cost or energy price drops; the food and beverage prices do not follow the same track. In this situation, consumers need to find comparatively cheaper alternatives for the long term, along with promoting competition to reduce the price hike of food and beverages for a shorter period of time to stabilize the national economy.

Keywords: Food Inflation, Price Hike, Economic Stabilization.

Jel codes: A11, A14, B16

The impact of renewable energy consumption and economic growth on environmental pollution an empirical study using MG & PMG estimators; Evidence from some MENA Countries

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Abstract

This aim principal of this empirical study is to examine the impact of renewable energy consumption and economic growth on environmental pollution in the long and short run in 06 Arab countries in MENA region namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia, the study has applied a PANEL-ARDL model focusing on MG and PMG estimators using an annual data of CO2 emissions as a an endogenous variable explaining environment pollution, and renewable energy consumption as a percentage of total energy consumption REC and real gross domestic product RGDP as an exogenous variables, the study covered the period of time from 1990 to 2019, data were taken from WDI world bank dataset. The results demonstrate that there is a long run relationship between co2 emissions and their explanatory variables renewable energy consumption and economic growth, the empirical analysis results show also that in the long run; there is a negative and significant impact of renewable energy consumption and a strongly positive and significant effect of economic growth on environment pollution. However, in the short run the impact of renewable energy consumption on environment pollution is positive and significant, while, the influence of economic growth on environment pollution is positive but not significant in the short run in this sample of Arab countries of MENA region.

Keywords: Renewable Energy Consumption, Economic Growth, Co2 Emissions, PANEL-ARDL model, MENA countries.

Jel codes: Q43, Q51, C33, O47

Work in the Digital Era: Are employees aware of the changes occurring in the labour market and their consequences?

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Abstract

The world of work is constantly changing; the conditions and methods of performing professional duties, the nature of work, the location of its provision and employment arrangements. These changes, both in quantitative terms (changes in labour demand) and qualitative terms (desired skills), are primarily a consequence of globalization 4.0, technological revolution, and the digitization of economies. Taking the above into consideration, the aim of this study is to present the essence of the changes occurring in the contemporary labour market, with a particular focus on the impact of automation and robotization on the structure and forms of employment. The achievement of the research objective required conducting a literature review, and above all, analyzing the results of our own research carried out by the employees of the Department of Labour Market Forecasting and Analysis at the University of Economics in Katowice. The obtained results allowed us to identify the most significant challenges arising from the observed megatrends and to gain insights into the respondents' opinions regarding the future of work. First of all, the impact of automation and robotization on employment is diverse. The risk of job loss differs depending on age, gender, education, occupation or specialization, as well as the sector and industry of the economy. The decrease in labour demand in specific sectors will be accompanied by its growth in other areas and the creation of new job opportunities that align with the future labour market needs. In addition to the increasing demand for IT-related professions, including specialists in artificial intelligence, data analysts, etc., it is worth mentioning individuals employed in caregiving services, culture, or the development of so-called green jobs. Secondly, the influence of new technologies results in a transformation of employment forms and work organization. Through their utilization, many employees can work remotely or in a hybrid manner. The use of digital tools leads to an increase in demand for project-based, platform-based, co-working, freelancing, etc., work characterized by a high degree of flexibility, autonomy, and independence, while simultaneously generating various risks.

Keywords: digital transformation, automation, robotization, work, labour market

Jel codes: J01 J21 O33, J24

Relationship between self-efficacy and academic motivation among sophomore mechanical engineering students in a Philippine State University

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Abstract

Students may encounter overwhelming tasks as they struggle to cope with their academic requirements. To accomplish their activities, they must be equipped with confidence that they are capable of doing their tasks appropriately, i.e., self-efficacy, and a driving force to direct their behavior towards achieving their goals – motivation. This study was undertaken to determine the relationship between self-efficacy and academic motivation among sophomore Mechanical Engineering Students in a Philippine State University. It utilized the random sampling method to gather data from 196 students (129 males, 67 females) through a questionnaire uploaded in a google form. Standardized tests were used to gather data from the respondents – the Generalized Self-Efficacy Scale (GSE) by Schwarzer and Jerusalem: a self-report measure of self-efficacy and the Academic Motivation Scale – College Version (AMS-C 28) by Vallerand, et.al., which assesses intrinsic motivation towards knowledge, accomplishments, stimulation, external introjected and identified regulations and amotivation. Results presented show that there is a significant relationship between self-efficacy and academic motivation (p value = 0.002). A positive correlation coefficient (0.219) showed that as academic motivation increases, self-efficacy also increases.

Keywords: self-efficacy, academic motivation, students

Jel codes: I23

Online learning challenges and coping orientation among college students during the pandemic

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Abstract

This study examined the online learning challenges and coping orientation of college students at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. The descriptive-correlational method was utilized in the study and data were collected online using Google Forms. The respondents were two hundred thirty-two psychology students from the College of Social Sciences and Development, Department of Psychology. The Online Student Connectedness Survey was used to measure comfort, community, facilitation, and interaction and collaboration dimensions. To assess the coping orientation of the respondents, the Filipino Coping Strategies Scale was used. The scale measures such coping strategies as cognitive appraisal, social support, problem-solving, religiosity, tolerance, emotional release, overactivity, relaxation/recreation, and substance abuse. Results showed that the comfort and community scales were rated unfavorably by the respondents, thus indicating that the two were considered to be sources of online learning challenges of the respondents during the pandemic. The respondents did not find facilitation and interaction and collaboration as challenging as shown in their positive assessment of the two subscales. The respondents utilized most of the coping strategies found in the Filipino Coping Strategies Scale except for the subscales emotional release, religiosity, and substance use. There is a significant correlation between the four subscales (comfort, community, facilitation, and interaction and collaboration) and the coping strategies cognitive reappraisal, social support, and problem-solving. The four subscales except for interaction and collaboration are statistically correlated to the coping strategy relaxation/recreational.

Keywords: learning, education, online

Jel codes: I23

Covid-19 outbreak: Impacts on bank deposits and bank lending

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Abstract

We examine the effect of deposit growth on bank loan growth during the COVID-19 in Western Balkan countries. Our analysis employs a panel dataset comprising bank-level and macroeconomic data for the period from 2012 to 2021, utilizing the fixed effect method. Our main finding shows that there is a significant positive effect of deposit growth on banks' lending during the pandemic. The results reveal that deposit growth, primarily due to increased savings and government stimulus efforts, led to an increase in banks' lending activities during the early stages of the pandemic. Furthermore, the results also indicate that the impact is positive and significant during both subperiods, before and during COVID-19. Overall, our findings suggest that fostering deposit growth could be an effective strategy for policymakers aiming to stimulate economic recovery during periods of crisis. Our results offer valuable insights for banks in managing their liquidity and lending strategies.

Keywords: COVID-19, Deposit growth, Loan growth

Jel codes: C53, G21, C23

The function and penetration of compulsory traffic insurance among liability insurances in Türkiye

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Abstract

Insurance activity holds a significant function in the financial markets. Compulsory Traffic Insurance, a type of third-party liability insurance and also a Compulsory requirement, is one of the oldest insurance types in our country. Compulsory traffic insurance secures the legal liability that the operator of a vehicle may face for material and bodily damages that they may cause to third parties during the use of the vehicle. In other words, compulsory traffic insurance is a private law transaction that provides financial protection against the compensation obligation incurred by individuals due to their involvement in traffic accidents, and it is not in the nature of a tax. It is regulated in the form of a special law in the Highway Traffic Law No. 2918 and in the general law with provisions related to liability in the Turkish Commercial Code No. 6102. In the Turkish insurance market, the insurance has the highest share among liability insurances. As of the end of 2022, approximately 27.5% of the total premium production in the insurance sector is attributed to the traffic insurance. Its total share in liability insurances is approximately 86%. However, according to the transportation statistics announced by the Turkish Statistical Institute, as of the end of 2022, although the number of registered vehicles in Türkiye is approximately 26.7 million, the number of policies is 18.8 million. That is, the insurance rate in traffic insurance is 70%, which is quite high, and efforts should be made to increase its prevalence.

Keywords: Liability insurance, Insurance market, Third party, Premium production, Insurance rate

Jel codes: G20, G22, G28

"PPP puzzle" revisited: the relationship between the persistence and volatility of real exchange rates

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Abstract

We re-examined the "PPP (purchasing power parity) puzzle" of real exchange rates that have a major impact on the macro and microeconomy. We focused on the interrelationship between two characteristics related to PPP puzzle: 1) the "persistence" of real exchange rate; the slow-paced convergence of the rate to equilibrium, and 2) the "volatility" of real exchange rate; the large deviation of the rate from equilibrium. This is because the mechanism by which these two factors interdepend has not been explicitly elucidated. Analyses using a wide range of cross-sectional data, including those from developing countries, demonstrated that the relationship between the degree of persistence and that of volatility was approximated by the nonlinear convex function. The Convex function was found for both developing and developed countries, but it was also confirmed that developing countries had greater volatility even under the same degree of persistence. Based on the results of this data analysis, we then examined the reason for the nonlinear relationship between the persistence and volatility of the real exchange rate using New Keynesian model. We focused on the two important parameters: 1) the reaction parameter of monetary policy function (Taylor rule) to inflation rates, and 2) the technology parameter that defines the stickiness of productivity. By examining how the relationship between persistence and volatility varied while changing the size of these two parameters, we found that the convex relationship was mainly due to the monetary policy parameter, and that the difference in the magnitude of volatility between developed and developing countries was mainly due to the productivity parameter.

Keywords: PPP puzzle; real exchange rate; New Keynesian model; Monetary policy; productivity parameters

Jel codes: F31; F41; E12

Gender-based income inequality and its determinant in informal sectors

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Abstract

Using survey data from BAN-DRC, this study aims to examine the extent and determinants' of gender income inequality in the informal sector. The study employed unconditional quantile model. Our results show that, gender income inequality is present at all percentiles, with a decrease at higher percentiles. The study also found that structural effects drive gender income inequality at middle and high-income earners. While endowment effect drives gender income inequality at lower and top income earners. The UQR identifies several socioeconomic factors that increases the gender income gap, including tertiary education, operating a retail business, years of experience in the informal sector, taking out a loan, initial capital, hours of work, having formal registry, and having direct consumer. In contrast, The UQR found that literacy and working in temporary structured areas reduce the gender income gap. Finally, the research recommended the government and other concerned stockholders' to work on improving above mentioned factors that contributes for gender income gap.

Keywords: Informal sector, gender income inequality, Ethiopia

Jel codes: G20
