

EDITORIAL

We hereby inform our domestic academic community and the foreign academic community that the *Economic Horizons* scientific journal, which is published by the Faculty of Economics of the University of Kragujevac, has been referenced in the Scopus Base since October 2020 after many years of its pre-evaluation and final evaluation by the Scopus Content Selection and Advisory Board. The fact that the journal is referenced in Scopus, one of the most referenced scientific journals bases, has enabled the scientific papers published in the *Economic Horizons* to be considerably more visible, which is of exceptional importance not only for the Journal, but for the authors of the published journals as well.

Apart from the abovesaid, worthy of attention is also the information that the mark of the Index Copernicus Journals Master List (ICV) that is used to evaluate journals based upon bibliometric indicators increases from one year to another when the *Economic Horizons* journal is in question, namely: 2017-81.01; 2018-83.87; 2019-87.57.

As a result of the continuous endeavor of the Journal's Editorial Board to increase the Author Internationality Index together with the improvement of the quality of the published papers, we also point to the fact that a total of nine scientific papers authored by foreign authors (from Nigeria, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia), which all account for 50% of the total number of the published scientific papers in the Journal in the year 2020, have been published in Volume 22 Year 2020 of the *Economic Horizons*.

Issue 3 of Volume 22 Year 2020 of the *Economic Horizons* scientific journal contains four original scientific papers and two review papers, the Paper Subject Index and the Overview of the Authors and Titles of all the contributions published in the Journal in 2020. Starting from the attitude that structural changes

directly impact macroeconomic and financial stability, revenue growth, productivity and economic efficiency, the improvement of the quality of life and social inclusion, *Edvard Jakopin* indicates the fact that the biggest consequences of global contraction for the economy of the Republic of Serbia caused by COVID-19 will reflect on slowing down structural reforms. The research study has shown that positive economic conjecture in the period from 2015 to 2019 did not contribute to the expected structural changes, given the fact that they had not been led by research and development and innovations as the drivers of economic growth. The structural reforms implemented so far have been insufficient and slow, due to which fact old problems still cause low competitiveness. Because of that, it is necessary for new reform processes to direct activities towards the creation of a stimulating ambience for the development of domestic entrepreneurship and private investments growth in order to increase trust between entrepreneurship and institutions.

Based on the panel data for the 13 ASEAN+3 countries for the period from 2008 to 2018, the coauthors *Cheng-Wen Lee* and *Andrian Dolfriandra Huruta* conduct a research study on the role of foreign direct investments and exports when speaking about economic growth. Based upon the results of the research study obtained by applying the Lagrange Multiplier Test, referring to the results of the Wald and Hausman and Chow tests as well, the coauthors' attitude implies the fact that in the case of the ASEAN+3 countries foreign direct investments have a positive impact on economic growth. Given the fact that exports have a positive and significant impact on economic growth, the coauthors simultaneously confirm the hypothesis that foreign direct investments and exports are significant for encouraging the economic growth of the ASEAN+3 countries, due to which fact this region is an attractive destination for international companies.

Indicating the fact there is no study in which research has been done in the influence of earnings management on return on the total assets and capital

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of an enterprise, the coauthors *Edesiri Godsdai Okoro* and *Confidence Joel Ihenyem* do research in this relevant problem in the case study of Sub-Saharan Africa. Based upon the data collated from the database of the Stock Exchange of the Sub-Saharan African Countries by using the statistical technique of fixed and random effects, the coauthors develop an earnings management model which respects the peculiarities of Sub-Saharan Africa. Based upon the conducted research activities, the study indicates the fact that earnings management does exert significant pressure on an enterprise's performances, and also that the size of an enterprise plays an important role in mediating in the relationship between earnings management and the performances of the enterprises operating in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Pursuant to the wish of the members of pension funds to form a monetary amount which will be sufficient to pay out a satisfactory amount of the pension from the moment of retirement, the author *Stevan Lukovic* considers accumulated funds investment strategies. Bearing in mind growing and frequent fluctuations on the financial market, he indicates that static investment strategies are not a satisfactory solution for insurees. Based upon a comparative analysis of the performances of the dynamic and static forms of strategies and using bootstrap resampling to simulate investment returns, the author concludes that the lifecycle dynamic strategies generate more favorable financial results in relation to the lifecycle static strategies, with but a slightly greater probability of the realization of extremely unfavorable outcomes.

Starting from the data that the level of the poverty of the ethnic minority in Vietnam exceeds 70% of the national poverty rate, the coauthors *Luan Thanh Nguyen*, *Tuyen Quang Tran* and *Hang Minh Tran* carry out research in the contribution of foreign aid to the social-economic development of the ethnic minorities. Based upon the empirical research in the households of the ethnic minorities carried out in the nine provinces of this country, by applying the OLS

regression model, and based upon the assessment of the effects of foreign aid on household income, the coauthors point to different effects with respect to the size and significance of such aid inside different ethnic groups. Foreign aid has significantly improved the existence of the populations of *Cham* and *Xtieng*, which is not the case when the inhabitants of *Hmong* are concerned, due to which fact aid and the ethnic policy need to be reconsidered.

By measuring the risk of lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by banks in the Republic of Serbia, the coauthors *Mirela Mitrasevic* and *Snezana Bardarova* endeavor to determine the fact whether greater transparency in the credit risk measuring process enables us to detect a problem in SME management and the provision of the sources of their funding or not. Based upon the Altman Z-Score model for the estimation of the probability that enterprises will not be adhering to their contractual obligations, a conclusion is drawn that the said model does enable the detection of the companies which may declare bankruptcy in the period of two years after such an assessment, on the one hand, but the same model cannot help to estimate a probability of the occurrence of bankruptcy, either, on the other.

On behalf of the Editorial Board of the Journal and on my own behalf, I would first of all like to thank the authors of the contributions published in this Issue of the Journal. At the same time, our special gratitude goes to the reviewers, whose constructive and critical comments and suggestions addressed to the authors of the submitted contributions contributed to raising the level of the quality of the published papers.

Issue 3 Year 2020 contains an all-inclusive Subject Index of the scientific papers, as well as the Overview of the Authors and Titles of all the contributions published in the *Economic Horizons* in the year 2020.

Editor-in-Chief
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Vlastimir Lekovic is a full professor of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Kragujevac, in retirement. He earned his Ph.D. at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Kragujevac in the scientific field of general economics and economic development. He teaches the teaching disciplines of Institutional Economics in the master's studies, and Scientific Research Methodology and Market Regulation Policy in the doctoral studies. The key areas of his scientific-research interest are the economic system, the economic policy, and institutional economics.