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Editorial

The current issue of the South East European Journal of Economics and Business publishes thirteen contributions from diverse economic and business empirical studies focusing primarily on South East European region. A short overview of each contribution follows.

Kurecic et al. (2023) research focuses on the causes of migration from Croatia (its one county) by using primary survey data and quantitative regression analysis. The main finding is that monetary causes and believes that individuals could earn more abroad are the primary motivator of migration, but not corruption, which is frequently reported as the driving force of migration. Delalić et al. (2023) in their paper classify local communities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the Bosnia and Herzegovina' entity, according to socio-economic characteristics by applying quantitative methodologies. The paper identifies factors that are significant predictors of local communities' development and concludes that these clusters correspond to the NUTS principles. Alfirevic et al. (2023) analyse the scientific productivity and impact of selected public business schools in South East Europe over the 2017-2021 period. The authors find in the observed sample a mixed record regarding research productivity and impact. In the next article, Lee (2023) examines the determinants of firm-level growth in three eastern European countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland. The paper reports that these factors play a different role in the firm-level growth of these countries, which are elaborated for each of them. Čučković and Vučković (2023) report recent research on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global trends and the global value chain including their own quantitative analysis of the characteristics of Croatian firms that recorded a decrease in their exports in the pandemic period. Veselinović et al. (2023) analyse the extent to which individuals are willing to undertake energy efficiency measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The authors find no statistically significant predictor across measures used in the study, while some individual characteristics of respondents are found to be relatively common across the observed energy-saving behaviors.

Next contribution is by Turulja et al. (2023), who explore the mediating effect of innovation in the relationship between human resource management practices and organizational performance in an emerging economy. The authors find that innovation influences the relationship between selective hiring, training, and participative decision-making and organizational performance, while no mediating effect of innovation was found in a relationship between rewarding and organizational business performances. Kovač and Verbič (2023) report the empirical relationship between financial and non-financial institutions and wealth inequality using a global panel data for the period 2010–2016. The obtained results report a significant effect of financial institutions on global inequality while the effect of non-financial institutions observed in the data is not precisely estimated, which applies to the both, shorth and long-run estimates. Next, Sovilj et al. (2023) evaluate a national economic model using a system dynamics approach with a set of macroeconomic data coming from a transition economy. This quantitative paper provides additional insights on the macroeconomic effects of the economic policy, making it a valuable tool for economic policy analysis. Aktaş (2023) quantifies the effects of total factor productivity growth on economic prosperity for the 2007-2020 period and 18 Central Eastern Europe countries. The main outputs of several econometric models confirm conventional expectation that total factor productivity growth positively affects economic prosperity.

Pezer et al. (2023) explores the impacts of social spending on households with children in Croatia and its capital city by using a microsimulation model. The obtained results demonstrate the progressive effect of in-kind transfers on income distribution; this reduces income inequality and poverty in this society. Miteski et al. (2023) in their paper calculate the natural interest rate for the Macedonian economy using quarterly data 2001- 2019 and different types of quantitative models. It comes that natural rate in the Macedonian economy has declined over time, and the main driver of this decline was the slowdown of the Macedonian potential GDP growth. The last paper by Havolli (2023) investigates the economic consequences of the government cost of borrowing for European transition economies during the period 2003-2016. The results indicate that consequent upon a positive shock to the cost of sovereign borrowing, the cost of borrowing for loans to both non-financial corporations and households increases, while the price transmission from government borrowing costs to the private sector is at play.

On behalf of Editorial Board

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