

SOME ISSUES OF SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

Miklós Losoncz

The paper analyses past and future development trends in the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) in terms of sustainability in a theoretical framework and economic policy practice. Sustainability is discussed in the context of the optimal currency area, the international financial and economic crisis starting in 2008 and the subsequent sovereign debt crisis in the EU, and the reforms aiming at eliminating or at least mitigating the EMU's operational and structural deficiencies. Reforms include sustainable economic growth and structural reforms serving modernization, at member-state level on the one hand, and sustainable convergence and resilience against economic shocks at the euro-area level on the other. One of the essential conclusions is that prevention must be augmented by the elaboration of ex post correction and by debt-management means, resources and mechanisms.

IS IT WORTH NON-EURO MEMBER-STATES JOINING THE EUROPEAN BANKING UNION?

Katalin Mérő

Members of the European Monetary Union automatically become members of the Banking Union, while non-euro member-states may opt in voluntarily, even before joining the Monetary Union. The EU regulation is accommodating in this respect, but not encouraging. There are several examples of regulatory discrimination and some major advantages for countries opting in. So the decision on early opt-in is a multi-dimensional one with advantages and drawbacks to consider. The article analyses the Banking Union's regulatory framework and the main features of the banking system in the six non-euro member-states of East-Central Europe: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Poland and Romania. It examines their positions on the opt-in/opt-out question. It aims to evaluate whether it meets the ECE countries' interests to join the BU or not. This is a highly topical question on which the literature and the countries' views are divided.

THE FUTURE OF THE EU BUDGET IN THE LIGHT OF THE 2021-2027 MULTI-ANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

Ákos Kengyel

The study looks at the main problems of revenue and expenditure in the EU budget, highlighting major considerations on the possible directions and limits of future changes. The author analyses the proposals for the next budgetary period based on the plan for the 2021–2027 MFF presented by the European Commission. Attention is drawn to the importance of proper methodology in comparing shifts between current and future frameworks. The main conclusion is that the net-position approach will remain a crucial factor in negotiations among member-states, which neglect the importance to European added value of interventions through the EU-level budget. On the expenditure side, despite unchanged limited resources, a gradual fall in spending on the two major policies will continue, as the one way to find and strengthen resources for funding new priorities.

PROGRAMME DIVERSIFICATION EFFECTS ON THE SALARIES OF FRESHLY GRADUATED ECONOMISTS

Gábor Balogh and Norbert Sipos

The study uses data from the Graduate Career Tracking System for 2011–2015 and the Integrated Administrative Databases from 2017 to examine ideas of Hungarian students of business and economics about which graduate and post-graduate subjects are worth majoring in. Graduates on master's courses are divided and compared in three groups: generalists (changing their major subject in their master's course), specialists (choosing to study the same major further) and field changers (gaining an undergraduate degree in a different field before studying business and economics for a master's degree). The main goal was to supplement the theory of human capital in a less researched direction: diversification chances in the professional profile. The empirical analysis tests whether there is a marked difference between diversified and specialist career strategies in the BA–MA transition, based on labour-market data on salaries and time for obtaining employment. In general there was a statistically significant difference in every period. A subject-changing career strategy came out as most effective for gross salaries.