

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP? SOME REMARKS ON THE INTERPRETATION OF A DICHOTOMY

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Partial reversal of the big wave of privatisation and widespread nationalisation after the global financial crisis raise again the question of whether there is importance in the distinction between state and private ownership. The paper argues that this needs to be examined from two distinct points of view: what role ownership has in defining socio-economic systems and what effect it has on how enterprises function. The conclusion reached from a review of some relevant theories and of recent practical experience is that dominant ownership form remains a key issue in a systemic approach. Shifts in the proportions of public to private property in 20th-century Europe always brought systemic change or modification in the prevailing form of capitalism. In enterprise terms, however, the hypothesis of blurring the dichotomy between public and private firms needs considering. When big waves of privatisation and nationalisation are absent, special heed needs to be paid to modifying the specific content of property forms. Careful analysis of this will contribute to a better understanding of the recent Hungarian politico-economic system.

RELATIONS BETWEEN CORPORATE COMPETENCIES AND THE APPLICATION OF REMUNERATION SYSTEMS IN HUNGARY'S SME SECTOR

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The study presents empirical analysis of relations between the competencies of micro and small and medium-sized firms (SMEs) and the application of remuneration systems. Presentation of the theoretical foundation of the research issue and its formulation are followed by the results of a large-sample analysis. The sample of 1,069 SMEs was subjected to descriptive statistical tools and logistic regression by a forward-selection method. Impact on the application of remuneration systems was found from (1) management solutions: organisational operation and administrative routines, environmental investment and quality management, and product/service innovation activity, (2) marketing tools: sophistication of sales channels, marketing communication tools and marketing innovation, (3) human resource factors: training and language competence, and (4) the level of external support. The novelty in the research lies in applying the theory of the human-resource cycle to SMEs, while

also providing SME-specific empirical experiences for researchers in the field. The findings can be used in the theory and teaching of SME management and the human resource management of SMEs.

DOMESTIC PLAYERS IN THE VALUE CHAIN: SUPPLIER RELATIONSHIPS OF A MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Dániel Hegedűs and Tamás Vasvári

The main drive behind the competition for foreign direct investment are the direct or indirect benefits to be gained from the presence of multinational companies (MNCs). However, such effects are not automatic or always beneficial. MNCs play a crucial role in Hungary's economic performance, as they do in that of other CEE countries. The authors take a novel approach to investigating the economic impact of MNCs, by analysing the supplier relations of a foreign-owned manufacturing firm over the 2015–2019 period, including the composition of suppliers, the supplier-added value (upgrading and downgrading), and the buyer-supplier dependence. The findings show a low share of domestic Hungarian suppliers in procurement, with a low added value. Furthermore, they are less likely to upgrade. Chances become more favourable in so-called cooperative procurement, where suppliers are involved in the production process, so that knowledge transfer becomes more intense. However, excessive supplier specialization and cyclical production may lead to increased supplier dropout in this segment.

THE HUNGARIAN MARKET FOR PAINTINGS, FROM A FINANCIAL POINT OF VIEW

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The article introduces and examines the auction market for paintings in Hungary as an opportunity for alternative investment. Historical information on paintings is limited as price databases are expensive and contain limited amounts of Hungarian data. This barrier means that many potential investors shy away, leaving the opportunities to a small group. So can paintings be seen as an investment opportunity, and if so, how attractive a return can be achieved? The findings show that auctioned Hungarian paintings offered an average positive return in nominal terms over the last two decades, but in real terms this was slightly negative, and becomes markedly negative in the light of the fees paid to galleries and other related costs. However, the negative rates may be compensated for by their low correlation on capital markets and their consequent ability as diversification. The repeated sales method applied has shown that the more valuable the category examined, the lower the average return on the paintings, whereas based on average prices, investing in certain liquid and valuable groups of thematic paintings may achieve a return twice as high as investing in the BUX index.