

THE EFFECT OF SCHOOL CENTRALISATION ON STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN HUNGARY

Tünde Lénárt

An extensive centralisation process began in Hungarian public education in 2013, which transferred all schools previously maintained by municipalities to a central education agency. This paper aims to examine the impact of the process on student performance at primary and secondary levels. It also seeks to distinguish these effects from those of the vocational school reform, which also took effect in 2013. The analysis uses diff-in-diff and value-added models mixed with fixed effects. The results show no detectable effect of centralisation in grades 6 and 8 either in primary or in 6 or 8-year academic secondary-school tracks. Even in grade 10, instead of an average centralization effect for the whole period after 2013, there is only a temporary negative effect of 0.05 standard deviations in 2015 and 2017. However, based on the model, which seeks to distinguish the effects of centralisation and of the vocational school reform, it is highly likely that these temporary changes may also be attributed to negative effects of the reform. The latter reduced the scores of vocational training-school students by standard deviations of 0.09–0.16.

VARIETIES OF CAPITALISM AND INDUSTRY 4.0 IN THE VISEGRAD COUNTRIES

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Researchers into capitalist models analysing the economic development of the Visegrad countries stress their dependence on foreign direct investment. However, the sustainability of this model has become questionable. The region's attractions can be weakened by political changes (democratic backsliding) in the past decade. The international slowdown of direct investment can weaken the dependence of these countries, but Industry 4.0 can also strengthen it. The authors interviewed business and academic figures in the Visegrad countries. Based on their views and on other surveys, it was found that the implementation experiences of Industry 4.0 strengthen the duality among firms and the dependency on foreign-controlled enterprises. So the foreign capital-based economic growth model of the Visegrad countries has also created a foreign capital-led industrial transformation.

EXAMINING THE CAREER-SUCCESS DIMENSIONS IN FRESHLY CONSIDERED ECONOMIC SPHERES

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An important requirement of higher-education institutions is to match higher education with the labour market. There are several approaches to measuring this; this study focuses on the factors influencing the objective and subjective career success of recent graduates. It rests empirically on analysing responses by 4,515 graduates in the field of economics, taken from the Fresh Graduates databases of 2011–2014. Career success was measured by a conceptual model of OLS regression to include objective and subjective dimensions based on Graduate Career Tracking System (DPR) variables. The findings show graduates as more successful from a subjective point of view than from an objective one. So it is not enough to focus on objective factors – examination of the subjective dimension is also important. Based on this and on other influencing factors, higher education institutions should put more emphasis on developing soft competencies that determine subjective success to a greater extent.

THE ROLE OF TRADE AGREEMENTS IN CLIMATE CHANGE. SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Jeremiás Máté Balogh

Relatively moderate interest is shown in scientific discourse to the role of trade agreements on climate change. Yet they may contribute to meeting Paris climate targets by reducing tariffs, harmonizing regulation of environmentally friendly products, and eliminating market-distorting agricultural and fossil energy subsidies. The study aims to explore the effects of international trade agreements on climate change based on international literature published in 2010–2020, using a systematic literature review. Based on this, the effectiveness of trade negotiations and WTO agreements are said to be weak due to national interests and protectionism. Indeed international emission-trading schemes and removal of trade barriers may in some cases increase greenhouse gas emissions. The study shows how carbon leakage may undermine achievement of international climate targets. The biggest beneficiaries of trade agreements are the largest developed countries: the United States, China and the European Union. These are also the largest greenhouse-gas emitters. The literature offers policy recommendations to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change with help from trade agreements. The analysis discusses the effectiveness of carbon taxes, carbon tariffs, carbon harmonization, non-tariff barriers to trade and the possibility of reducing carbon leakage.