

Dear Readers,

The latest edition of *Argumenta Oeconomica Cracoviensia* confirms the broad range of subjects tackled in the journal, in which we publish articles from the fields of economics, management science, finance, and other sub-disciplines of economics. This broad profile creates publication opportunities for many authors working in these areas, which is reflected in the range of articles sent in to the editorial board.

Our aim is to publish both theoretical texts as well as articles that present the results of empirical research on macroeconomic and microeconomic phenomena at the national and international levels.

The issue of deepening income inequalities has been the subject of lively debate among economists, sociologists, and politicians in recent years. One of the views they have expressed is that this trend – if it continues – could present a serious risk to global economic growth. While there are a number of factors influencing the rise in income and wealth inequalities, there is general agreement that globalisation and the liberalisation of economic activity are having a powerful impact on income distribution within societies. These trends find particular expression in the location of production in more weakly developed economies, where labour costs are considerably lower. This causes revenues and profits to flow between countries, thus aggravating inequality at the international level. With the support of empirical research, James K. Galbraith addresses this intriguing issue in the opening paper, “Globalization and Inequality Revisited”.

The workings of the Eurozone and its future prospects are a central concern for economists and politicians. This is understandable given that creation of the Eurozone may still be regarded as a huge economic and social experiment. The fate not only of the further monetary, but also social and political integration of the European Union may depend on the success or failure of the euro area. It follows that the results of research on the operation of the Eurozone – in the context of the established paradigms of contemporary banking and with reference to the national banking sector – also merit attention. Dependencies between deposits and lending in the

banking sector emerge within the framework of these paradigms. In her article, “The Nature and Determinants of High-value Household Deposits in the Euro Area”, Katarzyna Kochaniak undertakes a thought-provoking exposition of the role of deposits in the operation of the banking sector in the euro area.

“The Logic of Imitative Processes: Imitation as Secondary Innovation – An Axiomatic Schumpeterian Analysis”, by Beata Ciałowicz and Andrzej Malawski, affirms the journal’s declared policy of making room for papers that tackle theoretical and abstract issues. From the perspective of the search for innovative solutions, this article successfully presents a formalised conceptualisation of the hypothetical, creative behaviours of people in the operation of an economic entity. The active and creative attitude of the people involved is understood, within the terms of a Schumpeterian analysis, as constituting an opportunity for the organisation to develop.

The criteria for selecting features and the method used to analyse them are of vital importance in empirical investigations involving the assessment of observed entities (subjects). This issue is addressed by Sabina Denkowska in “Assessing the Robustness to Unobserved Confounders of the Average Treatment Effect on Treated Estimated by Propensity Score Matching”. The value of the article lies in its verification of the Propensity Score Matching method, which will be familiar from the literature. In essence, this involves taking account of the observable and unobservable features of the subjects (entities) under analysis. The author’s findings may help evaluate the usefulness of this method, which is important to the extent that it is recommended by the European Union as part of the procedure for accepting programmes for financing and implementation.

The search for the best (most efficient) method of building a portfolio of financial assets has been the subject of numerous attempts to formulate and verify theoretical constructs. It will therefore come as no surprise that the question has also been taken up in the pages of this journal: in this case by Przemysław Jaśko in his paper “Statistical Arbitrage: A Critical View”. The theory of arbitrage occupies a prominent position in processes of portfolio building. For this reason, it may be assumed that a further attempt to critically assess cointegration tests used in the search for the log-price processes of related instruments when building a statistical arbitrage portfolio will prove of interest to readers.

The demographic processes taking place across the world – especially those in wealthy countries where societies are ageing due to civilisational progress and advancements in medical science – have been attracting

increased interest not only from demographers but also from economists and politicians. It is for these reasons that readers may be interested in Grażyna Trzpiot and Justyna Majewska's article "Modelling Longevity Risk in the Context of Central Statistical Office Population Projections for Poland to 2050". With reference to demographic processes in a global perspective, the authors focus their research efforts on Poland and set out the risks associated with demographic change. The paper therefore takes its place alongside other Polish studies (Central Statistical Office, Social Insurance Agency) that have attempted to understand the threats to the country in the period up to 2050.

The present issue concludes with "R&D: Italy and Poland Compared" by Valerio Fino and Janusz Rosiek, in which the authors critically assess the workings of the R&D systems of these two countries. Their assessment, which is carried out by means of a SWOT analysis, may serve as a platform for possible changes in this field. This is especially true of Poland, where the system for implementing scientific achievements into industrial practice is ineffective and is evaluated as such by the authors. Their conclusion is that countries undergoing economic transformation are still looking for the best ways to organise, manage, and finance research and development. The authors suggest that certain Italian solutions could be adapted for Poland and for other countries with economies in transition.

Whilst commending the present issue to our readers, we also invite contributions in the form of original texts, information about important academic events, and reviews of outstanding books.

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Editor-in-chief