

## Introduction

The present volume, “Competitiveness and economic development – macro-economic aspects and challenges”, contains a collection of six papers addressing selected issues in economics and finance. The monograph concerns the current problems and challenges in the field of international economic relations, economics, and finance. The authors identify and assess the complexities of competitiveness and economic development, taking into account both theoretical and practical aspects.

The first article touches on the financial aspect concerning pension efficiency in European countries after the 2008 financial crisis. Its authors, Marcin Brycz and Daniel Sonnet, pay attention to lessons learned for the next crisis and show that the crisis worsened the financial stability and modernization level of European pension systems.

In the second article, the author’s attention is focused on inflation. Raphael Reinwald writes about sovereign debt and inflation and asks if we tamed the ghost. He describes and examines debt in times of crisis and poses a topical question: are we dealing with induced rising inflation? He then examines the fundamental causes of inflation and their relation to public debt in developed economies.

In the next article, Samundra Bhusal draws attention to an important problem concerning the development of decentralized finance and its impact on global financing structures and analyzes the changes that have occurred since the introduction of Bitcoin in 2009 and the changes due to blockchain technology. The author also argues that blockchain is the primary driver of technological innovation and is becoming essential for the further development of the banking system.

The fourth article deals with the regional competitiveness of selected Sub-Saharan African economies. Ebenezer Amoako assessed the competitiveness of 44 selected economies in Sub-Saharan Africa on the basis of panel data from 1980–2019. The author presents an application of stochastic production frontier analysis.

The subject matter of the fifth article, written by Magdalena Gielo-Politewicz, is the strategy for the sustainable development of aquaculture in the European Union. The author pays special attention to the contribution of aquaculture in the European Union to the development and life of the local communities.

In the last article, Rahman Fakhani develops an evaluation scheme to determine a country index incorporating sustainability factors to compare selected countries from a macroeconomic perspective, and on this basis makes a more detailed analysis in order to identify appropriate measures to address the threats of climate change.

The diversity of macroeconomic issues of competitiveness and development show a holistic approach to composing this volume, which offers a novel view on those aspects of the world economy.

We hope you find this publication interesting and useful.

We wish you pleasant reading!

Editors

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