

ENGLISH ABSTRACTS

MIHÁLY SIMAI: The United Nations at 70

The paper argues that 70 years after the historical moment of its creation, the UN continues to serve as the most important and unique institution charged with the protection of human rights. The paper presents a brief history of the creation of the UN, which is followed by a discussion of its achievements and the main problems that need to be solved in order to make the organization more effective. The paper then sketches why 2015 is an important year for the UN, focusing especially on the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

PÉTER BIHARI–GÁBOR SZTANÓ: Success Story or Much Ado about Nothing? The Effectiveness of Forward Guidance in the US

Forward guidance is a new monetary policy instrument which played a key role in the monetary easing following the global crisis. By providing guidance on future rate trajectories, central banks aimed at reducing uncertainties in the market and also convincing market actors of the sustainability of the low interest rate environment. The paper examines just how effective this new monetary policy instrument was in case of the US. Forward guidance played an important role in monetary easing between 2008 and 2012. Between 2012 and 2014, it managed market expectations related to interest rate increases and thus contributed to avoiding excess yield increases. With the end of the crisis, forward guidance may take on a new role by providing information to markets on the speed and degree of expected rate increases. Both theoretical considerations, as well as the experience so far suggest that forward guidance is likely to become a permanent part of the monetary policy toolkit.

ANITA HEGEDŰS–ISTVÁN POLÓNYI: The Mazes of Hungarian University Governance

Higher education institutions are the oldest organizations in human history which had changed relatively little until the 18th century. However, since then, and especially since the mid-20th century, we are witnessing an accelerating pace of conversions. This paper examines the transformation of autonomy and collective university (academic) leadership which are the two traditional characteristics of universities. The analysis is intended to explore the international trends of these transformations and to evaluate the present of university management. The recent history of national higher education policy has brought radical changes in the autonomy and management of Hungarian higher education institutions, but these changes only partially match the international trends.

ANITA LOVAS–BOGLÁRKA RITA MILE: The Impact of Government Intervention in the Venture Capital Market with Double-sided Moral Hazard

Governments have a series of instruments to influence the venture capital industry. Various studies concerning the importance and efficiency of the intervention

in the venture capital market have been published, but relatively few concentrated on the theoretical background. The paper examines the public equity and loan schemes based on Schertler's model [2000, 2002a, 2002b]. The result of the double-sided moral hazard model was that an intervention is reasonable in an inexperienced venture capital market as both schemes can give incentives to venture capitalist to enter the market. However it is also shown that a venture capitalist with sufficient expertise reduces his management support under both types of public subsidy. Therefore the conclusion is that well-considered policies can have a positive influence on entrepreneurship if the venture capital market is inexperienced.

ZOLTÁN FELMÉRY: Tax System in a Post-socialist Quasi-welfare State. The Effect of "Premature Status" on Tax Burdens

Due to the strengthening process of the macroeconomic budget constraint, there is a simplified balance sheet identity between government expenditures and tax revenues in Hungary. This phenomenon is not realized by Hungarian citizens, who aspire for greater economic security than the European average. Nor is this communicated by Hungarian governments. The paper explores the interdependence between government expenditures and tax burdens. It concludes that the significant difference between the tax burdens of the Hungarian enterprise-poles is assigned to widespread government expenditures. Moreover, the difference in tax burdens is the reason of the high rate of shadow economy, tax evasion and hidden employment. Besides the rates of redistribution and government expenditures, the paper illustrates some principles in connection to the role of the state.

KÁLMÁN DEZSÉRI: The Economics of Languages (Current European Aspects and the Expected Impacts of the IT Revolution)

As a result of globalization and rapidly developing information and communication technologies, international communication interactions are becoming more and more intense at different levels and distances. Under these circumstances, languages may represent different kinds of difficulties or bottlenecks on the one hand and make necessary the emergence of multilingualism in most societies or countries on the other. This increasingly evolving process has several economic aspects. The article presents language as an economic phenomenon, and compares it to the three functions of money. Then it analyzes multilingualism and language learning by applying microeconomic theories. These questions are important for the EU, but they belong primarily within the competence of member states. Rapidly evolving information and communication technologies will significantly influence the development of multilingualism, and the paper analyses these expected effects on the basis of the "long tail" concept.

ÉVA BERDE-PETRA NÉMETH: Different Methods for the Calculation of the Total Fertility Rate

The paper compares the recently developed period fertility indicators to the traditional cohort fertility indicator, using three differently adjusted total period ferti-

ty indicators. Definition, calculation methods, advantages and disadvantages of each indicator are analysed. Finally it is pointed out how cohort fertility indicator differs from period fertility indicators. The reliability of the adjusted fertility indicators is assessed by comparing them with the cohort fertility indicator.

DÓRA ZOLCSÁK: An Analysis of the Relationship between Democracy and Economic Development Based on Mancur Olson

The paper is based on Olson's [1993] assumption which claims that stable democracy can boost and accelerate economic growth by protecting property rights. Accordingly, the hypothesis of this paper is that the more stable a regime is, the more likely it is that economic growth occurs. Cross country regressions underpin Olson's statement, in addition the results are more conspicuous in autocracies. In democracies, stability contributes to the security of property rights which leads to, other things being equal, a powerful economic growth.

ANNA BAJUSZ: Member State Net Positions Towards the EU Budget

Negotiations on the European Union's budget are characterised by Member States striving for ever better net positions. However, it is not clear how net balances can be defined. This paper gives a short insight into the functioning of the EU's budgetary system and presents the most recent data on Member States' net positions. The article then cites theoretical considerations regarding the reasons why Member States concentrate on their net positions during budgetary talks.

ÉVA ERIKA KEREKES–SZILÁRD JÁNOS PERÉDI: The Trade Creation Effects of the EU's International Development Policy

The paper examines the empirical link between aid provided by EU member states and institutions, and the EU's trade with its aid recipients. The hypothesis suggests a positive relationship between the two variables, meaning that countries which receive more aid would also trade more with the EU. Testing the hypothesis is conducted by a panel econometric method based on an extended gravity model. The database includes a total number of 2550 observations for the period between 1988 and 2012. Results do not support the hypothesis and this finding is not sensitive to different model specifications. However, although the model faces many limitations, the results have important policy implications.