

Brief Summary of the Articles

Economics of transformation – towards a new impossibility theorem?

LÁSZLÓ CSABA

Maturity of all disciplines is reflected by their ability of superseding the phase of collecting facts and figures and their categorization, by way of constructing impossibility theorems able to make predictive statements. In economics Arrow, Mundell and Fleming, Obstfeldt and Taylor could arrive at such theorems. The present article raises the issue in terms of transformation. First, is it true that good economics produced poor outcomes in central and eastern Europe? Second: is it true, that out of the trio of growth, international integration and participate democracy only two can sustain in the same time? If yes, this makes third road propositions a la Giddens and Korten impracticable short of sacrificing welfare.

Hungarian Foreign Trade and Prospects after the EU-accession

JUDIT HAMAR

This article focuses on the question what kind of effects the coming accession of Hungary to the European Union will produce on foreign trade, its dynamics, and its market and product structure. The analyses are based on the ten-year structural changes in the Hungarian economy and foreign trade, the actual level Hungary has reached by now, and on the experiences gained by analysing four `periphery` countries, such as Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland. Direct links – obviously – cannot be drawn between the results of the EU-accession in the case of Hungary and those of the earlier joining countries. However, the experiences (`the gain` and `losses`) of the countries mentioned above might contribute to the policymakers to avoid negative side effects, to foster the positive ones, and to calculate the `costs` of adjustment. The actual features of the Hungarian economy (the level of openness and integration, the economic and foreign trade structure, and the foreign direct investment attractiveness) show that Hungary has already reached higher level in certain aspects than the periphery countries at the time of their accession. The research results of our comparative analyses let us conclude, that the expected gains and losses of the Hungarian EU-accession (as well as the `costs of adjustment`) will certainly be smaller, than in the countries in question, due to the past ten year changes in Hungary.

The European Union and the Balkans

GYÖRGY SIMON JR.

The author examines the Balkan aspects of the European Union's Eastern enlargement. He analyzes the economic situation of Albania, Bulgaria, the formerly joined Greece, plus Croatia, Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey considering the joining criteria and in comparison with Hungary's economic situation. After this he points his attention at the Balkan states' efforts to participate in the European integration process. He comes to the conclusion that at present only three countries: Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania have real chances of joining, whereas Albania and Macedonia can become associated members of the EU. Yugoslavia's integration depends mostly on whether this country will be able to close up to the other Central- and Eastern-European countries in the field of market reforms and become a democratic country.