



THE CURRENT STATE OF CONVERGENCE INDICATORS: SLOVAKIA DOES NOT CATCH UP, BUT COMPLIES WITH THE NOMINAL CRITERIA

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A further slowdown in economic growth of Slovakia was reflected in a suspended process of catching-up. The outlook for the near future suggests a recovery of real convergence in Slovakia, although very low in historical terms. Nevertheless, the latest figures for nominal convergence indicate positive trends. Almost all EU countries would satisfy the inflation criterion. Most of the EU countries outside the euro area meet the fiscal criterion as well, and would be able to meet it also in the following years. Estimated future developments envisage that the three new Member States, if participating in the exchange rate mechanism, could comply with all criteria. (p. 2)

MODELLING HOUSE PRICES IN SLOVAKIA

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A housing market and housing prices in a market economy form an important part of the transmission mechanism. Therefore, particular importance is given to the analysis and modelling of the evolution of real-estate prices. While in developed market economies the mentioned issue has been the subject of applied econometric research for over 20 years, in Slovakia it is only at the beginning, owing to various objective reasons. The aim of this paper is to present the existing knowledge and practical experience gained in finding appropriate econometric model, which could display the development of real and nominal house prices in Slovakia. (p. 6)

COMPENSATION FOR NON-MATERIAL DAMAGE AND COMPULSORY CONTRACTUAL MOTOR VEHICLE THIRD PARTY LIABILITY INSURANCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE JUDGMENT IN THE HAASOVÁ CASE

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The article deals with the issue of non-material damage. For the purpose of this article, the term non-material damage shall mean emotional injury, or trauma, suffered by the nearest relatives of a road traffic accident victim as third parties in respect of the fact that their next of kin died as a result of the use of a motor vehicle. In a way, this constitutes an interference with personal rights, in particular an infringement of the third party's right to privacy protection, which is protected under Article 11 of the Slovak Civil Code. The contribution consists of four sections. The first section describes the factual situation of the ECJ judgement in the Haasová case (C-22/12), which addresses the problem of non-material damage. The second section presents a legal analysis of the judgement as confronted with the respective EU Directives and partly also with current legislation. The third section deals with legal regulation of non-material damage in certain European countries, and in the conclusion some considerations on de lege ferenda are outlined. (p. 11)

STRUCTURAL DECOMPOSITION OF EMISSIONS GENERATED BY THE SLOVAK ECONOMY

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The article is based on a dissertation which identifies and quantifies the main determinants of changes in greenhouse gas emissions generated by the Slovak economy. Its main target is to decompose changes in emissions, generated by the Slovak economy during the period 1995–2008, into (i) changes driven by technological progress reducing the volume of emissions per unit of output, (ii) structural changes in the economy, (iii) changes in the structure of final demand, and (iv) changes in the total volume of final demand. The structural decomposition analysis was used to find the contribution of each factor. Decomposed were both the territorial emissions in Slovakia (production principle) and total emissions generated (indirectly also in other countries) by the consumption in Slovakia (consumer principle). (p. 17)

THE CGE-MODEL-BASED COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS OF OBTAINED RESULTS

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The award-winning study deals with the CGE model at various levels. The first is a theoretical level, bringing information on general equilibrium models, their construction and solution. This is followed by an application level, where the behaviour of European economies is observed by means of two different models. The third level focuses on evaluating results obtained in the original model VSEMOR2 and the adapted model STDCGE. These models focus mainly on the comparative analysis of selected countries and on the sensitivity analysis of the results. The results show higher sensitivity of the Nordic countries to changes in tax burden and in the households behaviour. The least sensitive are the Mediterranean countries, while among the Central European countries the Czech Republic is the most sensitive. Besides the comparative analysis, the presented study deals with the analysis of the results' sensitivity to calibrated values, input data, shock size and the method of calculation. (p. 22)

THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FIRST PILLAR OF THE PENSION SYSTEM IN SLOVAKIA

Tomáš Kabina

The first pillar of the Slovak pension system is unsustainable in its current form. The main reasons are low birth rates and rising average life expectancy in Slovakia, which are detrimental to income and expenditure of the first pillar and cause a continuous rise in its deficit. The aim of this study is to propose certain measures, which would lead to the sustainability of the first pillar in the near future. The proposed measures are based on future demographic estimates, against which the estimated deficit is calculated. Firstly, we estimate the future deficit of the first pillar in its current form and then define the main parameters. By changing these parameters, future deficit can be lowered. Finally, we propose measures, which can decrease the deficit to a sufficiently low level to be covered from the national budget. (p. 27)