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**DEVELOPMENT AND  
ECONOMIC POLICY**

**NINTH EUROPEAN DOCTORAL SEMINAR (EDS)**

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## PREFACE

In 2009 the European Doctoral Seminar was held for the third time in Budapest, Hungary. The reason was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the transition process in Central and Eastern Europe, mainly initiated by the former Hungarian government. In June 1989 the Austrian and the Hungarian Ministers of Foreign Affairs cut through symbolically a part of the Iron Curtain, which was the first step to the re-unification of Europe. EDS as forum for Ph D students from several European nations has to be understood in the same sense. In the preface of the documents of the first meeting in 2001 it was expressed, that the new Europe would be result of intensive work to be done by millions of people. “EDS should be considered as one of these activities, an attempt to encourage students of different countries to come together to start their own scientific cooperation.” After nine years it can be said without any exaggeration that the expectations of 2001 have been fulfilled. More than 40 Ph D students from six countries have presented basic ideas or part of their theses. Some of them are professors, lectures at universities, others have attained high positions in ministries or international organizations.

It is an essential point of the EDS program that Ph D students once entered the project should present their results several times. However, this does not mean that the topics will not change from year to year. In all conferences, including the present one, there have been some central problems the participants have focused on. This could be observed also in 2009. International trade and economic growth, tax policy and recent developments on energy markets have become apparent problems having touched by several presenters. No doubt, this fact reflects also the process of unification: economies with different historical and political background are faced with more or less the same problems. Therefore it can be expected that activities like joint research, learning from the partners’ experiences, etc. will be extended to newer fields.

During the time the participants spent in Budapest they could always feel the attention paid by the representatives of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. It was a great pleasure to meet the rector, Professor *Gábor Péceli*. The warm welcome address of Professor Péceli is highly acknowledged by Professors and students as well.

## PREFACE

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This is also the place to express our thanks to the local organizers, first of all to *Éva Horváth* and to the Ph D students of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, *Zoltán Bánhidi*, *Boglárka Hevér* and *Adrienn Lukács*, for the preparation of the conference. A highlight of the conference was the reception by the ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, *H. E. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel*, gave the opportunity to change ideas and to discuss different problems in a quite unconventional way. Participants and organizers of the seminar are very grateful to the *Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst* and to the *Stabilitätspakt* for financial support of the ninth European Doctoral Seminar. Last, but not least, we would like to thank the referees and especially *Monika Marton* for her professional contribution to prepare this seminar volume.

***Budapest, December 2010***

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