Abdylmenaf Bexheti
Albana Hashorva
Sead Kreso
Dietmar Meyer
H.-Dieter Wenzel
(Editors)

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Editors of the Volume:

Prof. Dr. Abdylmenaf Bexheti
Pro-Rector of Financial Issues
SEEU University Tetovo
Tetovo, Republic of Macedonia
a.bexheti@see-university.edu.mk

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Meyer
Chair of Finance,
Budapest University of Technology & Economics
Budapest, Hungary
dmeyer@lucifer.kgt.bme.hu

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Heinz-Dieter Wenzel
Chair of Public Finance,
Director of BERG
Bamberg University
Bamberg, Germany
public-finance@uni-bamberg.de

Prof. Dr. Sead Kreso
Faculty of Economics,
University of Sarajevo
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
sead.kreso@efsa.unsa.ba

Prof. Dr. Albana Hashorva
Faculty of Economics,
University of Tirana
Tirana, Albania
albana.hashorva@unitir.edu.al

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In 2009 the European Doctoral Seminar was held for the third time in Budapest, Hungary. The reason was the 20th 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**

In 2009 the European Doctoral Seminar was held for the third time in Budapest, Hungary. The reason was the 20th 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.

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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

Abdylmenaf Bexheti
Albana Hashorva
Sead Kreso
Dietmar Meyer
Heinz-Dieter Wenzel
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CONTRIBUTORS

Almitra Arnaut – Berilo
Ph D Student
University of Sarajevo
Faculty of Economics
Department of Quantitative Economy
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
almira.arnaut@efsa.unsa.ba

Brikend Aziri
Ph D Student
South East European University
Business Administration Faculty
Tetovo, Republic of Macedonia
b.aziri@seeu.edu.mk

Assoc. Prof. Dr. László Balogh
Dean
Kaposvár University
Faculty of Economics
Department of Economics
Kaposvár, Hungary
laszlo.balogh@uni-corvinus.hu

Zoltán Bánhidi
PhD Student
Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
Department of Economics
Budapest, Hungary
zbanhidi@gmail.com
Selena Begović
Teaching assistant
School of Economics and Business
University of Sarajevo
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
selena.begovic@efsa.unsa.ba

Prof. Dr. Abdylmenaf Bexheti
Vice-Rector
South East European University
Business Administration Faculty
Tetovo, Republic of Macedonia
a.bexheti@seeu.edu.mk

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dzenan Donlagic
Vice-Dean
University of Sarajevo
Faculty of Economics
Department of Economics
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
dzenan.djonlagic@efsa.unsa.ba

Annamária Pfeffer
Ph D Student
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
Faculty of Economics
Chair of Public Finance
Bamberg, Germany
annamaria_pfeffer@yahoo.com
Aida Gjika  
Lecturer of Economics  
University of Tirana  
Faculty of Economy  
Department of Economics  
Tirana, Albania  
aidagjika@fakultetiiekonomise.edu.al

Thomas Geppert  
Ph D Student  
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg  
Faculty of Economics  
Chair of Public Finance  
Bamberg, Germany  
geppert.thomas@gmx.net

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Albana Hashorva  
Head of Department  
University of Tirana  
Faculty of Economy  
Department of Economics  
Tirana, Albania  
albana.harshova@unitir.edu.al

Boglárka Hevér  
PhD Student  
Budapest University of Technology and Economics  
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences  
Department of Economics  
Budapest, Hungary  
boglarka@lucifer.kgt.bme.hu
Jürgen Jilke  
Ph D Student  
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg  
Faculty of Economics  
Chair of Public Finance  
Bamberg, Germany  
juergen.jilke@googlemail.com

Valbona Karapici  
Ph D Student  
University of Tirana  
Faculty of Economy  
Department of Economics  
Tirana, Albania  
valbona.karapici@gmail.com

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tonin Kola  
University of Tirana  
Faculty of Economy  
Department of Economics  
Tirana, Albania  
tkola@excite.com

Prof. Dr. Sead Kreso  
University of Sarajevo  
Faculty of Economics  
Department of Economics  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
sead.kreso@efsa.unsa.ba

Lejla Lazovic  
University of Sarajevo  
Faculty of Economics  
Department of Economics  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
lejla.lazovic@efsa.unsa.ba
Adrienn Lukács
Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
Department of Economics
Budapest, Hungary
lukacsadri@gmail.com

Eszter Megyeri
PhD Student
Andrássy Gyula Budapester Deutschsprachige Universität
Fakultät für Internationale Beziehungen
Budapest, Hungary
eszter.megyeri@andrassyuni.hu

Prof. Dr. Fatmir Memë
University of Tirana
Faculty of Economy
Department of Mathematics, Statistics, Informatics
Tirana, Albania
fnema@yahoo.com

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Meyer
Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
Department of Economics
Budapest, Hungary
dmeyer@lucifer.kgt.bme.hu

Patris Poshnjari
PhD Student
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
Faculty of Economics
Chair of Public Finance
Bamberg, Germany
patris_poshnjari@yahoo.de
CONTRIBUTORS

Sevil Rexhepi
Ph D Student
South East European University
Faculty of Business Administration
Tetovo, Republic of Macedonia
s.rexhepi@seeu.edu.mk

Ildikó Ritzlné Kazimir
PhD Student
Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
Department of Economics
Budapest, Hungary
kazimir@lucifer.kgt.bme.hu

Abdulmenaf Sejdini
Ph D Student
South East European University
Business Administration Faculty
Tetovo, Macedonia
a.sejdini@seeu.edu.mk

Jasmina Selimović
Ph D Student
University of Sarajevo
School of Economics and Business in Sarajevo
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
jasmina.selimovic@efs.unsa.ba

Adela Shera
Ph D Student
University of Tirana
Faculty of Economy
Department of Economics
Tirana, Albania
adela_shera@hotmail.com
CONTRIBUTORS

Felix Stübben
Ph D Student
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
Faculty of Economics
Chair of Public Finance
Bamberg, Germany
felix.stuebben@sowi.uni-bamberg.de

Arjan Tushaj
Pedagogue
University of Tirana
Faculty of Economics
Department of Economics
Tirana, Albania
arjantushaj@hotmail.com

Erzsébet Varga
Ph D Student
Kaposvár University
Faculty of Economics
Department of Economics
Kaposvár, Hungary
erzsebet.varga@uni-corvinus.hu

Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Heinz-Dieter Wenzel
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
Faculty of Economics
Chair of Public Finance
Bamberg, Germany
Public-finance@sowi.uni-bamberg.de
Kristina Zehmer
Ph D Student
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
Faculty of Economics
Chair of Public Finance
Bamberg, Germany
kristina.zehmer@uni-bamberg.de