

**CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
IN THE INTEGRATION PROCESSES
OF WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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2011

TABLE OF CONTENT

PREFACE	vii
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PART I

ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES AND THE EU; POLICY OF EQUALLY SPREAD AND SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FUNCTION OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATIONS.....	1
--	---

CHAPTER 1. SERBIAN PLACE IN THE PROCESS OF GLOBALIZATION TOWARD THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.....	3
---	---

Srdjan REDŽEPAGIĆ, Mališa ĐUKIĆ

CHAPTER 2. ECOLOGIC AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF INTEGRATION OF SERBIA IN THE EU.....	18
--	----

Božo DRAŠKOVIĆ, Zoran RAJKOVIĆ

CHAPTER 3. THE INFLATION AND EXCHANGE RATE IN THE FIVE BALKAN COUNTRIES FROM MAASTRICHT CONVERGENCE CRITERIA PROSPECT.....	38
--	----

Vlastimir VUKOVIĆ, Aleksandar ZDRAVKOVIĆ

CHAPTER 4. "INVISIBLE HAND" OF GLOBALIZATION.....	56
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Slavenko GRGUREVIĆ, Đuro KUTLAČA

CHAPTER 5. EUROPEAN INTEGRATIONS IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SERBIA.....	68
---	----

Andrea ANDREJEVIĆ, Simonida VUČENOV

CHAPTER 6. ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF INVESTING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE FUNCTION OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATIONS.....	79
--	----

Jelena ĐURAN

CHAPTER 7. THE WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRIES RELATIONS WITH THE EU: DEVELOPMENT AND PERSPECTIVES.....	88
---	----

Elena BARANENKO, Saša MILIVOJEVIĆ

PART II

EVALUATION OF UNDERGONE TRANSITION CHANGES IN WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES; STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN WB COUNTRIES ECONOMY IN THE FUNCTION OF THE EU INTEGRATIONS.....	105
--	-----

CHAPTER 8. REGULATORY REFORM IN WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR THEIR EU ACCESSION PROCESS.....	107
<i>Slavica PENEV, Andreja MARUŠIĆ</i>	
CHAPTER 9. PRICE OF TRANSITION AND TRANSITION LOSSES IN CEE COUNTRIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BIH.....	129
<i>Duško JAKŠIĆ, Nebojša BOMEŠTAR</i>	
CHAPTER 10. REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATING AND LIBERALIZATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.....	141
<i>Vlatka BILAS, Sanja FRANČ</i>	
CHAPTER 11. EVALUATION OF TRANSITION PROCESS BY USING SELECTED MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MORE ADVANCED ECONOMIC GROWTH	156
<i>Sonja DJURIČIN, Isidora BERAHA</i>	
CHAPTER 12. CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF COMMODITY TRADE BETWEEN THE WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION OVER THE PREVIOUS TEN YEARS.....	175
<i>Kosovka OGNJENVIĆ, Aleksandra BRANKOVIĆ</i>	
CHAPTER 13. YUGOSLAV SPACE: TWENTY YEARS OF TRANSITION	195
<i>Miroslava FILIPOVIĆ</i>	

PART III

RESTRUCTURING OF ENTERPRISES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS; MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENTS.....	211
CHAPTER 14. UPGRADING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICE OF STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES IN PROCESSES OF EU INTEGRATION – COMPARATION OF SERBIA AND SLOVENIA.....	213
<i>Dejan ERIĆ, Ivan STOŠIĆ</i>	
CHAPTER 15. INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSFER SYSTEM IN SERBIA – CURRENT ISSUES AND CHALANGES	237
<i>Zvonko BRNJAS, Predrag DEDEIĆ</i>	
CHAPTER 16. CORPORATE REORGANIZATION IN REPUBLIC OF SERBIA - LESSONS FROM EU PRAXIS.....	256
<i>Đuro ĐURIĆ, Draško NIKOLIĆ</i>	
CHAPTER 17. GROWTH AND THE SERVICES SECTOR: THE PORTUGUESE CASE.....	271
<i>Marta S. S. RAMOS, Marta C. N. SIMÕES</i>	

CHAPTER 18. GLOBALIZATION AND TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES DURING THE TIMES OF ECONOMIS CRISIS.....	288
<i>Boban STOJANOVIĆ, Goran MILOVANOVIĆ, Snežana RADUKIĆ</i>	
CHAPTER 19. CHOICE AND PERFORMANCE OF EXCHANGE RATE REGIMES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: THE CASE OF CHILE.....	304
<i>Miguel GOUVÊA, António Portugal DUARTE</i>	
CHAPTER 20. INFLATION TARGETING, FULL EMPLOYMENT AND LONG-RUN ECONOMIC GROWTH: THE CASE OF SERBIA.....	322
<i>Gradimir KOŽETINAC</i>	
CHAPTER 21. COMPANY RESTRUCTURING AND LOSS OF HUMAN CAPITAL IN TRANSITION PROCESSES - EXAMPLE OF SERBIA.....	337
<i>Živka PRŽULJ, Azra HANIĆ</i>	
<hr/>	
PART IV	
DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS OF FINANCIAL SYSTEMS IN WB COUNTRIES.....	353
CHAPTER 22.	
FINANCIAL STABILITY AND MACROPRUDENTIAL POLICIES AS A RESULT OF GLOBAL CREDIT BOOM IN SEE COUNTRIES.....	355
<i>Periša IVANOVIĆ, Zoran GRUBIŠIĆ, Nikola FABRIS</i>	
CHAPTER 23. INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE SHAREHOLDER CAPITAL IN BANKING SECTOR IN SERBIA	375
<i>Hasan HANIĆ, Milan VUJOVIĆ</i>	
CHAPTER 24. DATABASE MARKETING BASED BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT – THE CASE OF SERBIAN FINANCIAL SECTOR.....	389
<i>Ivana DOMAZET, Jovan ZUBOVIĆ</i>	
CHAPTER 25. PERSPECTIVES OF DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE BANKING IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES AND EUROPEAN UNION.....	405
<i>Mladenka BALABAN, Duško BODROŽA</i>	
CHAPTER 26. SYSTEMIC RISKS CONTROL AS A DETERMINANT OF PAYMENT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT IN WB COUNTRIES	425
<i>Aleksandra BRADIĆ-MARTINOVIĆ</i>	
CHAPTER 27. LIQUIDITY MEASURING OF FINANCIAL MARKET IN WESTERN BALKAN REGION: THE CASE OF SERBIA	443
<i>Jelena MINOVIĆ</i>	
CHAPTER 28. MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS IN BANKING SECTOR: THE CASE OF WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES	460
<i>Dragan FILIMONOVIĆ, Bojana RADOVANOVIĆ</i>	
CHAPTER 29. DEVELOPMENT OF SERBIAN BANKING SECTOR: A COMPARISON WITH THE WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES	478
<i>Grozdana BELOPAVLOVIĆ, Mihajlo ĐUKIĆ</i>	

PREFACE

This book represents attempt to present some facts, theories and controversies that are necessary to understand concerning the contemporary issues of the integration processes of Western Balkan countries in the European Union (EU). This is results of strategic cooperation among few institutions from South-Eastern Europe region, first of all ICPE Center – Ljubljana and Institute of Economic Sciences – Belgrade. We tried to cover the most important economic aspects of European integration processes, including both the microeconomic and macroeconomic issues of the process of the rapprochement of some Western Balkan countries to the EU.

This book, within the 29 chapter separated in 4 parts, does not only contribute to our understanding of the explanations of the contemporary issues of the enlargement process of the EU toward the Balkan countries, but it also provides a strong theoretical contribution to the analysis of the history of EU admission of the member countries and the period of transition of some ex-socialist countries toward the market economic system. The authors present combined works having both the internal dimension and external dimension of the European integration process, whilst offering some perspectives of the integration of Balkan countries to the EU.

The EU framework on integration is based on knowledge-sharing, policy coordination and the exchange of information. That is the reason why the book gives the analysis of the relations between Western Balkan countries and the EU countries through the analysis of the policy of equally spread and sustainable regional development in the function of the European integrations.

In the second part is clearly presented the evaluation process of undergone transition changes in Western Balkan countries through the role of structural changes in those economies in the function of the EU integration process. Structural changes play very important role in overall economic and social changes. We pay lot of attention to those issues in order to encourage open dialog and scientific approach to analysis.

The process of restructuring of enterprises in order to achieve efficiency and effectiveness is the topic focused in the third part of the book. Here is underlined macroeconomic framework for structural adjustments. The book provides also collection of theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of structural changes in transition countries of Western Balkan, improve “state of art” in science within the field of structural changes and contribute to formulating of scientifically founded theoretical and practical knowledge in order to define ways and

directions for implementing structural changes. Moreover, through empirical researches, presented in some of the chapters of the book ensures acquisition of empirical knowledge on certain economic phenomena and public attitudes regarding the ways and directions of resolution of some critical factors of business operations.

The fourth part consists of analysis of development and competitiveness of financial systems in Western Balkan countries. Particularly contemporary structural adjustment of Western Balkan countries' financial sector has been analyzed and presented in details.

We hope that the book will provide the analytical foundations for policy actions, as well as structural changes needed to foster Western Balkan countries integration into the EU. Also, we believe, that this book will encourage further research in this area.

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Title of the book: Contemporary issues in the integration processes of Western Balkan countries in the European Union

Editors: Štefan Bogdan Šalej, Dejan Erić, Srdjan Redžepagić, Ivan Stošić

International Center for Promotion of Enterprises, Ljubljana, Slovenia

2011

ISBN 978-961-93203-0-3

CIP - Kataložni zapis o publikaciji Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica, Ljubljana, Slovenia
339.923(497:4)(082)

CIP - Kataložni zapis o publikaciji
Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica, Ljubljana

339.923(497:4)(082)

CONTEMPORARY issues in the integration processes of Western Balkan countries in the European Union / editors Štefan Bogdan Šalej ... [et al.]. - 1. natis. - Ljubljana : International Center for Promotion of Enterprises ; Beograd : Inštitut ekonomskih ved, 2011

ISBN 978-961-93203-0-3 (International Center for Promotion of Enterprises)

1. Šalej, Štefan Bogdan

258743808