

Abstracts of papers of the 17th international scientific conference “Contemporary problems of economics, management, finances, insurance and banking”, Płock 1-2 June 2023.

1. **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Orhan Cengiz (Çukurova University, Pozantı Vocational School, Turkey); Assoc. Prof. Dr. Müge Manga (Erzincan Binali Yıldırım University, Turkey)**

International Trade and Food Insecurity in the 21st Century: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa

As the Covid-19 crisis and the Russia-Ukraine War have shown, food insecurity is more felt in less developed countries. Although one of the United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs) priorities is to ensure food security, food insecurity remains one of the most important problems in the world. Especially in sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people facing food insecurity has increased. Neoliberal international trade approaches argue that integration into international markets will increase food access and security. However, the number of people struggling with hunger is still at a dramatic level. This study analyzes the impact of international trade on food insecurity using annual data from 2000-2020 data in 12 sub-Saharan African countries (Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Togo). The prevalence of undernourishment is used as an indicator of food insecurity. According to the panel ARDL results, international trade, inflation, political stability, and population increase food insecurity, whereas economic growth decreases in the long run. Furthermore, the findings show that increasing commercial globalization with globalization triggers food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa.

2. **prof. Joanna Szwacka-Mokrzycka (Warsaw University of Life Sciences)**

The impact of inflation on the economic situation of households in Poland

In economic interpretation, inflation considered from household perspective refers to reduction in the purchasing power of money. In the retail market, it means that with unchanged income, the consumer is able to buy fewer goods or services. We have been facing such a situation on the Polish market since 2020, while in 2022 it took on the character of galloping inflation, i.e. a situation where the percentage of price increase is expressed by a two-digit number. That situation is conducive to causing socio-economic tensions, weakening incentive systems, and hindering economic growth.

The main objective of the paper is to present the main causes of inflation and its deepening consequences for the society, as well as to indicate the direction of measures taken to curb inflation in Poland.

3. **Prof. Jan Urban Sandal (Jan-Urban Sandal Institute, Norway)**

Oeconomica

Economics as a subject has for a very long time been popular and relevant. It is everywhere; in science, education, politics, religious structures, in schools, kindergartens, in the eldercare sector, in family life, actually everywhere. Economics is important because it is a determinant of how well individuals and families live their lives, how states, governments, businesses,

organizations and the entirely social infrastructure and operations of nature is capable of solving their problems and meet their intentions. The roots of economics as a scientific subject goes back to the Greek philosophers' use of the expression *Oeconomica*, meaning household and household management. The family is the basic organizational unit in every society. The family existed long before any state was created. The family culture is defined as the sum total of learned beliefs, values, and customs, which serve to regulate the personal behavior of members of a particular society, like the family or state. Household management is individual and represents solidarity without socialism or any other ideology, endogenous and exogenous. In early capitalism, the family values and household management had a very important role as explained by Richard Cantillon. The classical production function covers three input factors, land, labor and capital, as referred to by Adam Smith in his explanation of the price mechanism. Innovation is a new combination of the first and second input factors and is carried out by successful entrepreneurs, according to Joseph A. Schumpeter. In Schumpeter's analyzes of economic development the entrepreneur is a man, and the motivating factor is masculine, a family man building his family and thinking of his inheritors. Through creative destruction, new democratic possibilities arise and the process of change leads society to a better world that is more just, equal and less discriminatorily.

4. dr Paweł Antoszak (Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz)

Wage differentiation in Opole Voivodeship

The aim of the paper is to assess the differences in the level of wages and to identify factors which exerted impact on such disparities in Opole voivodeship in the years 2012-2021. There are average monthly gross wages and salaries in the voivodeship, deviations from the average wage in the voivodeship and the growth dynamics of average monthly gross wages used. To conduct the analysis and the evaluation, there is statistical data published in the Statistical Yearbooks of the Statistical Office in Opole for the years 2012-2021 used.

5. dr Kamil Borowski (Ignacy Mościcki University of Applied Sciences in Ciechanów)

Shaping of investment expenditures in the communes of Ciechanow powiat

This article deals with the issue of investment expenditures incurred by communes. Its main objective was to conduct research on the essence of investment expenditures occurring in the structure of investment expenditures, based on communes of Ciechanów powiat. The paper consists of two parts. The former includes considerations on the significance of investment expenditures in the commune, while the latter, on the other hand, presents the findings of the empirical research on the formation of investment expenditures in the communes studied.

6. dr Ewa Listopadzka (Ignacy Mościcki University of Applied Sciences in Ciechanów)

Intelligent, shrewd or sustainable – what is a smart city like

With technological advances, there are more and more cities worldwide becoming 'smart' or 'smart cities'. In recent years, it has been accompanied by extensive research focused on the definition and the concept of the 'smart city' as well as the features and characteristics which

make cities truly 'smart'. Smart city theory is a comprehensive concept that calls for a combination of intelligence, shrewdness and sustainability. Smart systems and technologies can help improve the efficiency and the quality of life of the inhabitants, however, it is equally important to ensure the sustainability of the city and the participation of its inhabitants in the decision-making.

7. dr Katarzyna Szymańska (Ignacy Mościcki University of Applied Sciences in Ciechanów)

Concept of the smart city in sustainable urban development

A city which invests in human and social capital, using communication infrastructure in both traditional (transport) and modern ICT terms leads to sustainable development and the improved quality of life as well as to natural resource management and participatory governance. The aim of the paper is to present the smart city concept in sustainable urban development and to answer the question: do smart cities assume sustainable development or do sustainable cities consider smartness?

8. dr Lia Charekishvili (European University, Georgia)

How to use Georgian women time

Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. The indicator recommended for monitoring progress in achieving this target is SDG indicator 5.4.1, defined as the “proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location”. The overall proportion of time spent by women on unpaid domestic and caregiving work is 17.8 percent, which is about 4.8 times that of men’s time (3.7 percent). The gender ratio in Tbilisi is 4.6, in other urban areas – 5.1 and in rural areas – 4.5. In all types of settlements and in all age groups, the time spent by women on unpaid domestic and caregiving work is significantly higher than that of men. The indicator is the highest among women aged 25-44 and is 23.0 percent.

9. dr Robert Sobków (University of Applied Sciences in Poznań); dr Karina Zawieja-Żurowska (University of Applied Sciences in Konin)

Changing competitiveness of the economies of Eurozone entrants compared to other national economies

Each accession to the European Union entails the adoption of the common currency, the euro, within a specific time frame. So far there have been a number of studies published pointing to the rationale for using the single currency in intra-EU trade. One of the arguments quoted is that it will provide a positive stimulus to the GDP growth of the countries joining the Eurozone. The presentation aims to compare the actual results of changes in the rate of the economic growth of the countries joining the Eurozone (several years before and after joining) in comparison with the EU countries: members of the Eurozone and those retaining their national currency, as well as in comparison with other comparable worldwide economies.

10. PhD Assistant Professor Giga Kikoria, Zezva Sanikidze (Tbilisi State University, Georgia); PhD Professor Marek Sikora (Bydgoszcz University of Science and Technology)

Climate Change and the Use of Environmentally Friendly Transport: Using of Bicycles in Tbilisi and Warsaw

Purpose: This paper investigates the relationship between climate change and the use of environmentally friendly transport, with a specific focus on the use of bicycles in Tbilisi and Warsaw. The purpose of the study is to identify the barriers and opportunities for promoting cycling as a sustainable mode of transport in these two cities.

Methodology: The study uses a structured and self-administered online questionnaire of bicycle users in both cities. The survey collected data on cycling behavior, motivations, and perceptions of cycling infrastructure, while the interviews explored the broader context of cycling promotion, including policy, culture, and social attitudes. The questionnaire is in line with The National Institute for Transportation and Communities.

Originality: The study's originality lies in its focus on two cities with different cultural and political contexts, providing a comparison of how cycling promotion strategies may vary across contexts.

Findings: The study's findings suggest that while cycling has significant environmental benefits, there are significant barriers to its adoption, including a lack of infrastructure, safety concerns, and cultural attitudes towards cycling in Tbilisi and Warsaw. The study also identifies several opportunities for promoting cycling, including investment in infrastructure, public awareness campaigns, and public-private partnerships.

Practical implications: The practical implications of the study are twofold. First, it highlights the need for a coordinated effort by local authorities, civil society, and private actors to promote cycling as a sustainable mode of transport. Second, it provides specific recommendations for policymakers on how to overcome the barriers to cycling and promote sustainable transport.

Research limitations: The study's limitations include the relatively small sample size of the survey and the limited scope of the quantitative survey. Nevertheless, the study provides valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges of promoting cycling as a sustainable mode of transport in these two cities.

11. Ph.D. / Assoc. Prof. Yakup Ari; M.Sc./Research Assistant Nesrin Akbulut (Alanya Alaaddin Keykubat Üniversitesi, Turkey)

TVP-VAR Frequency Connectedness Between the Foreign Exchange Rates of Non-Euro Area Member Countries

The objective of this research is to scrutinize the transmission of volatility between the currencies of those European Union nations that do not participate in the EURO area, focusing on the exchange rate parity of the US Dollar with seven non-EURO zone currencies. To fulfil this objective, daily volatility in exchange rates from January 2, 2019, to December 31, 2022, is estimated using the Garman-Klass-Yang-Zhang methodology. The findings from the volatility prediction reveal that the Swedish Krona demonstrates the most pronounced volatility and possesses the highest average volatility. In order to investigate the interconnectedness among

these volatilities, we employ the Time-Varying Parameter - Vector Autoregressive frequency connectedness approach. The Average Total Connectedness Index exhibits a substantial degree of connectedness, approximately 71.84%, and further discloses that the variations in exchange rate volatility are attributable to the network's interconnectivity. The Net Total Directional Connectedness Index, meanwhile, indicates that the exchange rates of the Czech Koruna Danish Krone and Romanian Leu are net beneficiaries in the aggregate and over a longer-term perspective. Conversely, it demonstrates that the exchange rates of the Danish Krone, Hungarian Forint, and Polish Zloty are net beneficiaries over a shorter-term horizon. In the context of significant global events such as the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 and the commencement of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in February 2020, it is observed that the dynamic Total Connectedness Index exhibited a substantial increase, both overall and from a long-term perspective, corroborating theoretical expectations. Additionally, the values derived from bilateral connectedness serve to identify dominant currencies, thereby assisting in the process of portfolio diversification.

12. PhD Professor of the University Maria Parlińska (Helena Chodkowska University of Technology and Economics); PhD of Engineering Agnieszka Parlińska (Warsaw University of Life Sciences)

The concept of "smart villages" - challenges and dilemmas

Smart Villages is a concept in European Union policy-making which stimulates change and the implementation of solutions to improve the quality, the standard of living and the sustainability in rural areas.

The aim of the research undertaken is to present the concept of Smart Villages - its assumptions, opportunities, dilemmas and challenges. The literature review conducted was supported by selected examples from the Mazovian voivodship.

The Smart Villages concept does not impose ready-made solutions or template schemes, but by using modern Technologies, solutions and the potential of the residents it influences the quality of life of the whole community. It is a tool to make the concept of sustainable development a reality. To strengthen the territorial capital of villages, social and technological innovations are a tool for implementation. However, it is necessary to draw attention to barriers to the implementation of the concept, such as: low openness of rural communities to change, low innovative capacity and level of social capital, low absorptive capacity of local markets, spatial distance, poorly developed transport and communication networks.

13. Dr.Sc. Heorhiy Cherevko; Dr.Sc. Ihor Yatsiv (Lviv National Environmental University, Ukraine)

State and prospects of small agricultural enterprises development in Ukraine

The number of small agricultural enterprises in Ukraine has been decreasing in recent years, and their share in the total volume of production and sale of agricultural products has remained stable at a relatively low level. At the same time, there is a public demand for the growth of the role of small agricultural enterprises, which can perform important economic and social functions.

The peculiarities of the formation of the contribution of small agricultural enterprises into the supply of agricultural products in Ukraine are revealed. A generally high level of economic efficiency, a satisfactory level of technological efficiency and a relatively low level of social efficiency of small farms were established. Prospective strategies for the development of various categories of small agricultural enterprises are outlined, taking into account the mechanisms and sources of their support, which can be used in the conditions of martial law and the post-war period.

14. PhD Irfan Ullah; MSc (Hons) Sarah Iqbal; Muhammad Fayazl; Harun Uçak; Syed Atta; Ullah Shah; Farheen Sayam (Pakistan)

Examining Fruits' Demand Elasticities in Pakistan

This paper aims to examine fruit demand elasticities in Pakistan by using Linear Approximate Almost Ideal Demand System (LA/AIDS). For this purpose data from the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2018-19 part of Pakistan Living Standard and Measurement is used for the selected fruits. Marshallian, Hicksian, and expenditures elasticities were calculated through the estimated parameter from the Linear Approximate Almost Ideal demand system. The results show that all the estimated expenditure elasticities of the selected fruits for Pakistan are positive. The magnitude of expenditure elasticities for bananas, malta, apple, grapes, watermelon, plum, and almonds, is less than unity, and are thus categorized as normal food items. The estimated uncompensated own price demand elasticities for all fruits are less than unity (inelastic) for Pakistan and are categorized as necessities. Based on the cross-price uncompensated demand elasticities eighteen fruits are reported as gross complements and three fruits are gross substitutes. Most of the fruits are categorized as neutral fruits having no cross-price effect on each other's demand as their estimated elasticities are closer to zero. Only apples with grapes and almonds are found the notable substitutes. As most of the own price elasticities of fruits are inelastic, any change in their own price would result in a massive increase in expenditure on these fruits. As a result, the government may adopt policies for the stabilization of fruit prices to meet the minimal daily food requirements of the lower segments of society.

15. dr Ewa Stawicka (Warsaw University of Life Sciences)

The impact of innovation on the sustainable development of enterprises

The success of enterprises, countries, and regions of the world is and will be based on innovation. Innovation refers to the company's openness to new ideas in the organizational culture and the company's readiness to create new ideas that are developed and used in new products and services. The innovativeness of a company is identified by many researchers with the concept of innovation. The prevailing view is that innovation is clearly treated as a certain attribute of the company, its ability to introduce innovations, which can be measured and evaluated. Innovation is the ability to create something new or introduce significant changes, acting in a way that uses this ability. Innovation not only meets the needs of the present generation but also combines economic, social, and environmental aspects, ensuring that the needs of future generations are met. The article aims to determine the impact of innovation on sustainable development and to present a research model showing this relationship. An instrument consisting of two constructs (I - innovation, SDGs - Sustainable development) was

prepared and made available to entities from medium-sized enterprises. The collected data was analyzed by modeling partial structural equations using the least squares method. Practical implications were aimed at understanding behaviors related to the development of a business model toward sustainable development in the small business sector.

16. dr Adam Metelski (Poznan University of Economics and Business)

Private and public owners in football: the example of Polish Ekstraklasa

In Poland, many professional football clubs are financed by local governments and state-owned companies. The article describes how clubs owned by private individuals and those owned by local governments are doing in terms of sports and finances.

17. dr Dorota Tokarska (The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin)

The role of the incubation manager in the startup incubation process

Startups play an extremely important role in the development of regions, which is an area of interest for the functioning of the European Union last few years. At the same time, they are treated as one of the most risky investments, mainly due to the unknown, which is their market success. The founders of startups are mainly specialists in very narrow industries, who, while perfectly understanding the proposed solution, do not always have knowledge and experience in the field of markets functioning or business management. Startup platforms that have been established as a place to support startup founders assign them incubation managers. In the incubation process, they are mentors, supporting the startup in its initial stage of development. The paper will present the image of this cooperation through the eyes of managers who worked in startup platforms in Poland in 2014-2022. What obstacles did they encounter, what skills were most useful to them and what did working with startups teach them? Did their expectations coincide with reality?

18. dr Aleksandra Rabczun (Poznan University of Economics and Business)

Threats to the socio-economic development of MENA states

The Arab Spring of Nations significantly changed the economic and social situation in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East. The positive developments initiated at that time were enhanced by the global economic boom. Unfortunately, however, the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent impact of the war in Ukraine have significantly affected the region's socio-economic development opportunities. It stems from, among others, the decline in grain imports to the MENA states from Ukraine and Russia, which had been the main trading partners for the product. The aim of the paper is to present the current socio-economic situation of the countries of North Africa and the Middle East. The paper will use selected qualitative methods such as critical literature analysis, descriptive analysis, comparative analysis. The text will be enriched by the analysis of the indicators of selected countries for the period 2011-2022 accompanied with the author's interpretation. The author will also present the future projections for the development of the MENA states.

19. dr Małgorzata Gajowiak (Poznań University of Technology)

Ageism in the workplace - selected findings in SMEs in Poznań powiat

The main objective of the article is to present the findings of research conducted in Small and Medium Enterprises from the powiat of Poznań regarding age discrimination. The choice of the research subject resulted from the fact that in recent years there has been a kind of demographic crisis observed, and its determinant is an inverted age pyramid. The fertility level both in Europe and in Poland does not allow for a simple replacement of generations. At the same time, there is a continuing trend towards longer life expectancy. Those phenomena are becoming specific challenges both on the labour market and in the non-economic sphere. There is a need to extend the working lives of the elderly, which is not an easy task in the case of discriminatory practices targeting seniors in companies (ageism). The origin of those actions should be sought primarily in the more widespread fear of the old age, the cult of youth promoted by mass media, as well as numerous reproduced and untrue judgments about the old age and the ageing process. Surveys conducted in SMEs confirm the presence of acts of discrimination on the grounds of age, particularly in the form of disregard, as well as ridicule and neglect. Moreover, those acts undermine the cooperation between the generations of the young and the old. Most of the companies surveyed do not have or observe any anti-discrimination policy in place and, according to the respondents, managers themselves pay too little attention to the equality and respect for employee rights.