



# EACES Newsletter

## No. 89 – March 2019

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### 1. Official news

#### 1.1 Message from the president

Dear EACES members,

we are living in turbulent times. As I write this message – just three days before the official Brexit date that was supposed to be on 29 March – the fight about Brexit in the British parliament goes on. In late January, when “The Economist” has written about the Brexit as the “mother of all

messes”, not many people imagined how true this verdict would prove.

In my view, one important and worrying aspect of both the Brexit decision and the resulting negotiations between the UK and the EU is that the rational and sober voices of science have been ignored or not even been heard. Careful and clear-cut analyses of the negative economic and political consequences of Brexit have been out very timely – with only very few dissenting views from within the scientific community. And to most scientists it was also very clear that the

referendum question was simply too simple and therefore inadequate. Neither back in 2016 nor today is there any faintly comprehensive idea of what “leaving the EU” would and should mean for UK citizens. Therefore, the very question whether UK voters prefer to leave or to remain in the EU was (and still would be) naïve at best. It should also be noted that even if Mrs. May’s deal, thrashed twice in parliament, would be well and alive, it would not be clear at all how the future relationship between the UK and the EU would look like. The essence of the so called “Brexit deal” is an agreement that this should be sorted out by the end of 2020, or maybe 2021, but by 2022 at the very latest...

We will see, how our policymakers at both sides of the channel will proceed from the situation they are now in. But taking more seriously well-founded scientific advice that is also communicated to the people would be a very good start, indeed. And after having put together the most important facts, a second referendum might even make sense.

“Scientific advice” (and its neglect) is also at the heart of the second development I want to address in my message, the recent policy initiatives of the Hungarian government concerning the Hungarian Academy of Science (HAS). It is (at least to me) still unclear what exactly the decisions and its consequences will be, but the plans of the Hungarian government could well undermine the financial independence of HAS and ultimately its scientific integrity. Unsurprisingly, the social sciences are in the focus of this affair. And therefore, less than two years after EACES’s statement of solidarity with the Central European University that meanwhile decided to shift many activities from Budapest to Vienna, a second letter of solidarity with the Hungarian scientific community was discussed and approved by the members of EACES’ Executive Board and Advisory Board during their meeting on February 22 in

Regensburg. The full text of this letter is reproduced in section 1.3 of this newsletter.

Jürgen Jerger, EACES President

## 1.2 Meeting minutes

of the Meeting of the Executive Board (EB) and Advisory Board (AB), abridged version

Venue: University of Regensburg

Time: February 22, 2019, 2 pm to 5 pm

Present: Sonja Avlijas, Will Bartlett, Bruno Dallago, Beata Farkas, Kseniia Gatskova, Jürgen Jerger, David Kemme, Michael Keren, Hartmut Lehmann, Tomasz Mickiewicz, Satoshi Mizobata, Francesco Pastore, Urmas Varblane

Jürgen Jerger welcomed the EB/AB members and expressed his gratitude that so many members indeed made it possible to join the meeting. Due to very recent developments, he suggested to add a topic “Statement of solidarity with the Hungarian Academy of Science” to the agenda. This was unanimously welcomed.

### 1. Statement of solidarity with the Hungarian Academy of Science

Members of the EB and AB discussed about the exact content and wording of the text and then voted unanimously for the letter of support to the Hungarian Academy of Science. The letter will also be put on the EACES website.

### 2. Report on the legal status of EACES

Jürgen Jerger reported on the still ongoing process of re-registration of EACES as “Eingetragener Verein”.

### 3. Report on the financial situation of EACES

Jürgen Jerger reported on the still satisfactory financial status of EACES and the difficulties in connection with the still ongoing process of re-registration.

#### 4. Funding requests for workshops/summer academies

Members of the AB and EB voted unanimously for a financial support of the following workshops and seminars:

- EACES workshop in Belgrade in memoriam of Bozidar Cerovic on 27 September 2019, at the Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade, on the economics of transition in South-East Europe
- IOS/APB/EACES Summer Academy on 8 July 2019 – 10 July 2019
- 3rd EACES workshop in Szeged on 5-6 April 2019
- EACES workshop on state capitalism in Moscow in April 2019
- Workshop on Political Economy of Development on June 13, in Moscow
- Arnoldshain Seminar XVI: “Future Trade and Innovation in a Changing World”, June 19-21, 2019 in Bournemouth

Each event will be supported with 800 €. Decisions on support of future events will depend on the level of funds available. The total assets of EACES should not go below 8.000 €.

#### 5. Naples conference in 2020

The members discussed about possible keynote speakers for this conference. There was a suggestion to invite also a policy oriented economist and to take gender balance into account. The local organizer Francesco Pastore will be in charge to approach people.

#### 6. EACES doctoral award 2020: Nomination of a selection committee

It was agreed that the following persons will form the selection committee:

Jürgen Jerger (chair)  
Hartmut Lehmann  
Francesco Pastore  
Sonja Avlijas

Michael Keren

The call for the EACES doctoral award competition should be distributed, among other channels, through INOMICS.

#### 7. Website – comments, suggestions for improvements

After the recent revamp of the website, no further suggestions have been made.

#### 8. Suggestions for the venue of the 2022 conference

Following the tradition of the EACES to organize conferences in Eastern and Western Europe interchangeably, a couple of suggestions for future the venue have been discussed. Jürgen Jerger will approach potential future convenors.

#### 9. EJCE

After the topic of the future of EJCE has been on the agenda of a number of previous AB/EB meeting, it was now unanimously decided to discontinue the publication of EJCE.

It was also decided that plans to launch a new EACES journal will be further pursued. The possibility of having several editors-in-chief was discussed. Francesco Pastore and David Kemme agreed to plan the next steps.

#### 10. Relationship of EACES with the journal “Economic Annals”

“Economic Annals” (formerly edited by the late Bozidar Cerovic now by Will Bartlett) is invited to be presented during the “meet the editors” session of the next EACES conference. Additionally, the link to the journal website will be included on the EACES website.

#### 11. WWCS Seoul

Jürgen Jerger informed about the Third World Congress of Comparative Economics to be held in Korea 2021. It was unanimously decided to support the event both with respect to organization and scientific content.

### 1.3 Letter of Solidarity to the president of the HAS

Dear Professor Lovász,

we write in support of the integrity of science and academic freedom in Hungary a precondition of which is the financial independence of research bodies, including the Hungarian Academy of Science.

Independent science in all areas is an indispensable element for the successful development of a society. This is especially true for the disciplines of social science, in which scientific results and science-based recommendations by necessity do not cater to everybody's wishes.

Therefore, we are deeply concerned that the recently announced changes by the Hungarian government would weaken the strong position of this country in the international scientific community and ultimately hurt the entire people of Hungary by weakening innovation and progress.

We call upon the decision-makers in the Hungarian government to rethink their recent plans and to ensure the conditions for scientific integrity in all areas.

This letter of solidarity was unanimously accepted by the members of the executive board and advisory board of the European Association for Comparative Economic Studies during their meeting on 22 February 2019.

Jürgen Jerger (President of EACES)

## 2. Calls for papers

### 2.1. The Comparative Economics of Transition in South East Europe

Economic Annals/EACES Workshop in memory of  
Professor Božidar Cerović

20 September 2019

Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade

#### **Aims**

This workshop is designed to advance the research programme pursued by Božidar Cerović in the field of comparative economics of South East Europe. It aims to provide a forum for the latest research on all aspects of economic transition and European integration in this region and beyond. Papers are welcome from a wide variety of traditions of economic analysis. Empirical papers focusing on comparative analysis of economics of the region are encouraged, while individual country studies related to the workshop themes are also welcome. After the workshop, the best papers will be considered for publication in a thematic issue of *Economic Annals* to be published in autumn 2020. Papers will also be considered for an edited volume to be published by Scientific Society of Economists of Serbia.

#### **Workshop Themes**

- The political economy of transition
- The role of institutions in economic growth
- Industrial policy in transition and emerging economies
- Entrepreneurship and innovation in transition economies
- Organisation and management of enterprises
- Labour markets and skills in transition
- Varieties of capitalism in South East Europe
- Economics of regional cooperation in South East Europe

#### **Keynote Speaker**

*Professor Saul Estrin, London School of  
Economics and Political Science (LSE).*

Saul Estrin is Professor of Managerial Economics and Strategy and the founding Head of the Department of Management at LSE. He was formerly Adecco Professor of Business and Society at London Business School where he was Director of the CIS Middle Europe Centre and Research Director of the Centre for New and Emerging Markets. At LSE he is affiliated with the Centre for Economic Performance and has been the Research Director of the Entrepreneurship Institute. He has been President of the European Association for Comparative Economic Studies.

### Abstracts

Abstracts of up to 300 words should contain the title, author(s) name and affiliation, and contact details. Abstracts should clearly state the aims of the paper, the methodology used and the workshop theme to which the paper is addressed. Abstracts should be submitted by 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019 via email to Will Bartlett (w.j.bartlett@lse.ac.uk) and Irena Janković (irenaj@ekof.bg.ac.rs)

### Important Dates

- 24th May 2019: Deadline for submission of abstracts
- 7th June 2019: Notification of acceptance
- 4th September 2019: Submission of papers and registration for workshop
- 20th September 2019: Workshop, Professors' Hall, Faculty of Economics, Belgrade, Serbia

### Further information

<http://www.eaces.eu/>.

## 2.2 3rd IZA/HSE workshop on Skills and Preferences and Labor Market Outcomes in Post-transition and Emerging Economies

St. Petersburg, September 26 –27, 2019.

### Organizers

Hartmut Lehmann (University of Bologna, Higher School of Economics and IZA), Vladimir Gimpelson (CLMS, Higher School of Economics, Moscow and IZA), Rostislav Kapeliushnikov (CLMS, Higher School of Economics, Moscow), Alexander Muravyev (Higher School of Economics and IZA)

**Topics of the workshop** will include (but are not limited to):

- The formation of cognitive and non-cognitive skills in early childhood and adolescence
- Measurement of preferences and skills using survey instruments and experiments
- Malleability of preferences and cognitive and non-cognitive skills, and their rank order stability
- Preferences and skills as driving factors of selection into labor market states and geographic mobility
- Discrimination in labor markets
- Long-term effects of educational interventions targeted at cognitive and non-cognitive skills

**Submission Deadline:** June 30, 2019

**Notification of Acceptance:** July 21, 2019

**Final Papers Due:** September 20, 2019

### Further information

[http://conference.iza.org/conference\\_files/Transition\\_2019/call\\_for\\_papers](http://conference.iza.org/conference_files/Transition_2019/call_for_papers)

## 3. Journals

*Economic Systems* is published on behalf of the [Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies](http://www.iza.org) in collaboration with EACES. You can browse the contents for free and download them subject to your or your institution's subscription at <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/economic-systems/>.

*Economic Annals* is published by the Faculty of Economics at the University of Belgrade, Serbia as an open access e-journal. Submissions in all areas of Comparative Economics are welcome. You can browse and download the contents for free at:

<http://www.ekof.bg.ac.rs/publikacije/casopisi/ekonomski-anali/archive/>

#### 4. Semiperiphery Academy

Sonja Avlijaš, political economist, member of the EACES Executive Board, and Marina Blagojević Hughson, sociologist, just launched [Semiperiphery Academy](#) – a transdisciplinary collaborative online platform which aims to build an epistemic community of social scientists, researchers and scholars focusing on the European semiperiphery. Our aim is to connect the currently fragmented, disciplinary bodies of knowledge on how globalisation has affected human progress in the European semiperiphery over the past 30 years.

Our working definition of the European semiperiphery is based on the work of Marina Blagojević Hughson, who has argued that it is the ambiguous space between the centre and the periphery, with characteristics of both. It is always “catching up” with the centre which is a moving target, and measuring itself in relation to it. On the other hand, it is perceived as “too white”, too industrial, too developed, to be part of decolonisation conversations and efforts of the global South. While our primary focus is on the post-industrial countries of the Eastern European semiperiphery, we welcome exchange between knowers from around the globe who find the concept of the semiperiphery useful for their understanding of the dynamics of human progress in their localities.

If the concept of the semiperiphery resonates with you, or with someone whose work you can recommend, even if you are not explicitly using

this terminology in your work, we encourage you to contact us through our website [www.semiperipheryacademy.com](http://www.semiperipheryacademy.com), share your work on our [Facebook page](#) or via our [Twitter account](#). Our aim is to increase each other’s visibility and facilitate knowledge exchange between us. Policy papers with a critical edge are also welcome.

#### 5. Book Series ‘Studies in Economic Transition’

The SET Palgrave/Springer book series <https://www.palgrave.com/gb/series/14147> edited by Jens Hölscher and Horst Tomann continues to flourish with 55 published titles and one further proposal currently under review.

If EACES members are interested, proposals can be sent to the editors directly. Please consult with the guidelines for authors in the first place.