

2. CO₂ EMISSIONS, ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND POPULATION DENSITY IN ROMANIA

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Abstract

The environmental costs of economic development have received increasing attention in the specialized literature during the last decade. Therefore, this paper analyses the relationship between carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and influencing factors - gross domestic product, energy consumption, and population density - in Romania over the period 1980-2018. The relationship between gross domestic product and CO₂ emissions was modelled in the EKC framework using the quadratic and cubic functional forms. For this purpose, we performed the ARDL bounds test for cointegration and, for the robustness of the results, the variance decomposition. The results emphasized that, in Romania, the inverted U-shape of EKC is significant, alongside the influence of energy consumption on the CO₂ emissions. Also, there was identified a statistically significant model comprising the inverted N-shape of EKC and the other variables considered, but the coefficients of this form of EKC are not significant. This study may contribute to filling the gap in the specialized literature dedicated to EKC analysis in Romanian economic context.

Keywords: CO₂ emissions, economic growth, energy consumption, econometric models, Romania.

3. THE PROGRESS OF FDI HOST REGIONS DURING THE LAST DECADE IN HUNGARY

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Abstract

During the economic transition, the essential source of technological renewal was the FDI in the Central and Eastern European countries. These impacts manifested in the spectacular increase of labour productivity until the global financial and economic crisis. The main advantages of the strong FDI penetration are expected from their spillover effects on the local economies through knowledge, skills and technology

diffusion. However, the emerging structures are not spatially blind, they depend on localised productive legacies, networks and production factors, therefore, their distribution is uneven in space. During the decade of the 2010s most Central and Eastern European countries converged to the EU average in terms of per capita GDP which was mostly fuelled by the increase of employment. At the same time, labour productivity increased at a significantly slower pace, or it even decreased in some years or countries. The most successful regions were those that relied heavily on FDI inflow, which were not definitely the capital regions. The aim of our present research is to study the regional dynamics of the growth factors over the previous decades with a primary focus on the period after the global financial and economic crisis in Hungary; and to assess the importance of FDI in determining these growth trends.

Keywords: labour productivity, regional inequalities, long-term analysis

4. HEALTHCARE CHALLENGES IN TIME OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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Abstract

As the COVID-19 pandemic has been spreading out at the global level, the healthcare systems have been deeply challenged, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses. The healthcare expenditures tremendously augmented along with the increase in the intensity of this new virus. In this context, a major concern was related to the fact that low and middle income states would be much harder hit than advanced countries not only from the economic point of view, but also from the healthcare services' perspective. Considering all these aspects, the purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of Coronavirus pandemic on the developing countries' healthcare and underline the short-term economic impact. Our results suggest that the number of deaths per million was more reduced in developing states than in the developed countries and, moreover, it has been growing much more slowly over time. Meanwhile, the economic impact in the developing countries was more reduced than in the advanced ones.

Keywords: healthcare systems, COVID-19 pandemic, wellbeing.