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Articles

Basic Solutions for Metric Instruments of Dissertations in Economic Sciences

Pano Lulanski

Developing research metrics is part of the design and system factor of each dissertation (and any study). Imprecise stipulation of this issue leads to a number of subsequent failures: deformation of the research structure, mismatch between the generated conclusions (recommendations) and reality, and others.

The object of this paper is the thesis in economic sciences, the subject is the metric tools, and the predicate is the technology to develop the metric system.

The approach to solving the research problem contains the main aspects of the consecutive investigation of the issue: justification of the importance of the research task, and analysis of the research framework (including the research metrics and stages of its development).

Some fundamental theses of the article can be summarized as follows: the academic supervisor is co-responsible with the doctoral student on the choice of reliable metrics (i.e. for the better informational provision of research); the research metrics is part of the research framework, respectively of the analysis design; the operationalization of the research indication is a product of the research metrics, and others.

Key words: analysis design, dissertation, developing research metrics, research indication.

JEL: A29, B41, C81, C82, Y4.

Analytical Applications for Processing Large Amounts of Data in Real Time

Kamelia Stefanova, Mihail Konchev

The Information Age of the society development creates growing challenges to the business-

es to invent new solutions and technologies for in-depth multidimensional analysis of the increasing information volumes. The competitiveness of the companies today depends mainly on their ability to timely assess the dynamic changes and challenges of the world competition. In order to take adequate decisions, the company management needs accurate information about the company status at specific moments. The effective management decision making approach requires real time processing and analysis of big data volumes. Supporting instruments for solving these needs appeared to become the analytical applications that identify events and processes in real-time, provide systematically collected information and produce reports and forecasts.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the analytical applications as part of the architectural model of real-time business intelligence system (BIS), to present the key components of real-time analytical applications and the processes accomplishing their job. Based on the real-time analytical applications principles the main characteristics of the software products analytical functionalities developed by the leading companies in BIS are outlined and summarized in a structured form.

Key words: business intelligent system, online analytical applications, real-time intelligence, real-time analytics, OLAP.

JEL: C61, C63, C8.

Formation of the Attitude of Students to the Administrative Profession

Luchian Milkov

The article presents some of the results from an empirical research, carried out in UNWE, with students in the speciality of "Public Administration".

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The research focused on issues relating to a person's willingness for professional and administrative labour.

The development of an emotional (sensual) side of people's attitude towards a profession is an important aspect in the formation of Public Administration professionals and their personality. Feelings are a core behavioural mechanism and a leading motive for action.

Analysis is made on the dynamics of the emotional sphere of attitude exhibited by students in year 3 and 4 as well those studying for their Masters in Public administration.

Key words: activity, profession, labour, feelings, willingness to work, administration, education, upbringing, development, personality.

JEL: A30, B32, M12, M30.

System for Comparative Testing of Products with Participation of Stakeholders from the Disclosure of Consumers' Information in Bulgaria

Elka Vasileva, Daniela Ivanova, Bogomil Nikolov

The paper discusses the possibilities for establishing a system for independent comparative tests of products on a national level with the participation of stakeholders in the provision of consumer information. The method of "in-depth interview" was used for the purposes of the survey. Interviews were conducted with 23 people - representatives of stakeholders from a system of independent comparative product tests: experts from the central government, representatives of the business and the sectoral organisations, non-governmental organisations, consumers' associations, representatives of the media and the specialized editions, consulting and certifying companies and educational organisations (universities), scientific research institutions, and others. The participants' views for generating and providing of independent information through consumers' comparative testing of products in Bulgaria are analyzed and summarized. On the basis of the expressed statements (content analysis) conclusions are drawn for the purpose, scope,

prerequisites for establishing a system for independent comparative product tests on a national level as well as opportunities for European and international cooperation in this field.

Key words: independent comparative testing of products, independent consumer product testing, system, stakeholders, consumers' information, Bulgaria.

JEL: C30, L15.

Quantitative Functional Evaluation of the Competitiveness of Business Organizations

Nikolay Shterev

The usual activities and performance of any business have been significantly changed by the economic and financial crisis of 2008. Therefore, the question that arises after 2008 is as follows: How the competitiveness of Bulgarian business has been changing?

The concepts of competition and competitiveness are well defined and there is no serious scientific discussion about them in the modern economic literature. But it is not the same when we talk about the applied side of the competitiveness' evaluation. There we find that the concept of competitiveness is complex and requires the evaluation of various indicators in one hand, but on the other hand, the competitiveness can be evaluated on four respectively different levels: product, business, sector, and region. This is causing significant differences in the methodological aspects of the competitiveness evaluation.

In this paper we present some of the main aspects of applied quantitative functional evaluation of the competitiveness at product/business level. In addition, they are set some limitations in quantitative evaluation the competitiveness of the Bulgarian industrial business.

Key words: competition, competitiveness, competitiveness' evaluation, quantitative functional approach.

JEL: C83, L20, M21.

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Developers versus Environmentalists: Public Choice and State Regulation

Georgi Manliev

The modern state is considered as catalyst for economic development. Numerous economic agents have become developers. They prepare business projects to develop natural resources to produce economic benefits. In opposition to them, however, stand the environmentalists and their organizations, because the implementation of the developer's projects leads to environmental degradation. What is the role of the state in this conflict? The analysis of the question comes next:

first, the public choice theory, which studies the collective decision making model of the state, including on the use of natural resources;

second, the welfare theory, which determines the meaning of the state interference and regulation: improving the social welfare system;

third, the cost-benefit analysis, which evaluates the net benefit of environmentally hazardous business projects in protected natural areas and their social rationality;

forth, the Kaldor-Hicks compensation criterion, according to which, when certain business subjects are becoming better off at the expense of others, it is necessary that the former will compensate the later with a part of their profit. Hence, the social welfare will improve.

The conclusion of the analysis: if business projects with potential ecological risks in the economic use of natural resources lead to the creation of net social value, the government should support their realization through environmental regulations and compensation mechanisms. This solution is a compromise of two conflicting economic standpoints in favour of the economic development and social welfare. This trade-off is a commonplace in the economic theory and policy (the choice between efficiency and equity in taxation) and is applicable to the conflict between developers and environmentalists. This approach contributes to the economic development, the preservation and conservation of the environment and improves the social welfare.

Key words: public choice, catalytic government, natural resources, sustainable development, social welfare, environmental damage, compensation test, resource allocation function of the government, state regulation, cost-benefit analysis.

JEL: Q5, Q56.

An Institutional Evolution of Societies towards Open Access and Market Exchange?

Teodor Sedlarski

This article investigates the analytical line of reasoning in D. North's, J. Wallis' and B. Weingast's research project "Violence and Social Orders", which unifies in an institutional explanation scheme the control over violence in human societies, the equilibrium of interests among the ruling coalition that secures the peace, and the possible transition to impersonal exchange. As the market exchange isn't a naturally given form of organizing social interaction, but requires erecting of specific institutional settings, this study demonstrates the new institutional approach to the explanation of the developments in economic history which made free markets and the democratic state organization possible during the European Renaissance. Research projects like North's, Wallis' and Weingast's pave the way for creating a modern political economy, which - based on a contemporary analytical apparatus - synthesizes the achievements in the social sciences of the last decades with the tradition of the early economic thought.

Key words: new economic history, institutional economics, political economy, open access societies, limited access societies, rule of law, impersonal exchange, monopoly of organized violence.

JEL: A12, B52, B25, O43, P16, Z10.

Significance of the Emergentiality of the Long Term System Connections in the Government Budget Policy

Petar Mitev

The short term horizons of political decisions set the demographic tendencies aloof of the attention of all governments. At the same

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time namely the demographic tendencies form implicit system connections which prove to be fundamentally significant for the budget policy and for the social welfare.

This paper investigates the main principles of modeling budget policy. A special focus underlines the strength of the emergentality arising from the long term system connections at the highest hierarchical level in the public sector.

A simplified scheme illustrates part of these connections and the morphological analysis is presented as a valuable tool for optimizing the budget policy system.

Key words: budget policy, emergentality, long term system connections, hierarchical system analysis, morphological analysis.

JEL: H11, H50, H55.

Healthcare Expenditure in the European Union the Period 2000-2009

Dimitar At. Dimitrov

Magdalena Baymakova, Georgi Popov

Objective: Expenditure on health is always topical and worldwide. It affects a large population of a country, especially when the majority is aging. The purpose of this work is through the analysis of health expenditure in EU countries for the period 2000-2009 to track and summarize the data, trends and patterns.

Methods: We used the method of comparison and the method of abstraction. We analyzed the information on World Health Organization basic data.

Results: Explored three main indicators - health expenditure per capita, health expenditure as a percentage of GDP, public and private expenditure on health as percentage of total expenditure on health.

Conclusions: A trend of increasing health care expenditures. The reasons are many but the main is the aging.

Key words: health, expenditures, European Union.

JEL: A12; C13; I10.

Discussion

The Flat Income Tax – Proportion or Progression

Rumen Brusarski

This paper examines the technique of the flat income tax. At the end of last century and the beginning of current century many Central and Eastern European countries established flat progressive tax on personal income – a combination of non-taxable income and flat marginal tax rate. Bulgaria chose different technique – a proportional income tax. Recently many specialists propose reconsideration of this choice and substitution of proportional taxation with progressive taxation. Suitable alternatives to flat proportional tax are Bentham progression and negative income tax.

Key words: personal income tax, labor income, flat tax.

JEL: H24.

Fiscal Board (PACT) – a New Form of Old Weapons for Strict Fiscal Discipline

Velcho Stiyonov

Exchange (trade market), the money "surplus" and the budget is the financial and economic phenomena, known in antiquity. Their importance, however, is the utmost in modern times. It is then "born" and modern budget (1688). Almost parallel with the budget deficits arise, and also fight against them. This fight has gone through various stages to go today to the fiscal board, fiscal pact or agreement for financial and economic (and social) stability, whose efficiency is efficiency yet to understand. Hopefully it fate similar to its predecessors because Keynesianism continues to live, even behind the veil of neoliberalism.

Key words: fiscal board, fiscal pact, state budget debt.

JEL: B41.

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