
Preface to the March Issue

The March issue of the Financial and Economic Review would like to contribute to the Pénz7 (Money Week) – organised in Hungary for the second time this year – with the studies published in the journal.

The European Money Week, a series of events launched on the initiative of the European Banking Federation in 2015, aims to draw attention to the importance of financial education and awareness-raising for school-age students through the pan-European cooperation of countries joining the event. The countries participating in the week-long programme reach out to students with the help of special lessons and playful, interactive competitions based on group involvement. Thanks to the joint efforts of the Hungarian Banking Association and the Pénziránytű Alapítvány (Money Compass Foundation), the Hungarian organisers of the events, within the framework of this financial-themed week more and more Hungarian primary and secondary school students are able to acquire the practical knowledge and skills necessary for responsibly managing day-to-day financial matters.

Ninety thousand students from 660 primary and secondary schools – almost one-third of all the students in Europe reached by the programme – and more than 1,000 teachers participated in the first Hungarian Pénz7 held in the spring of 2015. The interest substantially exceeded the anticipated level and continued to increase this year as well: in 2016 more than 102,000 students from almost 800 schools are participating in the special financial lessons organised within the framework of the Pénz7.

The thematic week will take place between 7 and 11 March and focus on financial awareness and savings. This will be the central message of the playful, interactive competitions of the event series, and the special lessons organised specifically for the Pénz7 will also be based around this theme. This year, the organisers provide four different sets of financial and economic study material appropriate for four different age groups and specifically designed for the Pénz7. The high quality of the materials is guaranteed by the author team consisting of experienced teachers working in cooperation with the Hungarian Institute for Educational Research and Development.

The Pénziránytű Alapítvány offers teachers from participating schools comprehensive support in the form of free access to teaching materials and special training opportunities which facilitate instruction of the material. Thanks to the cooperation of the Hungarian Banking Association, approximately 250 financial experts will be taking part in teaching the lessons on a volunteer basis, contributing to the advancement of students' knowledge through their experiences and expertise.

The editorial office of the Financial and Economic Review highly recommends the studies in the current and previous issues, in the hopes of raising the financial awareness and thriftiness of coming generations.

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