

Brief Summary of the Articles

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**More than 5 years as a Member State of the Union:
financial summary of the first period**

BENŐ PÉTER BANAI

After six years of Hungary's accession to the European Union we can summarize results of the use of community funds, and check whether the original assumptions and expectations were fulfilled, achieved. According to the factual data from 2004–2009, this period can be characterized by slower than expected and by robust seasonal absorption of community funds. However, the slower absorption hasn't – or in just a minor rate – resulted in the lose of subsidies; at the same time, Hungary has performed well as regards both the absorption rate and the so-called net position in comparison with the other new Member States. Notwithstanding, the use of community funds itself has not, could not eventuated in the country's economic catch-up to the center of the Union. On the basis of empirical data from the last years, it is very difficult to verify and to measure achievement of the original objectives of community development and agricultural funds.

China's modernisation experience: theoretical controversies

ANDREA SZALAVETZ

China's modernisation experience has greatly contributed to international literature dedicated to the analysis of catching-up and modernisation success stories. Nevertheless, the fact that existing analyses can fill libraries has not facilitated the appraisal of China's modernisation, since literature abounds in contradictory assessments and opposite conclusions. This paper surveys some debated elements of the Chinese modernisation as well as related discussions in international literature. It tackles the "assimilation versus accumulation debate", the discussions concerning the sustainability of Chinese growth, and the arguments related to the duality of Chinese

economic structure. We try to answer why China-experts come to contradicting conclusions. Our standpoint concerning the issues tackled by the surveyed literature is optimistic. China has made great leaps forward in many subsystems of the economy (science and technology policy, infrastructure, regional development, restructuring of SOEs etc.): it diminished the economy's structural distortions and reinforced the intensive elements of economic growth. Although the unavoidable structural distortions that emerged as a side-effect of China's modernisation still prevail, in the short run China's growth path is not threatened by hard landing, a scenario economies with extensive, investment-driven growth usually bump into.

**Further step towards Toyotism? –
Automotive supplier systems and the possible effects of the crisis**
ÁDÁM MÉSZÁROS

The study analyses the transformation of the automotive supplier system. In the Fordist system the suppliers produce smaller, simple products and they cannot form deep relationship with OEMs, but the Toyotist system is based on suppliers which are large, can produce complex products and can establish a deep cooperation with their partners. The supplier system of foreign firms operating in Hungary have the characteristics of Toyotism and Fordism as well – is the conclusion of our empirical research, based on in-depth corporate interviews with the suppliers of Suzuki. The reasons behind that are, on one hand, the nature of the domestic company structure and, on the other hand, the strategy of foreign companies. The analyzed system is a special combination of these characteristics. The crisis, which deeply affected the automotive industry, may have long-term effects on suppliers systems. Nowadays, in the middle of the crisis, according to the available experiences and data, the system seems to be moving towards Toyotism; this could be felt in the forthcoming years even in Hungary. The technological changes, the growing concentration and the higher level of requirements in the deeper inter-firm cooperations will entail threats and opportunities for Hungarian suppliers.

**Competition and concentration in the energy supply:
an overview after the liberalisation**
PÉTER VINCE

The liberalisation of the Hungarian electricity and natural gas markets has been completed in 2009. The liberalisation of the electricity market resulted in different competitive positions in the production, the wholesale and the retail trade. The high level of market concentration survived in the power production, and a similarly high

level concentration of the wholesale market would have subsisted without the efforts of the competition authority. The competition on the retail market was stimulated by the termination of public utility supply, and the share of unregulated market has expanded. This paper sums up the competitive positions at the beginning of the liberalisation process both in the electricity and the natural gas markets and presents the changes due to liberalisation.

Sales and retail price pattern on the market of milk products
IMRE FERTŐ – LAJOS ZOLTÁN BAKUCS

We test some predictions of sale theory using milk products in Hungary as an example with chain level data. Competing predictions on price distributions are not accepted. We can reject also that manufacturers determine sales. Results do not confirm that durable goods should have qualitatively different pricing pattern than less-durable goods. Regarding to temporal order of sales our estimations support the hypothesis of alternate sales. In sum, predictions of existing models of retail sales confirm only partly some aspects of the sales.