

Abstracts of the Articles

Economic analyses in spring 2017*

To take off or not to take off – that is main question for 2017. The economic growth decelerated in 2016 since the financing from the EU cohesion and structural funds has slowed down. Investments also collapsed. Analysts have been calculating on speeding up the EU funding this year and the government introduced its own stimuli: a 15 percent increase of the general minimum wages and another 25 percent plus for the minimum salaries of the skilled workers. Some fiscal expansion and easy monetary policy would also promote growth. The GDP would increase at about 3,2-4,2 percent, but improving investments could hardly recover the last year's loss. Apart from the EU funds, household consumption would be the main driving force for growth. Inflation has been accelerating but remains below the 3 percent target of the Hungarian National Bank. Unemployment keeps falling to 4,2–4,4 percent although the government decided to withdraw money from the public work scheme. Government debt is expected to remain still on a declining path.

Changing role of the state in French economy

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In France, the state's involvement in business has a centuries-long legacy enrooted among others in the French most specific conception of public service, the excellence of which consists of a permanent search for collective, nation-wide benefits, like for example social, economic and territorial cohesion. All this does not mean that today's French economy and the role the State plays in it are basically different from what they are in other developed European countries. Although State intervention has, by the nationalisation course of the 20th century, strengthened in several waves, Paris cannot, since the mid-1980s, but adapt itself to what its partners believe in: deregulation, privatisation, and market orientation instead of State intervention, all in line with trends in international economics (i.e. neoliberalism,

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new public management, and globalisation). If, however, French banks seem to have been more than average resistant to global financial crisis, or French government seems, by the force of laws, to retain certain corporations of the competitive sector in their portfolio, these phenomena are little to do with a sort of new dirigisme or economic patriotism, but rather with French elite's common educational and cultural roots, or with internal policy constraints and latitude.

Aid motivations behind the aid allocation of Kuwait as an Arab donor

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The role of emerging donors is gradually growing in international development cooperation. Besides China, Brazil and India, aid allocations of the Arab donors (Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) have become important, although we have relatively low information on their activity, institutional background and motivations. This is the fact though the Arab donors have a wide multilateral cooperation and Kuwait has been providing aid since the 1960s. So this article is focusing on the Arab donors and analyses the motivations behind the aid allocations of Kuwait. Since trade relations are also important in allocating aid, we analyse not the whole official development assistance and the Aid for Trade provided by Kuwait. According to the literature review and the results of the statistical analysis consisting of 124 developing countries, aid allocations of Kuwait are motivated by the common language and the GDP per capita, but the amount of aid is influenced by the better economic performance of the recipient country.