

International aspects of Public Economics are increasingly relevant because of deepening economic integration among countries, as well as increased mobility of capital and labour across international borders, which pose challenges for the design of tax systems and tax administration. Moreover, ongoing simultaneous fiscal consolidation in the world's largest economies and economic areas affects the impact of national fiscal policy moves on global demand. At the same time, sluggish growth and growing income inequality in most advanced economies call for reforms to make public policies, such as the design of tax-benefit systems, increasingly pro-growth and equity-friendly.

Against this background, the aim of this special issue is to bring together both theoretical and empirical contributions in different areas of International Public Economics. The contributions included in this issue are focused on taxation, including such topics as the taxation of high incomes, the impact of tax structures on the economy, and transfer pricing, as well as the convergence of public spending, complementing the existent literature on the tax convergence.

This special issue features four articles.

The first paper, by *Vito Tanzi*, analyses the so-called "taxation of the big". This is a topical issue given the widening inequality in most advanced economies. The paper focuses on changes in the design of income taxes and concludes that the lowering of tax rates on high incomes was a major reason for increasing income inequality.

The second paper, by *Jorge Martinez-Vazquez* and *Violeta Vulovic*, addresses the structure of tax systems in Latin America and analyzes their impact on the real economy. The authors conclude that greater reliance on direct taxes does not appear to play a significant role in dampening economic volatility or reducing income inequality in the region, although it would act as a drag on economic growth, although this effect is weaker than in the rest of the world.

Jesus Ferreiro, *Carlos Alberto Carrasco* and *Carmen Gomez* study the convergence of the composition of the public expenditure in the European Union. Although the authors find convergence in the size as percentage of total public expenditures over GDP, the empirical evidence reported in the paper does not point to a convergence in the composition of public expenditures among countries. Hence the authors remark that there is not a single model of public expenditure in Europe.

Finally, the paper by *Soren Bo Nielsen* looks at transfer pricing. He analyses four different transfer pricing regimes for multinational enterprises, which pursue two objectives, strategic delegation and tax minimization. The author provides evidence of trade-offs between the two aims, conditioned by the internal transfer pricing policy of the multinational enterprise and the attitude of tax authorities to transfer pricing.

The issue also includes six articles in the General Section.

Antonio Calvo Bernardino and *Irene Martín de Vidales Carrasco* study the experience of banking bailouts in Spain, Germany, Ireland, Iceland and USA. They show that the strategies followed by the countries have not been equal and hence the consequences are different for them.

Ana Salomé García Muñiz and *Valentín Solís Arias* assess the emergence of global value chains in international trade from a network perspective. They propose a specific methodology and the results for the 2005-2009 period highlight the role of the United States and Germany in global value chains and the effect of technology intensity in shaping global value chains.

Encarnación Moral Pajares and *Francisca Jiménez Jiménez* focus on migration within the European Union during the first decade of this century. By introducing considerations related to the productive structure of destination countries and their migration policies, the authors conclude that whereas agriculture and construction exert significant pull forces, whereas manufacturing reduces considerably migrant density.

Yoichi Oizumi and *Félix Fernando Muñoz Pérez* review the contributions of Kaname Akamatsu in the context of the Japanese industrial development model. This model, originally applied to developing economies, was introduced in countries as South Korea and China and is based on the links between the international trade, foreign direct investment and industrial development.

Francisco Rodríguez Ortiz assesses Germany's policy responses to the global crisis. The author argues that the German strategy is not appropriate for growth in Europe. To the contrary, Germany should stand up and take a sensible leadership, guiding an expansionary bias to its economic policy to offset impact of Eurozone's peripheral countries adjustments.

Finally, *Antonio Sianes Castaño*, *M^a Luz Ortega Carpio* and *M^a Rosa Cordón Pedregosa* discuss whether development education may enhance policy coherence for development. They review the literature and the indexes to evaluate the development of this perspective.

We acknowledge the support by the Editorial Team of *Revista de Economía Mundial*, and especially *Maria Teresa Aceytuno*. We are in debt with the authors and the anonymous referees. We hope that the papers presented in this issue can inform the work of researchers and policy-makers in this field.

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