

Empirical research in the field of Global Economics continues to try to answer the fundamental question about the effects of economic activity on quality of life. In this issue, we present contributions of interest to ongoing discussions in scientific literature regarding the effects of globalization on inequality; the potential of digitalization to drive transformations in low-income and depopulation-prone regions; and the effects of migratory movements on the economic growth of receiving countries. We also present two novel methodological contributions related to the measurement of quality of life using multidimensional indicators and to the analysis of the determinants of the evolution of the unemployment rate. The issue ends with an analysis of the contribution of central banks to academic research.

The first article, by Rosa Duarte, Adrián Espinosa-Gracia, Sofía Jiménez and Julio Sánchez-Chóliz, “Intra-Country Inequality and Involvement in GVCs: The Case of EU-28”, presents the results of the study on how inequality, affects participation in countries’ Global Value Chains. As we said at the beginning, the aim is to contribute to studying the social effects of the globalization model, characterized by the fragmentation of production. The paper uses a multi-regional input-output framework combined with econometric analysis, focuses on the EU-28 countries, and covers 1995-2018.

Anna Garashchuk, Fernando Isla Castillo and Pablo Podadera Rivera in “Depopulation of EU Lower-income Regions: Can Digitalization via Broadband Access Reduce It?”, provide empirical evidence that digitalization of lower-income NUTS-2 regions in Europe can contribute to reversing negative demographic trends. Using composite panel data from 242 EU NUTS-2 regions in the period 2006-2019, they provide evidence of the positive effects of digital technology deployment. This is particularly evident in the most disadvantaged or lower-income regions, isolated regions and regions in industrial transition, contributing to the reversal of negative demographic trends.

The third article, “The Effects of Eastern-Western Mobility in the EU on Economic Development”, by Ramona Pirvu, Sorin Tudor, Elena Jianu, Alina Georgiana Holt, Roxana Bădîrcea and Flavia Andreea Murtaza, presents the results of the analysis of the effects on the growth, employment and productivity

of migrants in the economies of developed EU countries. The results indicate a positive and statistically significant influence of immigration from EU countries.

The main contribution of the paper “Multidimensional indicators of quality of life in EU countries. Changes in weights” is the development and testing of a new method of calculating weights in synthetic quality of life indicators. The authors, María-Carmen Sánchez-Sellero, Beatriz García-Carro and Elena Fernández-Sánchez, contrast the intention of the proposal with EUROSTAT data for the EU27 countries for the year 2020. The new weights change countries’ quality of life indicators; however, they do little to change countries’ rankings in comparison with each other.

The following paper, by María Luísa Lascurain-Sánchez, Nuria Bautista-Puig, Elena López-De-La-Fuente and Elías Sanz-Casado, entitled “How Did the 2008 Economic Crisis Affect Central Banks’ Research Topics? The Case of CEMLA Associates and Collaborating Members”, analyses the contribution to academic research by the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA) and the evolution of research topics in economic literature throughout the non-crisis and crisis period. This is a bibliometric analysis of the period 2000-2019.

The issue ends with “Unemployment in Greece and Cyprus in the 21st century: an analysis from a European perspective” by Pedro Fernández Sánchez, María-Carmen García-Centeno, Inmaculada Hurtado Ocaña and M^a Jesús Arroyo Fernández. It addresses one of the most significant issues that hinder the real convergence of European economies. They present an explanatory model of unemployment since the beginning of the 21st century in two Mediterranean economies, Greece and Cyprus, with important historical, cultural and economic ties. The identification of variables that may influence unemployment is completed in this paper with an analysis of the employment policies undertaken by these countries in the years before and after the 2009 crisis.

As always, we hope that the contents presented here will be of interest to those working in the field of global economics and will contribute to improving the knowledge of the scientific community as a whole, as well as the effectiveness of economic policies.

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