

EDITORIAL

This issue aimed to gather contributions that focus on understanding the profound changes witnessed after the fall of the Communist regimes. The contributions were expected to study the various paths followed in the attempt to create new political, economic, and social systems in post-Communist societies, both in Eastern Europe and the former USSR. Four out of five articles focus on aspects concerning various aspects of economic reforms while the fifth focus on the evolution of NGOs in this period

Isa Mulaj's article focuses on redefining property rights with specific reference to social ownership in the successor states of former Yugoslavia, from the point of view of economic efficiency. The author analyses the privatization of social ownership, trying to identify the effects of this redefinition. He concludes that from a historical perspective privatization is not the key to economic development, but it depends on how well ownership fits in the economic system and broader environment such as political and institutional stability.

The issue of effectiveness of governmental regulation on human capital development is approached by Igor Dunayev with a data rich single case study on Ukraine. By using qualitative measures obtained from an expert-survey his approach goes beyond macro-quantitative indicators. He portrays the social-and-political

governmental impact on formation and development of productive human ability as the first principle for future economical growth. The core findings of the article underlie that many processes of HCD and innovation regulation would not be successful when there is an imbalance between tactics and strategy, namely that positive dynamics by single constituents (e.g., schooling, applied science) are unable to provide for stable human development through the minor positive changes by other constituents (e.g., life-long studying, fundamental science, modern IT knowledge).

Ioana Mureşan approaches a micro-level the issue of heating systems reform in the case of Romania. The article models and empirically investigates, from a game theoretical and rational choice perspective, the distinction between individual and collective action, and how the former can cause the failure of the latter. Overall, the results show that if enough people cooperate in order to modernize district heating systems, both individual and social costs can be lower than in the case of individual heating systems.

A comparative approach on the evolution of welfare state regimes in transition countries between Romania and Moldova is used by Irina Burlacu in order to contribute to current debates concerning the welfare states classifications and their modifications. Her article provides a strong argument that not all welfare states fit into the traditional welfare state typologies as

that of Gøsta Esping-Andersen's classification. Since the typology refers originally only to Western European state, with the conjuncture of the European Union enlargement and presence of other welfare types with different evolution, the need for reconsideration of the traditional approach appears. Based on secondary data and the use of Hierarchical Cluster Analysis, the analysis shows that according to the social protection expenditure, Romania and Moldova are in the same cluster, even if not forming a clear separate group. Moreover, although separated from clusters formed by EU-25, there are high discrepancies in social protection in terms of GDP expenditure on social protection between these two countries.

Lewis Akenji is interested in the internal problems (shortage of funds, lack of capacity, inefficient management of projects) and external problems (lack of supportive networks, information unavailability, no common perspective on priority issues, and overlap of interests) faced by NGOs from the point of view of the organizational development and sustainability of non-governmental organizations in central and eastern Europe. The author concludes that if NGOs working in sustainability want the message they drum to be heard, they

must start taking themselves seriously in order for their target groups – government, businesses, citizens – to take up the rhythm.

Notes for Contributors

The formal article requirements remain the same and can be found at our web address – [www.ceu.hu/polscijournal]. Articles must consist of 4,000-6,000 words, while any appendixes should not be longer than 5 pages. These requirements apply also to the submissions qualifying as “work in progress,” while the book reviews should not be longer than 1,200 words. Exceptions from these rules might be allowed, but a good justification should be addressed to the members of the Editorial Board, who will consider it only if the reviewers believe that going over the word limit is needed with respect to the content of the article. An additional requirement, which should be met by all submissions, is that any article, work in progress or book review submitted to us for publication should not be under review at other publications or should not have been already accepted for publication elsewhere.

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