

## **Gazdasági válságok – Kockázati tényezők, vezetési gyakorlatok és társadalmi hatások**

[Olivia Wilson-Flores: Economic Crises – Risk Factors, Management Practices and Social Impacts (Gazdasági válságok – Kockázati tényezők, vezetési gyakorlatok és társadalmi hatások). Nova Publishers, New York, 2017.]

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Researches related to the crisis have their renaissance since 2008-2009. More and more analysis deal with the evolvement of crisis and try to find the answer to the following question: why alarm systems did not work appropriately and why the actors of economic life did not pay due attention to premonitory signs. These crisis analysis primarily approach questions only from one aspect and investigate processes within a given country, while in the other big group are those analyses which concentrate on corporate analysis. The latter works demonstrate the negative effect of the crisis (mainly the one in 2008-2009) from the side of companies, introduce the altered environment of competition and give recommendation to the applicable strategy or „ideas” in case of economic slowdown. However, only few publication were issued which introduced this topic widely and approaching it from more than one side. Therefore my opinion is that the book edited by Olivia Wilson-Flores is a stop-gap volume in the literature of crisis researches. In the book got the impact of crisis on welfare and security special attention which, after its falloff, falls increasingly into the background.

The book consist of 8 chapters in which both theoretical and practical studies, which work up and introduce countries as case studies, got place. In the

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first part the author, Christina Calvo Porral, deals with a very interesting issue. She analyses the practical effect of crisis on marketing strategy. She examines whether crisis influences applied marketing methods and instruments to any extent at all. The starting point for research is the change of consumer behaviour experienced during the crisis. Author identifies those factors to which consumers respond sensitively (prices, discounts, and brands) through an economic fall-back. The writer of the study offers different alternative strategies to companies depending on consumers whom the want to win – according to the sensitivity of consumers. The answer to the main question of study whether marketing strategy have to be changed is obviously yes.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter the author, Eva Kiss, analyses the impact of the crisis on corporations. The writer of the study emphasizes intervening changes in the Hungarian industrial environment, therefore in the structure of companies and in their economic activity on the one hand, while in the other hand she analyses crisis management techniques adopted by companies, finally she introduces their aggregate effect on these branches of industry. The basic assumption of work is that in Hungarian economy and within in the industry economic decline did not shape a classical V-letter, but it was W-shaped, which is getting more common in new age. Therefore deterioration which was experienced by companies was bigger compared to the previous fall-backs. In this chapter the transformation of the Hungarian industry and the showing up of branches of industry and industrial distinct are introduced since the change of regime to nowadays and she writes down their main features. The author concludes that those companies which are exposed to the changes of world economy in bigger scale (which are closer to the global economy) felt almost immediately and significantly the negative effect of the crisis. She draws attention to the fact that diversification of Hungarian industry must be strengthened, while the dependency should be weakened, in order to be not so sensitive for similar crisis in the future.

3<sup>rd</sup> chapter leads us from economic impact to social consequence of crisis. Through the analyzation of Slovenian better life quality, as an example, authors (Katja Rasic, Matjaz Mulej and Vesna Cancer) introduce the impact of crisis on society. They examine four main questions, the effect of technological researches, innovation and knowledge on economic growth and the relationship between economic growth and quality of life. After the normalization of variables they established the relation among them with Pearson-correlation analysis, and then, in order to determine the concrete effect, they did regression-analysis. Authors came to the conclusion that technological researches, innovation

and knowledge influence significantly economic growth and growth has positive impact on quality of life in Slovakian case. In point of fact, in order to determine the quality of life, the gross domestic products as an indicator has to be expanded with other variables like environmental component, human factor and health condition which were created by authors.

In the chapter 4 authors (Melissa Morone, Gabriele Giorgi and Javier Fiz Pérez) approach the effect of crisis from social side, they examine its consequences and the crisis related attitudes of employers and employees. Writers investigate stress situations caused by economic crisis, and the answers, reactions given to them and their relations to each other. From the side of employees special emphasis is placed on fear as a negative emotional factor which causes the loss of confidence, frustration, and unquietness and increases the possibility of developing mental problems (authors regard it as hot reaction). Approaching this topic from the other side, however crisis improves the quality of work because employees do not want to lose their workplaces, therefore they attempt to do better quality and more efficient work which is a positive change from the aspect of employers (this is referred to as cold reaction). After the analyzation of 2008's crisis they determined that hot reactions dominated and the health conditions of employees deteriorated unequivocally which was related to stress.

The 5<sup>th</sup> chapter approaches the social problems caused by crisis from the aspect of psychology. Authors (Marco Innamorati, Maurizio Pompili, David Lester and Bijou Yang) analyse the relationship between suicides and economic crisis with the assumption that there is not clear connection between the changes of economic processes and the number of suicides. Although, more studies refer to dangerous consequence of both economic decline and economic growth as well. In the literature review they introduce those authors' publications whose emphasize that crises have different impact on different age-groups, different genders and on employees of different employment forms. Writers after this review, determine that there is not clearly defined relationship between the number of suicides and economic processes.

Similar topic is unfolded on the Spanish example in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter. Authors, A. I. Masedo Gutiérrez and B. Moreno-Küstner, examine the effect of economic crises on mental health. Spain struggles with serious economic and social problems because of the crisis which evolved in 2008. Unemployment and decreasing incomes of households put huge pressure on population. In the European Union, examination of poverty is not confined to minimum level of subsistence and to proportion of people who live below the poverty line but the organization determine the number of indulgent with deprivation survey. Based

on this, authors established that the ratio of population who is threatened by both deprivation and serious deprivation is increased and the same time the ratio of those people who live under poverty line and minimum level of subsistence as well. The regeneration is almost insignificant. Consequently the mental health of society is continuously deteriorating and the number of antidepressant users is increasing, similarly to the number of drug users. In spite that this statement is regarded as a fact in Spain only few study was written about suggestions in order to eliminate or at least handle the problem. Therefore, authors make proposal about solution in the final part of the chapter.

The authors, Ozgur Ozdamar and Eleftherios Giovanis, in the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter examine two main research questions. On the one part they study the impact of law on Austrian Health Fund, on the other part writers examine the impact of the 2008's crisis on the economy of vulnerable countries (like Hungary, Italy, France, Spain and Portugal) and they compare them with such countries which have similar characteristics but were less effected by crisis like the Polish or Czech one. The focus of investigation is on health, living conditions and quality of life. The base of the research is a European questionnaire which analysed the health conditions, aging and pension situation in European countries between 2004 and 2012. With Differences-in-Differences model they analyse the effect of crisis on mental health and living conditions. Related to the first research question, which examined the law about the Austrian Health Fund, they determined that the Fund provides protection in the maintenance of living conditions and quality of life, furthermore it helps to keep up mental health and improvement on affected areas can be clearly detectable after the law was issued. While in the case of other countries in the course of the analysis of both quality of life and living conditions deterioration could be obviously seen because of the crisis. Through the authors' research it has been established that the possibility of better living conditions, healthier life and better quality of life decreased among well-educated people.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> and last chapter we leave the European framework and we get an insight to Madagascar's economic process and we get to know with the effect of the crisis on society. Author, Michel Garenne, goes back to 1960s with long-term analyses and investigate the connection among social, demographical, health situation and political, economic crisis. She establishes that before the revolution of 1973 the country was above the African average based on economic indicators but after it an obvious deterioration was observable. Political crisis resulted decreasing social and demographical indicators. At the same time, the number of population increased during the analysed period.

Author explains it with those fields which were involved into agriculture and therefore food-supply improved. On the other hand infant and child mortality decreased except 1974-1986 period because of the developing medical science. In case of education and marriage trend changes unfavourable. Years spent in school by adults clearly decreased during the analysed period and got significantly below the African average. The age when women get married shows obviously rejuvenation since 1970, so women got married ever younger age in Madagascar which refers to contrary process of development from the aspect of society.

The diversity of chapters provides insight into those regions and economic peripheries which does not fit into mainstream literature. The book approaches the effect of crisis on society from a new aspect and therefore opens new ways and topics in researches which authors make proposal at the end of each chapters to. I recommend this book to those who are interested in economic crises and their impact on society and would like to get information about the consequences of economic decline in different geographical regions.