

FROM THE EDITORS

We take the liberty to issue a new international journal devoted to the new discipline in economic sciences – transborder economics. The objective of this editorial initiative is the creation of an open forum for presentation of the achievements of economists, statisticians and practitioners, exchange of experiences and ideas supporting the activities and cooperation of politicians, businesses and social organizations involved in transborder phenomena, processes and transborder regions.

The phenomenon of transborder economy is new in economic sciences, although in practice transborder phenomena and processes are playing an important role in economic development in many countries and regions in a globalized world and deep interventionism of political regulations in economy. Many economists working in the field of international and regional cooperation have seen that the processes of development of regions located close to the borderlines between countries cannot be explained using theoretical approaches, analytical method and statistical tools of “traditional” macroeconomics and regional economics. Those scientists have elaborated many contributions defining transborder economies as specific socio-economic systems, elaborating theoretical foundations of transborder economics, methodological approaches and numerous empirical studies.

The progress achieved shows that there is a need to create an open forum for scientists and practitioners involved in research and practical activity in transborder economies. The international journal TRANSBORDER ECONOMICS is such a forum filling in the gap on the editorial market.

The importance of transborder phenomena, processes and economies is dynamically growing along the development of globalization and more open market-driven economy. During last decades, the phenomena of globalization in politics, economy and social processes have changed the structures and the functioning of economies on regional, national and local scale, as well as in sectors and branches of economy. The forms and strength of impact of globalization on branches and national economies depend on the development and implementation of technological progress, especially in ICT, transport, mechanization and automation of production processes, the increase in scale of production.

Nowadays many branches of economy are global, are becoming global or supra-national, e.g. banking sector, other branches of financial sector (insurance sector, stock exchange, financial intermediary services, etc.), air and sea transport, telecommunication, research and development, specialized education, specialized health services, production and distribution of strategic raw materials and energy. All those phenomena of globalization are of interest of politicians, businesses and economic sciences. Branch-oriented economic sciences have developed theoretical foundations, methods of monitoring and measuring as well as models of national economies and branches in globalized economic, political and technological environments.

However the impact of globalization was observed and analysed - as a rule - only on supranational scale of branches represented by global organizations of producers or distributors of products, on the level of supranational companies and international organizations. The impact of globalization on regional or local scale, or on branches that had not created their institutionalized representations at the global level, was not the priority for economists and for economic policy of countries. The domains of economic and social life that were not the priority for scientists and politicians up to now were transborder economies. The journal shall contribute to better and wider understanding of the importance and the role of transborder economies and of transborder economics as a new scientific discipline in economic sciences.

The formation of transborder economies as specific economic systems is the consequence of liberalization of economic policy of neighbouring countries, reduction of institutional, political, legal and technical barriers of cooperation of social and economic subjects – residents of different countries. For centuries the borders were the lines of isolation and the tools of full control of economic and social contacts between subjects – residents of different countries. All contacts between subjects were monitored, controlled and limited by very detailed specific laws, executed by customs, border crossing control, licenses, permissions, prohibitions, orders, etc.

The *isolative* character of borderlines was the tool of forming the national economies as closed economic and social systems. Thanks to relatively full control of all processes between national economies and contacts of residents of different countries, it was possible to identify and define national economies as relatively independent, separated systems. The isolating function of political borders was considered the basis for development of macroeconomics, starting from Quesney and Ricardo.

The basic concept of all macroeconomic theories was the concept of *national economy* as the system separated conceptually from the *rest of the world*. The same paradigm is the unquestionable foundation of the system of national

accounts (SNA) and all theories of macroeconomic growth and development of national economies, economic categories and statistical indicators measuring all economic and social processes on all levels. This assumption, or rather a dogma on the *isolative functions of political borders*, is also accepted by microeconomics - microeconomic subjects are identified and analysed as entities of national economies, operating within the frames of national economies, contacting the rest of the world through the gateways created for them by the governments of national economies. It is also the basis of supranational regulations and regulative indicators (e.g. convergence criteria), especially in the European Union.

The assumption on the isolation of national economies by political borders is not true in the regions, in which the governments of countries have decided to liberalize international trade of goods and services, introduce more freedom of movement of people, conducting economic and social activities by non-residents of countries. WTO regulations, free trade zones, common economic spaces, and – last but not least – the creation of political, social and economic unions like the European Union, are rather common forms of the cooperation between national economies and between social and economic subjects of different countries “above” political borders.

Nowadays in many parts of the world, national economies as economic and social systems are fuzzy. However, macroeconomics and official statistics seem to underrate this fact both in theoretical considerations, methodological researches and empirical analyses. For example, macroeconomists, econometricians and politicians continually use the SNA indicators as the self-contained, full information system sufficient not only for analysis of economies of different countries, ranking and rating the economies, but also for taking concrete decisions on the basis of algebraic relations between incidentally selected SNA indicators, including the punishing of the governments and countries if their national economies do not meet arbitrarily values of those relations. The lack of understanding of the fuzziness of national economies may lead to erroneous macroeconomic decisions of governments. The price of these errors and gaps in theory, methods and empirical studies is paid by all subjects – individuals, households, entrepreneurs operating in transborder economies.

Many economists, statisticians and practitioners understand very well the consequences and specificity of the fuzziness of national economies as economic systems. Good understanding of this specificity of national economies in a globalized world is well understood on local level, in the areas, in which direct diffusion of economic and social phenomena and processes is observed in everyday life.

The diffusion of social and economic processes between countries is extremely extensive and decisive for economic development in the neighbouring areas of countries that have liberalized the contacts of their residents through the borders. These processes of liberalization are advanced in many regions of the world, especially in Europe, America and in some regions of other continents. Also, in the regions, in which the isolative and control function of borders is tight, there are often some areas of economic activity that are liberalized, e.g. international tourism, transborder trade of some goods, common transborder labour markets, common development and the use of infrastructures and common environmental projects.

The globalization, liberalization of international trade, technological cooperation and political initiatives of common researches and infrastructural project has created in many regions of the world a new type of economic systems – transborder economies.

Transborder economies in a globalized world are a specific class of economic systems that need theoretical foundations, conceptual basis, methods of modelling transborder phenomena, processes and systems, as well as statistical indicators representing the specificity of transborder economies. There are several research centres that are involved in research works aiming to analyse historical and cultural environment of transborder regions, to develop theoretical backgrounds, methods, statistics and to elaborate empirical case studies of transborder economies.

We do hope that the international journal TRANSBORDER ECONOMICS will fill in the gap on the map of economic journals and will popularize the problem of transborder phenomenon among scientists and practitioners. The journal is open for authors who are willing to contribute to the development of this new economic discipline.

Welcome on board of transborder economics!!!

Prof. Józef Oleński
Chairman of the Editorial
Advisory Board

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Editor-in-Chief