Dissertation topics for academic year 2020/2021

Field of study: Economics and Management

Study programme: Economics and Management of Agriculture and Food Processing

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Supervisor:
prof.h.c. doc. Ing. Natália Turčeková, PhD.
Dissertation topic:

Features of Formation and Prospects of Development of the Eurasian Economic Union and its Partnership with the European Union

The purpose of the dissertation thesis is the development of theoretical foundations and the development of practical recommendations that can give dynamism to the Eurasian integration process, and particularly its partnership with the European Union. To achieve this goal, a number of interrelated tasks are formulated: -substantiate the methodology of the process of Eurasian integration, taking into account the characteristics of the processes of globalization and regionalization of the XXI century; -identify and explore key macroeconomic imperatives in the CIS and the European Union members; - disclose the prognostic nature and parameters of the processes of industry complementarity of the EAEU member countries; -give a forecast of trade and economic relations with the European Union as a vector for the development of the EAEU; -compare possible scenarios for the development of the EAEU, assess the scale of internal and external threats, formulate proposals to increase the competitiveness of Eurasian entities in the world market. The theoretical basis of the research will be the conceptual provisions of the fundamental and applied works of domestic and foreign scientists in the field of international economic relations, international economic integration and macroeconomic theory. The methodological basis of the study will be general scientific research methods as: systematic and situational analysis of international integration processes. The study will be considered on the dialectical method of cognition, as well as the application of logical models.
Topic for applicants for full time study.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Supervisor:
doc. Ing. Marián Tóth, PhD.
Dissertation topic:

Farm Risk Management Measures under the CAP 2021-2027 in Slovakia

The dissertation evaluates the risk of farms in Slovak Republic, the sources of risk and the degree to which individual risk mitigation tools can reduces the risk of farms' business. Based on data on prices, output, commodity yields of crop production and livestock production, the dissertation elaborates the rate of income, price and yield risk of agricultural production. Based on the impact of risk reduction tools and experience from other countries, conclusions and recommendations for policy-makers will be formulated.
Topic for applicants for full time study.

Supervisor:
prof. Ing. Ján Pokrivčák, PhD.
Dissertation topic:

Impact of Agriculture and the Common Agriculture Policy of the EU on the Environment

At least 40 percent of the CAP budget will be spent on environmental public goods in the new programming period of 2021 – 2027, which is also 30 percent of pillar 2 of the CAP. There are three specific goals of the new CAP in the environmental area: climate chage adaptation and mitigation, protection of natural resources, and biodiverzity. The dissertation will evaluate the effects of the CAP in the previous programming period, and analyse the new CAP interventions. We will collect all relevant indicators that measure effects of agricultural policies on the environment and conduct economic and statistical analysis.
Topic for applicants for full time study.

Supervisor:
prof. Ing. Ján Pokrivčák, PhD.
Dissertation topic:

Sharing Economy in Agriculture

Sharing economy business model is gaining momentum in many countries. After making in-roads in tourism, the transportation sector, (in particular, the ride-sharing applications), the sharing economy scheme is now making headways in the agriculture sector. The agriculture sector is facing numerous problems globally. Among problems being encountered are the disparity of commodity prices at the farmers level and the end consumers. Often, farmers receive only thin margin for products they produce, while large margins are enjoyed by traders or middlemen. The other issues encountered by farmers are lack of information. As a result, the farmers can not manage well their production level to adjust to the current market price or anticipate price trend. The other major problem is lack of financial access, which limits their capability to expand their production. Given the above problems, a number of startup companies and entrepreneurs have tried to utilize technology to produce better agri products, create platforms to provide capital to farmers through crowdsourcing platform as well as slashing the lengthy distribution chain by creating e-commerce platform, that enables farmers or suppliers send or deliver products directly to customers. These applications are basically an implementation of shared economic models. There are various definitions of sharing economy. However, sharing economy, shared economy or collaborative consumption, is basically an economic system in which assets or services are shared between private individuals, either free or for a fee, typically by platform. The objective of disertation project is to analyze the sharing economy platforms in their aim to increase farmer's welfare by empowering farmers to become 'agropreneurs', creating an efficient agriculture ecosystem. In our dissertation we plan to undertake a suervea and data will serve for the purposes of analysis with the implementation econometric models and methods, and the connclusions will serve as recommandation for policymakers.
Topic for applicants for full time study.

Supervisor:
doc. Ing. Artan Qineti, PhD.
Dissertation topic:

Farming Employment in the EU: Current Challenges and Perspective

Employment in EU farming has been in long-term decline, as rising agricultural productivity due to mechanisation has reduced the need for labour and because of older farmer's

progressive retirement. The overall aim of the dissertation project is to provide an overview of the current structure of the agricultural labour force as well as to analyse the main determinants of the future employment evolution. There will be used economic models of labor allocation to analyze the reaction of agricultural employment to changes in returns to agricultural labor. In these models agricultural subsidy programs are expected to have a positive impact on agricultural employment because they increase agricultural incomes. Based on theory, empirical estimation will be performed to analyze agricultural employment and related policy issues. Empirical estimation will be conducted at the EU level as well as at national levels. Econometric estimation at national level will be complemented with a series of case studies which will take into consideration differing structure of farms and agricultural sectors in EU member states. In particular case studies will be conducted in selected countries including Slovakia. In the empirical analysis, a specific focus will be on the effects of investment support to farms (treatment) on their performance as measured by the average treatment on the treated (ATT) a widely applied method in the literature for counterfactual impact analysis of policies . The empirical analysis of the dissertation project will be a combination of a thorough review of the literature, of using descriptive statistics from the best data sources available, qualitative analysis, econometric analysis at the national and EU-wide levels, and in-depth case studies. In combination, the project will provide insights beyond the current state of scholarship, and deliver original content in the form of analysis, synthesis and top research.

Topic for applicants for full time study.

Supervisor:
doc. Ing. Miroslava Rajčániová, PhD.
Dissertation topic:
World Financial and Commodity Markets

Recently, we have witnessed a lot of developments and innovations in financial and commodity markets. Financial markets became more linked to commodity markets, as investors started to look for new investment opportunities during the period of stagnation at financial markets. This had a significant impact on commodity prices, including agro-commodities. Levels and dynamics of agro-commodity prices have important welfare and policy implications. They impact producers' income and consumers' purchasing power. The aim of the thesis will be to analyse the link between financial markets and commodity markets. Recent financial time series analysis will be used to study the link between financial markets and commodity markets.

Topic for applicants for full time study.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Supervisor:
doc. Mgr. Ing. Danka Moravčíková, PhD.
Dissertation topic:
Bioeconomy and Eco-innovation Elements Usage in the European Countries

The concepts of bio-economy and eco-innovation are related to the sustainable growth of the global economy and refer to preferred solutions aimed, on the one hand, to ensure socio-economic growth and sustainability and, on the other, to the stability of the environment. The EU is one of the most ambitious entities that are committed to sustainable development, green growth and all the issues associated with economic development in the greatest possible harmony with the environment. Comparing bioeconomy employment and turnover for the EU-27 a clear division between Western and especially Eastern European countries becomes visible. The majority of regions in Middle and Eastern European countries show a middle or

low bioeconomy maturity. The aim of the thesis is: 1. stakeholder analysis in selected regions and identifying of most relevant representatives from each stakeholders group, characteristics of stakeholders' needs and expectations regarding bioeconomy and eco-innovations; 2. analysis of the regions' bioeconomy potential based on characterising the regions' current situation using a set of key factors (main aspects of the bioeconomy and eco-innovations); 3. comparison of the situation in Western European regions and selected regions in Middle and Eastern European countries resulting in recommendations of actions towards establishing an appropriate model of regional bioeconomy. The methodological approach will be based on triangulation of methods and sources. Primary data will be conducted by using questionnaires and interviews, problem tree design, focus groups and brainstorming. Secondary data will be obtained particularly from Eco-Innovation Score Board (Eco-IS) using the eco-innovation index, and also from other existing sources and relevant materials (documents, databases, etc.). The final analysis step will be a SWOT analysis in order to identify the main assets and challenges of observed regions in the bioeconomy sector and in utilization of eco-innovations. Topic for applicants for full time and part time study.

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND OPERATIONS RESEARCH

Supervisor:
prof. Ing. Ľubica Bartová, CSc.
Dissertation topic:

Determinants of Farmland Conversion and its Abandonment in the EU

In the period 2015-2030 about 11% of agricultural land in the EU are under high potential risk of abandonment which can affect rural development and environmental sustainability. Economic factors and market instruments, including the EU CAP could mitigate those potential risks. The study will focus on the assessment of agricultural land abandonment by the EU regions. Effects of the agricultural land conversion and abandonment determinants will be assessed using the econometric models. The impact of agricultural, environmental and regional policies instruments and the impact of other factors e.g. demographic, macroeconomic will be estimated. Data of the Eurostat, European Commission DG Agri, DG Environment and selected EU MS Statistical Offices.
Topic for applicants for full time and part time study.

Supervisor:
prof. Ing. Ľubica Bartová, CSc.
Dissertation topic:

Eco-efficiency of Agriculture in the EU

Agriculture is a large contributor to GHG emissions in the EU and there is considerable pressure on this sector to identify the most efficient climate change mitigation policies and measures. The emissions level from EU agriculture in 2015 was one fifth less than its corresponding level in 1990. The overall reduction in GHG emissions from agriculture can largely be explained by the reduced use of nitrogenous fertilisers and a reduction in livestock numbers i.e. cattle and sheep. Although the total decrease in agricultural emissions across the EU-28 was 20% between 1990 and 2015, individual Member States showed widely varying trends. The aim of the thesis will be to assess the efficiency of the EU MS agriculture by regions, taking into account the negative environmental impact of agricultural production - eco-efficiency, using alternative approaches. The nonparametric methods - directional distance functions estimated by DEA and parametric models, with undesirable outputs, will be used to estimate regional agricultural productivity. Data will be taken from the databases of the Eurostat, European Commission, DG Agri, DG Evironment and the National Statistical Offices.
Topic for applicants for full time and part time study.