The aim of the Journal of CENTRUM Cathedra (JCC): The Business and Economics Research Journal is to become an evergreen, favorable journal through disseminating high quality scholarly research articles to the pool of knowledge seekers in the field of business and economics; as well as play a vital role as a medium of exchange for transmitting and simulating the frontiers of thought and enhancing business and economics research between Latin American and non-Latin American countries with its well-balanced research framework.

This special issue of the Journal of CENTRUM Cathedra (JCC): The Business and Economics Research Journal focuses on Competitiveness Evaluation Methodologies, Contemporary Issues, and Challenges. It includes seven research articles written by authors from six countries: Denmark, India, Singapore, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Within the scope of this special issue, researchers have proposed and applied different approaches in relation to various subtopics of competitiveness, such as subnational regional competitiveness, business competitiveness, urban competitiveness, and technological competitiveness, among others.

Competitiveness remains a term defined in a wide variety of ways; in academic research as well as in the economic policy debate. Competitiveness is generally understood as relating to the ability of a firm, industry, cluster, region, nation, or supranational region to achieve high levels of economic performance in terms of profitability, prosperity, and wealth creation by means of selling and supplying goods and services in a given market exposed to the competition. The increasingly complex global landscape and economic challenges in the wake of the recent global financial and economic crisis have increased the interest in competitiveness among business leaders, policy makers, and researchers.

In their paper titled “Regional Competitiveness: Theories and Methodologies for Empirical Analysis,” Robert Huggins, Hiro Izushi, and Piers Thompson place the subnational regional competitiveness discourse within the context of theories of economic growth. The authors provide an extensive literature review about the concept of competitiveness, and they analyze the link between regional competitiveness and regional economic growth. They then focus on methods for measuring regional competitiveness and provide insights into future methodological developments.

The next two papers apply specific measurement approaches to regions in different countries. In “Subnational Competitiveness and National Performance: Analysis and Simulation for Indonesia,” Khee G. Tan and Mulya Amri apply a method of tracking the competitiveness of regions to a sample of 33 Indonesian provinces. The authors first discuss the notion of place-based competitiveness and a number of existing competitiveness rankings. They then introduce the approach of measuring provincial competitiveness that they developed at the Asia Competitiveness Institute (ACI) and rank the Indonesian provinces based on this approach. They conduct policy simulations on how each of the provinces could improve its competitiveness, and they offer suggestions for further research.

A similar study on a different country is “Measuring Competitiveness at the Subnational Level: The Case of 37 Nigerian States.” In this paper, Giuseppe Iarossi discusses another new approach to measure competitiveness at the subnational level and identifies the most important policy reforms which had the greatest impact on competitiveness. The author first provides an extensive literature review, highlighting the link between competitiveness and productivity. Then, he develops a competitiveness index which is estimated for 37 Nigerian states and could be used to simulate the impact of policy reforms. In his endeavor, the author used a dataset from interviews with a sample of over 5000 Nigerian entrepreneurs in both manufacturing and services across the 37 Nigerian states. The paper is a contribution to the development agenda of the private sector in countries around the world.

In “The Centrality of Urban Economies to the Study of Competitiveness,” Peter K. Kresl moves the analysis from regions to urban economics. He examines the rapidly changing global context, the effect it has on the nature of city competitiveness, and its influence on the role of city leaders in affecting the economic future of their cities’ residents. The author explores various definitions of and approaches to the measurement of competitiveness, in particular of urban competitiveness, and discusses various spatial structures such as clusters, agglomerations, and networks. The author identifies effective structures of governance and private-public sector partnerships as critical for enhancing the competitiveness of an urban economy and makes action recommendations for practitioners and civic leaders.
In “Longitudinal and Comparative Perspectives on the Competitiveness of Countries: Learning from Technology and the Telecom Sector,” Sudhir K. Mittal, Kirankumar S. Momaya, and Sushil S. provide a different perspective, focusing on a specific dimension of competitiveness rather than the role of a specific level of government. They present a new approach to define and measure technological competitiveness across the major countries of the world. The authors used data collected from selected competitiveness reports to develop longitudinal perspectives and a diagnostic of current conditions that stakeholders can use to design action plans for enhancing technological and overall competitiveness.

“Monitoring Public Company Rankings for Investment Decisions: Are They Undervalued or Overvalued?” by Wei-Wen Wu, Lawrence W. Lan, and Yu-Ting Lee takes the general ranking methodology to a different field of study. The authors propose a novel framework to help analysts monitor publicly released company rankings. By employing the DuPont model, followed by the super-efficiency data envelopment analysis (DEA) ranking method and the grey entropy (GE) ranking method, the proposed framework can re-rank public companies to help investors make better investment decisions. Moreover, the paper develops a map of the DEA-gap versus the GE-gap, which can reveal undervalued and overvalued companies.

The final contribution “EU Competition Policy since 1990: How Substantial Is Convergence towards U.S. Antitrust?” returns to the theme of locational competitiveness. The author, Dzmitry Bartalevich, discusses competition policy as one of the important elements affecting the competitiveness of a location. He critically analyzes the most important pillars of the EU competition policy, namely anticartel enforcement policies, antimonopoly regulation, and the regulation of mergers and acquisitions in the EU. He then contrasts them with the pillars of the U.S. antitrust law to assess the degree of convergence and to determine the relevant mechanisms triggering this process.

The efforts of many academics and researchers who contributed articles and the knowledge of the experts within the field who reviewed the articles have made this issue of the journal possible. We thank you. We further extend our gratitude to the administrative and editorial staff of CENTRUM Católica Graduate Business School, CENGAGE Learning, and Language Online Editing (www.languageonline.us). Special recognition goes to Professor Fernando D’Alessio, the Director General of CENTRUM Católica Graduate Business School, and Professor Beatrice Avolio, the Deputy Director General of CENTRUM Católica Graduate Business School, for their support.

We believe that the articles published in this issue of the JCC should be of considerable interest to our readers. Thus, we wish you, our readers, informative reading.

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