

Dear readers,

The issue of Central European Business Review presents six original research articles.

In the first paper, Dr. Špička makes an international comparison of the market concentration of grocery retailers in the six countries of Central Europe – Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. His results showed that the market structure of the Central European grocery retailers has mostly a character of asymmetric oligopoly. The Central European grocery market is controlled by strong national retail chains and multinational companies which operate modern grocery retail formats. However, according to the author, traditional grocery retailers are still popular in Hungary while traditional individual grocers in other countries are disappearing or gradually joining the networking system based on franchising.

In the second article, Dr. Björck reviews recent literature on crisis classifications and discusses their application. Because, according to the author, a single typology cannot capture the complexity and the interdisciplinary nature of a crisis, four relevant typologies from different disciplines are compared, and their combined application in an interdisciplinary framework is suggested.

The third paper deals with the health-related market in Czech Republic and Denmark. Building on two separate qualitative studies of consumers' perception and practice, Dr. Chytková and Dr. Brogård Kristensen present findings that enlighten the meanings and processes behind consumer choices, having significant implications for marketing of companies operating on these growing markets.

In the fourth paper, the authors, Dr. Kolmatsui, Dr. Legenzova and M. Seilius, discuss theoretically and evaluate empirically the differences of risk and risk management information disclosure (RRMID) among companies listed in Nasdaq OMX Baltic and Euronext Brussels and to determine factors influencing such differences. The authors found that companies listed in Euronext Brussels disclose more risk and risk management information; these disclosures are more qualitative, focused on past or present events and have a neutral meaning in both markets. Companies also disclose more information about risks themselves than about risk management. Finally, only companies' size and presence of audit committee are significant factors influencing RRMID.

The fifth paper deals with port regionalization and landlocked hinterland. The authors, prof. Rodrigue and Dr. Kolář, identify the current bottlenecks in logistics activity in regard to the whole range of the national transport chains. Their paper suggests that a dual regionalization process is taking place between the ports of the Northern and Mediterranean ranges and that the Northern Range is more effective at servicing the CEE region, including the Czech Republic, in spite of the proximity advantage of Mediterranean ports.

In the last paper, Dr. Hajduk deals with the specifics and features of outsourcing marketing communications activity. The author discusses possible scopes of external entities' involvement and presents positive and negative aspects of marketing communications outsourcing

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