

Nordic Association of Agriculture Science (NJF)
Continuous international scientific conference
“Challengers of Economics, Education and Society Development in the Nordic – Baltic Countries and beyond” organised by Section of Economy, Education and Society
Programme for the virtual seminar on **May 4th, 2022 (Wednesday)**
12:00 to 13:30 Central European time (13:00 to 14:30 Eastern European time)
The link for joining the conference event presented at the end of this programme

Presentation 1

Title: THE MAIN ISSUES AND CRITERIA OF COMPETITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EU ECONOMY

Speakers: Tatyana Boikova, dr., assoc. Professor at the Institute of Economics of Latvian Academy of Sciences
Baiba Rivza, dr. Professor at the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Authors: Tatyana Boikova, dr., assoc. Professor at the Institute of Economics of Latvian Academy of Sciences
and **Baiba Rivza, dr.** Professor at the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Annotation: In terms of the continuing volatility of the world's economies factors of competitive development are relevant issue for economic growth in the EU as a global actor. Conceptually, the more degree of openness of an economy, the faster it should be able to grow. In this sense, the competitiveness performance of open national economies reflects the capability of a country to create long-term economic growth quality. The main issue in the relationship between competitive development and economic growth is revealing significant factors, generating sustained growth. In this research, we apply an empirical approach to competitive development, based on inclusion, environmental sustainability, innovations and technological capabilities. Using cross-sectional data of the EU countries, we explore the criteria of competitive development that are acceptable for estimation of economic growth factors. We find large cross-regional disparities in competitive development among countries of Nordic and Western Europe and countries of Southern, Eastern and South-East Europe as well as cross-country variances in innovation performance, government efficiency and business efficiency. This research results highlight that macroeconomic stability and R&D have the largest contribution to competitive development and growth. The main issues of competitive development of the EU are the creation of competitive advantages in science-intensive services and high-tech industries in the global production value chains, reducing the gap in inclusive economic growth among old and new members of the EU, heterogeneity in the outcome competitive development across European countries.

Presentation 2

Title: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

Speaker: Edmunds Jansons, PhD student. Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Author: Edmunds Jansons, PhD student. Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Annotation: Over the past decades the European Commission and the European higher education system has been increasingly wary of the need for introduction of new academic curriculum addressing skills of the future, to increase the competitiveness of the European Union worldwide.

The increased pace of evolution of technology has undermined the ability of individual higher educational institutions to update their curriculum according to the newest digital technologies. Meanwhile the uncertainty of future needs in both the industry and the higher education system alike can hamper the progress towards meeting the set digital progress goals. Use of technology foresight can bring about the needed goal posts for defining the required future skills of workforce.

Currently the maturing of the digital services and solutions ecosystem sets the stage for introduction of nationwide digital upskilling framework for the general population. Given the situation there is an increased need for nationwide digital transformation initiatives with specific approach to the higher education institutions in regions.

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