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Studies in Agricultural Economics

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INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

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Foreword

The European Research Area (ERA) is conceived as a unified research area, open to the world and based on the European Union's (EU) Internal Market. By making national research systems more open, inter-operable and inter-connected, fragmentation of research efforts and barriers to free circulation of researchers can be reduced. The EU's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme for the period 2014-2020 is expected to help to further develop the ERA. However, in the first two years of the programme the 11 post-socialist EU Member States have secured just 3 per cent of the available funding¹.

There are several, legitimate, reasons for this apparent imbalance. Not least is that researchers from 'western' EU Member States have many more years of experience of the EU's international research programmes. Over time, they have established networks of collaborators that they know and trust, and may be reluctant to work with new and unknown partners. The reality is, however, that the very many, highly competent researchers in the 'eastern' Member States of the EU make specialist, even unique, contributions to the global pool of knowledge. This point is illustrated by this issue of *Studies in Agricultural Economics*, which includes papers from Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Slovenian contributors alongside those from Brazil, China, Ireland, the Russian Federation and the USA. Publishing in international journals can help researchers from the region to increase their participation in research networks, both at the European level and globally.

Continental climatic regions are expected to be severely affected by climate change. Jankó, Németh, Bertalan and Pappné Vancsó researched perceptions of climate change among farmers in Hungary and identified some significant factors such as the role of extreme weather events. Some farmers are seeking to adapt to climate change, but others seem unwilling to do so.

In the context of the removal of the EU milk quota regime, Emicha, Heanue, Hyland, Hennessy, Dillon and Buckley examined the economic, environmental and social sustainability of dairy farms in Ireland. Using sustainability indicators, they created a typology of farms, composed of three types, which could assist policy makers to formulate more targeted policies.

EU farmers are increasingly exposed to price volatility. Using the IACS database, Zgajnar studied the sustainability of farms in Croatia with respect to income risk and indem-

nification. The approach described can be of use to policy makers when designing income risk mitigation measures and identifying potential beneficiary groups by either sector or economic farm size.

The topic of farming risk is taken up by Soliwoda, Špička, Vilhelm, Pawłowska-Tyszko and Gorzelak, who explored the relationship between the contrasting models of agriculture in the Czech Republic and Poland, and approaches to agricultural insurance schemes. In both countries, policy options should consider the balance between budget flexibility and the criterion of efficiency.

In the first of three papers related to trade, Sági and Nikulin assessed the effect of the food embargo imposed by Russia on its trade relations with the EU, using Hungary as an example. Hungary has failed to replace exports to Russia effectively and, in turn, Russia has not managed to replace the supply of most agricultural products.

A novel, network analysis based approach was used by Benedek, Bakucs, Falkowski and Fertő to study changes in the structure of intra-EU milk product trade between 2001 and 2012. Integration of countries that joined the EU in 2004 or 2007 is only partial, and depends on the category of milk product considered.

Three major food scare events in the Chinese pork market, (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, swine influenza and classical swine fever) were shown by Dai, Li and Wang, using monthly data from 2001 to 2014, to impact retail price and price transitions differentially. In addition, shocks from the same incident on price and price transmissions are significantly different.

Finally, Almeida and Bravo-Ureta applied three different types of matching algorithms (optimal, greedy and non-parametric) to the evaluation of the impact of the MARENA programme in Honduras. Optimal matching did not produce better-balanced matches than greedy matching, and programme impact calculated from nonparametric matching regressions, such as kernel or local linear regressions, yielded more consistent outcomes.

By publishing papers contributed by authors based in eastern central and south eastern Europe alongside contributions from other parts of the EU and the rest of the world, *Studies in Agricultural Economics* can contribute to the strengthening of the European Research Area.

Andrew Fieldsend
Budapest, July 2017

¹ see: https://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/h2020_2-years-on_brochure.pdf

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Researchers, academics, policy makers and practitioners in agricultural economics and rural development, especially in eastern central and south eastern Europe.

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