

Call for Papers

Joint CompNet and NBS Conference

Sustainable development, firm performance, and competitiveness policies in small open economies

Bratislava (Slovakia), 23-24 April 2020

Globalization and the wide acceptance of the free market paradigm followed by the expansion of the global value chains and foreign investments have supported capital-embedded technological change and knowledge transfer across the world, affecting small open economies more than large countries. Especially among transition and recently advanced economies deregulation and promotion of competition have increased productivity tremendously. However, rising trade barriers and the resurgence of nationalist thoughts represent significant obstacles for future growth. Moreover, while the expansion of global production networks initially helped these countries to grow and prosper, some of these economies now find themselves locked in the downstream part of the value chain, without the most creative activities such as R&D. This may hamper the efficient labour allocation within the host economy and prevent a proper reaction to new challenges at both micro and macro levels. Also, competition among countries that have recently achieved an advanced economy status is fierce and few have any permanent competitive advantage.

At the same time, wide ranging “sustainability” concerns have become more urgent, thus constraining the traditional measures aimed to promote economic growth and to help countries escape the middle-income trap. Switch to low-carbon economy is an example of new additional challenges influencing the competitiveness of firms, industries and countries. Another concern is the increasing inequality not only among consumers, but also among firms in terms of efficiency and costs of capital, which implies that while high growth is limited to a narrow number of firms, aggregate productivity of the economy increases only slowly.

As a result, to create the new “tigers” of the future, policies need to encompass a much more complex set of issues, which may contradict the sole objective of improving productivity.

The Competitiveness Research Network (CompNet) and the National Bank of Slovakia (NBS) are jointly inviting papers addressing one or more of the topics mentioned above from either micro and macro level perspectives.

We are particularly interested in academic work with strong policy relevance on the following topics:

- Competitiveness policies in small open economies
- Structural transformation and distributional consequences
- Industrial policies facing inequality and political populism
- Transition to low-carbon economies from firm-level perspective
- The interaction between monetary and competitiveness policies
- Factor reallocation and growth
- Sustainable development and middle-income trap
- New drivers of firm performance

The deadline for submission is **15 January 2020**. Papers should be emailed to secretariat@comp-net.org.