

## From Innovation to Social Justice On the Completion of the Trilogy of the Post-crisis Development

To publish a professional trilogy within a two-year period is not an everyday event. A team-work of the National Centre for European and Global Studies of the Slovak Republic at the University of Economics in Bratislava headed by Prof. RNDr. Koloman Ivanička, DrSc. achieved this goal within the years 2009-2010. Prof. Ivanička acted not only as the major author of all three volumes but also as the engine of individual parts of this significant work. The mutually connected, topical titles of the mentioned trilogy were gradually issued by the EKONÓM Publishing House in Bratislava:

1. Creativity, Invention, Innovation, and Stimulators of Growth, Prosperity and Sustainability of the Slovak Republic. The publication includes 19 studies/articles, 362 pages (issued in September 2009);
2. Overcoming Crisis – Creation of the New Model for Socio-Economic Development of Slovakia. Together 26 studies/articles, 507 pages of text (issued in February 2010);
3. Economic Aspects of Social Justice and Human Rights. Together 24 studies/articles, 494 pages of text (issued in October 2010).

The first title was issued in the Slovak language with extended summaries in English; the other two titles are in English with the key studies and extended summaries of all the studies in Slovak. All three volumes have received a wide and favourable public acceptance in Slovakia as well as abroad. The first monograph responded to the year 2009, which had been declared by the European Commission as the Year of Creativity and Innovation; the third monograph responded to the year 2010, which was declared by the European Commission as the Year of the Fight against Poverty and for Social Justice.

All themes of the publications are currently highly topical and discussed not only at the national and international R&D forums, but also in the managerial sphere and societal institutes at all levels. Particular parts of the trilogy cover several support subsystems of sustainable post-crisis development studied by the authors from Slovakia as well as from other countries.

The studies/articles are arranged in characteristic groups, clusters. Philosophy of the goals and content of the whole trilogy can be understood from the key studies of individual publications written by their editor-in-chief, Prof. K. Ivanička.

*The first volume* responds to consequences of the current global crisis, while searching for the creative, inventive and innovative potential of Slovakia. These potentials are important instruments of cooperation, but also means of enhancing the competitiveness at all levels. Transformation of our society into the knowledge based society creates a scene in which knowledge guarantees permanent revival of businesses, regions and the country, continuity of their capability for operation and future prosperity. On the other hand, the absence of new knowledge drives the enterprises and institutions lagging behind into the peripheral, uncompetitive position. Creativity, inventions, patents, overall innovative business organization, and the state reforms enter into the 21st century entrepreneurial activity design. They necessitate a permanent progress of entrepreneurs as thinkers and creators of new ideas and permanently renewed programs, which respond to the development of national as well as international demands. It is necessary to manage the lifetime education and requalification of the workforce, especially in the middle age categories. To enforce the business ethics and preserve the traditions and specificities at the local, regional and national levels is not an easy task either.

*The content of the second volume* involves the search for the alternative to the post-crisis model of socio-economic development of Slovakia. It follows from the postulate that Slovakia urgently needs the vision of the post-crisis development of society. The projection of the future is evidently a challenging task and requires highly qualified designers and managers. It requires redefined activities which will ensure prosperity. The receding activities must also be replaced by innovation with a positive added value, i.e. it is necessary to be prepared well ahead of time for facing an uneasy post-crisis development. The market, neoliberal paradigm responsible for

devastating crisis, did not count with several socio-economic, environmental and further factors, as well as with all consequences of the global trends. Solutions of the consequences are of major importance for the society. Analyses of the society order models were also inevitable. The state co-responsibility for citizens' prosperity is their common denominator.

The positive models, e.g. the Scandinavian welfare model – as a model of social state (in principle, it is a model in which the state takes over the responsibility for the prosperity of citizens), have several variations. These models have been studied also by the lecturers from Nordic countries, who have been acquainted with the conditions in Slovakia. It is necessary to apply the extending programmes of innovations, creativity and inventions, the valuable systems of ethics, education, learning process as well as systems for enhancement of the competitiveness ability, inclusive of a well – operating and sustainable bank system. The model of market socialism has also been studied. The monograph closing study “The Common Interest of Guido Gambetta and Alexander Ducek to Find the Way Out of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Crisis” underlines the long-term efforts for revealing the causes of the crisis and prospects of the European society in a wider international and global context.

The key contribution of the third monograph is based on the thesis that the European social model is currently in the process of upgrading improvement and strengthening social security (with the necessity to tackle the dichotomy between economic demands and social agenda, which leads to social justice). In Slovakia this solution requires the change of thinking (the high-tech economy requires also high-tech thinking), reorientation of economy and a rapid transfer of the society's tasks in education and application of sustainable ethical values and creation of social rent by creativity, inventions and innovations.

The social model in Slovakia, similarly as the European social model, can only succeed if simultaneously with its creation the financial sources for its operation are set up. Adaptation ability to requirements for innovation and creativity are prerequisites of the required sources

to be at the disposal. These require also a high level of specialization in industry and further national economy branches, as well as modernisation of the traditional industrial and other activities in municipalities, towns and regions. These could act as the basis for creation of the clusters of firms in one or several relative branches. Equally important are also the readable cultural identity, institutional framework and local and regional specificities. For management of the real practice of individual branches, the measurement of positive and negative impacts of social capital has to play a significant role.

The basic theses of the publication are completed by several contributions arranged into thematic groupings (clusters). One of the most significant – the analysis of economic issues – declared very clearly that a lot of processes evoked by the crisis is impossible to solve at the national level; requirements of the new financial architecture at the supra-national level are one of the key knowledge. The solution of the two most important phenomena of today – the problem of global consumption and continuing polarization of richness and poverty – are the basic challenge to determine the further development trends of the society (P. Staněk). The business/entrepreneur level requires a more responsible fulfilment of the societal responsibility role (M. Sedlák). Creative economy is the challenge for 21st century Europe (J. Kloudová). Topics of the further clusters are banking and monetary spheres (I. Pauhofová, J. Kotlebová, V. Bachár), solutions of societal subsystems abroad suitable for Slovakia (positive examples predominantly from the Nordic countries, incl. the example of the successful integration of countries from the Baltic Sea region (written by the German author and well-known politician H. Simonis), the regional coherences in development dynamics of Slovakia and the European Union – mainly examples of Bratislava agglomeration and the less developed region at NUTS 2 level – East Slovakia (O. Barič, J. Jančina, J. Silvan, M. Tajtaková) and solidarity in housing development in the sphere of social housing (K. Ivanička, Jr.).

To close, we can state that the trilogy analysed all these socio-economic factors which move the societies at the supra-national level and

which indicate certain revival but for the time being, however, with a fragile sustainability. The outputs of the publications are characterised with objectivity; they surpass interests of political

parties interests and try to answer the key questions currently also discussed at the domestic and international scene.

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