

IN MEMORIAM

Professor IVO SEVER



(1937 – 2017)

Dear authors, colleagues, reviewers and readers,

With deep regret we have to inform you that this year, on 11th February, our dear Editor-in-Chief, prof. Ivo Sever passed away leaving his wife Vlasta and son Darko in grief.

He was born in 1937 in Lančić near city of Ivanec. His academic path was exceptionally versatile. He finished secondary school in Karlovac and obtained bachelor degree in Zagreb. Immediately after graduation, he was employed and enrolled at postgraduate study in Belgrade where he defended his thesis *Characteristics of Individual Consumption in Croatia* in 1972. He earned the doctoral degree at the Faculty of Economics at University of Zagreb by defending the thesis *Personal Consumption and Economic Development – analysis based on the case of Yugoslavia* in 1978.

His professional career was as dynamic as his academic path. His first workplace was at the Republican Department for Planning of Croatia from 1961 until 1971. He was an economic advisor of the President of the Croatian Parliament from 1971 – 1974. Afterwards, until 1982 he was an economic advisor of the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Croatia. From 1982 to 1987, he was an advisor at Institute for

public finance where he was a director for the two following years as well. In 1987, he became a professor at the Faculty of Economics at University of Rijeka where he worked until retirement.

Since 1997, when Prof. Sever became the Editor-in-Chief, *Zbornik radova Ekonomskog fakulteta u Rijeci: časopis za ekonomsku teoriju i praksu/Proceedings of Rijeka Faculty of Economics: Journal of Economics and Business* has become one of the leading journals in the field, not only in Croatia, but in a wider region as well. Professor Sever's scientific excellence and rigour were built into the Journal, which resulted in its becoming a widely recognized international journal indexed in prominent databases.

He was a well-known professor teaching a number of courses in the field of finance and fiscal policy. Besides this active role at the Faculty of Economics, he had an important role in creating the wider scientific perspective particularly regarding the issue of tax system effects on economic and social relations in Croatian economy. He was a principal researcher on a number of projects financed by the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. His papers, scientific conferences and round tables under his organisation had a profound impact not just in scientific community but in wider public as well. He was also a member of Scientific council for economic research of the Croatian Academy of Science and arts. Jointly with his scientific role model, dr. Branko Horvat, he was one of the founders of Croatian Society of Economists where he had been the President since 2007.

Professor Sever was a passionate scientist focused on providing scientific and methodological platform for resolving topical issues of economic development of the Republic of Croatia. His unlimited enthusiasm, devotion and strong will mobilised many scientists to help him formulate scientific and practical platform that would enable government representatives in resolving the development issues of the country. In his efforts however, he was firm and constant, always prepared to resist opportunism which he considered to be one of the key problems of contemporary economic science. Thus, his attitudes were very often contradictory and challenged mainstream and dominant economic thought and practice, and, as history often shows, in long-term period, logic, knowledge and objectivity prevails.

The strength and foresight of his scientific thought can be best presented by citing one of his far-reaching conclusions. The citation is taken from the Study of Scientific Society of Economists, which he coordinated, and provided greatest contribution: "The analysis of crisis shows that powerful analytical and information systems of the contemporary world are hardly able to provide a timely warning let alone providing solutions. The reason for such inability is not the lack of scientific and technological possibilities but is hidden in a deeply-rooted division of material and political interests of the world and their ideological and political versions. Accepting the fact that the financial crisis has been generated by the crisis of the real sector,

we can conclude, that it can be resolved only by restructuring global system in total. This implicitly denotes providing answers in direction of doctrinarian solutions which would enable unconstrained development of global market, but also national, social and ecological balance in the world. Even though it may sound pathetic, it is worth noting that any system without such an imperative is doomed to failure from the beginning. Neoliberal concept definitely confirmed its incompetency by generating the crisis in the tertiary sector, in the same way that the Keynesianism was rejected by the industrialisation crisis. However, in the time of the Keynesian theory fall, economic science had already strongly developed alternative in the form of liberal idea with centenary tradition and modern interpretation (Hayek, Friedman). Nowadays, however, such an alternative does not exist, and economic thought has found itself in a blind alley, corrupted by superfluous interpretations of the economic phenomena of the new epoch. However, which answers to offer?"

By this citation that obliges us all, with sadness in our heart, we are departing from the great man, humanist and scientist who was eager to make our world a better place to live in by making us all better people.

Rest in peace dear Professor, you will always remain in our memories.

Saša Drezgić, PhD
Editor-in-Chief