

Review on international conference*

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| Title of the International Conference: | <i>6th International Conference ECONOMIC INTEGRATIONS, COMPETITION AND COOPERATION</i> |
| Organiser(s): | <i>University of Rijeka Faculty of Economics – Chair Jean Monnet University of Ljubljana Faculty of Economics – Chair Jean Monnet CEDIMES Paris Centre d'Etudes du Développement International et des Mouvements Economiques et Sociaux University of Antwerp Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence</i> |
| Date: | <i>April 18th – 21st, 2007</i> |
| Venue: | <i>The Admiral Hotel, Opatija, Croatia</i> |
| Language: | <i>English, French</i> |
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| Conference website: | <i>http://www.efri.hr/english/prikaz.asp?txt_id=3929</i> |
| Conference material: | <i>Selected and reviewed conference papers are going to be published in the research monograph, all of the conference papers were published in CD format after the conference.</i> |

The 6th International Conference entitled “Economic Integrations, Competition and Cooperation” organized by Faculty of Economics Rijeka – Chair Jean Monnet, University of Rijeka in collaboration with Faculty of Economics – Chair Jean Monnet, University of Ljubljana, CEDIMES Paris and University of Antwerp – Centre of Excellence Jean Monnet, was held in Opatija from 18th – 21st April, 2007. The Conference was sponsored by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia.

The history of the Conference dates from 1997, held under the title “Economic System of European Union and Adjustment of the Republic of Croatia”. Its main idea and purpose, has been to promote knowledge and exchange of experience between scientists and experts from the EU, Croatia and its neighboring countries on the field of economic integration. The goal of the 6th Conference was the interactive exchange of experiences about the negotiation process and the adoption of the EU requests into

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national law system, as well as the connection of changeable institutional environment for doing business. The know-how transfer to students was realized by their incorporation in the Conference Organizing Committee.

In the fulfillment of the Conference objectives, the participants presented and discussed their scientific and professional papers. Finally, the 106 papers presented on the Conference were published on the CD. In the year 2008, the reviewers will finish the process of reviewing, which is a prerequisite to publish a research monograph. Surprisingly, less than a third of the papers presented were written by Croats. Other authors came from Slovenia, Italy, the Czech Republic, Belgium, France, Cyprus, Romania, Greece, the USA, Sweden, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the UK, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, Bulgaria, Latvia, Russia, Hungary, Slovakia and the Netherlands.

In addition to usual conference activities, the 6th International Conference was the center for the meeting of the CEDIMES, the organization of French speaking economists with network of about 50 regional centers. Regional directors from 15 countries debated on scholarships for young researchers, the doctoral dissertations, and the implementations of the Bologna process and the improvement of the CEDIMES.

The general conclusion of the Conference was that the integration process towards the European Union had no alternatives for European countries. However, for the maximization of integration benefits, policy makers on macroeconomic, as well as entrepreneurs and managers on microeconomic level, must have appropriate knowledge and skills.

In that sense, a number of papers reached the quality level of expert opinions on specialized questions. They fitted into sessions which clearly offered a relevant context for the refreshing fan of methodologies and case studies, knowing however that the ultimate context remains the European Union itself. The second group of papers addressed the interface between action and reaction. Most papers directly focused on practical questions, country-specific issues or industrial particularities. Everywhere, the main tune, however, concerned the measurement of integration, such as raised by key note speeches that people would only “like” Europe when they understood the positive effects. It was clear that the only answer to excessive globalization was a balanced regulatory power. In this sense, the European Union has been bound to become our home of comprehensive governance.

Rijeka, December 2007

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