**INNOVATIONS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR INFLUENCING LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY**

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**Abstract**

Economic science has long recognized labour productivity as an important factor of economic growth. In the uncertain conditions of an increasingly fierce and complex competition, it becomes one of the key prerequisites for an adequate response to global challenges. The development of labour productivity has to be observed as a multi-dimensional process including numerous interconnected quantitative and qualitative factors, in particular human factors and technological advancement realized through investments in research and development (innovations). The analysis of labour productivity in the manufacturing industry of the selected countries, Germany and China, is performed in the context of an important influential factor – innovations, and interdependently with the economic growth of the selected countries. The research results and the conducted regression analyses indicate a superiority of German labour productivity in manufacturing industry, which is strongly affected by considerable investments in research and development. However, the technological convergence of China as the upcoming power is increasingly important, which shows that the gap in labour productivity is decreasing, making developed countries face new challenges posed by globalization. The analysis of the interdependence of economic growth (GDP) and labour productivity in manufacturing industry points to a positive link and the conclusion that the elasticity of the GDP to changes in labour productivity is greater in China than in Germany.

**Keywords**: Labour productivity in manufacturing industry, innovations, economic growth, Germany, China

**Životopis**

Prof. dr.sc. Marija Bušelić rođena je 07. travnja 1948. godine u Šušnjićima (Poreč). Diplomirala je 1973. godine na Ekonomskom fakultetu u Rijeci. Magistrirala je 1996. godine na Ekonomskom fakultetu u Ljubljani i doktorirala je 2001. godine na Ekonomskom fakultetu u Zagrebu. Dugi niz godina zaposlena je na Fakultetu ekonomije i turizma “dr. Mijo Mirković” u Puli, gdje trenutno radi u svojstvu redovnog profesora, te voditeljica je poslijediplomskog specijalističkog studija „Ljudski resursi i društvo znanja“ i poslijediplomskog doktorskog studija „Nova ekonomija“. Osim nastavne djelatnosti tijekom svoje karijere obavljala je brojne izvannastavne poslove, te objavila je brojne znanstvene radove u priznatim časopisima.

Patricija Pavlišić rođena je 24. veljače 1978. godine u Puli. Diplomirala je 2001. godine na Fakultetu ekonomije i turizma „dr. Mijo Mirković“ u Puli, smjer financije. Tijekom studija bila je član kluba „4 plus“ i dobitnica Rektorove nagrade Sveučilišta u Rijeci 1999. godine. Poslijediplomski specijalistički studij „Ljudski resursi i društvo znanja“ završila je 2014. godine na istom fakultetu i stekla akademski naziv sveučilišni specijalist ljudskih resursa i društva znanja (univ.spec.oec.), te polaznica je poslijediplomskog doktorskog studija „Nova ekonomija“. Dosadašnje radno iskustvo ostvarila je u bankarskom sektoru u svojstvu osobnog bankara i financijskog savjetnika.