

Martina Kadunc: Restrictive agreements in public tenders for the construction of Slovenia's highway network

Abstract

This paper examines bidding auctions for Slovenian state highway-construction contracts between 1998 and 2007. The analysis reveals a high probability of bid rigging between competitors in the auctions. Joint ventures have a questionable role in the market because they exist irrespectively of the size of the company and project. Joint-venture bids with two companies are higher and have an above-average probability of winning an auction. In addition, four pairs of companies proved positive for conditional independence, which implies phantom bidding among ring members.

Key words: bid rigging, public tender, cartel, DARS, construction

JEL: L410, L740, D440

Tina Fistravec, Marko Lovec in Emil Erjavec: Will the Common Agricultural Policy be hostage to political interests also in the future? Political and economic analysis of adopting policy changes in 2008

Abstract

The Common Agricultural policy (CAP), historically one of the major and financially still the most extensive common policy of the European Union (EU), has been traditionally criticised for being fundamentally determined by inflexible national perceptions that stem from the political sensitivity of payments per farm. Although these characteristics, the consequence of a specific historical context, have contributed to the permanent reform tendencies, they have remained the most stubborn part of CAP until today. Fischler's phase of CAP reform, which changed the policy paradigm by introducing allocation logic for the second pillar and single farm payments, is no exception. This article focuses on Health Check as the last phase of the CAP reform process, bringing fulfilment and concretisation, as well as the first serious reflection on Fischler's reform. Using policy models and multilevel governance analysis, the authors attempt to prove that in the light of the upcoming new financial perspective, CAP remains firmly in a framework determined by the net-receiving countries. The changing global and national contexts of interest formation only slowly alter circumstances for the potential redefinition of relations between the traditional actors.

Key words: Common Agricultural Policy, EU Budget, Health Check, policy models

JEL: Q000

Marta Gregorčič: Let's add a pinch of patriotism and forget about creative life

Abstract:

Analysis of the latest World Values Survey for 48 countries of the world (among them 17 European countries) showed that Slovenia ranks above the European average on all three intolerance indexes, and below the European average on all three creativity indexes. Slovenia also ranks above the world average on the patriotism index and below the world average on the trust index and the quality-of-life index. The degree of patriotism, nationalistic sentiment and discrimination in Slovenia are explained in detail in the article, which also notes which countries are comparable to Slovenia regarding intolerance and lack of creativity today, and which countries it may be compared with in the future. Current debates about patriotism in Slovenia are not based on serious, well-founded, well-reasoned, analytical, reflective and critical hypotheses, the article argues, critiquing these debates about patriotism, which strengthen divisions and particularities and seek to raise national super-identity and intergenerational and other conflicts. Rather than forming plural identities, viewpoints and realities, Slovenia is being faced with a rise in narrowly aimed policies of exclusion and discrimination, it concludes.

Key words: patriotism index, ethnocentrism index, gender discrimination index, creative-upbringing-of-children index, quality-of-life index, trust index, World Values Survey

JEL: A140, Z100

Irma Potočnik Slavič: Business zones of Slovenian rural areas

Abstract:

In the last years of economic development, business zones were, residential construction apart, the fastest growing spatial phenomenon in Slovenia, especially in relatively accessible Slovene rural areas. This survey included 57 business zones in Slovene rural areas. Evident are important inter-regional differences: some business zones have been in place for a few years whilst other regions are currently looking for appropriate locations. Business zones in Slovenia also share some common features: they mostly occupy smaller plots, usually host enterprises of various activities, and require a business zone manager, security services and better supply of sport and nutrition services for employees. Due to their dynamic situation, surveying ought to be quite frequent (because of changed economic circumstances, entrepreneurial decline, closing and opening of working places, market changes, entrepreneurial mobility, etc.).

Key words: rural area, business zone, Slovenia

JEL: R110, R390