
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Daniel Stavárek is currently a Professor of Finance and Dean at the School of Business Administration in Karviná which belongs to the Silesian University in Opava, Czechia. His research interest focuses on international finance and banking with strong accent on the process of convergence and European monetary integration.

The papers published in this *IJMEF* special issue entitled *Recent Developments in European Finance and Banking* have been presented at the *17th International Conference on Finance and Banking* which was held in Ostrava (Czechia) on October 16–17, 2019. The conference started with keynote speeches. The first talk was delivered by Evžen Kočenda, a Professor at Charles University in Prague. The second keynote speech was given by Bruno Sergi, a Professor at University of Mesina, Italy. The third keynote lecture was presented by Tomáš Nidetzký, a vice-governor of the Czech National Bank. In the following program, almost 40 papers selected by the Program Committee were presented and discussed by 60 participants from 10 countries.

The papers appearing in this special issue successfully passed a multi-stage review procedure. First, all manuscripts intended to be published in the special issue were initially evaluated by the guest editor. Only authors of the papers that fulfilled the publisher's requirements for the conference papers were forwarded to a double blind review. Each of the papers was hence reviewed by three experts and authors of the conditionally accepted manuscripts were encouraged to revise the paper and address the referees' comments and suggestions. Finally, six papers were accepted for publication in this special issue.

The papers included in this special issue can be categorised into three groups according to the main theme analysed. The first two papers focus on banking and particularly on performance and financial stability of banks. Kočišová and Šugerek estimate the revenue efficiency of 114 European banks during the period from 2010 to 2018. They distinguish the banks according to their location and size and reveal that banks located in Northern Europe and large banks seem to be most efficient. Financial performance is often considered as one of the most important determinants of financial stability of banks. Palečková and Klepková Vodová propose a new aggregate financial stability index that can be used in banking industry. The index consists of several indicators capturing banking profitability, efficiency, liquidity, solvency and asset quality. The paper applies the index on the Czech banking sector.

The following three papers of the special issue investigate selected issues of central banking. Černohorská analyses the impact of monetary policy of the Czech National Bank on selected economic variables between the years 1996 and 2017 and uses the empirical results for assessment how optimal is the Czech National Bank's strategy of monetary policy. Nocoň points out that it has been more than a decade since central banks, in the face of the global financial crisis, implemented unconventional initiatives. She verifies BVAR model for short-term prediction of macroeconomic and financial indicators that might be used by the European Central Bank in its normalisation process in the euro area. Černohorský focuses on the core issue of monetary policy which is the relationship between the development of liquid money and price indices. The paper confirms conclusions of many recent studies concerning the invalidity of the quantitative theory of money under current conditions.

The last paper in this special issue is authored by Kozińska. She fills in the gap in existing research and analyses a potential impact of deposit insurance funds on financial markets. A total of 109 deposit insurance schemes are rigorously evaluated in terms of their investment policies. She concludes that the activity of deposit guarantee funds may have destabilising effects but they have not been addressed so far in legal framework for deposit insurance schemes.