

EU DYNAMICUS NEWSLETTER

Dear readers,

Welcome to the newsletter of the Jean Monnet Chair at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

JM Chair started to operate in October 2016. Teaching and research activity conducted within the chair focuses on the crucial social and economic processes which currently take place in the European Union.

Our team consists of: prof. Maciej Walkowski (head), Tomasz Brańka (PhD), prof. Jarosław Jańczak, Joanna Skrzypczyńska (PhD) (see the photo).

What is inside,

1	JM Chair Actions.....	1
2	JM Chair Courses.....	2
3	Commentary.....	2
4	Upcoming Events.....	4

We are supported by PhD students: Kinga Jasiak and Rafał Szymanowski. Our newsletter will be published twice during the semester.



JM CHAIR ACTIONS

COLLEGIUM POLONICUM CONFERENCE

On February 1-2, 2018 members of the Jean Monnet Chair “European Union – Economic Development, Young Europeans and Innovations in Crisis overcoming and Union’s Sustainability” together with their colleges from other universities in Poland took part in the international scientific conference “Europe of the 21st Century” on “Future of Europe and the European Union in the face of new challenges” in Collegium Polonicum in Słubice.

During the plenary session “Social Europe and economic growth” they explored in particular the political and economic determinants of the current situation of Europe and the European Union.

Panels were led by prof. UAM dr hab. Maciej Walkowski and prof. UAM dr hab. Jarosław Jańczak.

JM CHAIR COURSES

As part of the JM Chair, courses are available to students of the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at AMU.

Courses (in Polish and English) are conducted both in the form of a traditional lecture as well as through e- learning.

The following courses were available on the master and bachelor level in the winter semester of 2017/2018:

- Przedsiębiorczość i zatrudnienie w gospodarce międzynarodowej
- Międzynarodowe determinanty rozwoju społeczno-gospodarczego Polski



COMMENTARY

The problem of income inequalities in the global economy

Maciej Walkowski

According to well - known non-governmental organization Oxfam, the size of the global economy has more than doubled over the past 30 years. In 2014, its value reached nearly \$78 trillion. As production and output continue to grow, there have been absolute increases in gross domestic product (GDP) – one of the main indicators of economic prosperity – in every region of the world over this period. In South Asia, combined GDP in 2014 was more than five times what it was in 1985. Over the past 30 years, average annual GDP growth has been higher in low- and

middle-income countries than in richer ones. Between 1990 and 2011 economic growth in the Asian region helped nearly a billion people to escape extreme poverty. The proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty fell from 36 percent in 1990 to 16 percent in 2010. The global economy - Oxfam proves - has been growing, but as incomes and wealth have become detached from productivity and real added value in societies. People who work hard but who are not in positions of economic and political power have lost out.

„The proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty fell from 36 percent in 1990 to 16 percent in 2010”



Prof. Maciej Walkowski in Słubice

Global Wealth Report 2015 prepared by Credit Suisse estimates that the top percentile now own half of all household assets in the world. It proves that for a number of reasons, wealth varies greatly across individuals. Their estimates suggest that the lower half of the global population collectively own less than 1% of global wealth, while the richest 10% of adults own 88% of all wealth and the top 1% account for half of all assets in the world. The trend in recent years has been towards increasing inequality, propelled in part by the rising share of financial assets, which are disproportionately held by the more wealthy individuals. Credit Suisse estimates that 3.4 billion individuals – 71% of all adults in the world – have wealth below USD 10,000 in 2015. A further billion adults (21% of the global population) fall in the USD 10,000–100,000 range. While average wealth is modest in the base and middle tiers of the pyramid, total wealth here amounts to USD 39 trillion, underlining the economic importance of this often neglected segment. Each of the remaining 383 million adults (8% of the world) has net worth above USD 100,000. This group includes 34 million US dollar millionaires, who comprise less than 1% of the world's adult population, yet own 45% of all household wealth. 123,800 individuals within this group are worth more than USD 50 million, and 44,900 have over USD 100 million.

Also, the newest Oxfam report *An Economy for the 1%*, shows that the wealth of the poorest half of the world's population has fallen by a trillion dollars since 2010, a drop of 38 percent. This has occurred despite the global population increasing by around 400 million people during that period. Meanwhile, the wealth of the richest 62 has increased by more than half a trillion dollars to \$1.76tr. The report also shows how women are disproportionately affected by inequality – of the current '62', 53 are men and just nine are women. Although the number of people living in extreme poverty halved between 1990 and 2010, the average annual income of the poorest 10 per cent has risen by less than \$3-a-year in the past quarter of a century.

Oxfam is calling for action against tax havens to be part of a three-pronged attack on inequality. Action to recover the missing billions lost to tax havens needs to be accompanied by a commitment on the part of governments to invest in healthcare, schools and other vital public services that make such a big difference to the lives of the poorest people¹. What is needed, declares Oxfam, is a multi-pronged strategy to rebalance power within global and national economies, empowering people who are currently excluded and keeping the influence of the rich and powerful in check. This is necessary for economies to work better in the interests of the majority and in particular in the interests of the poorest people, who have the most to gain from a fairer distribution of income and wealth. To achieve this, Oxfam makes many recommendations. One of them is to share the tax burden fairly to level the playing field, because too much wealth is concentrated in the hands of the few. The tax burden is falling on ordinary people, while the richest companies and individuals pay too little. Governments must act together to correct this imbalance. Specific commitments must include: shifting the tax burden away from labour and consumption and towards wealth, capital and income from these assets; transparency on tax incentives; and national wealth taxes.¹ Oxfam is calling for urgent action to tackle the extreme inequality crisis which threatens to undermine the progress made in tackling poverty during the last quarter of a century. As a priority, it is calling for an end to the era of tax havens which has seen the increasing use of offshore centers by rich individuals and companies to avoid paying their fair share to society. This has denied governments valuable resources needed to tackle poverty and inequality. Extreme inequality corrodes democratic system and public trust as well. It leads to a breakdown in civic cohesion and social solidarity, which in turn leads to worsened disastrous effects on the economies and societies

Upcoming Events



Conferences

On April 16-17, 2018 the 1st National Scientific Conference "Social Policy in the 21st Century. Social policy in three dimensions" will take place at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

On April 19-20, 2018 workshops organized by the European Commission will be held in Moscow. On behalf of the JM Chair, its Head - prof. UAM dr hab. Maciej Walkowski will take part in this event.

On July 21-25, 2018 25th World Congress of Political Science organized by the International Political Science Association (IPSA) will take place in Brisbane, Australia

Online courses spring 2017/2018

Multiculturalism in business practice

Cities in Europe as a Source of Economic Growth and Social Policy

Lectures spring 2017/2018

Innowacje i myślenie kreatywne na rynkach Unii Europejskiej

Procesy globalizacji i regionalizacji w gospodarce światowej