

Editorial

Nowadays, interactions between the participants of international economic relations, which are not only economies but also businesses, transnational corporations, industries, local governments and regions, can take various forms and shapes. The main point, however, is trade. Today, international trade is experiencing its most dynamic development in the entire history of the world. Global exports and imports of goods and services more than tripled in the last twenty years (International Trade Center, 2018). Trade liberalisation, technical progress, innovation as well as the development of information and communication technologies contribute to the ongoing changes that affect not only the pace and subject of trade, but also forms of establishing and conducting trade cooperation. Of particular significance here is also the activity of the enterprises which, through their foreign investments, have substantially boosted exports and internationalisation processes throughout the world (Bouras & Raggad, 2015). One should also acknowledge the importance of the issue of the internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) since it constitutes an important part of research (Idris & Saridakis, 2018; Gassmann & Keupp, 2007; Costa, Soares, & de Sousa, 2016). It is partly because SMEs are a dominant element of the EU economy (Hope, 2017). Since family firms are a core element of SMEs, a separate stream of research focused on the internationalisation of family firms can also be distinguished (Segaro, Larimo, & Jones, 2014).

Within such a framework, the articles in this issue contribute to the discussion originating from two broad fields of research. One is international trade (including FDI) and the other is internationalisation of small and medium-sized firms.

Maria Alejandra Gonzalez-Perez, Juan Velez-Ocampo and Carolina Herrera-Cano, in their article entitled *Entrepreneurs' Features Affecting the Internationalisation of Service SMEs*, analyse Colombian SMEs and their internationalisation from the perspective of special characteristics and traits that influence this process while dealing with parsimony of financial assets, country of origin liability and other institutional voids.

Tianchen Li tries to answer the question posed in the title of his article *What Explains the Varying Degree of Export? Internal or External Factors?* Using multilevel design, he evaluates export conditions by combining the entrepreneurial resource perspective and formal institutional approach.

Mariola Ciszewska-Mlinaric, in her article entitled *Export Intensity, Geographic Diversification and the Role of Public Support: The Evidence from Old and New Europe SMEs*, uses a large, cross-country and cross-industry dataset of SMEs from 27 European countries to determine direct and indirect effects of public support on the SMEs internationalisation intensity.

Aleksandra Parteka presents the results of her theoretical and empirical research on the labour market consequences of production fragmentation in the article titled *Import Intensity of Production, Tasks and Wages: Microlevel Evidence for Poland*. She

examines a relationship between wages of Polish workers and the degree of Polish production dependence on imported inputs.

Jarosław Michał Nazarczuk, Stanisław Umiński and Krystyna Gawlikowska-Hueckel, in their article entitled *The Role of Specialisation in the Export Success of Polish Counties in 2004-2015*, investigate the relationship between specialisation and export at regional level. They scrutinise export specialisation, product concentration, as well as comparative advantage on the value of export per capita taking into account other export stimulants.

Tomasz Brodzicki and Jakub Michał Kwiatkowski, in their article entitled *An Empirical Investigation into the Role of Technology Gap in the Trade Relations of the EU Member States*, construct a basic trade model in a gravity framework to investigate the significance of technology gap for the intensity of bilateral trade within the European Union countries in the years 1995-2015.

Based on direct interview method, Małgorzata Jaworek, Włodzimierz Karaszewski and Małgorzata Szafucka, in their article *Greenfield or Acquisition Entry? An Impact of Foreign Direct Investment on the Competitiveness of Polish Investors*, determine the relationship between FDI and their competitiveness and foreign market entry mode choice presenting the case of Polish companies.

In this issue, there are also 4 additional articles in the 'Other Articles' section.

Agnieszka Głodowska
Thematic Issue Editor

REFERENCES

- Bouras, H., & Raggad, B. (2015). Foreign Direct Investments and Exports: Complementarity or Substitutability an Empirical Investigation. *International Journal of Economics and Finance*, 5(4), 933-941.
- Costa, E., Soares, A.L., & de Sousa, J.P. (2016). Information, knowledge and collaboration management in the internationalisation of SMEs: A systematic literature review. *International Journal of Information Management*, 36, 557-569. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijinfomgt.2016.03.007>
- Gassmann, O., & Keupp, M.M. (2007). The competitive advantage of early and rapidly internationalising SMEs in the biotechnology industry: A knowledge-based view. *Journal of World Business*, 42, 350-366. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jwb.2007.04.006>
- Hope, K. (Ed.) (2017). *Annual Report on European SMEs 2016/2017. Focus on self-employment*. European Union.
- Idris, B., & Saridakis, G. (2018). Local formal interpersonal networks and SMEs internalisation: Empirical evidence from the UK. *International Business Review*, 27, 610-624.
- International Trade Center (2018). Database. Retrieved on May 10, 2018 from <http://www.intracen.org/> <http://www.intracen.org/> on May 10, 2018.
- Segaro, E.L., Larimo, J. & Jones, M.V. (2014). Internalisation of family small and medium sized enterprises: The role of stewardship orientation, family commitment culture and top management team. *International Business Review*, 23, 381-395. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ibusrev.2013.06.004>