**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE**

***CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY OF BUSINESSES***

**Online, 1st June 2022**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

The world is facing numerous challenges caused by the great worldwide changes that took place in the first decades of the 21st century, and particularly by the global pandemic, with unforeseeable consequences and implications in all aspects of human’s life. The two-year health crisis, during which the available reserves gradually depleted, has transformed into an economic and social crisis with a tendency for further deepening. The predictions that the global pandemic will cause a reduction in economic growth and a permanent closure of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises have come true. Achieving economic growth that will lead to universal economic development is probably one of today’s most important challenges for the humanity.

The aim of the Conference is to bring together scholars and researchers to discuss the current challenges of economic growth and sustainability of businesses, in terms of mitigating adverse changes and expected implications in short and medium term. In these new circumstances, there is an indisputable need to use all available resources and create policies for accelerated economic growth, as well as to create favorable environment for businesses. In this regard, the Conference discussion will be focused on three main topics: Current situation and prospects of the determinants of economic growth, challenges of macroeconomic and sectoral policies and key business issues.

The new reality requires different approach to the determinants of economic growth and governments that can play the role of a smart "coordinator". The contribution of rapid and effective policy changes to economic growth should identify new opportunities. In addition, sustainability of businesses is of paramount importance to economic growth. Willingness to move from crisis to opportunity implies a wide range of assumptions that lead the trend of business success in the future economy. These are three very complex topics that encompass many aspects, each equally important for the revitalization of the economy and business.

Conference topics include, but are not limited to:

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| **Determinants of Economic Growth - current situation and prospects** |
| - Financial resources and investment - capital market challenges  - Structural changes of the economy towards new technology  - Fostering innovation and digital transformation  - Available human resources - challenges of growing labor force shortages  - Alternative sources of energy and overcoming the energy crisis  - Climate change and the impact on economy  - Productive use of available natural resources  - Efficiency of government institutions and administrative system  - The impact of political condition on the economy  - Implications of accelerated population aging |
| **Macroeconomic and sectoral policies - challenges in new reality** |
| *-* Monetary policy and inflation  *-* The fiscal asymmetry and public debt  - Challenges of income and price policies  - Reducing poverty and inequality  *-* Foreign trade policy and competitiveness - barriers and opportunities  *-* Employment and labor market policies - labor force supply and demand mismatch  - Industrial policy approaches  - Agricultural and Rural development policy- overcoming future food shortages, providing a livelihood for farmers, protecting the environment  *-* Tourism and hospitality – post-pandemic recovery  *-* Policies to support SMEs - reducing barriers and boosting entrepreneurial potential  - Boosting human capital development |
| **Key business issues - facing challenges, seizing opportunities** |
| - SMEs – current trends and future challenges  - Impact of energy crisis on business sustainability  - The growth of costs and liquidity concerns  - Reshaping organizations: new concepts for improving organizational agility  - Reshaping portfolios of products and services  - Attracting and retaining skilled workers and talents  - Digitalization, innovations and technology transfer – opportunities for new entrepreneurial ventures and business development;  - Development of circular economy - seizing opportunities of new technologies  - Consequences of business logistic limits and possibilities for mitigation  - Digital marketing: endless opportunities for businesses  - Legal business environment issues and other compliances  - Holistic approach and acting - the complexity and interaction between different business issues |

Conference sessions will be additionally determined, based on received abstracts and the interest of participants for the topics.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

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| Abstract submission | April 4th 2022 |
| Notification of abstract acceptance | April 30th 2022 |
| Publication of draft conference program | May 15th 2022 |
| Conference day | June 1st 2022 |
| Paper submission | July 1st 2022 |
| Notification of the review of submitted papers | August 31th 2022 |

**CONFERENCE FEES**

The Conference is part of the 70th Anniversary celebration of the Institute of Economics – Skopje, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, and as such, there are **no conference fees.**

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

**A. General requirements**

* Abstracts are required for all papers that are to be submitted for the Conference.
* Accepted abstracts will be published in the Conference’s Book of Abstracts.
* Abstracts must be submitted in English.
* Participation at the Conference is subject to the Scientific Committee’s selection.

**B. Presenting author and registration**

* The presenting author (usually 1st author) and co-authors must register by filling in the *Registration and Abstract Submission Form* upon submission of the Abstract.
* You are allowed to submit one abstract as first(1st) author, but can also be co-author on one more abstract.
* Upon registration, the authors will suggest participation in one of the Conference topics. Please note that the Scientific Committee reserves the right to decide on the final selection of the Conference session of your paper presentation.

**C. Abstract contents and format**

* The abstract is limited to 500 (minimum)– 700 (maximum) words.
* The abstract should include author/s name, position, affiliation and e-mail.
* Author/s name/s must be written in Times New Roman; 12pt; bold; All Caps; single-line spacing; alignment left.
* Author’s position, affiliation and e-mail address must be written in Times New Roman; Italic; 12 pt; single-line spacing; alignment left.
* The abstract title must be written in Times New Roman; 12pt; bold; alignment centered; single-line spacing.
* The abstract should describe research purpose, methods, key findings and conclusions.
* The body of the abstract must be written in Times New Roman, 12pt, single-line spacing, justify.
* The abstract should include 3-5 keywords written in Times New Roman; Italic, 12 pt; single-line spacing; justify.
* Please make sure that your abstract does not contain spelling or grammatical errors, as it will be reproduced as submitted. You are encouraged to have your abstract/paper edited by a native English speaker before submission.
* The title should clearly express the nature of the study, but it should also be as brief as possible (avoid too long titles).
* Do not use abbreviations in the title or the abstract.
* Do not use bullets or numbering in the abstract.

**D. Abstract Submission**

* Abstracts must be submitted by 4th April 2022.
* Please fill in the REGISTRATION AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM and send it to: [eis70.conference@ek-inst.ukim.edu.mk](mailto:eis70.conference@ek-inst.ukim.edu.mk)
* You can consider your abstract submitted once you receive a notification for abstract submission from the Conference Secretariat of the Institute of Economics-Skopje.

**E. Reviewing**

* The scientific committee will review the abstracts and notification of abstract acceptance or rejection will be sent to all authors by 30th April 2022.
* Please make sure that your email address is correct, as it will be used for further correspondence.
* For further information and enquiries, please contact the Conference Secretariat of the Institute of Economics-Skopje at [eis70.conference@ek-inst.ukim.edu.mk](mailto:eis70.conference@ek-inst.ukim.edu.mk)

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