

Guest Editors Introduction

The papers included in this special issue of *Panoeconomicus* come from the 34th Annual European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE), held in Naples (Italy) from 07 to 09 September 2022. The six papers published in this special issue were presented at the sessions on “Labour Economics” and at the Special Session “Labour Market Reforms in Developed, Developing and Transition Economies” that was jointly organized by the Research Area Labour Economics of the EAEPE, the Structuralist Development Macroeconomics Research Group (SDMRG) of the University of Brazilia, and the journal *Panoeconomicus*.

Jesús Ferreiro and Carmen Gómez analyse how the subsequent labour market reforms approved in Spain have led to an undesired precariousness in the labour market. Thus, the authors show that the reforms approved since 1994 to reduce the excessive share of temporary workers generated by the reforms approved in 1984, although they have helped to reduce the figures of temporary jobs and contracts, mainly the 2021 reform, they have, however, generated a high number of precarious jobs, with a high number of short duration of fixed-term contracts, a rising share of part-time jobs, and a rising figure of atypical open-ended contracts.

The paper by Beata Woźniak-Jęchorek and Sławomir Kuźmar focus on the impact of the processes of digitalization and technological change on income inequality. The authors analyse whether the changes recorded in income inequality in European Union countries during the period 2017-2021 are explained by pre-existing inequalities in access to ICTs, differences in digital skills, integration of digital technology in enterprises and digital public services in EU countries. The authors conclude that only the integration of digital technology in businesses and fundamental access to the Internet were linked to a greater reduction in the Gini index from 2017-2021.

Kosta Josifidis and Novica Supić analyse the impact of foreign direct investment (FDI) on employment in post-transitional European countries. Although FDI inflows have a positive direct and indirect (through the crowding-in effect of FDI on domestic investment), the authors argue that the reallocation of FDI inflows from the manufacturing industry (a labour-intensive sector) to less labour-intensive industries (such as financial information and communication technology ICT industries) tends to reduce the employment effect of FDI.

The following three papers are about the consequences of the labour market reforms implemented in Brazil. The paper by José Luis Oreiro, Luciano Ferreira Gabriel, Stefan Wilson D’Amato, and Kalinka Martins da Silva analyses the effects of the reform in the employment protection legislation passed in Brazil in 2017. For the authors, the reform has not been able to generate the expected outcomes in terms of employment creation, although this bad outcome can be explained by the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the authors conclude that the reforms has had a clear negative

impact on the Brazilian economy by reducing the quality of jobs created and increasing informal employment.

The article by Eliane Araújo, Rinaldo Galete, and Carlos Eduardo Caldarelli argues that economic growth and development depend on structural changes that favour the development of the most dynamic and innovative sectors with the highest productivity. However, for the authors, the reform of the Brazilian labour market approved in 2017 has favoured the transfer of labour to traditional sectors with lower wages and productivity, which has had a negative impact on the development of the Brazilian economy.

The article by Claudio Roberto Amitrano, Alanna Santos de Oliveira, and Gabriel Coelho Squeff also takes a critical look at the labour reform passed in Brazil in 2017. In the article, the authors examine how this reform has led to an increase in the informal economy and employment, thereby affecting productivity growth and, by extension, Brazil's long-term growth potential.

The guest editors are very grateful to the editorial board of *Panoeconomicus* for the opportunity to publish this set of papers from the conference.

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