Editorial Article

Coronavirus and the economy: a crisis like never before or just a temporary trip?

Katarina Valaskova

Department of Economics, Faculty of Operation and Economics of Transport and Communications, University of Zilina, Zilina, Slovakia

*Corresponding Author email: katarina.valaskova@fpedas.uniza.sk

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the activities of all sectors of national economies. Worldwide business shutdowns and national lockdowns destroyed hundreds of million jobs; thousands of enterprises became bankrupt and major economies in Europe faced double-digit collapses. However, the anticipation of the economic recovery is influenced by pervasive uncertainty given by the unpredictable development of the virus.

Keywords: COVID-19, National Economies, Economic Crisis

1. COVID-19: THE GLOBAL CRISIS

The coronavirus has put the globalized world in big economic trouble. As stated by Elliott et al. (2020), the COVID-19 crisis affects globalization and cooperation, green transition and also deepens the uncertainty and timing of policy inventions. However, the current economic crisis is not a new issue. The crisis that hit Europe in 2008 (the US in 2007) has essentially been never over, it was just camouflaged by funding and creating debt. Due to the coronavirus impulse, the current crisis has several specific features that distinguish this crisis from standard cyclical crises. The primary specificity of the corona crisis is state measures aimed at protecting the health of the population, which is accompanied by a forced restriction of certain economic activities (Almeida et al., 2020). However, the effects are broader, the economies of individual states thus find themselves in difficult situations, governments must address health and economic issues in parallel (Soofi et al., 2020).

The fact, that the corona crisis has affected almost every country in the world is evident; the results are obvious considering the measures of governments, politicians, corporate managers. Moreover, many studies have been conducted to support and develop the current crisis and try to find any possible solutions. Using the bibliometric research, it is possible to identify the most recent issues of scientific research in a specific science area (De Bellis, 2009). Together, more than 18 thousand papers have been published in different research areas considering the issue of COVID-19. But to present the most relevant results, the VOS Viewer was used to produce the bibliometric maps based on the publications in journals in the categories of management, social issue, business finance, public administration, economics, political science, business and mathematics applied. 1,545 papers focused on the covid-19 and coronavirus crisis were analysed using a specific

computer analysis (Van Eck et al., 2010) and two important aspects – a country where the research is provided (Figure 1) and the authors' keywords analysed (Figure 2). In the network visualization, items are represented by their label and also by a circle. The colour of an item is determined by the cluster to which the item belongs; the weight of the factor is given by the size of the label and of the circle. Lines between items represent links – the stronger the relationship between the terms, the smaller the distance between them in the map (Durana et al., 2020).

In terms of future development, it is important to take measures that will economically improve public administration, create favourable conditions for business activities and at the same time increase the level of preparedness for crisis situations in the future. Some proposals are indicated as a consequence of theoretical and practical implications of realizes researches.

Fig. 1. VOS Viewer – Country effect

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There are several different scenarios for how the world will return to normal. It may be that the world will dig out of the deep fall for many years because many rare relationships can be broken and this may have long-lasting devastating consequences. This would mean a U-shaped GDP curve, which would take many years to catch up with what we have lost in this crisis. The biggest concern is the L-shaped scenario, where the economy will plummet and then grow only slowly. But it can also happen that after a steep fall there will be a sharp increase, thanks to which we will be able to catch up with what we have lost (V-shaped scenario). We can draw optimism from the fact that previous experience with epidemics in recent decades has shown that this has always been the case (in the case of the Spanish flu in 1918, but also several other epidemics in Asia, including the SARS epidemic in 2002). However, in the current crisis, some risks distinguish it from previous ones. Unfortunately, no one knows exactly what it will be like, because it is difficult to predict, especially the future.

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