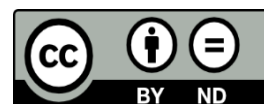


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DECADE OF DEA AT THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS OF MATEJ BEL UNIVERSITY IN BANSKA BYSTRICA: TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR MIKULÁŠ LUPTÁČIK

DEKÁDA DEA NA EKONOMICKEJ FAKULTE UNIVERZITY MATEJA BELA V BANSKEJ BYSTRICI: HOLD PROFESOROVI MIKULÁŠOVI LUPTÁČIKOVI

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“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are”

Theodore Roosevelt

The scientific seminar Decade of DEA at the Faculty of Economics of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica: Tribute to professor Mikulas Luptacik took place on October 8 – 10, 20024 in the premises of the faculty. A welcome address was served by Professor Rudolf Zimka and Professor Emília Zimková.

Professor Zimka recalled the beginnings of the cooperation with Professor Luptáčik. He revealed that for the first time he heard about Professor Luptáčik from Professor Vladimír Úradníček when he returned from his short state at the University in Graz many years ago. He was told that in Vienna at the Institute of Mathematical methods in Economics led by Professor Gustav Feichtinger works a skillful economist called Luptáčik and he is Slovak. Personally, Professor Zimka met Professor Luptáčik later when he visited our faculty as a member of the Scientific board of the Economic faculty. In 2013 Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica gained a big three-year project Mobility. The aim of the project was to improve the quality of teaching of quantitative methods in economics and to improve scientific work. in this domain. Professor Zimka was appointed to be the coordinator of the project at the Economic faculty focusing especially on improving the teaching of quantitative methods in economics and on the intensification of scientific work. To the project should be allocated a respected foreign expert working in this domain. Professor Zimka suggested Professor Luptáčik. His task was to lead a seminar specialized especially on quantitative methods in economics. The project enabled to invite each year a foreign expert to give us lectures in this domain. Professor Luptáčik recommended us to invite an excellent expert in DEA models Professor Emmanuel Thanassoulis from Aston University in Birmingham. Moreover, the members of the project had a possibility to spend three weeks at suitable foreign university. We utilized these opportunities having for the first time money for activities of these kind. Both professors took parts also at our AMSE

conferences (Applications of Mathematics and Statistics in Economics) and delivered valuable and inspiring lectures. All these activities had positive influence on the quality of our teaching and scientific work. Our teaches are now able to lead bachelor and master works and PhD theses. We are very glad that our cooperation with these excellent experts has been continuing.

Professor Zimková continued by a brief characteristics of Professor Luptáčík and by more information on the cooperation with him. Professor Luptáčík is Professor Emeritus at Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration. Besides Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration he has taught at Vienna University of Technology, Comenius University in Bratislava and University of Economics in Bratislava. Professor Luptáčík is the scientific director of the Institut for Economic Research in Vienna. He has an extensive research record and teaching experience in mathematical optimization and economic analysis. He has influence academic publications in this domain and he is also author of the book on Mathematical Optimization and Economic analysis. For many years he has acted as Editor-in-Chief of Central European Journal for Operations Research, a key journal in the field of efficiency and productivity analysis in Central Europe. In his research, Professor Luptáčík responds to internationally important challenges. He was a member of consortium in the EU project named „Europe moving towards a new path of economic growth and social development“ being responsible for the eco-efficiency and macroeconomic convergence of the EU countries (production frontier approach). Another stream of his research is based of input-output models that reveal the structural dependency in economy.

Professor Zimková expressed deep gratefulness, that professor Luptáčík has been intensively cooperating with the Faculty of Economics for a quarter of century at least. He hosted AMSE conference for the first time in 2000 in Poprad. Since then, the participants of AMSE conferences regularly benefited from his wisdom in Poprad 2003, Banská Bystrica 2007, Demänová Dolina 2010, Gerlachov 2013, Banská Štiavnica in 2016, and Nižná in 2019.

After the welcome addresses of Professor Zimka and Professor Zimková there was a plenary lecture delivered by Professor Mikuláš Luptáčík with the title “Twin Transitions of Decarbonization and Digitalization and Dynamic Efficiency: New Challenges for the Next Decade”. The lecture ended up with the famous quote of Theodore Roosevelt “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are”. As usual in the case of the Professor, the participants admired his wisdom and scientific inspiration, and they expressed their gratitude to Professor Luptáčík by prolonged applause.

After plenary lecture of Professor Luptáčík, Professor Zimková continued by a brief characteristic of Professor Emmanuel Thanassoulis, Professor Emeritus in Management Sciences at Aston Business School, Aston University, Birmingham, UK. He has an extensive research record, applications and teaching experience in comparative-efficiency assessment methods, especially those based on Data Envelopment Analysis. He has over 70 refereed academic publications in this area. He is also author of book Introduction to the Theory and Application of Data Envelopment Analysis: A foundation text with integrated software, and more recently together with other colleagues he published the book DEA – The Mathematical Programming Approach to Efficiency Analysis, in The Measurement of Productive Efficiency and Productivity Growth. He has acted for many years as Joint Editor of the Journal of Productivity Analysis and is on the Editorial Board of the European Journal of Operational Research, both key journals in the field of efficiency and productivity analysis. As it was stated by Professor Zimka, both Professors gladly accepted an invitation to cooperate with the Faculty of Economics Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and shared series of lectures and workshops in the area of mathematical optimization and data envelopment analysis in the frame of the international research project Mobility.

Then the programme continued by the plenary presentation of Professor Thanassoulis by plenary lecture “Data Envelopment Analysis and Incentives – the Case of the Regulation of Utility Firms”. Associated professor Martin Boďa in his plenary presentation summed up experience of researchers at the Faculty of Economics in DEA field by contribution “A snapshot into what we have learnt”. To mention some of contribution which were in the programme of this seminar, Professor Emília Zimková and Ing. Ľubomír Pintér, PhD. shared outcomes of the research by the contribution “Application of DEA in water industry“. Authors RNDr. Miroslav Hužvár, PhD. and RNDr. Mária Grausová, PhD. presented their scientific outcomes named “Application of DEA in healthcare systems efficiency assessment”.

Professor Mikuláš Luptáčik together with Professor Emmanuel Thanassoulis significantly influenced a group of researchers at the Faculty of Economics Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. We have benefited from this cooperation a lot and we hope that it will also continue in future.

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