
INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING, KAVALA, GREECE
UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, CHIOS, GREECE

Book of Abstracts



15th International Conference Economies of the Balkan and Eastern European Countries

**Chios, Greece
May 12-14, 2023**

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ΤΟ BOOK OF ABSTRACTS ΕΙΝΑΙ ΧΟΡΗΓΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΩΝ ΠΡΟΠΟΜΠΟΣ, ΣΤΙΣ ΟΠΟΙΕΣ ΠΑΡΑΧΩΡΟΥΝΤΑΙ ΤΑ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΜΑΤΑ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΚΔΟΣΗ ΤΟΥ. ΚΑΜΙΑ ΠΛΕΥΡΑ ΔΕΝ ΒΑΡΥΝΕΤΑΙ ΜΕ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΕΣ ΑΠΑΙΤΗΣΕΙΣ.

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ISBN: 978-618-5705-09-1

PROPOBOS Publications
53, 28th Oktovriou str., 10433, Athens, Greece
T: 210 5245264, 210 5245246
E: propobos@propobos.gr
<https://www.propobos.gr>

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THE RESILIENCE OF THE HEALTH FINANCING SYSTEM. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE LOMBARDY RHS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, healthcare systems have faced an unexpected revolution in their organizations due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has required new resources to adequately respond to all the emerging needs. Different funding systems in each country have offered different responses worldwide and have shown varying levels of resilience to the state of emergency. The lesson learned is that traditional health financing systems had not been tested to support such a catastrophic and global event. This study aims to analyse the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on costs of an Italian regional healthcare system (hereafter RHS) to assess the resilience of its financing system. In particular, it focuses on the experience of the Lombardy RHS, the first European region to experience the pandemic disease. Through the analysis of national health expenditure data from the Ministry of the Economy and the analysis of the costs incurred by different Italian RHSs and in particular the one in Lombardy RHS, it studies how the Italian financing system based on per capita was able to offer an immediate response, ensuring that it was able to cope not only with the state of emergency but also with the continuity in services provision. Focusing on the traditional cost items of public healthcare management and analytical data from the region first involved in the state of emergency, non-parametric tests provided by the Covid-19 expenditure reporting for 2020, the year of the pandemic onset, were used to validate the hypothesis that the per capita financing system could ensure a more adequate response to the needs that emerged from the pandemic.

KEYWORDS

healthcare systems, healthcare financing, Covid-19 pandemic, resilience, Lombardy RHS.

THE EFFECTS OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR ON FIRMS' PRODUCT AND PROCESS INNOVATIONS IN GREECE: EVIDENCE FROM THE WORLD BANK ENTERPRISE SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

Several empirical studies indicate that the existence of a large informal sector is a major obstacle to firms' choices of innovation strategies. This paper addresses this issue and investigates the effect of the informal sector on innovation activities in Greece. Using the World Bank's Enterprise Survey data, the marginal impact of informality on formal firms' innovation