

**ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIES
OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

The paper investigates long-term trends and regularities of structural dynamics of Central and Eastern European economies in frames of global sectoral trends. On the basis of a comparative analysis of structural changes in CEE countries and developed economies the author has determined the main features of long-term structural changes in the CEE economies:

– in terms of GDP per capita and sectoral structure of the economy CEE countries generally match newly industrialized countries;

– in general, changes in the sectoral structure of the CEE economies occur in accordance with global trends: structural changes manifest themselves in an increasing share of services sector in GDP and decreasing share of industry and agriculture. However, the share of agriculture and industry in GDP of the CEE countries is correspondingly 2 times and 1.3 times higher than those in the EU-15, with level of economic development and quality of services significantly falling behind developed European economies;

– among all the CEE countries the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Estonia have the most similar to Western European countries structure of the economy, while Romania, Serbia, Belarus and Ukraine – the most dissimilar. The transformation of sectoral structure in the latter group of countries has been occurring in an arrhythmic and inconsistent manner. Current sectoral structure in this group of countries has been resulted not so much from stable and efficient economic performance and rapid development of the tertiary sector but from the decline of commodity-production sphere.

Further research will be aimed at identifying main factors of structural changes in the economies of Central and Eastern Europe as a precondition for economic growth and further market transformation.