Preface

The International Conference on Applied Economics (ICOAE 2016) has been co-organised in 2016 by the Department of Finance and Economics of the University of Nicosia, Cyprus, and the Department of International Trade at Kastoria of the Western Macedonia University of Applied Sciences, Greece, after the kind invitation by the Head of the Department of Finance and Economics of the University of Nicosia Dr. Spyros Hadjidakis who is also a co-chair of the conference.

ICOAE is an annual conference started in 2008 with the aim to bring together economists from different fields of Applied Economic Research in order to share methods and ideas. Applied economics is the field of economics that combines economic theory with econometrics to analyse economic problems of the real world usually with economic policy interest. The topics covered by the articles presented at ICOAE 2016 include applied financial economics issues with wide geographical dispersion, applied microeconomics with a focus on specific economic sectors of various countries, applied macroeconomics with interesting policy conclusions for the specific countries used in the analysis, applied international economics with interesting conclusions about the effects of globalisation process and applied education and health economics with conclusions regarding welfare.

All papers presented in ICOAE 2016 and published in the conference proceedings were peer reviewed by anonymous referees. In total, 96 works were submitted from 32 countries while 64 papers were accepted for presentation and publication in the conference proceedings. The acceptance rate for ICOAE 2016 was 67%.

ICOAE 2016 had the following keynote speakers who are scientists with a major contribution in their fields (in alphabetical order):

Prof. George Agiomirgianakis, Hellenic Open University, Greece.
Prof. Kostas Karantininis, University of Copenhagen, Denmark—Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden.
Prof. Ian Steedman, Manchester Metropolitan University, Senior Research Fellow, William Temple Foundation, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Chester, United Kingdom.
Finally, the organisers of ICOAE 2016 would like to thank:

- The Scientific Committee of the conference for their help and their important support for carrying out the tremendous work load organising and synchronising the peer reviewing process of the submitted papers in a very specific short period of time.
- The anonymous reviewers for accepting to referee the conference papers and submit their reviews on time for the finalisation of the conference programme.
- Special thanks are also due, as I have already mentioned, to Dr. Spyros Hadjidakis, the Chair of the Department of Finance and Economics, for accepting to host the conference and provide the required resources for its successful organisation.
- The local organising committee and the volunteering students of the University of Nicosia for their help in the success of the conference.
- Last but not least, special thanks are due to
  - Prof. Rania Notta and Mr. Dimitrios Toulios.
  - Mr. Lazaros Markopoulos and Mr. Stelios Angelis for the administration of the conference web site and technical support.
  - Europia Voukelatou and Gerassimos Bertatatos for their services at the registration desk of the conference in Cyprus.

Kastoria, Greece

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Advances in Applied Economic Research
Proceedings of the 2016 International Conference on Applied Economics (ICOAE)
Tsounis, N.; Vlachvei, A. (Eds.)
2017, XII, 888 p. 131 illus., 73 illus. in color., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-48453-2