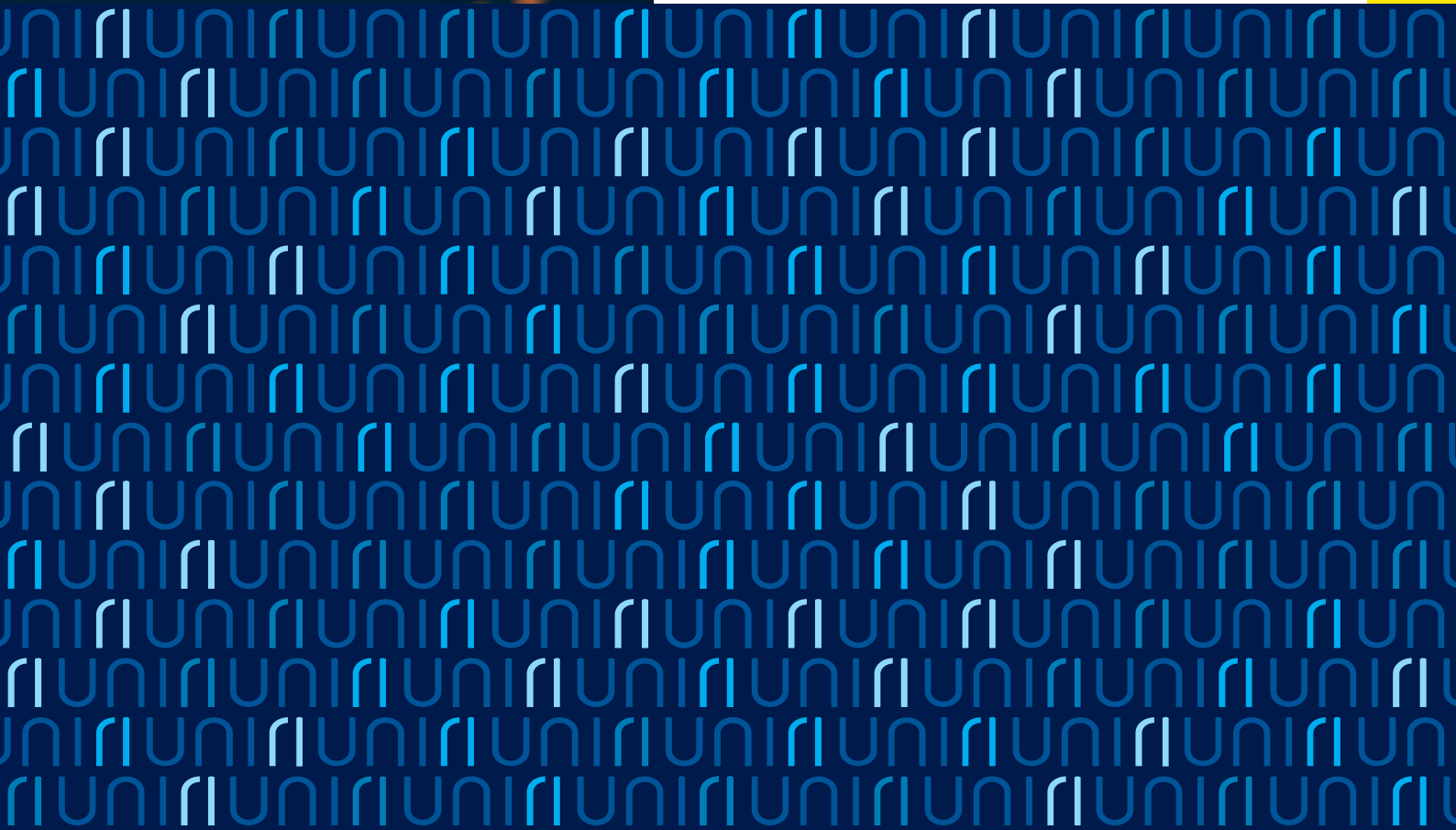




Saša Drezgić  
Alen Host  
Marko Tomljanović  
Saša Žiković

# **ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS OF THE POST COVID-19 WORLD**

Research monograph – First Edition



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**Editors:**

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## FOREWORD

Dear readers, authors, reviewers and colleagues,

The research monograph Economics and business of the post COVID-19 represents a fourth series in our digital transformation effort. We were fortunate to enjoy presentations by more than 50 researchers at the conference, mainly from the Central and Southeastern Europe region. As every year, the main goal of the research effort is to determine the main interdependencies between digitalization and economic dynamics. The social and economic disruptions caused by the pandemic were not only a temporary shock, but also have long-term consequences. However, in addition to the negative effects, we have also seen a significant increase in digitization processes in all areas of society

The conference was organized from June 24 to 26, 2021 ([www.edt-conference.com](http://www.edt-conference.com)). The main theme of the conference was related to the social and economic dynamics after the crisis COVID-19. This year we were honored to have the keynote lecture by the distinguished professor Brad DeLong from the University of California, U.C. Berkeley, Berkeley, California, USA. We also had two conference panels, as we do every year. One related to the field of smart cities under the theme New Future of Urban Life, where we had the opportunity to hear presentations by Nicholas Zingale from Maxine Goodman Levin University of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University, USA, on *Are smart cities being smart enough about advanced technology and the future of city life?* and *Network IQ and the Future of Work* by Daria Tataj, Tataj Innovation. The presentations were followed by a discussion with Jelena Stanković, University of Niš, Faculty of Economics, Serbia, and Jason Papatthasiou, University of Macedonia, Greece. The panel discussion was moderated by Saša Drezgić, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Economics, Republic of Croatia.

This year's Unger Family Foundation panel focused on The World After Covid, chaired by Andrej Kričković, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia, and discussant Al Saracevic - Editor-in-Chief of the San Francisco Examiner. The panel featured four presentations by Predrag Pale, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia; Kristijan Kotarski, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Political Science, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia; Gracielle Li, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA; and Andrei Eydlin, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia. As always, the panel had a transdisciplinary focus on the consequences of the pandemic. The final day of the conference featured a panel on the state of play in financial and monetary issues, with Boris Vujčić, Governor of the Croatian National Bank, and Ante Žigman, Chairman of the Board of the Croatian Financial Services Regulatory Authority, providing an outlook on the global and local dynamics of the financial sector.

We are deeply indebted to all our participants, sponsors, supporting institutions, partners and all members of the programme and organization team. It is a special honor that the President of the Republic of Croatia, Zoran Milanović, supported and opened the conference with his introductory

speech. We also thank Boris Vujčić, Governor of the Croatian National Bank, and Ante Žigman, Chairman of the Board of the Croatian Financial Services Supervisory Authority, for their continued support. We also thank Nicholas C. Zingale (Maxine Goodman Levin School of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University), whose support made it possible to organize the panel discussion on smart cities. Our special thanks to Andrej Kričković, who moderated the Unger Family Foundation panel discussion, and to all the panelists. Finally, we thank the American Embassy in Zagreb and the Unger Foundation for providing a substantial grant that contributed greatly to the quality of the conference.

We are sure that the papers published in this monograph will be a valuable contribution to students and researchers in the field of economics.

Rijeka, July 2022

Editors

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