

Foreign direct investment of Central and Eastern European countries, and the investment development path revisited

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Abstract

The present study investigates long-term developments in inward and outward FDI of 10 Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries using Dunning's investment development path (IDP) paradigm as a theoretical framework. Its main purpose is to determine how far the CEE countries have progressed along their IDPs since the beginning of transition. The results show that half of the analyzed countries have already reached Stage 3 of the IDP, while the other half are either firmly in Stage 2 or are approaching Stage 3. With some notable exceptions, the study points to conformity of the analyzed IDP trajectories with Dunning's model.

Key words: FDI, Central and Eastern European countries, investment development path

JEL Classification: F21, O52, P45

1. Introduction

This paper re-visits and expands the authors' previous investigation of Central European countries progression along the investment development path (IDP) (Gorynia, Nowak and Wolniak, 2010). This time the country coverage includes all the 10 Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries that are now members of the European Union (EU). The group includes the Czech Republic,

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Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, which all joined the EU in 2004, as well as Bulgaria and Romania, which became full members of the Union in 2007. They are referred to as CEE-10 in this paper. The period covering the years from 1990 to 2008, spans almost two decades of these countries' transition to a market economy and a period of generally robust economic growth.

The two decades of transition and accelerated integration into the world economy that the ten countries experienced makes them an interesting and important group of economies to study from the viewpoint of FDI inward and outward stocks, whose relationship constitutes the backbone of the IDP paradigm. Their accession to the EU adds another interesting dimension – the effect of the said accession on their respective IDPs. A surge of inward FDI experienced by these countries in the latter part of the 1990s paved the way to the subsequent strong growth of FDI inflows in the 2000s, boosted by the EU accession.

In the case of most of the countries under consideration, this strong growth of FDI inflows continued even in 2008 when the global recession resulted in a considerable slowdown in world's FDI activity (UNCTAD, 2009). Meanwhile, the latter part of the 2000s saw a surge of outward FDI from most of the CEE-10 countries, thus providing a base for these countries' expected dynamic movement along the IDP.

The primary purpose of this paper is therefore to determine how far the CEE-10 countries have progressed along their IDPs since the beginning of their transition, and to reveal the factors that influenced the positioning of individual countries or sub-groups of the CEE-10 group on their respective IDPs. Part of the research purpose is to observe and explain any country-specific idiosyncrasies in their IDPs and relate them to the original IDP model, thus testing the model's applicability to varying FDI conditions. The empirical data used in the paper are compiled from two sources: UNCTAD and GUS, Central Statistical Office's Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Poland. Based on those data, appropriate ratios and indexes, as well as graphs are devised by the authors in accordance with the IDP model used as the paper's theoretical framework.

The paper sets out by presenting the IDP model (paradigm) and briefly describing its five stages. The same section reviews the relevant literature, focusing on those studies that applied the IDP model to CEE economies. In the subsequent section, the authors try to determine the current positioning of the ten countries on the IDP, using both a graph depicting the relationship between net outward investment position (NOIP) per capita and GDP per capita, as well as detailed data on inward and outward FDI stocks and NOIP's absolute values presented in tables. In doing so, the authors also highlight the EU accession effects on the countries' move through stages 2 and 3, and the effects of the

recent economic and financial crisis on their NOIP dynamics. In the second analytical section, the authors focus on the CEE-10 countries' outward FDI and apply the outward FDI performance index in their analysis of that outward investment. The index is used to supplement and enrich the analysis of the countries' IDP positioning conducted in the previous section. In the concluding section, the authors summarize their findings and reveal a need to add new theoretical considerations to the IDP original model. The concluding section also outlines future research avenues in the area of CEE countries' IDP.

2. The IDP concept and its application in the studies of CEE countries' FDI

The concept of the investment development path (IDP), which relates to foreign direct investment (FDI), was first proposed by Dunning in the early eighties (Dunning, 1981). It was thereafter refined by Dunning (1986 and 1997), Dunning and Narula (1994, 1996 and 2002) and Narula and Dunning (2000). Several other authors have made significant contributions to the concept development, including Lall (1996), and Durán and Úbeda (2001 and 2005).

According to the basic IDP proposition, the inward and outward foreign investment position of a country is tied with its economic development. Changes in the volume and structure of FDI lead to different values in the country's net outward investment (NOI) position, defined as the difference between gross outward direct investment stock and gross inward direct investment stock. The changing NOI position passes through 5 stages intrinsically related to the country's economic development (Dunning and Narula, 2002).¹ A diagrammatic representation of the IDP model is depicted in Figure 1.²

In Stage 1 of the IDP the NOI position is initially close to zero and subsequently assumes negative, but rather small, values. Inward FDI is negligible and flowing mostly to take advantage of the country's natural assets. Outward FDI is also negligible or non-existent, as foreign firms prefer to export and import as well as to enter into non-equity relationships with local firms (Dunning and Narula, 2002, p. 140). As a country develops and improves its L-specific advantages³, it experiences an increased inflow of FDI and enters Stage 2 of the IDP. With outward FDI remaining still low but larger than in the previous stage, the NOI position continues to decrease, although towards the

¹ In its original version (Dunning, 1981), the path had four stages. The fifth stage was added later (Dunning and Narula, 1996).

² The IDP line shown is called by Dunning and Narula (2002) a traditional one. On this traditional line, they superimposed a line, parallel to the traditional one but flatter (*ibid.*, p.139), that, according to these authors, reflects technological and organizational changes in FDI emerging in the 1990s.

³ L-specific advantages denote a country's advantages as a locus for investment vis-à-vis other countries. Such advantages may include large markets, low input costs, tax and financial incentives or strategic geographic location.

latter part of Stage 2, the rate of decrease slows down as the growth of outward FDI converges with that of inward FDI. Stage 3 is reached by a country when it experiences an improving NOI position, although being still negative, due to an increased rate of growth of outward FDI and a gradual slowdown in inward FDI, geared in this case more towards efficiency-seeking motives and away from import-substituting production. Outward FDI is stimulated by domestic firms acquiring new O-specific advantages,⁴ which are increasingly based on the intangible assets and reflect these firms' ability to manage and co-ordinate assets and activities across national borders (Dunning & Narula, 2002, p. 142). In Stage 4, outward FDI stock continues to rise faster than the inward one, and the country's NOI position crosses the zero level and becomes positive. Country L-specific advantages are now mostly derived from created assets and its firms' O-specific advantages develop and lead to their increased international competitiveness, as the indigenous firms seek to maintain their competitiveness by moving their operations to foreign countries. In Stage 5, the NOI position first falls and thereafter demonstrates a tendency to fluctuate around zero but usually with both inward and outward FDI increasing. This stage is characterized by two main phenomena: MNE's growing propensity to internalize their cross-border transactions (as opposed to relying on the market), engaging in an increasingly complex web of co-operative agreements among themselves; and a convergence of Stage 5 countries' economic structures and their international direct investment positions. Stages 4 and 5 are typical of the most developed countries (*ibid.*, p. 143-144).

A conceptual evaluation of the IDP concept, as evidenced in developed as well as in developing and newly industrialized countries, is undertaken by Lall (1996). Lall maintains that structural changes in ownership and location factors influence trends in international capital flows, corporate behavior and government policy. According to one of his suggestions the IDP could be better measured by the international transfer of intangible assets instead of relying only on FDI. His main observation is that countries exhibit long term deviations from the IDP model caused mainly by the nature and efficacy of government policy. This might necessitate extending and modifying the model itself to encompass all the identified sub-patterns.

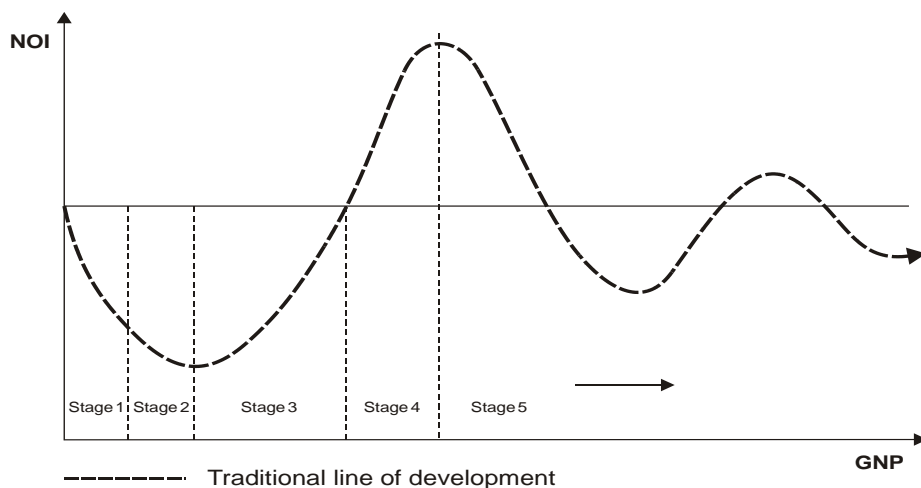
A more recent comprehensive evaluation of the IDP concept, its shortcomings and suggestions for its modification are found in the studies of Durán and Úbeda (2001 and 2005). In calling for a new approach to the IDP, they draw attention to such methodological problems as the incompleteness of the concept of NOI position as an indicator for analyzing the effects of structural changes on inward and outward FDI, and then the insufficiency of GDP per

⁴ O-specific advantages denote ownership advantages of firms, such as brand name, ownership of proprietary technology, or lower costs due to economies of scale.

capita as the indicator of a country's level of economic development. The first dilemma appears in countries where hardly any inward and outward FDI is made and which are classified as being in stage 1 of the IDP. Their NOI position will be close to zero, similarly to developed countries in stage 5 of their IDP. To solve this paradox, Durán and Úbeda propose to look at inward and outward FDI in absolute and relative terms. Suggestions to deal with the second issue revolve around the inclusion of structural variables which would reflect not only the degree of economic development but also each country's peculiarities and the nature of its international trade.

Another significant contribution to the debate around the IDP concept made by Durán and Úbeda concerns their redefinition of Stage 4. In the amended version it is proposed to include developed countries which have: a) a structural gap due to fewer endowments of created assets; b) the same levels of inward FDI as those in Stage 5 but smaller outward FDI compared to those in stage 5; c) a positive or negative NOI position but in all cases lower than that of countries in stage 5. All the proposed modifications depend on the availability of additional or more detailed data and offer much wider analytical possibilities.

Figure 1. The pattern of the Investment Development Path



Source: Dunning and Narula, 2002, p. 139.

Note: Not drawn to scale – for illustrative purposes only

The IDP model has been used as a framework in numerous empirical studies, which by and large attempted to validate it by employing either cross-

sectional or longitudinal data sets.⁵ However, a relatively small number of studies could be identified that directly or indirectly deal with IDPs of CEE countries, of which only four represent a cross-nation comparative analysis.⁶

Boudier-Bensebaa (2008) undertakes a comparative analysis of the IDP in the whole region of Central and Eastern Europe (including the former Soviet Republics) and the European Union of 15 member states. The “Eastern” countries concerned are classified into 4 distinct groups according to their per capita level of GDP and NOI. The NOI of the “Eastern” countries places them in stages 1 or 2 of the IDP, while that of the EU countries points to stages 4 or 5. The first most advanced group of the “Eastern” countries consists of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Croatia. The mentioned group is identified as moving towards the end of stage 2 of their IDPs or even towards the beginning of stage 3. Within the “Eastern” countries groups and sub-groups their NOI reveals a tendency to converge. But as far as income levels are concerned no convergence is found either inside the “Eastern” countries or between them and the EU. Finally the author draws attention to the fact that data on FDI stocks and GDP do not cover all the factors affecting FDI and development. In the FDI sphere, the non-equity forms of investment are left out. As for the effect on FDI, besides GDP, elements such as EU accession, globalization and the transformation process per se should be also taken into account. Boudier-Bensebaa focuses on cross-sectional analysis across countries and does not attempt to assess and explain the individual countries’ IDP trajectories. This missing element is taken up by the authors of this study who argue that the individual countries’ IDP idiosyncrasies can provide a deeper understanding and more insightful explanation of the varying IDPs and their convergence or divergence within groups of countries. In the second cross-nation study focused on Central and Eastern Europe, Kottaridi, Filippaios and Papanastassiou (2004) attempt to integrate Dunning’s IDP model with Vernon’s Product Life Cycle and Hirsch’s International Trade and Investment Theory of the Firm. These authors analyze the location determinants of inward FDI and the interrelationship between inward FDI and imports during the years 1992-2000 in eight new EU member states from CEE and two candidate countries – Bulgaria and Romania. They find evidence of the ten CEE countries going through the second stage of the IDP and gradually moving towards the third stage, which corroborates the findings of Boudier-Bensebaa (2008) with respect to the most advanced CEE economies, labeled CEECs1. Studies by Kalotay (2004) and

⁵ A succinct review of the two types of IDP empirical studies, cross-sectional and longitudinal, can be found in Gorynia, Nowak and Wolniak (2006).

⁶ Several studies focus on individual CEE countries’ IDP. They either explicitly use the IDP framework or focus on some of its elements, typically on outward FDI. A review of these studies is presented in Gorynia, Nowak and Wolniak, 2008.

Svietličič and Jaklič (2003) focus on outward FDI from CEE. While the former study uses the IDP framework, the latter does not.

Kalotay (2004) examines outward FDI from most of the 2004 accession CEE countries plus Croatia, placing these countries in stage 2 of their IDPs. This author predicts that accession of the eight CEE countries to the EU in 2004 should give a major push to both their outward and inward FDI, with an uncertain net impact of such a development on the IDP. However, based on the experience of Portugal (Buckley and Castro, 1998) and Austria (Bellak, 2001), Kalotay hypothesizes that CEE countries being at the time of accession to the EU on the verge of moving from stage 2 to 3 will be held back in their transition to stage 3.

Svietličič and Jaklič (2003), while not using the IDP paradigm as a framework, conduct a comparative analysis of several CEE countries' outward FDI (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia). Their analysis clearly demonstrates that major increases of FDI outflows started in the latter part of the 1990s. This is yet another indication of the CEE countries entering stage 2 of the IDP during that period. At the same time Svetličič and Jaklič find positive correlation between a country's level of development and its rate of investment abroad, and observe that outward FDI of the five countries under study tends to be geographically concentrated in countries with close historical or cultural ties. Quite strikingly, Kalotay's studies of the outward FDI from the Russian Federation (Kalotay, 2005 and 2008) reveal a paradoxical pattern of IDP development. In spite of being a lower middle-income country, Russia is already a net FDI exporter, thus technically passing through stage 4 of the IDP. Although Kalotay calls Russia "a premature outward investor" (2008, p. 89), he wonders if this finding should trigger a paradigm change in FDI theories, including the IDP paradigm. Russia's idiosyncratic IDP can however be explained by the country's significant barriers to attracting FDI (notably high institutional and political risk) on the one hand, and the propensity to invest abroad by energy and raw material sectors' companies, fueled by their surplus liquidity, on the other hand. Since both factors can be considered temporary, one can expect Russia's future NOIP to show a trajectory that is more consistent with the IDP model.

3. Current positioning on the IDP

The last two years under consideration have brought significant changes in the positioning of the ten investigated economies on their respective IDP trajectories. As visualized in Figure 2, and further recorded in Table 1, five countries in descending order (Hungary, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and the Czech Republic) were clearly in their IDP stage 3. Their NOIPs per capita increased in 2008 relatively to the previous year (i.e. decreased in absolute values). The smallest increase was curiously recorded for the Czech Republic –

the country exhibiting the highest GDP per capita of the whole group (20815 USD). Hungary had the highest increase but at a lower GDP per capita of 15408 USD. The lowest GDP per capita was that of Poland in the stage 3 group of countries (13861 USD). Those leaders were with respect to their level of development in the upper middle segment of all the analyzed countries. On the least developed end, there was Bulgaria with decreasing (i.e. rising negative) NOIP and GDP per capita of only 6573 USD in 2008. On the other end was Slovenia with the top GDP per capita of 26905 USD but her NOIP in 2008 was still slightly decreasing indicating however the forthcoming advent into IDP stage 3 as well. Bulgaria and Romania were still in the middle of their IDP stage 2, as well as Latvia, which was however closer to the beginning of her IDP stage 3. Slovakia's NOIP per capita in 2008 was only very slightly higher than in 2007 indicating that the country was at the turning point from stage 2 to stage 3 of its IDP.

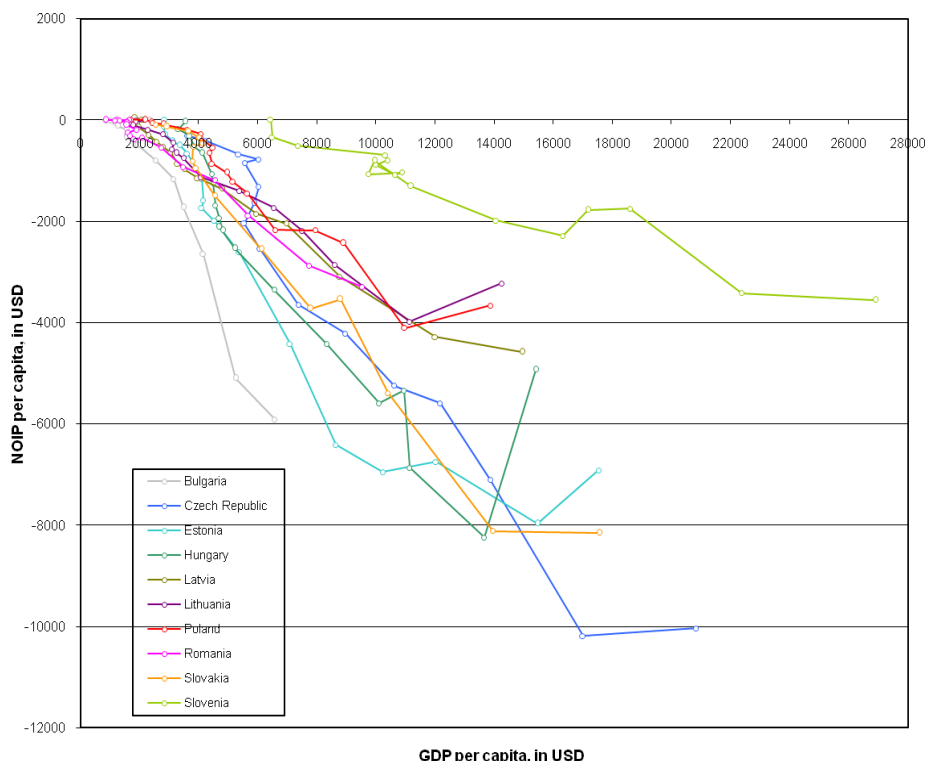
According to the original model of Dunning the shift to IDP stage 3 takes place when the NOIP and in our case the NOIP per capita starts to rise. In the last 2 years for which data are available such shifts in the whole group of countries under investigation were described above. But it must be stressed that in 4 countries such shifts were already observed a few years earlier. In the case of Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia such shift was visible 4 years earlier, in 2004. This year all of them became full members of the EU and this accession effect could be held responsible for the mentioned shift in their NOIPs. Also, a reinforcing factor was the fact that those 3 economies were considered to be the most developed in the group of CEE states and most advanced in the transition process to the market led economic system. In the case of Estonia, a relatively small Baltic economy, a similar shift occurred 3 years earlier, in 2005, indicating a somewhat delayed EU accession effect. Thus the closeness to the latest shifts observed in 2008 indicates that final conclusions as to the permanency of passing to IDP stage 3 require more time for verification.

The underlying causes for the NOIP per capita movements in countries which as of 2008 have been positioned to be in stage 3 of their IDP require more scrutiny of changes in their stocks of outward and inward FDI. These changes are recorded in Table 2. In two cases: that of Poland and Estonia the net outcome of a decrease in their NOIPs per capita was due to their outward FDI stock increasing for at least 2 years before and the inward FDI stock decreasing since 2007 inclusive. This indicated that as for outward FDI expansion, and thus, competitiveness of their firms, these two economies had shown a relatively positive performance in face of the severe economic downturn which started to afflict the global economy towards the end of 2007. But, simultaneously, this same business cycle factor may have been responsible for the fall in inward FDI stocks. Also it cannot be easily determined whether the continuing outward expansion via FDI from those two countries was due to competitive advantages

of domestic firms (the desired expected outcome) or simply indirect FDI, signifying expansion of subsidiaries of foreign MNEs from those countries, thus reflecting their much stronger and sustainable competitive advantage versus their domestic rivals. The retreat of foreign investors in those two cases also demonstrates that the risk associated with recession is not dependent on the size of these two countries internal market, since Poland had the largest market measured by population whereas Estonia a much smaller one.

Hungary, on the other hand, was the only country in the whole group which recorded falls both in inward and outward FDI stocks which contributed to the decrease in its NOIP per capita. This of course meant that the outward FDI retreat was relatively smaller than the inward one. Thus the leading country in the movement into stage 3 of its IDP was also the most sensitive to changes in the downturn of the business cycle.

Figure 2. NOIP per capita and GDP per capita in USD, 1990 – 2008, CEE-10 countries



Source: Authors' calculations based on UNCTAD and Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Poland (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009)

Table 1. NOIP per capita, GDP per capita in USD and Outward Foreign Direct Investment Performance Index (OFDIPI) for CEE-10 countries, 1990-2008

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Bulgaria																				
NOIP p.c.	0.001	-0.006	-0.011	-0.016	-0.029	-0.041	-0.058	-0.12	-0.187	-0.297	-0.327	-0.362	-0.506	-0.799	-1.162	-1.728	-2.647	-5.1	-5.914	
GDP p.c.	2350	873	995	1267	1149	1568	1197	1265	1567	1607	1574	1711	1965	2546	3148	3496	4160	5259	6673	
OFDIPI	-0.014	-0.093	-0.045	-0.029	0	-0.05	-0.223	-0.012	0	0.037	0.006	0.025	0.114	0.089	-0.419	0.61	0.195	0.172	0.481	
Czech R.																				
NOIP p.c.		-0.314	-0.412	-0.314	-0.412	-0.679	-0.784	-0.845	-1.323	-1.646	-2.046	-2.542	-3.646	-4.217	-5.248	-5.598	-7.106	-10.195	-10.036	
GDP p.c.		3603	4230	5360	6022	5559	6030	5680	6030	5880	5549	6058	7379	8959	10615	12165	13863	17004	20815	
OFDIPI		0.257	0.269	0.055	0.188	0.055	0.188	0.027	0.088	0.042	0.019	0.113	0.167	0.149	0.444	-0.008	0.44	0.236	0.287	
Estonia																				
NOIP p.c.		-0.13	-0.278	-0.422	-0.506	-0.666	-0.845	-1.067	-1.169	-1.585	-1.742	-1.994	-2.616	-4.419	-6.413	-6.957	-6.754	-7.971	-6.922	
GDP p.c.		2859	2813	2874	3114	3365	3622	4102	4102	4152	4108	4544	5385	7093	8638	10230	12038	15471	17538	
OFDIPI		0.102	0.112	-0.17	0.203	0.275	0.281	-0.504	0.281	-0.504	0.036	0.121	0.027	0.495	-0.024	0.178	0.267	2.126	1.517	
Hungary																				
NOIP p.c.	-0.036	-0.182	0.31	-0.518	-0.657	-1.067	-1.262	-1.683	-1.943	-2.181	-2.114	-2.537	-3.351	-4.422	-5.593	-5.343	-6.867	-8.249	-4.933	
GDP p.c.	3546	3319	3702	3836	4125	4443	4499	4564	4708	4820	4695	5233	6563	8326	10101	10942	11134	13660	15408	
OFDIPI	0.042	0.093	0	0.029	0.11	0.105	-0.007	0.613	0.247	0.142	0.332	0.293	0.254	1.287	0.52	1.131	1.076	0.69	0.351	
Latvia																				
NOIP p.c.		0.054	-0.055	-0.055	-0.155	-0.296	-0.431	-0.529	-0.529	-0.647	-0.866	-0.97	-1.148	-1.358	-1.85	-2.046	-3.095	-4.285	-4.581	
GDP p.c.		1854	1938	1991	2310	2568	2788	3041	3293	3041	3293	3520	3972	4802	5944	6969	8781	12013	14956	
OFDIPI		0.102	0.112	-0.17	0.203	0.275	0.281	-0.504	0.281	-0.504	0.036	0.121	0.027	0.495	-0.024	0.178	0.267	0.31	0.224	
Lithuania																				
NOIP p.c.		-0.037	-0.088	-0.097	-0.193	-0.284	-0.361	-0.453	-0.453	-0.578	-0.658	-0.752	-1.131	-1.401	-1.734	-2.187	-2.863	-3.98	-3.233	
GDP p.c.		1867	1730	1788	2271	2795	3147	3096	3147	3096	3260	3487	4076	5373	6543	7494	8592	11133	14244	
OFDIPI		0.102	0.112	-0.17	0.203	0.275	0.281	-0.504	0.281	-0.504	0.036	0.121	0.027	0.495	-0.024	0.178	0.267	0.407	0.246	
Poland																				
NOIP p.c.	0.008	-0.001	-0.025	-0.057	-0.086	-0.189	-0.278	-0.361	-0.553	-0.651	-0.864	-1.044	-1.222	-1.455	-2.174	-2.18	-2.436	-4.109	-3.662	
GDP p.c.	1694	2189	2406	2446	2813	3603	4059	4073	4487	4364	4458	4959	5165	5655	6582	7951	8916	10978	13661	
OFDIPI	0.007	-0.01	0.018	0.02	0.026	0.025	0.026	0.018	0.078	0.005	0.002	-0.02	0.071	0.093	0.149	0.536	0.508	0.287	0.222	
Romania																				
NOIP p.c.	0.003	0.002	-0.002	-0.005	-0.013	-0.031	-0.043	-0.102	-0.197	-0.248	-0.308	-0.374	-0.349	-0.549	-0.932	-1.187	-1.891	-2.879	-3.299	
GDP p.c.	1659	1254	854	1157	1327	1575	1576	1583	1885	1600	1673	1824	2090	2726	3475	4557	5684	7726	9618	
OFDIPI	0.045	0.012	0.026	0.028	0	0.005	0	-0.016	-0.009	0.013	-0.009	-0.017	0.023	0.043	0.044	-0.016	0.012	0.042	-0.044	
Slovakia																				
NOIP p.c.		-0.093	-0.137	-0.216	-0.347	-0.466	-0.528	-0.811	-0.466	-0.528	-0.811	-0.953	-1.493	-2.553	-3.727	-3.54	-5.391	-8.115	-8.153	
GDP p.c.		2550	2939	3676	3977	4007	4164	3825	3795	3917	3795	3917	4552	6122	7800	8604	10402	13958	17966	
OFDIPI		0.102	0.112	-0.17	0.203	0.275	0.281	-0.504	0.281	-0.504	0.036	0.121	0.027	0.495	-0.024	0.178	0.267	0.129	0.089	
Slovenia																				
NOIP p.c.		-0.345	-0.511	-0.693	-0.799	-0.886	-1.083	-1.083	-1.083	-1.038	-1.071	-0.808	-1.309	-1.995	-2.286	-1.782	-1.754	-3.422	-3.559	
GDP p.c.		6445	6496	7347	10329	10393	9992	10640	10887	9737	9950	11197	14075	16323	17182	18596	22379	26905	26905	
OFDIPI		0.102	0.112	-0.17	0.203	0.275	0.281	-0.504	0.281	-0.504	0.036	0.121	0.027	0.495	-0.024	0.178	0.267	0.109	0.867	

Source: UNCTAD and Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Poland (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009). OFDIPI - outward FDI performance index reflects the ratio of the share of a country's outward FDI in a given year in world outward FDI, to the share of the country's GDP in a given year in world GDP.

Table 2. Outward FDI stock, inward FDI stock and NOIP for CEE-10 countries, in millions of USD, 1990-2008

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bulgaria																			
FDI Outward	124	118	116	112	112	105	76	74	75	11	85	68	81	103	181	343	528	1248	
FDI Inward	112	168	210	250	355	446	555	1059	1597	2403	2704	2945	4074	6371	9058	13565	20707	39484	46011
NOIP	12	-50	-94	-138	-242	-341	-479	-985	-1522	-2392	-2619	-2871	-3993	-6268	-9058	-13384	-20364	-38956	-44763
Czech Republic																			
FDI Outward	..	70	91	181	300	345	498	548	804	698	738	1136	1473	2284	3760	3610	5058	8557	9913
FDI Inward	1363	1886	2889	3423	4547	7350	8572	9234	14375	17552	21644	27092	38669	45287	60662	77460	112408	114369	114369
NOIP		-1816	-2798	-3242	-4247	-7005	-8074	-8686	-13571	-16854	-20906	-25956	-37196	-43003	-53499	-57052	-72402	-103851	-104456
Estonia																			
FDI Outward		57	63	65	68	68	108	215	198	281	259	442	676	1028	1419	1940	3613	6174	6686
FDI Inward		96	258	473	675	825	1148	1822	2467	2645	3160	4226	7002	10064	11290	12664	16815	15962	15962
NOIP		-39	-195	-408	-607	-717	-933	-1624	-2186	-2386	-2718	-3550	-5974	-8645	-9350	-9051	-10641	-9276	-9276
Hungary																			
FDI Outward	197	224	224	226	291	278	265	647	784	924	1280	1556	2166	3509	6018	7993	12693	17596	14179
FDI Inward	569	2107	3424	5576	7087	11304	13282	17968	20733	23260	22870	27407	36224	48340	62585	61886	81760	100335	63671
NOIP	-372	-1883	-3200	-5350	-6796	-11026	-13017	-17321	-19949	-22336	-21590	-25851	-34058	-44831	-56567	-53893	-69067	-82739	-49492
Latvia																			
FDI Outward		365	361	296	231	209	222	281	244	244	24	39	59	114	235	284	447	880	1066
FDI Inward		176	221	436	616	936	1272	1558	1795	2084	2328	2751	3277	4517	4993	7532	10637	11447	11447
NOIP		189	140	-140	-385	-727	-1050	-1277	-1551	-2060	-2289	-2692	-3163	-4282	-4709	-7085	-9757	-10381	-10381
Lithuania																			
FDI Outward		0	0	0	1	3	26	17	26	29	48	60	120	423	721	1183	1570	1990	1990
FDI Inward		107	137	321	352	700	1041	1625	2063	2334	2666	3981	4960	6389	8211	10939	15062	12847	12847
NOIP		-107	-137	-321	-351	-697	-1015	-1608	-2037	-2305	-2618	-3921	-4840	-5966	-7490	-9756	-13492	-10857	-10857
Poland																			
FDI Outward	408	401	414	432	461	539	735	678	1165	1024	1018	1156	1457	2146	3223	6439	10705	19369	21814
FDI Inward	109	425	1370	2621	3789	7843	11463	14587	22461	26075	34227	41247	48320	57877	86366	89694	103616	175851	161406
NOIP	299	-24	-956	-2189	-3328	-7304	-10728	-13909	-21296	-33209	-40091	-46863	-55731	-83143	-83255	-92911	-156482	-139592	-139592
Romania																			
FDI Outward	66	87	79	103	107	121	120	126	135	144	136	117	144	208	273	214	278	1240	912
FDI Inward	0	44	122	215	402	821	1097	2417	4527	5671	6951	8350	7799	12188	20523	25894	41001	62961	71864
NOIP	66	-43	-112	-295	-700	-977	-1291	-2291	-4392	-5527	-6815	-8233	-7655	-11980	-20250	-25680	-40723	-61721	-70952
Slovakia																			
FDI Outward	..	127	136	149	166	139	183	236	408	346	374	449	485	823	835	705	1282	1509	1901
FDI Inward	282	363	463	642	897	1297	2046	2103	2920	3188	4746	5582	8530	14576	19775	30327	45251	45933	45933
NOIP		-236	-327	-493	-731	-1158	-1863	-2842	-4372	-5133	-6045	-7655	-11980	-20075	-29070	-39070	-43742	-44032	-44032
Slovenia																			
FDI Outward		279	281	365	524	470	459	636	626	768	988	1505	2350	3025	3515	3942	7197	8650	8650
FDI Inward		841	954	1365	1886	2043	2207	2777	2682	2893	2594	4112	6308	7590	7077	7452	14048	15872	15872
NOIP		-562	-673	-1000	-1362	-1573	-1748	-2141	-2056	-2125	-1606	-2607	-3958	-4565	-3562	-3510	-6851	-7222	-7222

Source: UNCTAD and Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Poland (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009)

The effects of recession in 2008 were also visible in Lithuania's inward FDI stock rising in 2007 and then falling in the following year. At the same time its outward FDI continued its unabated rise since 1998.

The Czech Republic, as observed earlier, entered stage 3 of its IDP registering the smallest increase in its NOIP per capita in the whole group. This was due to its outward FDI stock rising slightly faster than its inward FDI stock, which was also larger.

The remaining countries in the group, i.e. Slovakia, Slovenia, Latvia, Romania and Bulgaria, which were still positioned in their IDP stage 2, all displayed slower rising outward FDI stocks compared with faster rising inward FDI stocks. This trend embraced relatively high GDP per capita countries (the first three) as well as the two least developed ones in the group.

4. The outward FDI performance index

The analysis of the outward FDI performance index (OFDIPI) provides an indication as to the magnitude of outward FDI which a country generates relatively to the size of its economic potential, thus indirectly pointing out which country has the capacity to move into stage 3 of its IDP or, being in that stage, continue moving towards stage 4. The values of the mentioned index less than 1 signify that outward FDI is less than proportional to the size of the home country's economy as measured by its participation in the global economy as such. If, on the other hand, the values of the mentioned index are higher than 1 then the outward FDI generated is more than proportional relative to the aforementioned size of the home economy. From the point of view of positioning on the IDP the closer the index is to 1 or higher than 1 the more predisposed a given country is to advance on its IDP trajectory or in this case reach stage 3 of its IDP, or continue moving within stage 3 faster than others.

In this context the values of the mentioned index as applied to the ten countries in this study are presented in Table 1. Among those countries Hungary was the unquestioned leader recording the highest OPI values in 1991, 1995, 1997 and from 1999 onwards, surpassing in 2003, 2005 and 2006 the threshold value of 1, reflecting the highest relative effectiveness in outward FDI expansion, which in turn was perceived as the key factor in upgrading the country's international competitiveness. Until the end of 2006 no other country in the group recorded OFDIPI values higher than 1. At that moment Hungary showed the greatest propensity to be capable of being the first to move into its IDP stage 3.

In the two ensuing years: 2007 and 2008 however a radical change occurred in the OFDIPI values of certain countries. Estonia's value of this index jumped from 0.267 in 2006 to the highest recorded value in the whole group so far as 2.126 thus succeeding Hungary as the new leader. The reason for that outstanding turnaround of Estonia was due to a sudden surge in outward FDI

even in the face of rising inward FDI stock. On the other hand, Hungary's index fell to 0.69 indicating a substantial worsening of its international competitive position. Then, in 2008, when recession became prevalent, Estonia's index somewhat deteriorated but still to an impressive level of 1.51 showing sustained outward competitiveness in a difficult external environment. Hungary suffered more with its index going down to a mere 0.351 level.

A trend similar to that of Estonia was seen in the case of Slovenia's OFDIPI. In 2007 it rose from 0.267 to a high of 1.019 in 2007 only to fall back to 0.867 in 2008. This also can be considered as evidence of a relatively small but well developed economy demonstrating a sustained capacity to maintain its competitiveness on foreign markets.

Then there is the case of 5 countries (Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia) exhibiting a decline in their OFDIPI in 2007 and 2008. The first three registered in 2008 a similar level of the mentioned index ranging from 0.222 for Poland to 0.246 for Lithuania, thus revealing that these economies (one with a large market and two with small internal markets) were underperforming in their outward FDI relatively to their economic potential, mainly as a result of recession. This was followed by Slovakia, another small country, whose OFDIPI plunged down to 0.089 in 2008. And the lowest level of this index (-0.044) was recorded by Romania, confirming that also in this dimension the performance of this Balkan economy was in line with the second lowest GDP per capita level for the whole group and in essence attested to its companies' paucity of significant competitive advantages that could be successfully exploited via FDI in foreign markets in addition to the negatively reinforcing effect of economic slowdown.

Bulgaria and the Czech Republic differentiated themselves from the rest by recording increased values of OFDIPI in 2007 and 2008 although both had higher values of the mentioned index in 2006. Also worth noting is the fact that Bulgaria, the least developed in the group of all the 10 countries, had a much higher OFDIPI of 0.481 in 2008 than the Czech Republic, the second most developed in the whole group with an OFDIPI of 0.287. This can be interpreted as evidence of rising international competitiveness of Bulgarian firms stemming from an economy still in stage 2 of its IDP, especially when compared with their Czech competitors in foreign markets having behind them and being supported by a much more developed economic potential of an economy positioned at the beginning of its IDP stage 3. Only these two countries, although being at opposing ends of the economic development scale, were able to withstand the onslaught of recession and improve in these challenging years their OFDIPI values.

5. Conclusions

The negative thrust of the last global recession exerted a surprising and paradoxical effect of pushing five of the investigated CEE-10 economies well

into stage 3 of their IDPs. This provided a new theoretical consideration which could be added to the general IDP model in that exogenous macroeconomic factors such as in this case a downturn in the business cycle which was not directly connected to and/or affecting changes in the NOIP construct, as envisaged originally by J. Dunning, could expedite the movement of an economy from one stage to another (in this case from stage 2 to stage 3). Moreover, in the case of two countries with a considerable development gap towards the rest (Romania and Bulgaria) this same factor facilitated movement of these two Balkan economies along their IDP stage 2 trajectories. This so far short term effect, observed in a time frame of two years, has still to be proven to be sustainable since evidence from the past shows that in some cases this movement into stage 3 can be reversible. This reversibility was observed previously as a consequence of accession to the European Union in 2004, in the case of Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia one year later, and in the case of Estonia two years later. Thus, we see that external factors or influences may exert a considerable impact on the IDPs of the former transition economies. What also has to be noted in this context is that Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia have always been perceived as leaders and advanced economies in the mentioned transition (to a market led system) process.

The evidence provided by the analysis of the OFDIPI also confirmed that the investigated countries weathered with different strength and success the negative consequences for their international competitiveness and sustainability of their competitive advantages in foreign markets brought about by the last global recession. Only a minority of the CEE-10 countries was able to improve its OFDIPI values. This of course brings into focus the necessity of all the remaining countries in the group to institute economic policy measures addressed to remedy and eliminate the existing unfavorable situation. The key thrust lies in sustaining and promoting outward direct investment, especially by domestic MNCs and/or national firms since subsidiaries of foreign based MNCs usually wield so much economic power that they are fully capable of re-exporting capital without additional host country assistance, encouragement or support.

The analysis of the IDPs of the group of 10 CEE countries leads to a general conclusion that in their economic development viewed from a time perspective of 19 years from the start of the mentioned transition process they have all followed the basic premises and trajectories as set forth in the original IDP model of J. Dunning. With certain exceptions which can be explained by the idiosyncratic nature of development per se, countries belonging to the more developed group are well into stage 3 of their IDPs whereas those that are catching up are appropriately and in line with the mentioned model still in stage 2. All of those conclusions are subject to be confirmed by developments in the coming years since definite patterns and trends are clearly visible only in a long

term approach. Furthermore, a more precise determination and verification should be accomplished employing econometric methods which are envisaged by the authors to follow very shortly.

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