



INTRODUCING: **CESifo** FORUM – A NEW QUARTERLY

This is the first issue of *CESifo Forum*, a new economic journal of the Ifo Institute. *CESifo Forum* will replace *ifo Digest*, the Institute's English-speaking quarterly founded in 1978. With the new journal our emphasis is shifting from in-house to external authors and from German to international topics, reflecting the fact that international, especially European issues will assume an ever more prominent role in the Institute's future research and service activities. CESifo, a joint initiative of the Center for Economic Studies (CES) at the University of Munich and the Ifo Institute for Economic Research, will be the vehicle for all our international activities.

CESifo Forum is a non-partisan journal with a truly European perspective. A common currency and open borders are signs of the increasing speed of integration in Europe. The mutual interest in national problems and the common interest in European problems require an international approach, and this is *CESifo Forum's* aim. The journal will reflect the scope of activities of CES and Ifo, from scholarly research to the analysis of the latest business data, in a style accessible to an educated general public. *CESifo Forum* will contain short, lucid and incisive articles on economic problems, written by academics and policy makers from various countries.

In the section "Focus" we invite a number of authors to address a common topic. This issue focuses on the European unemployment problem. In the section "Pro and Contra" we present two experts' opposing views on a particular issue, such as minimum wages. The sections "Spotlights" and "DICE Reports" will highlight topical economic developments with short statements built around graphical illustrations. DICE is Ifo's new Database of Institutional Comparison in Europe. Finally, in

the section "Trends" we supply time series on economic developments in Europe, including the well-known Ifo Business Climate Index and the latest results of Ifo's quarterly Economic Survey International (ESI), a poll of transnational as well as national organisations conducted in about 80 countries.

CESifo Forum is edited by Heidemarie Sherman, supported by Willi Leibfritz, Gernot Nerb, and Wolfgang Ochel from the Ifo Institute. I wish this team much success in its endeavour to put life into the new journal and to make it a heavily frequented market place of economic ideas in Europe.

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