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EXPERIMENT AND HEURISTICS IN ECONOMY

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During the past decades, the problem of decision-making under its very many aspects, has been present in the preoccupations of specialists, theoreticians and practicians confronted with the still growing complexity of economic life in full progress, in our country. These preoccupations are explained by the fact that the decision-making processes are holding an extremely important place in economic activity representing key moments in the manufacturing, distribution, exchange and consumption of products at a macro- and micro-economic level.

Whereas experimental methods have long been known and applied successfully in the greater part of natural sciences, in economic sciences, due to specific conditions, they were introduced much later and only to a small extent. The effective and efficient use of the experiment in economy can be considered as accomplished only in recent years, with the introduction of simulation techniques.

The theme of the study "Experiment and Heuristics in Economy" is therefore pre-eminently modern and highly topical, the authors having the great merit of approaching it competently and passionately. The merit is still greater as such a work was so far missing in our specialized literature.

The study is very well presented, its introduction and ten chapters including all essential aspects pertaining to the problems of experiment and heuristics in economy.

The first six chapters presenting: the investigation of economic phenomena by experiment and simulation, the implications of the degree of quantification of phenomena of the sphere of experiments and simulation, the experiment and investigation of the dependence relationships among phenomena, uni-and-multifactorial experiments, Latin quadrats and Greek-Latin quadrats acquaint the reader, in the first place, with the general problems of this field and also with various types of experimental techniques.

Chapter seven: Simulation heuristic techniques is devoted to simulation methods and the last chapters (8—10) present practical applications of simulation in economy, namely heuristic algorithms in decision substantiation in stocking and storing processes and heuristic algorithms used in investigating expectation phenomena and enterprise games.

The study pursues a systematic presentation of the theoretical and practical aspects of the experiment, simulation of heuristic algorithms and enterprise games, with applications in various fields of economic activity.

The selection of the methods and techniques was made by starting from the need of placing at the reader's disposal instruments less approached in the literature of our country but, which enjoyed particular attention in the world, during the past decades.

The succession of the chapters fully corresponds to a gradual assimilation of notions, some of them extremely complex which makes necessary the utilization of the mathematical apparatus specific of these techniques.

Thus, in order to solve complex problems facing our country's economy for passing on to a new, higher quality, the study presents relevant examples treated with the aid of modern instruments based on major aspects of activities in the economy, meant to contribute to improving the substantial growth of economic efficiency.

The treatment of the chapters is of a remarkable scientific standard comprising specialized information based on a wide and recent reference material. We also underline the oringiality of the treatment and organization of the material and of many of the economic examples presented.

Special mention should be made of chapter ten. This chapter is of great importance in economic practice, aimed at acquainting readers with an extremely efficient instrument: the enterprise games. By the treatment of the whole chapter, they fully succeed in attaining the goal proposed at the existing level of assimilation of the enterprise games in our country.

The style of the work is pleasant and attractive, easy to follow, the numerous tables and schemes still more facilitating the reading of the text.

The work can be studied and used by all specialists working in the modern fields of mathematical economy, by researchers, academic staff, students as well as by any economist wishing to keep pace with the present development of economic sciences.

In conclusion, we consider that the study "Experiment and Heuristics in Economy" meets a real need of our specialized literature. The authors deal, with great competence, with the most important problems in an extremely accurate style and from an original point of view. Therefore, a theoretical and applicative research work, finalized in an extremely valuable study.

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