L. Tövissi and E. Ţigănescu

BALANŢA LEGĂTURILOR DINTRE RAMURI

(The Interbranch Balance)

Editura Ştiinţifică, Bucureşti, 1969

The profound study of the synthetic indicators in economy, which characterize the size and dynamics of the total social product, of the national income, of the accumulation fund and of the consumption fund, the structure of production costs, the rate of reproduction and so on, are of particular importance for the planned management of national economy and for the scientific analysis of economic phenomena and developments. There is a close relation of causality and interdependence between these indicators, which determines the necessity of maintaining a perfect correlation among them, both when elaborating the plan and in the course of its carrying out. In a modern economy the normal operation of the economic machinery requires the synchronization of the activity of the various production branches and units. The interbranch balance plays an important part among the techniques and models contributing to the achievement of this desideratum. Taking into account the particular importance of this instrument, the highest national bodies have resolved to elaborate such a balance. The fact that, just in the period of the preparatory works in view of elaborating our first interbranch balance, Prof. dr. L. Tövissi and E. Ţigănescu's book, published by the Editura Ştiinţifică, concerning these problems has made a timely appearance, is particularly praiseworthy.

Containing the most recent results obtained on a world scale, as well as the results of their own investigations, this work marks an important event in our scientific life. Thanks to the scientific competence of the authors and their long teaching experience, this work manages to blend the theoretical aspects with the presentation of the practical methodology in view of drawing up and utilizing the interbranch balance, both at the macroeconomic and at the microeconomic levels.

After determining the place of the interbranch balance within the national economy balance system, the authors present its model both under a natural form and a value form. The various technical problems connected with the interbranch balance are concomitantly presented in detail and with due scientific strictness.

The authors have granted particular attention to the eluciadation of the methodologic problems in elaborating the interbranch balance: branch classification of national economy, manner in which import and export, amortization and so on, are reflected.

Starting from the concrete realities in our national economy, the authors present a series of methodologic solutions, of particular scientific value, which will certainly be utilized in a proper way by the team now elaborating the first interbranch balance for Romania.

The numerous problems concerning the utilization of the interbranch balance in the economic analysis and planning have been granted an important part in the book. Particular stress is laid when pointing out the new possibilities which this instrument places in the hands of economists in view of improving the computations when analyzing economic efficiency, when measuring the productivity of social work and so on. The theoretical presentation is permanently illustrated by judiciously chosen numerical examples, thus making the respective methods easier to assimilate by a great number of practicians in economy.

It is well-known that the elaboration of a proper price system is an important activity in the planned management of national economy. Concomitantly, this is one of the most difficult and discussed problems confronting the economists in the socialist countries. Considering the importance and present interest of this problem and also the fact that it is almost unanimously acknowledged at present that the elaboration of a proper price system can only be achieved with the help of the interbranch balance apparatus, the authors have devoted an entire chapter of their work to these problems.

The authors expound the various conceptions which have appeared in the specialty literature concerning price forming, the manner of computing the influence born by the change of some prices, on the prices of the other goods and so on.

The problems connected with the dynamic model of interbranch relations, as well as the territorial balance of interbranch relations are also quite broadly analyzed.

It is to the credit of the authors that this book is not only meant for economists who deal with macroeconomic problems but — in the last two chapters — it also presents some aspects connected with the use of this instrument at the branch, industrial central or enterprise level. The authors analyze problems related to the determination of the optimum production plan in industrial and agricultural units, the manner in which direct expenses for critical incomes are normed, and so on.

Particular attention is granted to the solving of some most up-to-date theoretical problems, such as the meaning of shodow prices and their use in the work of analysis and planning, etc.

It is noteworthy that this work has filled an important gap in our economic literature and a complete survey on the interbranch balance is thus available for the economists working in the most various fields, ranging from enterprises to research institutes.

This book, apart from making familiar a particularly useful instrument for economic planning and analysis, is liable to stimulate new investigations in this modern field.

M. Altăr