ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF TAXATION ON HUMANITY

Member of the Government argue that taxes are a necessary evil - the price of a civilized society '. Irrespective of whether you agree with the sentiment or not, it can not be denied that this price is usually very high. Tax systems vary from country to country. In fact, they may be very different local taxes within one country. The tax system is the sum of all possible tax forms of a country. Tax forms include all taxes, fees, grants, subsidies and compensations that the state receives or gives. The tax system should be terminologically composed as a coherent relationship between the elements, but practice shows that taxation in many countries takes place through different tax instruments, each with its own objectives and methods. Depending on the method of taxation, we can discover certain indirect goals of the tax system, which may have their roots in economic, political, historical and social relations.

Taxes can be divided into two categories: direct and indirect. The direct taxes are income tax, profit tax and property tax. The indirect taxes are sales taxes, taxes on alcohol and cigarettes, and customs duties. These are less obvious than direct taxes but they can be still heavy financial burden, especially to the poor. Taxes are also elements of "social engineering" - tools encouraged towards certain behavior to ones but anothers are discouraged. Whenever a new tax is proposed, legislators try to fill any loopholes in the tax law. Most people will reluctantly acknowledged the benefits that taxes bring to their community. Nevertheless, many people find the way to avoid paying certain taxes. For many of us, paying taxes are stressful and burdensome.

1 Introduction

Governments need a lot of money to operate and provide the necessary services. In France, for example, one in four people is employed in the public sector. These include teachers, employees at post offices, museums and hospitals, police officers and other government officials. Taxes are needed for their salaries. Taxes also build roads, schools and hospitals, and pay bills for services such as garbage collection and mail delivery.

Army spending is another important reason for taxes. Income tax was first collected from wealthy Britons, to fund the war against the French in 1799. During World War II, however, the British government also required the working class to start paying its share of income tax. Today, maintaining a state army is still very expensive, even when there is no war[1].

Taxes are also a means of "social engineering" - a tool that encourages one behavior and discourages another. Taxation of alcoholic beverages, for example, is said to limit excessive alcohol consumption. Thus, in many countries, taxes amount to about 35 percent of the retail price of beer.

High taxes are also characteristic of tobacco. In South Africa, the share of taxes on the price of a pack of cigarettes is between 45% and 50%. However, the government may not always have a completely selfless motive to encourage such taxes. Kenneth Warner writes in Foreign Policy magazine that tobacco is "a strong economic force, as tobacco sales generate hundreds of billions of dollars [in profit] annually and additional billions from taxes paid."

A notable example of social engineering is from the early 20th century. U.S. lawmakers have sought to limit the emergence of wealthy family dynasties. How? With the introduction of a property inheritance tax. When a wealthy man dies, taxes swallow up a large portion of his accumulated wealth. Heirs do not like this tax to "redirect money from family, aristocratic channels to civil, democratic ones." This may be true, but wealthy taxpayers use a number of tactics to cushion the impact of this tax[2].

Taxes still cause a variety of social problems, such as environmental ones. The Environmental Magazine writes, “Nine Western European countries have recently introduced an environmental tax, primarily as a means of reducing harmful substances in the air.” Another attempt at social engineering is the aforementioned progressive income taxes aimed at reducing the gap between rich and poor. Some governments also provide tax breaks to those who donate to charity or couples with children.

Whenever a new tax is proposed, legislators try to fill any gaps in the tax law. Remember: There is a huge amount of money at stake. What is the result? Tax laws are complex and very professional. An article in Time magazine explains that many of the complications in U.S. tax law “stem from defining income,” that is, determining what is actually taxable. Additional complications are the result of a number of rules, "which allow for a wide variety of deductions and exemptions."

[1] Popović D. (1997) *Nauka o porezima i poresko pravo*, Beograd: Open Society Institute / Constitutional and Legislative Policy Institute.
[2] Popović D. (1999) *Poreski sistem*, Beograd: Univerzitet u Beogradu, Pravni fakultet, Dosije.

However, complex tax legislation is not limited to the United States. The recent edition of British tax law covers 9521 pages and is collected in ten books[3].

The Office of Tax Policy Research at the University of Michigan reports: "U.S. taxpayers spend more than three billion hours each year to meet their income tax returns. The value of the time and money invested by American taxpayers each year [to complete these forms] is as much as € 90 billion, or about 10% of the taxes collected. Most of these costs are due to the great complexity of income tax law. "Reuben, mentioned at the beginning of the first article in this set, says," I used to fill out tax return forms myself, but it took me too long and I often felt I was paying more. as needed. Now I pay the accountant to prepare the tax return.

Most people, though reluctant, will recognize the benefits that taxes bring to their community. The head of the British Tax Administration once said: "No one likes paying income tax, but few say it would be better not to have it." In the United States, some estimate that as many as 90 per cent of people comply with tax laws. One tax expert admits, "Most non-compliance is caused more by problems with the law and procedures than by intentional evasion."

Nevertheless, many find ways to avoid paying certain taxes. Consider, for example, what an article in the USNews & World Report said about corporate taxes: "Many companies, with tax breaks and financial manipulation, legally avoid paying a large portion of their taxes - sometimes even all of them." An American corporation sets up a company in another country that has a low tax rate. He then does not have to pay US taxes, which can be as high as 35%, even though "the company's headquarters may be just a drawer and a mailbox."[4]

But there is also direct tax evasion. In one European country, tax evasion is reported to be seen as a "national sport". According to a survey in the United States, only 58 percent of men between the ages of 25 and 29 thought it was wrong not to declare all income.[5]

2 History of taxes

They invented taxes in order to "punish" the rich, take their money and give it to the poor. The crowd thus voted to introduce taxes, which thus became legalized by the constitution. However, they forgot a very important factor, namely that the rich

[3] Tipke K. in Lang J. (1996) *Steuerrecht*, 15. Auflage, Koln: Verlag Dr. Otto Schmidt.
[4] Jelčič B. in Lončarič-Horvat O. (1981) *Nakua o finansijama*, Zagreb: Pravni fakultet.
[5] Pernek F, et. al. (1999) *Finančno pravo in javne finance*, posebni del, Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru, Pravna fakulteta.

are always one step ahead of the poor, and that they hid their property under the auspices of a legal entity that allowed them to use the money before it was taken from them by the state.[6]

At first, in the old age, they were mainly burdened by foreigners, especially submissive nations. They paid the head tax for this purpose. Given the low level of development of the factors of production at that time, the size of the property was the most tangible sign of economic and thus tax ability. Initially, only real estate was subject to taxation.

In the Middle Ages, taxes took the form of aid given by feudal lords to a medieval ruler. when regular income was not sufficient for state needs (ibid.).

Given the nature of aid, especially in times of war, taxes were one of the main topics of discussion in the sessions of the national and provincial assemblies. The provincial estates approved taxes on a case-by-case basis, which at the time still had the character of exceptional duties[7].

With the strengthening of the ruler's position vis-à-vis the estates, taxes gained importance. The same was true later, when after the victory of the bourgeoisie the bourgeois parliament became the bearer of sovereignty, Taxes were given the nature of general obligatory duties.

Taxes are, as is typical of most financial institutions, a distinct historical category that reflects the political and economic order of each society. We can argue that the history of taxes is at the same time the history of the struggle for greater political democracy and for fairer economic relations in state communities. It is therefore understandable that the lines of social change have always also included radical proposals for tax reform (ibid.).

3 Tax system

The tax system is the sum of all possible tax forms of a country. Tax forms include all taxes, fees, grants, subsidies and compensations that the state receives or gives. The tax system should be terminologically composed as a coherent relationship between the elements, but practice shows that taxation in many countries takes place through different tax instruments, each with its own objectives and methods.

[6] Jeličić B, et al., (1996) *Financijsko pravo - posebni dio*, 2. izminjeno i dopunjeno izdanje, zagreb: Birotehnika.
[7] Pernek F. in Škof B.(1996) *Javne finance in finančno pravo*, Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru Pravna fakulteta.

Depending on the method of taxation, we can discover certain indirect goals of the tax system, which may have their roots in economic, political, historical and social relations. In addition to standard tax forms (personal income tax, corporate income tax, sales taxes promet etc.), certain specific forms of taxation also appear in tax practice, the abundance of which is small, but they were introduced into the tax system due to some special intentions. In addition to the delimitation of general and special benefits, it is also necessary to specify the mechanisms of income equalization. Although some countries use certain mechanisms to determine the degree of coordination between decentralized tax authorities and the distribution of income between those authorities, the emergence of tax elements that can be determined by both central and local or federal government ores may result in greater or lesser inconsistency of the tax system itself. The tax system is not based on predefined principles and scientific principles, but reflects the compromise of different political forces, which are subject to historical development and the desire to introduce new taxes that would be more generous for the state and socio-economically more favorable for individuals. In some countries, they have tackled this problem from the legislative point of view by introducing a special systemic law, which regulates general tax and financial relations in its provisions, so that the number of conflict cases is reduced to a minimum[8].

The tax systems of countries differ not only on the basis of the subject of taxation, but also on the share of certain public revenues in the structure of revenues of a public (fiscal) nature. In developed countries, where per capita income is relatively high, the share of income and wealth tax will also be higher than in developing countries. In countries where the income of the population is relatively low, the tax authorities have to cover the deficit of public revenues through sales taxes and consumption taxes[9].

The system of taxes and tax benefits in market-oriented economies is arranged in such a way that they are determined on the basis of firmly set criteria of an economic, ecological and socio-political nature and have the least possible impact on tax neutrality. Tax policy must strive for optimality in achieving allocation and redistributive goals when it wants to achieve favorable financial resources through taxes. In non-market-oriented economies, tax policy is mainly focused on the transfer of funds from the economic sector to the state budget, with the tax position of some sectors of the economy being very differentiated, depending on the advantages provided by the tax policy maker[10].

[8] Djanani C., (1998) Internationales Steuerrecht 2. uberarbeitete Auflage, Wien: Linde.
[9] Kovač M. (2008) Davki od A do Ž, Ljubljana: Založniška hiša Primath d.o.o.
[10] Doernberg L. R., (1989) International Taxation, St. Paul, Minn: West Publishing Co.

The manner of state regulation and belonging to a certain international association can also affect the functioning of the tax system. In the international association, it is necessary to take care of methods and ways of unification and harmonization of tax systems of individual countries and the elimination of double taxation.

4 Legal aspect of the impact of taxes on humans

Given the fact that public revenues are governed by public expenditures (Wagner, 1865), fiscal principles are at the highest level of the hierarchy of taxation principles. In the event of a conflict, the fiscal principles are first taken into account, and only after that can the other tax principles be applied to the resulting case[11].

The principle of legality of taxes (nullum tributum sine lege) stipulates that only the Constitution and laws can establish, confirm and change taxes and other public duties. This principle is so important in the tax system that some countries accept it as a constitutional principle and implement it in their constitutions. The legal characteristics of this principle are formulated in five requirements, namely:

- Only the law can prescribe the origin of tax law,
- Interpretation of tax norms is possible only in a restrictive framework,
- An analogy of tax norms is possible, but to a limited extent,
- Retroactivity is inadmissible and
- All taxes must be legally clear and precisely defined.

Transparency of the tax system is important in some developed countries not only at the level of application of the principle of legality but also for economic reasons. When a country wants to get foreign direct investors, it is necessary to create such a tax system that will be understandable and comparable to the tax system of a non-resident investor[12].

The principle of generosity indicates that taxes, together with other public levies, must provide the resources necessary to cover planned expenditure. This principle must be fully met if we are to have a positive budget balance. In a broader sense, this principle has no absolute advantage over other principles, as the breadth of public expenditure is determined through economic, social and political consequences. A budgetary balance can only be established if two requirements are met, namely: the regularity of government revenue and the provision of sources of government revenue. Some scholars have taken the view that every tax must satisfy

[11] Terra B. in Wattel P. (2010) European Tax Law, seventh edition, London: Kluwer Law International.

[12] Picciotto S., (2012) *Towards Unitary Taxation of Transnational Corporations*, Tax Justice Network.

the principle of generosity in itself, while others take the view that the principle of generosity must be placed before the tax system itself[13].

5 Economic aspect of the impact of taxes on humans

The principle of elasticity requires that taxes be adjusted in time and content to changes in the amount of public expenditure. The principle of elasticity is a variant of the principle of generosity, which means that it is essentially a principle of generosity, which is not addressed in a certain period of time (financial year), but deals with current developments in budgetary balance. In order to be able to monitor the growth of public expenditure, it is necessary to build such a tax system that increases the total tax revenue annually. Financial elasticity is a special feature of taxes to adapt to changes in the structure of public expenditure, or low levels of sensitivity to economic conditions. If the financial elasticity of taxes is achieved in such a way that public revenues grow in proportion to public expenditures, this is an example of economic elasticity. In the event that it is necessary to change the tax rate due to an increase in tax revenues in legal proceedings, we have the legal elasticity of taxes[14].

Depending on the trends in the economy, the change in the structure of the tax system may also be influenced by the automatic elasticity of revenues from certain tax forms. In an inflationary situation, if tax rates and tax reliefs do not change, some automatic changes in the nature of taxation can be observed. The share of income tax will increase under inflation. An increase in income tax will also be possible in a situation of real income growth, as a larger number of taxpayers will be subject to higher tax rates. The share of social insurance at all levels is declining, as in most countries it is prescribed that social insurance revenues are calculated from salaries only up to a certain limit. In the event of a devaluation, when nominal wage values exceed this limit, the maximum level of social security income is 0% and the average rate is reduced. The share of sales taxes in inflation does not increase, as it depends mainly on the price of goods and services, but it can be expected that in conditions of economic growth, this share will increase, as along with economic growth increases the purchasing power of the individual. The relative characteristics of excise duties are declining in the context of economic growth, as excise duty rates are expressed in absolute amounts, resulting in a decline in the share of excise duties in the tax system. The share of property tax is also declining, as the revaluation of the tax base is delayed.

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[13] Schaumburg H. prof.dr. (1998) *Internationales Steuerrecht, Aussensteuerrecht, Doppelbesteuerungsrecht*, Koln: Verlag, Dr. Otto Schmidt, 2. Auflage.

[14] Giovannini A., (1989) *National Tax System vs the European Capital Market*, Economic Policy 9.

The degree of openness of a country's economy also has a major impact on the tax system. Countries that have an open economy pay close attention to competitiveness in terms of taxation. Where indirect taxation can be taken into account, open economy countries adopt forms of taxation that stimulate export activities. With regard to external investment, the residence principle applies in this case.

Taxation affects macroeconomic and microeconomic effects. The tax reduces the economic power of the individual and thus changes his economic sphere. The macroeconomic impact of taxes is reflected in the size of aggregate consumption. Tax revenues oscillate with economic trends in national income, and changes in tax rates can affect the economic activity of individual entities[15].

The principle of applicability requires that taxes be set in such a way as to have the least influence on the economic decisions of economic operators. Non-distortive are those taxes that take into account the effect of income, which means that they reduce the taxpayer's income by not changing the subject's behavior in the market, as the tax cannot be reduced or bypassed. Distortive taxes, however, work through the effect of substitution, which means that the taxpayer reduces his tax liability by changing market behavior. However, the operation of the principle of applicability is closely linked to the successful allocation of resources, which means that no change in economic factors in the market does not change the position of one entity at the expense of another.

The principle of moderation of the tax liability requires moderation in terms of the amount of taxation. Determining the amount of taxation can have a positive and negative impact on an individual's ability to work and the development of his or her economic activity. At the macroeconomic level, the principle implies the determination of an absolute tax limit, the level of taxation of the social product, at which an increase in tax rates and the introduction of new taxes does not result in an increase in public revenues. If the tax burden exceeds the absolute tax limit, any further tax increase results in a reduction in public revenues (Laffer curve). The Laffer curve proves to us that the state can generate public revenue through two levels, one higher and one lower[16].

The principle of selection of the tax source stipulates that it is necessary to tax only those income of the taxpayer that are dynamic, which means that they are renewed over a period of time. Static property of an individual may be subject to taxation only in special cases specified by law. The exclusion of an individual's static

[15] Baldwin R., Wyplosz C., (2003) The Economic of European Integration, McGraw-Hill , London.
[16] Garcia.Cuenca E.., Navarro Pabsdorf M, Mihi-Ramirez A. (2013) *Fiscal Harmonization and Economic Integration in the EU*, Inzinerine Ekonomika-Engineering Econnomics.

property was introduced due to the mentality that the intervention of the tax authorities in this part of an individual's property would be irrational, as it would affect the individual's motivation to save and work.

If we monitor the correlation between the amount of tax revenue and economic trends in the economy, we can determine the economic elasticity or variability of taxes. Variable taxes are those that automatically adjust to given economic trends.

The principle of stability of the tax system stipulates that it is necessary to establish such a tax system that will not change over a long period of time, as any change in the tax system can significantly affect the conditions of production and economic power of the individual. Tax reforms must be not only politically but also socially and economically conditioned[17].

The principle of the identity of the tax recipient and the holder of the tax burden interferes with the statutory duty of the tax debt payer and the influence of the tax system on the transfer of taxes. In doing so, it is necessary to precisely determine the subject of taxation and all the consequences arising from the determination of this.

The principle of minimizing administrative costs refers to the requirement of cost-effectiveness of taxation, which means that the costs of collecting taxes must be minimal. Where the difference between the gross payment of taxes and the net payment of taxes is minimal, this principle shall be fully applied and implemented. If the administrative costs are greater than the difference between the net and the gross base, this consequently affects the budget balance, as a budget deficit occurs.

Last but not least, economy is important not only for the tax administration, but also for the taxpayer. The principle of minimizing the cost of paying taxes is aimed at the economy of taxation procedures at the taxpayer. The taxpayer's direct costs are those that directly reduce the taxpayer's income related to the composition and declaration of the tax liability. Indirect costs, however, are linked to the economic capacity of the taxpayer, as paying taxes prevents him from generating revenue[18].

6 Socio-political aspect of the impact of taxes on man

Given the political level, it is clear that right-wing central governments want a policy of low taxes and a reduction in income tax relative to sales taxes and

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[17] Wilson J.D., (1999) *Theories of Tax Competition*, Natonal Tax Journal, 52.

[18] Stefaniak-Kopoboru J., Kuczewska J., (2013) *European enterprises in crisis time*, Managerial Economics No. 14.

consumption taxes. Left-wing central governments are pushing for the expansion of the public sector, which also means higher taxation and more accurate income taxation. Non-EU countries and Switzerland have long refused to expand taxation and increase the public sector's influence on economic processes in OECD countries. The inertia factor must also be taken into account in all this. In the event that the social classes that oppose the existing tax system do not organize and exert constant pressure on the ruling class and indirectly on the government, it is realistic to expect that the government will not take any measures in favor of the social class, all the more so if economic elites who benefit from government tax policy also agree with government policy. In addition, each government must take into account the citizens' definition of the tax system. It must analyze whether citizens want taxes to be relatively low and the benefits to the public sector to be very modest, or whether social security is at a high level regardless of the level of taxes. In a society where there is social cohesion and the connection between decisions on taxes and public expenditure, social security is also at a high level. Such a tax system is in place in the small countries of Northern Europe, where the fiscal burden ratio is also the highest[19].

The education of citizens can also be a decisive element in determining the tax system. A country with an average high intelligence class of citizens and developed science and research can introduce into the tax system direct methods of tax return, information technology or composite forms of sales taxes, which require the active participation of taxpayers in the tax process. This can significantly improve the functioning of the tax administration. The growing share of self-employment in OECD countries results in a small share of personal income tax in the overall structure of taxation, as the most commonly used form of personal income taxation is the withholding tax used in payments to employees. This procedure is inapplicable to the tax on income from self-employment, as it is taxed on the basis of a decision of the tax authority on the amount of the tax base, which is determined through the direct method. In most countries, social insurance is also financed through special payments by taxpayers, which are collected in specially designed public social insurance funds. Some countries finance social insurance from the state budget[20].

Tax fairness is one of the basic elements of any advanced tax system. The notion of fairness of taxation varies from time to time according to the time period, social structure, belonging to a particular school of interpretation of the tax system… etc. Fair taxation is one that is generally and evenly distributed among all taxpayers.

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[19] Baldwin, R.E., Krugman P, *Agglomeration, Integration and Tax Harmonization*, Eurpoean Economic Review, 48.

[20] Joung L. Larch M, Fische J, (2008) *101 Proposals to reform the Stability and Growth Pact, Why so many?* A survey, Public Finance and Management 8(3).

The principle of generality of taxes stipulates that all tax subjects must participate in the payment of taxes. Residents of countries are obliged to pay taxes on their world income, while non-residents are obliged to pay only the tax that relates to the territorial source of taxation. Generality is a formal condition of justice. However, in addition to generality, they also introduce certain tax privileges in the form of exemptions and reliefs to the modern tax system. These can be: political, economic, fiscal, financial and socio-political in nature.

While generality is a formal condition of justice, the principle of equal payment of taxes means the possibility of paying benefits according to the subjective economic power of the individual. Entities with the same economic power are required to pay the same amount of taxes, while entities with greater economic power are expected to pay a higher tax. The principle of equal payment of taxes often collides with the principle of generality of taxes.

7 Conclusion

The tax system can have economic, social and political goals. Economic objectives are divided into microeconomic and macroeconomic objectives. Microeconomic objectives can be through the tax system:

- favor certain economic branches,
- increase the workload of taxpayers,
- stimulate foreign investment,
- increase the development of underdeveloped parts of the country,
- accelerate investment cases.

Macroeconomic objectives affect the relations of basic macroeconomic aggregates. Price stability and full employment are achieved through the operation of the tax on changes in the aggregate supply (consumption tax). When we want to reduce the aggregate supply by increasing the tax liability, it means that we have a restrictive influence on tax policy. Restrictive tax policy can lead to lower prices if there is an excess of aggregate demand over aggregate supply in the market, leading to inflation. Conversely, tax policy must operate expansively, which means that it must raise aggregate demand by affecting the tax system in terms of increasing the taxpayer's income. This can be created through the abolition of taxes, the reduction of tax rates and the application of tax relief. The balance of payments is affected by the foreign trade balance through taxes. International trade will change positively if the principle of the country of destination and not the principle of the country of origin of goods is taken into account in taxation.

The social objectives of the tax system relate to the elimination of differences in the material situation of taxpayers. Taxes must have their redistributive function. Income tax is most often the tax that appears to be progressive, which means that it affects the economic power of those taxpayers whose tax base is higher. Socio-political goals can be achieved in different ways, namely by:

- differentiated sales taxation,
- standard deduction in relation to the subsistence minimum,
- the possibility of deducting treatment costs from the tax base of income tax,
- exemption from taxation of benefits on the socio-political basis,
- exemptions from taxation of small real estate assets.

Political goals of taxation are rarely formed in modern market economies. Other objectives can be considered on the basis of health, cultural and demographic policies. Due to global tax policy, the state must always provide sufficient funds to finance public expenditure, so fiscal targets are always primary. The principle of neutrality of public duties influences economic policy makers to claim certain budget subsidies, as only through them can they pursue those objectives that could be created through taxation. In this case, extrafiscal targets are not an insignificant means of regulating tax policy, but it is believed that the economic development of an individual country will be much more successful if the market allocation of resources is less and less affected. Long-term economic stagnation has its roots in progressive taxation, which is reduced by labor and investment. Neutral taxation will result in an increase in economic growth and the distribution of income among the population to such an extent that the poor population receives a larger share of income.

7 Acnowledge

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