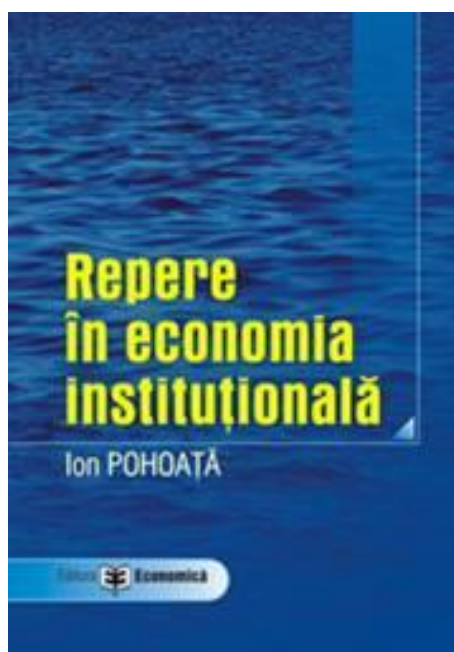


INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMISTS' TERRITORY

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In the paper entitled *Repere în economia instituțională* (published by the Economic publishing house, Bucharest, 2010, 336 pages), its author, the famous exponent of the school of economics of Iași, Professor Ion Pohoată, explains what unites the new institutionalists in a common paradigm. At the same time, where appropriate, he also finds what separates them. Firstly, he observes that a common paradigm may be the result either of a reaction of detachment, until the separation from a school or schools and tendencies of established and recognized thought, or of an integrative synthesis of ideas belonging to different ideational spaces, united however by a catalysing vein.



The most fertile, in the identification of the place of new institutional economics (NIE) in the thematic area of contemporary economic science, seems to be, by far, its positioning regarding the internal geometry and the epistemological base of the neoclassical school. Then he states that the contemporary neoclassical school, to which NIE refers, no longer enjoys the perfect unity of views and the methodological homogeneity of the old neo-classicism. Although there was a series of internal changes, the heterodoxy did not affect the foundations of the high values on which relies the neoclassicism. "The hard core", as well as most of the "protective shell" (Lakatosian terms used in the analysis of the scientific revolution) remained intact. The natural order, the private property, the freedom of undertaking actions, the free market, the individual ascendancy which is detrimental to the collective interest, the competition and efficiency refer to the "hard core". To these is added the "protective shell": subjectivism and relativism in assessing values, the *a la marge* judgement principle (marginal productivity, marginal cost, etc.), the scarcity of production factors, the exogenous supply of factors, the concern for balance, the essentially static analysis environment, placed at the micro level, pure and perfect competition, complete information, profit or satisfaction maximization, consumer or producer surplus, uniformity and interchangeability of exchange values, human needs and perfectly divisible and rankable utilities of goods, perfect rationality, mathematized economy, comparative analysis between real, empirical situations and ideal conditions etc.

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