

**ECONOMIC CRISIS AND COMPETITION FROM THE INFORMAL SECTOR  
IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN EASTERN EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL  
ASIAN COUNTRIES**

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***Abstract***

*In this study, we examine how the global crisis affected the informal sector competition against manufacturing firms. Our results show that, overall, a significantly smaller proportion of manufacturing firms competed against informal firms after the global crisis. However, for some firm types, for firms with a less experienced top manager, and for firms without an internationally recognized quality certificate, the results are insignificant. Interestingly, after the global crisis, a larger proportion of firms with a female top manager stated that they competed against informal firms. We also find that, after the global crisis, a significantly smaller proportion of manufacturing firms found informal competitors a serious obstacle to their business. The findings here are uniform across all subgroups of firms.*