



Measuring the Global Shadow Economy The Prevalence of Informal Work and Labour

Colin C. Williams, Professor of Public Policy, Management School, University of Sheffield, UK and Friedrich Schneider, Professor of Economics, Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Austria



This book brings together two leading researchers in the field to provide a comprehensive overview of the shadow economy from a global perspective. Reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of different ways of measuring the informal sector, the authors evaluate its size and key determinants across the world. Williams and Schneider clearly establish the persistence and prevalence of the shadow economy, analysing the narrowness of existing policy approaches and explaining how these fail to address the key factors for its existence and may even exacerbate the problem.

'Williams and Schneider, two of the most respected colleagues in this field have pulled off a fascinating book. This is a resource, which will genuinely benefit a range of actors interested in the informal economy from governments, taxation authorities, trading standards to students of the sociology of work and enterprise. Brilliant.'

– Gerard McElwee, University of Huddersfield, UK

'Tax evasion and the various types of deviant behaviour that lead to unproductive entrepreneurship outcomes have long been considered harmful to economies around the world. In this light, this book, written by two leading scholars in the field, is undoubtedly a considerable contribution to the debate, especially when it comes to assessing the size of the shadow economy in various regions of the world and providing valuable policy suggestions.'

– Arnis Sauka, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, Latvia

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