

### **The economic reform in Cuba: Stuck in the middle**

**José Antonio Alonso and Pavel Vidal**

Over the past decade, the Cuban economy has launched a sequence of reforms and stabilising measures to correct macroeconomic imbalances and establish a new growth model on the island. Thus far, any success achieved has been relatively limited. After over three decades of reforms, the Cuban economy continues to grow at a very slow pace, social deficits are accumulating and it exhibits a notable vulnerability to external shocks. The reform's limited effectiveness to a large extent derives from its lack of comprehensiveness. Partial and fragmented in nature, the reforms have proven unable to produce sustained dynamism in the economy; and the necessary attempts to subsequently correct imbalances have tended to have recessionary effects that have damaged growth potential. For all these reasons, the Cuban economy appears to be trapped in a vicious circle. Escaping this trap means accepting more comprehensive economic reform that addresses the main distortions that prevent the market's proper functioning in the fields of exchange rates, the labour market and wholesale supply, among others. This chapter seeks to provide some interpretations and evidence of this process.

### **Revisiting the agrarian question in Cuba (1959–2018): A peasant alternative in the global era?**

**Elisa Botella-Rodríguez**

In Latin America the issue of land has been underdiscussed in academic, social and political circles, but it is essential to understanding many of the socio-economic and political transformations of the 20th and 21st centuries. The agrarian question in Cuba has not been given in-depth consideration from a long-term perspective that unites the old land reform arguments of developmentalism with the new agrarian questions of the global era. This chapter explores the long process of land reform in Cuba (1959–2020), seeking to understand whether it is a paradigmatic and alternative case in the regional context. In this sense, the chapter analyses the interactions between the state and the Cuban peasant movement that have kept land claims on the political agenda since the revolution began.

### **Cuban tourism competitiveness: Anything beyond sun, beaches and son music?**

**Mario Raúl de la Peña, David Martín-Barroso, Jacobo Núñez, Juan A. Núñez-Serrano, Jaime Turrión and Francisco J. Velázquez**

This chapter makes a comparative analysis of the Cuban tourism sector's competitive position in relation to its Caribbean environment. To do this, competitiveness analysis tools based on the behaviour of

international tourist flows are used to build a statistical model from which a counterfactual can be estimated for comparing real tourist flows. Short, medium and long-term competitiveness indicators are also calculated, as well as indicators on the growth potential of a destination's tourism sector and the intensity of the technical change that has taken place in the sector. The results suggest that Cuba has notably improved its competitive situation. The work also shows that important changes are underway in the Cuban tourism mix towards the international average, making it less dependent on the traditional "sun and beach" tourism, which may create greater potential for future tourism sector development on the island. In this sense, the need to develop tourist segments with greater added value and tourism potential is highlighted. Finally, the short-, medium- and long-term competitive results provide evidence of the significant increase in the country's tourism potential, which is undoubtedly due to a degree of technical progress.

### **Comparative analysis of the evolution of energy indicators in Cuba and Spain from 1990 to 2016**

**Emilio Cerdá, Diego Rodríguez and Miguel Sebastián**

This work analyses the evolution of primary energy supply in Cuba and Spain between 1990 and 2016, using data from the International Energy Agency. The key aspects of each of Cuba's energy sources are set out, and the fundamental changes in the Spanish energy sector since 1990 are highlighted, within the European Union framework. The chapter goes on to calculate the values of eight crucial energy indicators for the two countries, and their evolution in the period is compared. Finally, the chapter presents each country's 2030 energy targets and plans.

### **Growth of the collaborative economy: What Cuba can learn from other Ibero-American experiences**

**Cipriano Quirós, Keynor Ruiz-Mejías, Sandra Madiedo, Roberto F. Erazo and Luis M. Barboza**

This chapter addresses various aspects of the collaborative economy (CE). Firstly, given its novelty and the plurality of visions that have emerged in recent years, particular attention is given to the definition and delimitation of these activities. Secondly, the determinants of the use of these platforms in Spain are analysed. Despite the major differences between the two societies, Spain's results may serve to identify the factors that could stimulate and inhibit the establishment of the CE in Cuba. Thirdly, seeking to assist the design of the regulation of these activities in Cuba, the situation of CE platforms is presented in two Latin American countries, Ecuador and Costa Rica, where they arrived earlier. Fourth, digital passenger transport platforms in Cuba are analysed which, although at the early stages of development, compete with one another. Analysing all these aspects allows a general reflection to be made on the CE in Cuba: its delayed expansion gives the chance to learn from other experiences and to regulate in advance. This may slow the growth of new CE services, but it would forestall some of the problems seen in other countries.

## **The Cuban economy's transformation and the EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA)**

**Jordi Bacaria and Eloi Serrano**

The Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) signed between the Republic of Cuba and the European Union in 2016 “aims to consolidate and strengthen links between the parties in the areas of political dialogue, cooperation and trade, on the basis of mutual respect, reciprocity, common interest and respect for their sovereignty” and derogated the European Union’s Common Position from 1996. The EU’s proposal for cooperation with Cuba, as set out in the PDCA’s objectives, involves “the process of updating the economy and society in Cuba by providing a comprehensive framework for dialogue and cooperation”. This cooperation framework focusses on the multilateral aspects of trade and Cuba’s international projection, with particular emphasis on modernising its economy. The prospects for European cooperation are examined by considering the tensions in the process of modernisation in the Cuban economy that may be produced by both internal and external factors.

