

**Research in Social and Psychological
Sciences Conference 2024**

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Smolenice, Slovakia

Book of Abstracts

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Introduction

This book of abstracts brings together contributions of researchers of the Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences presented at the 1st joint scientific conference organized as part of regular annual meetings of the Centre. The Centre was established in 2015 by joining three recognized institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences – Institute for Forecasting, Institute of Experimental Psychology and Institute of Social Sciences – in order to enhance synergies stemming from cross-disciplinary research and larger scientific community. The Centre has successfully established itself as a recognised institution for developing interdisciplinary research agenda addressing the key societal, economic and individual-level challenges in the national, European and global contexts.

Centre's leadership and its broader academic community reflected upon existing potential for improving mutual scientific cooperation between the Centre's units, and also with its key partners. For that reason, a number of colleagues from the partner institutions were invited, namely the University of Economics in Bratislava, and the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of Comenius University. A related impetus lies in the recommendations of the International Evaluation Panel, which had encouraged the Centre to uphold activities joining the Centre's institutes and more intensively bridging different expertise held within the units.

The main objective of the scientific conference *“Research in Social and Psychological Sciences Conference 2024”* was to provide a setting to strengthen Centre's research excellence within its three key scientific domains: psychology, economics and history and, equally importantly, to strengthen cross-cutting themes for research joining different disciplines and harnessing varied methodologies. The connecting methodological theme of this first edition of the conference was established by the highly appreciated keynote speech of Professor Viera Bačová *“To discussions on the rigour of qualitative research”*. The presentation was instrumental in showing connections to existing or potential methodological overlaps of different scientific disciplines of social research and resonated with the expert audience in the sessions and following discussions.

Submitted contributions reflect this methodological diversity as well as the richness of topics and approaches to conducting basic as well as applied research. In addition to its flagship disciplines, the conference showed that the institutes of the Centre have interdisciplinary outreach also to sociology, political science or ethnography, with spillovers to public policy making at different levels.

The conference was evaluated very positively by the participants and we as organizers hope it will evolve into a tradition in the form of Centre's regular annual scientific conference.

Scientific Committee

Lucia Mýtna Kureková, Branislav Šprocha and Ivana Studená

Conference programme



April 9th, 2024
KC SAV Smolenice

Research in Social and Psychological Sciences

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

9:00	Welcome	Kongresová sieň	L. Mýtna Kureková B. Šprocha
9:00 - 10:00	Keynote speech To Discussions on the Rigour of Qualitative Research		Prof. Bačová
10:00 - 10:25	Coffee break		
10:25 - 12:30	Session 1		
	Data, methods and definitions Chair: E. Nežinský Umelecký salón		Information and behaviour Chair: V. Čavojová Lovecký salón
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch		
13.30 - 15.10	Session 2		
	Skills and transitions Chair: B. Fabo Umelecký salón		Historical and longitudinal perspectives on society Chair: L. Heldáková Lovecký salón
15.10- 15.30	Coffee break		
15.30 - 16.45	Session 3		
	Interventions and Innovations I Chair: M. Kentoš Umelecký salón		Interventions and Innovations II Chair: E. Fifeková Lovecký salón
16.45 - 17.30	Plenary session Kongresová sieň		Moderated by I. Studená Chairs reporting on sessions Conclusion by prof. Bačová
18.00	Dinner		

More Information

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Session 1				
		<i>Data, methods and definitions</i> Chair: E. Nežinský Room: Umelecký salón	<i>Information and behaviour</i> Chair: V. Čavojová Room: Lovecký salón	
10.25 – 12.30	Miroslav Štefánik Co-authors: Zuzana Košťálová, Štefan Lyocsa	Online job vacancy attractiveness: Increasing views, reactions and conversions.	Lena Adamus Co-author: Eva Ballová Mikušková	The Three-Pillar Model of conspiracy beliefs: Integrating individual differences, appraisal of existential threats and structural conditions
	Branislav Šprocha	Differential analysis of female fertility in Slovakia through the eyes of data from the Population Census 2021	Alexandra Moran Co-authors: Lucia Mýtna Kureková, Lucia Kováčová, Ivana Studená	Companies' access to information in posting of workers: presentation of key findings of INFO-POW project
	Dušana Dokupilová	Energy poverty – From problem to its definition – is one enough?	Rastislav Janičík Co-author: Vladimíra Kurincová Čavojová	Better bullshitter does not have to be bigger bullshitter
	Denisa Fedáková Co-author: Michal Kentoš	European Social Survey: Two pilot studies on data collection using the self-completion approach	Juliána Bujňáková Co-author: Eva Ballová Mikušková	Dark triad, conspiracy beliefs and non-normative political behaviour
	Brian Fabo Co-author: Lucia Mýtna Kureková	Methodological issues related to the use of online labour market data	Tatiana Pethö Co-author: Miroslava Bozogáňová	Theoretical model of girls' intention to study Information and Communication Technologies

					Session 2				
					<i>Skills and transitions</i> Chair: B. Fabo Room: Umelecký salón		<i>Historical and longitudinal perspectives on society</i> Chair: L. Heldáková Room: Lovecký salón		
13.30 – 15.10	Daniel Škobla Co-author: Richard Filčák		Transitions from Coal and Carbon: Effects on Societies. The case study of region Horná Nitra		Miroslav Varšo		Song of Songs in the Embrace of Hellenistic Love Poetry: Love Lyrics as a Vehicle of Resistance against Hellenisation		
	Martin Lábaj Co-authors: Tomáš Oleš, Gabriel Prochádzka		Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Industrial Robots on Wage Premium: Evidence from the UK		Ondrej Ficeri		Political opportunism in Central Europe: historical evidence of conscious practice of taking advantage of opportunities in one's benefit		
	Ivana Studená Co-authors: Lucia Kováčová, Lucia Mýtna Kureková		Workplace learning and the impact of digital and green transitions: Findings from the I SKILL project from the case study in Slovakia.		Matúš Adamkovič Co-authors: Denisa Fedáková, Michal Kentoš, Benjamin Šimsa		Mental Health in Slovakia: A Longitudinal Perspective		
	Jana Papcunová Co-authors: Denisa Fedáková, Anna Mukhina		Integration Challenges and Educational Needs of Ukrainian Refugees in Košice: Insights from Focus Groups		Anna Hlaváčová		The Suzdalian travelogue as a unique historical source		

Session 3				
<i>Interventions and Innovations I</i> Chair: M. Kentoš Room: Umelecký salón		<i>Interventions and Innovations II</i> Chair: E. Fifeková Room: Lovecký salón		
15.30 – 16.45	Beáta Sobotová Co-author: Jakub Šrol	Interventions to reduce psychological barriers and to increase engagement in pro-environmental behaviour	Matej Lorko Co-authors: Vladimíra Čavojová, Jakub Šrol	Russo-Ukrainian war fake news: the effect of debunking vs. prebunking
	Matúš Sloboda Co-authors: Andrej Findor, Artsiom Klunin, Pavol Haroš	The Effects of Information Provision about Fact-Checking on News Credibility and Reader Support: Field-experiment in five CEE Countries	Martina Porubčinová Co-author: Ondrej Gajniak	Potential of BIM technology in Sustainable Construction 4.0
	Zuzana Polačková	The impact of the payout form in the material need benefit on the improvement of the benefit recipients situation: results of field research among the recipients from the marginalized Roma communities	Eduard Nežinský Co-author: Elena Fifeková	Innovation performance of New Member States

Keynote

To discussions on the rigour of qualitative research

Corresponding author: Viera Bačová

Organisation: Institute of Experimental Psychology CSPS SAS

Keywords: Quality of Qualitative Research, Criteria for Qualitative Research, Qualitative Research Strategies, Templates in Qualitative Research

Extended abstract:

Qualitative research has gained recognition and institutional support, with a growing number of publications using a qualitative approach. This trend is driven by research institutions, journals, and sponsors, along with technological advances that have made qualitative data collection and analysis more efficient. Previously time-consuming tasks, such as recording, transcribing, and analysing various types of qualitative data, have become significantly more streamlined.

Despite these advancements, discussions around the indicators and criteria for evaluating the plausibility of qualitative research persist. These conversations have been ongoing since the 1980s when traditional quantitative criteria like reliability, validity, and generalizability were replaced with qualitative-specific terms such as credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability. Recent discussions have focused on refining these criteria, with some suggesting replacing "trustworthiness" with "rigor." At the same time, others call for a return to traditional terms like validity, reliability, and generalizability.

Qualitative research strategies designed to meet these criteria have also been proposed and discussed. These include prolonged engagement, persistent observation, thick and rich description, inter-rater reliability, negative case analysis, peer review or debriefing, clarifying researcher bias, member checking, external audits, and triangulation.

Moreover, several protocols and checklists have been developed to increase rigor in qualitative research. However, there's ongoing debate about whether using such "templates" automatically enhances rigor. Critics argue that reducing rigor to merely following prescribed templates can undermine the true essence of qualitative research.

More researchers are adopting a holistic view of rigor in qualitative research. They argue that quality and rigor are comprehensive characteristics that encompass more than individual criteria for "correctness." Philosophical, ethical, and political considerations also play a role in determining research quality. Despite this, the ultimate goal of methodology in any research study is to provide convincing evidence to support its conclusions. Given the diversity of research paradigms in qualitative inquiry, achieving this goal can be challenging.

Data, methods and definitions

Online job vacancy attractiveness: Increasing views, reactions and conversions.

Corresponding author: Miroslav Štefánik

Co-authors: Zuzana Košťálová, Štefan Lyocsa

Organisation: Institute of Economic Research SAS

Keywords: online job vacancy; machine learning; text analysis; web-page views

This research was supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency (APVV), nr. APVV-21-0360.

Extended abstract:

The development of e-commerce has not escaped the labour market, and employers seeking a new labour force are posting vacancies on specialized web portals. Operators of such web portals and employers are interested in increasing the attractiveness of online job vacancies. However, given the extremely heterogeneous job types and job seekers, it is difficult for employers and specialized web portal operators to design job offers that will lead to higher views, reactions and conversions (the ratio of the two). In collaboration with a leading platform for online job vacancies in Slovakia, we study whether machine learning methods can improve predictions of online job vacancy attractiveness on a sample of 32 482 online job vacancies that offer as many as 883 job features. Our study shows that as opposed to various linear models, considerable prediction improvements can be achieved using the random forest. Based on this insight, we perform a statistical evaluation of key variables of importance. We find that job classification, job benefits, and variables related to a simple morphological description of the job and job title are relevant. The results of this study can help operators of specialized job vacancy portals and employers to improve their job offers to attract more job seekers.

While our study fits into the emerging literature based on utilizing OJV data, to the best of our knowledge, we are the first to study the OJV attractiveness. Specifically, we measure attractiveness via three indicators: number of views that an OJV attracts, number of (unique) reactions (filling out the application form) that an OJV initiates on the side of a job seeker, and the conversion rate. Our research thus contributes to the existing OJV literature and is of interest to various labour market stakeholders, including e-commerce operators of web-based job market platforms.

Differential analysis of female fertility in Slovakia through the eyes of data from the Population Census 2021

Corresponding author: Branislav Šprocha

Organisation: Institute for Forecasting CSPS SAS

Keywords: cohort fertility, singulate mean age at first birth, parity structure, family status, education, religion, ethnicity, place of residence

This work has received financial support from the project VEGA 2/0064/23.

Extended abstract:

Fertility in Slovakia has undergone several significant changes in the last more than three decades in terms of the intensity of childbirth and their timing, which is subsequently reflected in the structure of women according to the number of children born (parity). However, the results show long-term differences in terms of educational attainment, marital status, ethnicity, religion, type of employment, or place of residence. The aim of the paper is to identify existing differences in the level of women's realised fertility in combination with their selected structural characteristics from the last Population Census 2021. For these purposes, not only the cohort completed fertility be calculated, but also the average number of children per woman at a younger age (up to 35 years), the structure of women according to parity, and the singulate mean age at the first birth. The obtained results confirmed the continued higher fertility of married women, women of Romani ethnicity, women living in the countryside and in smaller settlements, as well as persons with lower education or Roman Catholic religion. At the same time, important differences were also confirmed in terms of the timing of maternity starts or the parity structure.

Energy poverty – From problem to its definition – is one enough?

Corresponding author: Dušana Dokupilová

Organisation: Institute for Forecasting CSPS SAS

Keywords: Energy poverty, definition, energy efficiency, vulnerable households,

This work has received financial support from the project VEGA 2/0186/2.

Extended abstract:

Slovakia is a country heavily exposed to energy poverty. It has the highest share of energy expenditures on disposable income in European region (together with the Czech Republic). People exposed to energy poverty suffer from physical and mental illnesses. Based on these facts, Slovakia has the highest need to help the people the most exposed to energy poverty. Without a definition, the policies tend to cap the energy prices. It is very inefficient way to help suffering people, as the poor have the lowest energy consumption. Thus, financial resources go to the rich and not vulnerable households. Establishing the definition of energy poverty is a challenging activity. One of the most important is the fact that energy poverty is a complex problem and can be caused mainly by low income of household, high energy costs, low energy efficiency or a combination of these factors. The background for these shortages may be even broader. The proper definition should cover all the cases.

In our research the first step, but only a basic one as the problem of energy poverty is very country specific, was desk research based on literature surveys on the phenomenon of energy poverty, definitions and laws of the other countries. As the second step, research based on national data (Housing Budget Survey, EU SILC survey, polls on energy efficiency and energy poverty) and field research based on structured and semi structured interviews was carried. On these basis, appropriate definitions were proposed. When preparing we faced the challenges of the complexity of the problem itself, the scarcity of the data (missing energy performance of buildings to determine the appropriate amount of energy to be consumed and identify possible solution) and the complexity of the solutions.

There is possibility for the definition to be either comprehensive, encompassing all the combinations of the problems and measures, or vague, where the policies and measures create their own definition. Both have advantages and disadvantages. The solution is not clear-cut and may be based on the opinion of a small group of decision makers - government officials. In the real world, a set of definitions (a comprehensive definition) is needed because of the complexity of the problem and as there exists a wide range of solutions those need to be implemented to solve the problem. Starting with the provision of direct financial support, such as a financial allowance for people unable to improve their energy efficiency, the need for social housing, to support energy efficiency – the different levels of support are expected for different income levels and energy expenditure levels.

The study was prepared based on the experience with the preparation and the proposal of the definition of energy poverty in Slovakia in 2023.

European Social Survey: Two pilot studies on data collection using the self-completion approach

Corresponding author: Denisa Fedáková

Co-authors: Michal Kentoš

Organisation: Institute of Social Sciences CSPS SAS

Keywords: European Social Survey, self-completion approach, PAPI, online/offline questionnaire

Extended abstract:

In 2021, the Slovak team of the European Social Survey (ESS) took part in a pilot study on testing the use of electronic offline devices, tablets, during self-completion of questionnaires by respondents. In general, this approach creates an opportunity for respondents who do not have access to the Internet and are thus often left out of participating in surveys. In addition, the approach was tested as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, which in many ways affected the implementation of personal visits and interviews that had been applied until then. In the study, we tested tablets and collected feedback from respondents (n=30) who had no experience of using such devices and did not even use the Internet. The aim of the study was to examine and describe (i) the initial responses of the participants to the tablet; (ii) the interest of the respondents to use voice recordings as an alternative to writing on open questions; (iii) the willingness of the respondents to participate in the survey again in self-completion mode. The findings of the study brought evidence of the overall acceptance of the tested approach. In general, the participants were open to cooperation and to the self-completion approach. On the contrary, the use of voice recording for open questions, was very low among the respondents.

In 2024, the Slovak ESS team participated in the pilot testing of data in the form of a self-completion of the survey questionnaires with the choice from two options: pen-and-paper or online questionnaire. 1046 households were addressed and an adult member of the household who had the next birthday was invited to complete the questionnaire. In case of non-response to the initial invitation, three reminders sent by mail followed. The results brought useful findings on the response rate, on the preferences of the offered options for completing the questionnaire, on the incentives for respondents, but also about the communication with them.

The application of the two approaches (described in this contribution) for the purposes of representative data collection requires further verification on larger samples of respondents.

Methodological issues related to the use of online labour market data

Corresponding author: Brian Fabo

Co-authors: Lucia Mýtna Kureková

Organisation: Institute for Forecasting CSPA SAS

Keywords: online data, labour market, skills, vacancies, job applicants, developing countries, methodology, non-representativeness, biases

This work was supported by the project VEGA 2/0079/21.

Extended abstract:

This paper presents a comprehensive exploration of the utilization of online labour market data, including both online job vacancies (demand side) and applicant data (CVs) (supply side), to understand labour market dynamics. The rapid expansion of research in this field, especially in terms of geographical coverage, highlights the potential of online labour market data to offer new insights into labour market developments. However, a significant portion of empirical studies tends to overlook the methodological challenges associated with such data, including issues of non-representativeness and fluctuations in data quantity and structure. These challenges are often exacerbated by external shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

We critically assess the various tools and empirical methodologies that have been applied to mitigate these disadvantages, focusing on statistical techniques, adaptation of research questions to align with data quality, and the incorporation of mixed methods to bolster result robustness. Despite the noted biases stemming from multiple factors, this paper argues that the discrepancies between online labour market data and traditional representative data sources are not insurmountable.

The inductive research approaches that dominate this field, aimed at uncovering patterns and trends within the data, are less concerned with the generalizability of findings than with the insights they can provide into labour market dynamics. This paper emphasizes that, when appropriately addressed, the methodological weaknesses of online labour market data do not preclude their value in research. Instead, these data sources open up new avenues for understanding labour market trends and shifts.

While acknowledging the limitations inherent in online labour market data, this paper underscores the importance of nuanced methodological considerations in ensuring the validity of research findings. By leveraging a combination of advanced statistical methods, tailored research questions, and qualitative analyses, researchers can overcome the challenges posed by these data sources and contribute valuable insights into the functioning and evolution of labour markets.

Information and behaviour

The Three-Pillar Model of conspiracy beliefs: Integrating individual differences, appraisal of existential threats and structural conditions

Corresponding author: Lena Adamus

Co-authors: Eva Ballová Mikušková

Organisation: Institute of Experimental Psychology CSPA SAS

Keywords: conspiracy beliefs, existential threat, structural factors, socio-functional approach

This work has received financial support from the project VEGA 2/0035/24 "Structural antecedents of conspiracy beliefs: how precarity, inequality and low institutional trust contribute to the endorsement of conspiracy beliefs".

Extended abstract:

The extant literature abounds in evidence that individual differences and experiences of existential threats are associated with the tendency to endorse conspiracy beliefs. Inspired by socio-functional approach and the most recent literature, including our own results, the current contribution aims to present a more thorough understanding of the reality of conspiracy beliefs. The contribution presents the results of a series of quantitative studies – published and in progress – performed by our team at the UEP CSPV v.v.i. within various research projects. The proposed Three-Pillar Model discusses structural factors that may contribute to the endorsement of conspiracy beliefs and offers new insights into conspiracy beliefs and both individual and structural protective resources that could shield people from endorsing conspiracy beliefs.

In the Three-Pillar Model view, the impact of existential threats on individuals' disposition to endorse conspiracy beliefs is associated with two types of mutually interrelated factors: individual and structural. At the individual level, socio-demographic characteristics, cognitive capacities, uncertainty tolerance, anxiety, coping strategies and individual resilience which, if inadequate, may all contribute to the endorsement of CBs. The recent literature points also to structural factors that remain beyond the control of individual citizens and yet affect their living experiences considerably as CBs catalysts. The quality of democratic institutions and governance, corruption, socioeconomic inequality, slower economic development, and low GDP per capita could all be used as indicators that the sociopolitical fibre is crooked and protective social norms eroded. Each of these factors – or their subjective appraisal – foster hyper-sensitivity to even the subtlest cues of malicious intent, because under such cultural settings the chances of being thwarted by the elites are skewed. In other words, sense-making processes may be an inherent aspect of human psychology and a response to existential threats, but the tendency to endorse CBs and the disposition to seek meaningful patterns (where there are none) manifest more easily under specific structural settings.

Apart from extending our knowledge about antecedents of conspiracy beliefs, the Three-Pillar Model suggests that to effectively curb the tendency to endorse conspiracy beliefs interventions need to focus on actions that alleviate the experience of existential threats, enhance social resilience and cohesion, improve quality of institutions and structural conditions people live in."

Companies' access to information in posting of workers: presentation of key findings of INFO-POW project

Corresponding author: Alexandra Moran

Co-authors: Lucia Mýtina Kureková, Lucia Kováčová, and Ivana Studená

Organisation: Institute for Forecasting CSPA SAS

Keywords: posting of workers, access to information, fragmentation, construction sector, companies, Slovakia

This work has received funding by the European Commission, DG Employment, European Social Fund+ (ESF+) Social Prerogatives and Specific Competencies Lines (SocPL), Call ESF-2021-POW and from the project VEGA 2/0079/21.

Extended abstract:

Posting of workers in Slovakia has been rising in the past decade and is expected to grow. Posting offers a functional form of filling the existing labour and skill shortages on the one hand, and on the other, enables Slovak companies and self-employed workers to carry out business activities in the EU market. Previous research has shown that access to information is a key barrier to the correct application of posting regulation. This paper presents key findings of INFO-POW research project which comprehensively mapped the access to information on the posting of workers in 5 Member States from the perspective of construction companies. We present national findings from Slovakia, which are based on the analysis of unique data collection comprising of a mapping of online information channels, stakeholder interviews, pilot online company survey, and participatory stakeholder engagement methods. Data were collected and analysed between December 2022 and October 2023.

Our findings are the following. The mapping exercise revealed that most information channels are provided by private actors and that no channels are provided by social partners. The single national posting website, provided by the National Labour Inspectorate, is lacking in multiple aspects stipulated by the Posting of Workers Directives. Most importantly, information on the regulatory framework of posting is scattered over different institutional websites. This leads to the fragmentation of information across channels and actors and impairs users' ability to process information on posting. The key challenges identified in the provision of information on posting stem from the complexity of the issue, as public institutions aim to balance the need for complete but also understandable information. The overrepresentation of private information providers can be explained by the intricate rules on posting, which lead undertakings to outsource tasks to consultancies and law firms. We reached 18 companies through the online survey which confirmed that companies are in need of accessible information on various aspects of posting. Respondents indicated that the qualities which are most valued in information are coherency, recency, and detail.

Four broad policy recommendations are provided to improve companies' access to information on the posting of workers: aiming for a stronger institutional and political ownership of posting-related matters; improving the single national posting website; enhancing the role of social partners in information provision about posting; and contextualizing information about posting within the context of all migration and integration policy framework.

Better bullshitter does not have to be bigger bullshitter

Corresponding author: Rastislav Janičík

Co-authors: Vladimíra Kurincová Čavojská

Organisation: Institute of Experimental Psychology CSPS SAS

Keywords: Bullshit; Verbal intelligence; Bullshit frequency; Personality factors

Extended abstract:

It seems the ability to generate persuasive bullshit may be evolutionarily adaptive, as individuals possessing this skill are not only perceived as more intelligent by others but also exhibit higher verbal intelligence (Turpin et al., 2021). On the other hand, people reporting more bullshitting behaviour scored lower in intelligence (Littrell et al., 2021). In this study we examined relationship between people's ability to produce convincing bullshit and extent to which they engage in bullshitting. For measuring bullshit ability and willingness to bullshit we used [Bullshit willingness and bullshit generation task (Turpin et al., 2021)]. Verbal intelligence was assessed with [ISA (Fay et al., 2001)]. Personality traits were measured with [Short Dark Triad (SD3) (Jones & Paulhus, 2014) Slovak version (Čopková & Šafár, 2021) and for subjectivism we used scale by Aspernäs et al. (2023). Bullshit detection was measured with [Bullshit receptivity scale (Pennycook et al., 2015)] with modified instructions by Littrell a Fugelsang (2023). Our preliminary results on a sample of 433 participants suggest that one's ability to produce convincing bullshit is related to verbal intelligence ($r(433)=-.39, p<.01$), and weakly but statistically significantly to subjectivism ($r(433)=-.11, p<.05$). For original study's hypotheses about relationship between bullshit ability and perceived intelligence we also found strong relationship ($r(433)=.90, p<.001$). However ability to produce more convincing bullshit is unrelated to both persuasive bullshitting ($r(433)=-.09, p=.06$) and evasive bullshitting ($r(433)=.03, p=.49$). In case of willingness to bullshit we found weak relationship with bullshit ability ($r(433)=.11, p<.05$), but contrary to our expectations, we haven't found relationship neither with persuasive bullshitting ($r(433)=.05, p=.31$) or evasive bullshitting ($r(433)=.01, p=.87$). Differences between bullshit frequency and bullshit ability were also found in their relationship with personality factors. For bullshit ability we found only weak relationships with narcissism ($r(433)=-.13, p<.01$) and psychoticism ($r(433)=-.14, p<.01$) whereas with bullshit frequency relationship were stronger, mainly in persuasive bullshitting for machiavellianism ($r(433)=.40, p<.01$), narcissism ($r(433)=.32, p<.01$) and psychoticism ($r(433)=.43, p<.01$) respectively. Overall, our results suggest that 'better bullshitter' may not necessarily be a 'bigger bullshitter'.

Dark triad, conspiracy beliefs and non-normative political behaviour

Corresponding author: Juliána Bujňáková

Co-authors: Eva Ballová Mikušková

Organisation: Institute of Experimental Psychology CSPS SAS

Keywords: conspiracy beliefs, dark triad, personality, non-normative behaviour

Extended abstract:

Endorsement of conspiracy beliefs associated with dark triad personality can have various consequences, one of them being non-normative behaviour in political participation. The aim of this study is to examine whether conspiracy beliefs with moderated effect of external political efficacy could mediate the relationship between dark triad personality (narcissism, psychopathy and machiavellianism) and non-normative political behaviour. Our research sample consisted of 712 participants (358 men, 353 women) aged 18-84 years ($M=46.7$, $SD=16.5$). All participants were from Slovakia and their education ranged from elementary school to university degrees. Belief in conspiracy theories was measured by 8 specifically selected conspiracy theories about current social and political events on the scale 1- strongly disagree to 5- strongly agree. External political efficacy was measured by three items as used by Ardèvol – Abreu et al. (2020) and Niemi et al. (1991) on 7- point scale from 1- strongly disagree to 7- strongly agree. Non-normative political behaviour was measured by a 20- item instrument constructed by Imhoff et al. (2021) where participants answered about their hypothetical behaviour on a 5 - point scale from 1 - certainly no to 5 - certainly yes. Dark triad personality traits were measured by The Dirty Dozen scale (Jonason & Webster, 2010) consisting of 12 items answered on a 5 – point scale (1 – strongly disagree to 5 – strongly agree). Results showed that although there is a significant relationship between all dark triad personalities and non-normative political behaviour, the mediating effect of conspiracy beliefs with moderating effect of political efficacy did not prove statistically significant in this study.

Theoretical model of girls' intention to study Information and Communication Technologies

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Co-authors: Miroslava Bozogáňová

Organisation: Institute of Social Sciences CSPS SAS

Keywords: Theoretical model, Intention to study ICT, Gender roles, Gender

Extended abstract:

Objective

The aim of the contribution is to provide a theoretical model of examined factors influencing girls' intention in studying information and communication technologies (ICT) It explains how biases, gender stereotypes, and the presence of positive role models in the family can influence the perception of one's own masculinity or femininity, and how these factors subsequently predict the intention of girls to study ICT.

The perception of gender roles is a key predictor of the intention of girls to study information and communication technologies within the theoretical model. The perception of gender roles is divided into three lines of the theoretical model (prejudices, gender stereotypes, and role models), which do/do not predict the intention of girls to study ICT. Prejudices predict the perception of one's own masculinity in the context of personality characteristics, which predicts the reluctance to study ICT. Gender stereotypes are related to the perception of one's own femininity, and this further predicts the femininity of an ICT employee. If girls perceive themselves and an ICT employee congruently in terms of femininity, it can be considered as a predictor of the intention of girls to study ICT. A positive role model from parents who have worked or are working in the field of ICT predicts general and computer self-efficacy. Computer self-efficacy is a predictor of objective performance results (grades in mathematics, grades in computer science, and extracurricular activities in the field of ICT). Objective performance results subsequently predict the intention of girls to study ICT.

Conclusion

The theoretical model of girls' intention to study ICT provides an explanation and basis for the psychological constructs and performance indicators that influence girls' decision to study ICT. It serves as a basis for research emphasizing the need to create an inclusive environment and support that can eliminate the negative impact of biases and stereotypes on girls' decisions in the choice of ICT studies.

Skills and transitions

Transitions from Coal and Carbon: Effects on Societies. The case study of region Horná Nitra

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Co-authors: Richard Filčák

Organisation: Institute for Forecasting CSPA SAS

Keywords: decarbonisation, transition, Horná Nitra, Slovakia

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement n° 883947.

Extended abstract:

This paper presents the results of a three-year interdisciplinary research project, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program. It focuses on the case study of region Horná Nitra, Slovakia, which is first region where Slovakia has started with targeted policies and support aimed at decarbonization, where, according to the decision of the Slovak government, coal mining will be phased out by 2024. While this decision has received support from local governments, NGOs and the business community, it has also shown that decarbonization is a relatively complicated process in Slovakia with its traditional industrial base and strong history of carbon-intensive production. Decarbonization of Horná Nitra also opens a Pandora's box of deeper structural problems related to demography, the dominance of low value-added industries, the low purchasing power of the population, the insufficient link between research and development and practice, and last but not least, it reveals the insufficient personnel and professional capacities of the key stakeholders.

The socio-political analysis identified two dominant narratives on the impacts of decarbonization of the region. The first is the narrative of Horná Nitra as a winner and leader of the process, region that can serve as an example for other regions on how to approach decarbonization at regional and local level, including in other EU countries. The second is the narrative of the future decline of the region, due to the worsening economic situation, unfavourable demographic developments, global competition, which will cause the lagging behind and eventually the decay of towns and cities. Today it is clear that the whole process of transformation of Horná Nitra is firmly anchored in the framework of the decisions taken and no major disruptions or changes in the set course can be expected.

However, it was identified that that the biggest challenge for the successful decarbonization of the region and the launch of the new economy is the lack of human and professional capacities at the local level and the underdeveloped cooperation that would work to integrate all stakeholders. There is also a lack of empowerment and involvement of the civil community in mitigating the potential negative social impacts of decarbonization. The EU Green Deal, Fit for 55 and Re-Power EU agreements provide important frameworks for national policies and targets. Working with the implementation of already agreed targets provides strong guidelines to keep the process on track. This outlined strategy should be continued by regional stakeholders, local authorities and NGOs. This approach could effectively restore economy and community ties in region while securing its already started transition to carbon neutral economy.

Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Industrial Robots on Wage Premium: Evidence from the UK

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Organisation: University of Economics in Bratislava (EUBA)

Keywords: Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Wage Premium, Patents, Robots

This paper is a part of the research project GV-2022-4-P11-Z1 co-financed by NBS Foundation.

Extended abstract:

Over the last four decades, automation technologies have become an increasingly important substitute for routine, manual, and low skilled workers. Moreover, digital technologies and the rise of more advanced technologies contributed to hollowing out of the middle-class and labour market polarization. Recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) with a huge potential to replace workers performing complex tasks such as write reports, summarize texts, code, develop new drugs, chemical composites or materials, diagnose diseases, etc. rise a question of its impact on the development of wages, employment and in particular wage premium of high-skilled workers.

Recently, Bloom et al. (2023) developed a nested CES production function in which robots substitute for low-skilled workers, and AI substitutes for high-skilled workers. They derived conditions under which the use of AI would reduce the college skill premium. They hypothesize that, ceteris paribus, the increasing use of AI reduces wage inequality between high-skilled and low-skilled workers as long as AI is more substitutable for highskilled workers than low-skilled workers are for high-skilled workers. Stansbury, Turner, and Balls (2023) documents a quite dramatic decline in the college wage premium in the UK (except London). The objective of this paper is to provide new empirical evidence on the role of technology in this phenomenon. In particular, the main aim of the paper is to explore the impact of industrial robots and AI on wages, employment, and college wage premium in the UK over the last decades.

Our primary data source comes from the Annual Population Survey (APS) covering the period from 2012 to 2022. The sample size is approximately 200,000 respondents each year. We complement this data on the level of workers with data on technology. We measure innovations (technological progress) with a patent application granted or issued between 1980 and 2020 in English from Google Public Dataset.

We contribute to the current literature in several ways. First, we construct UK-tailored exposures to the technological family of robots and AI, an area not well-explored beyond the US, as argued by Restrepo (2023). Our findings reveal that the middle part of the income distribution is primarily exposed to robots technology, while the right tail of the income distribution is more exposed to AI, aligning with a broader strand of the literature. Third, we observe that the exposure to robots is most severe among high school dropouts, decreasing monotonically with education. In contrast, AI automation has a limited impact on the same workers, with a sharp increase in AI automation for college graduates, as assumed in Bloom et al. (2023). Fourth, we document a decline in the college wage premium, consistent with the findings of Stansbury et al. (2023). Fifth, our first results show that changes in exposure to robots and AI between the 1980-2000 and 2000-2020 periods had different effects on the wage premium postulated by Bloom et al. (2023). AI reduced the college wage premium, while robots increased it.

Workplace learning and the impact of digital and green transitions: Findings from the I SKILL project from the case study in Slovakia.

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Co-authors: Lucia Kováčová, Lucia Mýtna Kureková

Organisation: Institute for Forecasting CSPS SAS

Keywords: adult learning, automation, digital and green transition, workplace learning

This work is based on research of the EU-funded project I SKILL grant agreement no. VS/2021/0208 and from research of the project VEGA 2/0079/21.

Extended abstract:

Slovakia faces one of the highest risks of automation, yet the non-formal learning of adults at the workplace, which is the key component of adult learning systems, has not been studied extensively in Slovakia. The processes of automation and digitisation and their impact on workplace learning are particularly well fit to provide insights into human capital adjustments at the organisational level.

In one part of our research, we analysed qualitative data we gathered via semi-structured interviews conducted between 2022 and 2023 with the actors involved in adult learning and social dialogue and representatives of an automotive producer company for which we elaborated a case study in workplace learning in a post-automation phase.

In the work presented at this conference, we studied how workplaces innovate in workplace learning to respond to the changing demand for skills in the case of the automotive industry. We address how skills and learning adjust at the employee level in dealing with the skills challenges in Slovakia. We assess the role of social dialogue in supporting the participation of adults in learning and the equity of participation and identify the role of social partners in adult learning.

In our key findings, we point to the limited role of social dialogue in supporting adults to participate in learning, especially those with jobs jeopardised by destruction in the coming years due to automation. We find that employers can flexibly react to changing skills demand and they can develop tailor-made solutions to re-skilling and upskilling needs connected with digital and green transitions. New and significant challenges arise in connection to the higher intensity of work with robots and decreased social interaction among co-workers. One of the renewed issues the automotive production might deal with is the mental health of its skilled workers. On the other hand, the lack of labour supply generates new opportunities for upskilling. Individualised approaches to workplace learning and upskilling within the organisation integrate relatively well opportunities for low-skilled adults. Surprisingly, and at odds with the prominent position of the employers in the automotive industry within the national economy, publicly funded schemes are not perceived as a viable support scheme, and they are also still perceived as administratively too demanding. There is a strong demand in new areas for soft (transversal) skills which are not employer-specific and could be targeted by publicly funded schemes without a potential deadweight loss.

Integration Challenges and Educational Needs of Ukrainian Refugees in Košice: Insights from Focus Groups

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Keywords: Ukraine, refugees, education, social isolation, distance learning

Extended abstract:

Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine on February 24, 2022, there has been a significant influx of over 100,000 individuals arriving in Košice from Ukraine. Among them, approximately 5,500 to 6,000 residents, predominantly women and children, have sought refuge in the city, having been displaced from their families and traumatized by the war in their homeland. This qualitative research aimed to examine the needs and challenges of integrating individuals from Ukraine into the educational system in the city of Košice, thereby contributing to the expansion of knowledge about the situation of this group in this area.

Focus groups (N=2) were conducted with a sample of 17 participants in March and December 2023. Focus group #1 consisted of Ukrainian refugees (N=8, age range 18-71 years), while focus group #2 (online) included young high school and university students (N=9, age range 15-18 years), both groups having arrived in Košice after February 2022. The research received approval from the Ethics Committee of the CSPS Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Through thematic analysis, the study illuminated the experiences of Ukrainian women regarding access to education, highlighting adolescents' vulnerability to mental health challenges and social isolation. Additionally, the study underscored the use of distance and online schooling as alternatives for refugee children, motivated by uncertainties over residency status, language barriers, and capacity limitations in local schools. These everyday problems are further compounded by a sense of timelessness and liminality induced by the ongoing war.

Moving forward, collaboration between policymakers, educators, researchers, and community organizations is essential to develop effective interventions that support the educational and social integration of Ukrainian refugees in Košice. By providing targeted assistance and understanding the unique needs of refugees, we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for those affected by war and displacement.

Historical and longitudinal perspectives on society

Song of Songs in the Embrace of Hellenistic Love Poetry: Love Lyrics as a Vehicle of Resistance against Hellenisation

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Organisation: Institute of Social Sciences CSPS SAS

Keywords: Song of Songs, Hellenism, Love Poetry

Extended abstract:

Hellenistic Judaism is the lifestyle of an ethnic group of Jews living in the diaspora who adopted Hellenistic culture, language, and mentality between the reign of Alexander the Great (336-323 BC) and the rise of the Roman Empire.

The Song of Songs can be seen as an attempt to deal with Hellenisation through classical Greek discourses on eros and Hellenistic love poetry in the form of a love lyric, probably in the 3rd century BC. It thematizes love in a way that no other text of the Old Testament does. It seemingly takes on the form of period erotic poetry, with basic literary devices, to such an extent that the Greek translation would be almost indistinguishable from the "fashionable" Hellenistic lyric wave of the Greek poets Callimachus, Theocritus, and Apollonius of Rhodes active in the Hellenistic cultural metropolis of Alexandria, Egypt, in the 3rd cent. BC, where a large Jewish community resided.

The main character of Song of Songs is a woman who claims control over her body in the matter of love, over the choice of her lover, speaks openly about her erotic desires, reveals her admiration for the beauty of the human body. The author of the final version of the Song of Songs deliberately chooses a vocabulary that, at first sight, does not appear biblical, avoiding religious terminology. It contains a wealth of contemporary and modern expressive devices and, especially, unconventional imagery and themes that seemingly contradict Old Testament rules and teachings.

The final form of the Song of Songs testifies to an author with an excellent knowledge of both contemporary and earlier literature, even if he does not show unreserved sympathy for it. He uses the Hellenistic literary style to delineate the main themes of the erotic discourse, not by direct criticism but by offering an idea of ideal love between a woman and a man. In doing so, he gives his audience a roadmap to guide them in the terrain of Greek and Hellenistic romantic literature to the right destination. This is the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings, the Old Testament texts of the time. He not only adopts the style of the period but employs Hellenistic literary devices to preserve his addressees from the adverse influences of Hellenisation and to direct them to the deeper meaning of their sacred texts by an arc.

Political opportunism in Central Europe: historical evidence of conscious practice of taking advantage of opportunities in one's benefit

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Organisation: Institute of Social Sciences CSPA SAS

Keywords: political opportunism, switches of political regimes, 20th century, Central Europe

Extended abstract:

Political opportunism refers to a political style that involves seizing every and any opportunity to extend political influence, whenever such opportunities arise. Such a behavioural pattern typically involves the attempt to increase political influence in a way which disregards relevant ethical or political principles. Scholarship emphasises that the controversies surrounding the concept of political opportunism concern the exact relationship between "seizing a political opportunity" and the political principles being espoused. The main question remains if this relationship is universal or can vary depending on relevant variables such as one's societal status, the severity of breaching of an agreed-on code of ethics, or the geopolitical location of committed opportunism and its political and ethical culture.

The author of the contribution aims to verify this relationship exploring historical sources which contain explicit evidence of political-opportunistic behavioural patterns of one carrier-observing individual. These sources were analysed from the archival material deposited in the Slovak National Archive in Bratislava. The analysed case-study persona – Josef Kohout – born in Prague in 1896, commenced his carrier as a Germanized proponent of the Habsburg monarchy, serving as an officer in the Austro-Hungarian Army. After the establishment of Czechoslovakia, he was hired as a police captain in east-Slovak city Košice. However, after his personal connections and sympathies to monarchists were revealed, he was immediately dismissed. Seeking shelter in Bratislava as an admirer of newly emerging fascism, after the establishment of the Slovak State in 1939, he managed to get the Slovak citizenship by gaining a membership in Deutsche Partei. After the World War II, despite being found guilty from collaboration with fascism, he attempted to join the Communist Party, which was declined. However, he managed to become a member of the political organization of Zväzarm.

Based on the analysis of the historical evidence and the historical context of the era, the author of the contribution argues that multiple facilitating factors contributed to committing an opportunistic behaviour – not only the personal traits of opportunists, but also factors which could be identified as structural. Firstly, the geopolitical location – as in the case of Central Europe, in which frequent switches of political regimes of the respective state formations enabled individuals to develop multiple identities, either ethnic, national, political or ideological. Secondly, the political and ethical culture of the region – the repeatedly establishing political regimes were forced – due to shortages of qualified labour force – to accept in the ranks of their political elites also individuals, who were to a certain extent compromised by collaboration with previous rivaling regimes. This historical feature actually encouraged individuals to commit political opportunism, as this was plausible and tolerated behavioural pattern for both sides.

The Suzdalian travelogue as a unique historical source

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Organisation: Institute for Forecasting CSPS SAS

Keywords: narrative strategies, primary sources data, Council of Florence

Extended abstract:

The 15th century Suzdalian travelogue describes the journey of Metropolitan of Kiev to the Council of Florence (1437-1440). Its study within the *longue durée* (manuscript copies span from 15th till 17th centuries) proves that it served as a parallel information on the Florentine event where the communion of Christian East and West had been renewed. Thus, the travelogue operated for centuries in significant contrast with the seclusionist narrative that had been formed later as a result of complicated anti-Latin compilation process.

The very juxtaposition of the Suzdalian travelogue to the chronology of events in Rus' contains no trace of the immediate refusal of the Union of Florence after the return of conciliar representatives. Surprisingly, the widening of the historical panorama to Lithuania, Poland and Hungarian kingdom reveals the political conflict within the very West, as well as its devastating influence on the Eastern reception of the Union of Florence. Therefore, it can be concluded that it is the (nowadays forgotten) Basel schism that stands at the very beginning of the Muscovite seclusionist narrative construction.

Interventions and Innovations

Interventions to reduce psychological barriers and to increase engagement in pro-environmental behaviour

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Co-authors: Jakub Šrol

Organisation: Institute of Experimental Psychology CSPS SAS

Keywords: psychological barriers, pro-environmental behaviour, social norms, informative intervention

Extended abstract:

This study focuses on two interventions aimed at reducing psychological barriers and increasing engagement in pro-environmental behaviour. As the second study of the dissertation thesis, this paper is currently in progress of design and data collection. Psychological barriers to pro-environmental behaviour encompass various psychological reasons why people do not adopt pro-environmental behaviour, even if they acknowledge the severity of climate change. We are utilizing a theoretical model of psychological barriers called "Dragons of Inaction," proposed by Gifford (2011), which comprises seven categories: change unnecessary, interpersonal relations, conflicting goals and aspirations, ignorance, fatalism, technosalvation, and tokenism. We plan to address these barriers by employing either a social norm appeals intervention or an informative intervention.

In the social norm appeals intervention, participants are asked questions about their concern regarding climate change, as well as the climate change concern they believe the rest of the Slovak population holds. Based on data from Slovenska Klima 2022 (Chabada et al., 2022), participants are provided with feedback about the concern, beliefs, or actions of the rest of the Slovak population. Additionally, in this intervention, participants are encouraged to engage in collective climate action. The informative intervention follows a similar format to the social norm appeals, providing feedback after participants answer questions, but focuses on their knowledge. Feedback includes facts about climate change and tips on how to reduce personal carbon footprints.

The study will consist of two waves of data collection, comparing three groups: two experimental groups and one control group. Therefore, the sample size should be at least 528 (176 participants per group) in both waves. In the first wave, all participants will be randomly divided into three groups, and pre- and post-test measurements will be conducted. In the second wave of data collection, follow-up measurements will be performed in all three groups. We plan to measure psychological barriers and self-reported pro-environmental behaviour. We anticipate that both interventions will reduce psychological barriers and increase engagement in pro-environmental behaviour, but we expect the efficiency of the interventions to vary for each barrier.

The Effects of Information Provision about Fact-Checking on News Credibility and Reader Support: Field-experiment in five CEE Countries

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Keywords: fact-checking, donation, value, sustainability, field-experiment

The research was supported by the EMIF – Gulbenkiann Foundation, European Digital Media Observatory under the project Check4Media East.

Extended abstract:

The roles of traditional media as information gatekeepers and curators face challenges in an evolving landscape characterised by technological advancements (e.g., social platforms, communication apps), societal shifts (e.g., diminished trust in traditional media, polarisation of public discourse), and the emergence of new business models within the media and information sector. The field survey experiment examines how the provision of information about the type of fact-check (independent fact-checkers, editor) and the signalled value of the fact-check (90 minutes of extra work) influences the perception of the factual accuracy of the news article, the financial donation to the media outlet, and the acceptance of the advertisement on the media outlet's website. Study participants (N= 1611), readers and followers of five media outlets (Euractiv.SK, Euractiv.PL, Euractiv. BL, MedialQ, Liga.net) from five countries (Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Belarus, Ukraine) were recruited via the websites, newsletters and social networks of media partners. Due to the more naturalistic experimental design, the sample is not representative and consists of (liberal) mainstream media consumers. Participants were asked to read a short (fact-checked) news article about microplastic from wind turbines (2 min. read) and then to answer questions about the factual accuracy of the news article, willingness to donate small sum of money to the media outlet and willingness to accept more advertisement on the media outlet web site. The results indicate that the information about the form of fact-checking with or without value of fact-checking increases perceived factual accuracy compared to the control group (which no information about fact-checking). However, there is no statistically significant difference between the intervention groups. Although fact-checking is a standard practice in traditional media, the explicit acknowledgement that an article has been fact-checked can increase its credibility for readers. Nonetheless, the data suggest that the information about fact-checking of the news article does not have a significant effect on willingness to donate money and willingness to tolerate more advertising.

The impact of the payout form in the material need benefit on the improvement of the benefit recipients situation: results of field research among the recipients from the marginalized Roma communities

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Organisation: Institute for Forecasting CSPS SAS

Keywords: material need benefit, payout of benefit, marginalized Roma communities

Extended abstract:

The question of state benefits provided in the context of the state's social policy is one of the most sensitive and emotionally influenced topics. The topic of discussion is not only the amount of the allowances but also the form of their payment and distribution. In cyclical periods, the Slovak reality regularly sees a return of the attempt to make state benefits in the area of material need conditional on the merits of the recipient and to distribute them in a form other than cash. Recipients of material need benefits are often perceived as people incapable of handling financial value and unworthy of receiving cash, as the way of life of people living in material need often does not correspond to the expectations of the majority. Moreover, the public is also often convinced of the disproportionately high sums paid out under the system of material needs, misconceptions which are usually fuelled by the political interests of various political streams.

This situation is not only characteristic of Slovakia, the paper draws on the experience with the payment of material need benefits via e-pay cards in Canada, where this is a long-established model, but also on the experience with the payment of benefits to special accounts in the UK or Bulgaria. The paper also works through the arguments of the recent regulation of asylum seeker support payments in Germany, which restricts the sending of money to asylum seekers' home countries.

In addition to the international context, the paper looks specifically at the situation in Slovakia and the attitudes of people from marginalised Roma communities who are in receipt of material need benefits towards possible changes in the payment of benefits, both in terms of the form and frequency of payments. The paper presents qualitative-type findings from field research carried out in August-October 2023 in four localities in eastern Slovakia. The research was conducted in the context of a European Parliament initiative aimed at introducing cashless disbursements made at weekly intervals. The findings describe the financial management strategies of households in material need and highlight a good level of ability to use banking products to manage household income.

Russo-Ukrainian war fake news: the effect of debunking vs. prebunking

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Co-authors: Vladimíra Čavojová, Jakub Šrol

Organisation: Institute of Experimental Psychology CSPS SAS

Keywords: fake news, Ukraine, prebunking, debunking, experiment

Extended abstract:

Russian invasion of Ukraine is accompanied with considerable volume of fake news, which may undermine trust in the motives and actions of Ukraine and Western countries. It is therefore essential to search for and test interventions capable of reducing trust in such fake news. In one laboratory and two online experiments, we measure trust in true, false and fake news related to Russo-Ukrainian war and examine the effects of providing fake news refuting information. By manipulating the timing of such information, we effectively test whether it is more effective to debunk (i.e., to refute fake news after people are already exposed to them) or prebunk (i.e., to intervene before fake news start spreading). Across our three experiments we consistently find that while Debunk intervention significantly reduces the trust in fake news, and the effect lasts for at least a couple of weeks, Prebunk intervention is effective only (a) for a very short period time or (b) if it occurs just moments before exposure to fake news.

Potential of BIM technology in Sustainable Construction 4.0

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Keywords: Construction 4.0, Innovations 4.0, BIM, sustainable development

This work was supported by VEGA project 2/0013/24.

Extended abstract:

Construction sector faces challenges associated with the development of innovative and sustainable construction processes. Raising awareness of the potential of Innovations 4.0 in sustainable construction process is one of the ways to support Innovation 4.0 acceptance and use in Construction sector.

In the optics of sustainable Construction 4.0 development, the attention is shifting to the analysis of specific Innovations 4.0 acceptance and use in its social, economic, and environmental dimension of sustainability.

In this paper, we present findings in the area of the estimated potential of BIM technology to support the sustainable development of Construction 4.0 in the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainability. In the theoretical part of the work, 50 studies published in the WOS and Scopus databases in March to April 2023 were analysed.

Empirical data collection was carried out using the technique of expert interviews with a sample of 12 experts from the academic and business fields.

Based on published studies, Innovations 4.0 have the potential to support the environmental dimensions of the construction industry, e.g. the use of digital supply chains and procurement technologies, reuse and recycling even at the planning stage and before the conclusion of the contract, the use of green materials, self-service materials, reuse and recycled material, the use of 3D printing that enables rapid construction and waste reduction, facilitating green construction certifications products and services.

In the empirical research, we focused first on qualitative expert estimates of the potential of BIM technology to support the development of sustainable Construction 4.0. To the highest extent, the potential of BIM technology to support environmental sustainability was identified in the case of coordination and time saving of project workers, reduction of economic costs, error rate, enrichment of new work competencies and positions.

In the area of social sustainability, the experts communicated the speeding up of time, the reduction of error rates, the support of cooperation and collaboration between project partners, the creation of new job positions (e.g. BIM manager, BIM coordinator), changes in the workload at various qualification levels and the possible threat of some jobs (e.g. budgeter, designer) at intermediate and higher qualification levels. The implementation process itself is associated with

the risk of mistakes, which, however, according to expert estimates, can be eliminated by gradual introduction.

In the area of economic sustainability, experts declared negative impacts in the initial phase of project implementation associated with financial costs for securing technology and training workers. On-going costs for the implementation process are a barrier to technology adoption, especially for newer and smaller companies. Experts communicated possible feelings of disappointment associated with the use of digital programs that replace part of the competences of some professions in the sector. This feeling, however, may be related to the not full use of new technologies by users.

The empirical findings gathered via online questionnaire data collection will be part of quantification of potential of BIM technology in sustainable Construction in the next phase of research.

Innovation performance of New Member States

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Organisation: Institute for Forecasting CSPS SAS

Keywords: Innovation, New Member States, performance assessment, data envelopment analysis

The authors acknowledge financial support from projects VEGA 2/0001/22 "Slovakia 2030".

Extended abstract:

The economic stagnation experienced by countries within the European Union in recent times necessitates an investigation into its underlying causes. Beyond considerations of institutional frameworks, energy policies, and geopolitical factors, significant attention is being directed towards the innovative capacity of these economies. This contribution seeks to assess the innovation performance of EU member states within the context of the world's 50 most innovative high-income economies, with a particular focus on the "new member states" — those countries that joined the EU during its fifth wave of enlargement. We use The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) data on innovation capacity of world's countries.

Employing the nonparametric DEA method, we identify an empirical best practice reference boundary utilizing an individual-specific output weighting scheme. Subsequently, we determine an innovation efficiency score for other member states relative to this benchmark. The results are compared to conventional assessment via composite indicator with fixed weights. Decomposition reveals individual factors' contributions to overall performance. We determine shortages in institutional domains for each country. The findings may offer an empirical basis for informed decision-making.