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# PLACES

## ABSTRACTS

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# **Contemporary Legal Problems**

# A potentia and actum: application of pretrial detention in criminal proceedings

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***Mr. Jānis Ievītis**<sup>1</sup>*

*1. The Multidisciplinary Specialized Prosecution Office*

## **Objectives**

The objective of the study is to analyze the rights of a prosecutor supervising a pretrial investigation and the need to apply to the court with a proposal on the application of a security measure – detention at the supervision stage in the context of two reports of the State Audit Office.

The 2017 report showed that prosecutors rarely used their right to participate in court hearings under the Criminal Procedure Law when the investigating judge decides on the use of coercive measures.

The 2020 report states that the lack of involvement and cooperation of the supervising prosecutor with the investigator has contributed to the prolongation of criminal proceedings in order to facilitate the uniform application of the security measure.

## **Materials and Methods**

Two reports of the State Audit Office are examined in connection with the Criminal Procedure Law, Office of the Prosecutor Law, On Judicial Power, Judgments and Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, and practical observations.

The study uses the analysis of regulations, methods of analysis and comparison, a conceptual approach.

## **Results**

It has been established that the statements of the State Audit Office are partly appropriate, due to insufficient involvement of the prosecutor and cooperation with the investigator due to accident or other objective circumstances. These shortcomings can be remedied as a result of the reorganization of the Prosecution Office. The Auditors point to the limitation of the role of the prosecutor supervising the pre-trial investigation, to the possible different interpretation of certain norms of the Criminal Procedure Law.

## **Conclusions**

The study has shown that a discussion is needed. It is necessary to consider amendments to the Criminal Procedure Law, providing that the prosecutor has the right to apply to the court with a proposal for the application of detention when the prosecutor performs the functions of a supervising prosecutor.

# An effective search and rescue at sea: existing problems and possible solutions

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*Dr. Jānis Grasis<sup>1</sup>, Mr. George Chakhvadze<sup>2</sup>*

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University*

## **Objectives**

The aims of this article is to overview the comprehensive global framework of search and rescue at sea and analyse existing problems. In our view, taking into account the fact that SAR conventions are universally agreed, any revisions to these treaties represent impractical task. Thus, apart from focusing on the problems of international regulation, it focuses on the necessity for states to understand their responsibilities and implement their national SAR systems.

## **Materials and Methods**

The SAR Convention provides the separate definitions of Search and Rescue. Under the SAR Convention search is „*an operation, normally co-ordinated by a rescue coordination centre or rescue sub-centre, using available personnel and facilities to locate persons in distress*”, while rescue is „*an operation to retrieve persons in distress, provide for their initial medical or other needs, and deliver them to a place of safety*”. When defining the objective of the article it is appropriate to determine why do we need Search and Rescue? One can say, that any disaster at sea is not somebody’s fault. It is states responsibility: all the businesses and commerce depends on SAR system. The aim of the paper is to analyse international regulatory framework of SAR and thus, primarily uses doctrinal and analytical methods.

## **Results**

The comprehensive analysis of regulatory framework of search and rescue has some fundamental shortcomings. First of all, it contains no provision on land search and rescue. Secondly, its very dependent from state cooperation. However, in our view, the problems with search and rescue are not conventions alone as conventions need states to realize them in practice.

## **Conclusions**

We believe that it could be several possible solutions to the identified problems. First, to use case-study system as applied by the United States of A. Other possible solutions may include strong interstate cooperation, policy measures and training.

# Analytical overview of compensation understanding

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*Mrs. Dana Segale*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

Analyzing understanding of compensation from the aspect of Civil Law and the perspective of resolving civil disputes, the aim is to understand the essence of the concept, the difference from the similar ones included in other legal norms in their verbal aspect, but different in essence.

## **Materials and Methods**

The article provides an analytical overview of the understanding of redress found in the literature, case law and publications of authors in various fields of law. In terms of literature, the descriptive method will be used to create the analysis and summary.

## **Results**

In accordance with the provisions of Article 1635 of the Civil Law, the norm does not exclude compensation in several forms, not only in cash. Giving satisfaction as such can take other forms. Article 2352 of the Civil Law stipulates that if someone unlawfully robs another of his or her personal liberty, he or she must return it to him or her again and give him or her compensation, the term compensation includes moral compensation. In its turn, Article 2352.1 provides that if someone unlawfully infringes the honor and dignity of a person, it must be compensated. The said norm specifically determines the possibilities of compensation in material compensation.

## **Conclusions**

Only a person who is aware of his rights and who has the capacity and often is able to exercise it effectively. In the case of unjustified prejudice, the interests of a person to defend in a fair court are hindered by many factors. The Satversme of the Republic of Latvia envisages the subjective public right of a person to be informed about rights and also obligations, but the first part of Article 1635 of the Civil Law and the envisaged right of the victim to seek redress from the injured party, in so far as he can be blamed for this act.

# Anonymisation of personal data: an opportunity for entrepreneurship and innovations

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*Ms. Žaklīna Vagoliņa<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

COVID – 19 has emphasized the importance of data protection related questions in spheres not only related to entrepreneurs but also education, medical, and other services providers. Protection of personal data, transparent environment of personal data processing, and data subjects rights are only a few of the core points of General Data Protection Regulation. Since the General Data Protection Regulation came into force, it has not been only an opportunity for personal data protection but a challenge as well for entrepreneurs in many cases of how to balance with company's legal interests and resources minimization and data subjects rights. As many of the technology opportunities that can be used in business means are related to processing great or smaller amounts of personal data, this has come as a core point to discuss.

## **Materials and Methods**

To determine the results the following materials will be analysed: General Data Protection Regulation and case law.

An analytical and descriptive method will be used for the research. The descriptive method will help to describe the main personal data principles when processing personal data as well as describing the main data anonymization techniques, meanwhile, the analytical method will provide an opportunity to look into the use cases of hardware's and software's development which is not possible without anonymization method of personal data.

## **Results**

Anonymization can be seen as a great opportunity for the company. Important innovations in the sphere of artificial intelligence are almost impossible without analysing a big amount of data.

## **Conclusions**

Anonymization of personal data allows store personal data without data subjects consent, reuse personal data if necessary, minimize the risks that can occur on personal data transfers, it allows for the company to better fight cyber attacks and makes the company's information security system much more secure.

# Application of the urgent procedures in the context of the provision of the right to complete criminal proceedings in a reasonable term

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***Mr. Dainis Vēbers**<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The aim of the study is to analyse the possibilities for improving the application of the urgent procedures by assessing the right of individuals to complete criminal proceedings in a reasonable term.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study uses legislation, scientific literature and judicial decisions. The study has employed methods of interpretation of legal norms and the inductive and deductive method to draw conclusions.

## **Results**

One of the fundamental principles of criminal proceedings is a right for completion of criminal proceedings within a reasonable term, that is, without any unjustified delay, for each person, victim or a person who has the right to defence. To enforce these rights, the person directing the proceeding shall choose the simplest form of criminal proceedings.

One of the simplest forms of criminal proceedings in investigations is the application of urgent procedures, where the person directing the proceedings shall complete the investigation without delay.

The possibility of applying the urgent procedures may be facilitated by the provision of Section 268, Paragraph four of the Criminal Procedure Law. Consequently, there is a possibility that coercive measures can be applied at the beginning of the criminal proceedings to bring a person to the public prosecutor and to the court, thereby facilitating the rapid completion of criminal proceedings without possible delay (e.g. avoiding an investigation by the suspected person) and ensuring the fair regulation of criminal legal relations in due time. Nevertheless, such a limitation of rights must be proportionate.

## **Conclusions**

Effective application of the urgent procedures can serve to ensure the right to complete criminal proceedings within a reasonable term, both in a specific criminal proceedings and in general, as it ensures the savings of the resources of the investigating authorities, the public prosecutor's office.

# Changes in the form of labour relationships due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19

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*Mrs. Linda Nātriņa*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The aim of the study is to determine effectiveness of the existing labour regulation as well as amendments to the Labour law adopted by the government during a state of emergency declared in Latvia in the context with resulting challenges faced by the company's management board. Was the scope of the board member's powers affected?

## **Materials and Methods**

During the research of the article there are used analytical, descriptive and induction methods. By using these methods, there are going to be analyzed legal acts and drawn conclusions.

## **Results**

Global pandemic has become a challenge in matters related to the regulation of labor relations and has led to the need to review existing framework. The state of emergency declared in Latvia in order to limit the spread of Covid-19 has directly affected employees and employers. In this situation, the employer's rights under the law are limited, however, a member of the board as a responsible person in the company has a duty to address this situation in the interests of both the company and the employees. Companies and their management board are forced to adapt to the new situation, respond and follow to regulatory changes, seek solutions and invest resources to organize their work.

## **Conclusions**

The research concludes that the legislator has responded to the problems relating to labour issues by amending the legislation including amendments in Labour law, which in turn has created a need for company's management board to focus their resources to gather and correctly interpret this information in order to quickly adapt to new circumstances.

# Children freedoms during the COVID-19 pandemic in Latvia

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***Mrs. Ilze Ziemane***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Faculty of Law, University of Latvia*

## **Objectives**

Objectives of the topic is to evaluate children rights and duties as the concept of their freedoms, analyze the role of the state and family to protect and ensure them and to give the key points that has to be considered during the pandemic by setting the legal limits. Author analyzes the values of both children and society and sets hypothesis that children freedoms and rights during the pandemic are subject to less restrictions and is not seen as the threat to interests of society in a broader sense by the government.

## **Materials and Methods**

Materials of the topic are legal acts, literature and periodicals. Methods used to describe the objectives are analytical and sociological methods. Analytical method – to research legal acts and other sources of rights, their aim and to identify problems. Sociological method – to analyze and evaluate legal aspects in relation with the needs of society.

## **Results**

As the result Author gives the opinion and observation upon the issues that has to be considered in case of balancing the interests of children and society.

## **Conclusions**

In conclusion Author points out the best interests of child as the basic principle of every decision and legal action made by the government.

## Civil law aspects in the case of a partnership

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***Mrs. Lidija Rozentāle**<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

### **Objectives**

Find out if the Civil Code can also be applied to partnerships

### **Materials and Methods**

Tasks for achieving the goal are research of regulatory enactments, analysis of legal scientists' opinions using descriptive and analytical methods.

### **Results**

Relatives are persons who live together and have a common (undivided holding. A similar regulation can be found in Section 181, Paragraph three of the Civil Law, which provides that a child has the right to maintain personal relations and direct contacts with brothers, sisters and grandparents, as well as other persons with whom the child has lived on an undivided farm for a long time. the best interests of the child (right of access). On the other hand, Article 206 of the Civil Law strictly enumerates who are relatives, namely - A relationship is the relationship between two or more persons born at birth. Kinship proximity is determined by lines and degrees. An ambiguous situation arises with regard to the range of persons who are to be interpreted as relatives and who are relatives. The legislator has a duty arising from the Constitution to ensure the legal protection and social and economic protection and support measures of every family, including the families of same-sex partners.

### **Conclusions**

There is still a public debate about whether the partnership institute should be recognized as similar to marriage. Legislators are deliberately widening the gap between marriage and cohabitation - partnership.

The positive obligation of the state to protect and support the family included in the first sentence of Article 110 of the Constitution does not apply only to a family formed by marriage.

# Compliance of euthanasia with the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia

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***Mrs. Una Pujāte**<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

Both euthanasia and assisted suicide have not been legalised in the Republic of Latvia. In recent years no study has focused on the compliance of these institutes with the Constitution of Republic of Latvia.

Objective of the study was by analysing the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, understanding whether euthanasia and assisted suicide is against Articles 93., 94. and 110 of the Constitution, to make conclusions and provide recommendations.

## **Materials and Methods**

Used scientific research methods – descriptive, analytical, inductive and deductive and interpretation of legal norms – historical, grammatical, systemic and teleological.

## **Results**

Although Section 93 will primarily protect the rights of life of every resident of Latvia, it does not prescribe that the person must live as long as it is medically possible.

The legal provision incorporated in Article 94 confirms- the person has the right, but there is no obligation to live a life which is not respectful and he or she has the right to freedom. This article also allows the patient to decide how he will die, which is included in other regulatory acts on the basis of which a person may refuse treatment (one of the forms of passive euthanasia).

Article 110 includes the rights of State protection in the physical and emotional sense. Consequently, it can be concluded that, in the current situation, where the country is not always able to ensure the end of life without physical pain, which could cause psychoemotional trauma to family members, the institutes of euthanasia and assisted suicide are in line with the Constitution.

## **Conclusions**

Euthanasia and assisted suicide institutes are in accordance with the examined articles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia and they can also be legalised in the framework of the regulatory enactments of the Republic of Latvia by conducting in-depth research and public analysis.

# Criminal-legal characteristics of manipulations with sports competitions

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*Dr. Aldona Kipāne*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The aim of the study is to analyse the elements of the criminal offence provided for in Section 212.<sup>1</sup> of the Criminal Law and to describe the peculiarities of them.

## **Materials and Methods**

The following methods of interpretation of legal norms were used: grammatical or philological method of interpretation, historical method of interpretation, systemic method of interpretation and teleological (meaning and purpose) method of interpretation.

## **Results**

In summer of 2015 the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Sports Department of the Ministry of Education and Science and Latvian Olympic Committee, as well as involving experts from the Football Federation and other sports sectors, developed amendments to the Sports Law and the Criminal Law, which provided for criminal liability for manipulations with sports competitions. Amendments to the Criminal Law, including Section 212.<sup>1</sup>, entered into force on March 1, 2016. According to the criminal statistics six cases of manipulations with sports competitions were registered in the period from March 1, 2016 to 2020 (in 2016 – one case; in 2017 – two cases; in 2018 – one case; in 2019 – two cases).

## **Conclusions**

Crime threatens the interests of the national economy. The objective side is characterized as active action, manipulations with sports competitions organized by a sports organization. From the subjective side, it is an intentional offence that is characterized by direct intent. The subject is a physical person of sound mind who has reached the age of 14.

# Detection of the fact of psychological terror in a natural place (“mobbing”) in the event of termination of the employment relationship

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***Mrs. Dace Tarasova*** <sup>1</sup>

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

## **Objectives**

To identify the preconditions for establishing and proving the fact of psychological terror in the workplace “mobbing” by terminating the employment relationship on the basis of an employee’s notice.

## **Materials and Methods**

The provisions of the regulatory enactments of the Republic of Latvia and materials of national court practice have been studied and analyzed. Inductive, deductive and comparative methods have been used to implement the research Results.

## **Results**

In the case “*mobbing*” directed against an employee, it is possible to terminate the employment relationship with the employee’s notice on the basis of Article 100 of the Labor Law. The case law of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Latvia provides a definition of the term “*mobbing*” and criteria for legal qualification of *mobbing*. *Mobbing* is a psychological terror involving systematic hostile and unethical communication from one or more persons and directed primarily at one individual with the aim of alienating him, excluding him from the team, creating conditions for him to work. *Mobbing* qualifies as Section 7 of the Labor Law. When resolving the issue of compensation for non-pecuniary damage, Article 29 of the Labor Law is applicable by analogy. The employee is not obliged to prove the existence of moral damage in accordance with Section 1635 of the Civil Law. In certain cases, it is permissible to record a conversation between an employee and an employer without informing the employer, and to use this recording in court as evidence for the protection of the employee’s violated rights.

## **Conclusions**

In the case of “*mobbing*” directed against an employee, it is possible to terminate the employment relationship with the employee’s notice on the basis of Article 100 of the Labor Law conditions. The case law gives a definition of the term “*mobbing*”, criteria for the qualification of *mobbing* qualification and methods of obtaining evidence.

## Digital sovereignty. Fiction or reality?

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***Dr. Uldis Kinis***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

### **Objectives**

Digital sovereignty is a completely new legal concept that has emerged from academic discussions in 2020 in both the UN Global Governance Forum and a debate in the European Union to ensure a single digital legal space in the European Union.

The goal of the presentation is to study the concept of digital sovereignty and the possible problems of its application in criminal proceedings in connection with the obtaining and processing of electronic evidence in a criminal case in the national and international domains.

### **Materials and Methods**

Relevant legal and well-known gnoseological methods will be used to prepare the study. Authoritative sources of legal literature will be used in the preparation of the research.

### **Results**

The results of the research will be compiled and published in the RSU JF electronic edition Socrates or in another edition included in international databases.

### **Conclusions**

Finally, based on the data obtained in the study, conclusions will be prepared that will assess the sustainability and development of the “digital sovereignty”.

# Distinction between the status of the members and the ownership of the shares in the company

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*Mr. Sergejs Aleksejevs*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

A member of a capital company is a person entered in the register of members. The share shall give the participant the right to participate in the management of the company. In practice, situations often arise where the owner of the shares never becomes a member of a capital company.

## **Materials and Methods**

The aim of the work is to identify and evaluate the aspects to exercise the rights of the owner of the capital shares and the restrictive mechanisms. Analytical and comparative methods have been used in the development of the study. The informative basis for research work is national law, case law and the laws of the individual Member States of the European Union.

## **Results**

The member of the limited liability company exercises his rights at the meetings of the participants, and the participant has the right to make decisions without convening the meeting of the participants. However, what rights are there for the owner of the capital to the acquisition of the status of a member of a capital company, what legal consequences are created by that status, how such a person can exercise his rights and enjoy the protection of legal mechanisms. This issue has not been explored so far and requires a separate insight into this issue.

## **Conclusions**

1. The current mechanism does not ensure that the owner of the shares can become a member of a capital company.
2. The owner of the shares does not always enjoy legal protection for its investment in capital.
3. Not always the capital company shall continue to develop as a member of the company by exercising its pre-emption rights.
4. The commercial law provides for a more detailed description of the extent to which the shares may be obtained by the owner before he becomes a member of a capital company.

# Distribution of water-based resources in international law

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***Prof. Anatolijs Krivins***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Department of Law, Daugavpils University*

## **Objectives**

According to United Nations Convention on Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, it is up to countries themselves to spell out precisely what terms “*equitable and reasonable use*” and “*the obligation not to cause significant harm to neighbors*” mean in their watersheds. **The objective of the work** is to analyse these terms, explore the opinions of leading world organizations on the use of these terms, identify problems and risks in practice and suggest solutions. International law (Codified International Law, Customary International Law, Additional Sources of International Law) as a set of rules that govern the conduct and relations of states, highlights the need to find the interplay between transboundary and domestic legal and institutional dimension.

## **Materials and Methods**

Scientific literature, laws and regulations and legal practice materials have been used in this study. In the development of the paper, the following research methods were applied – teleological, semantic, grammatical, analytical, comparative and systemic method.

## **Results**

The results of the study give insight into the understanding of the specific terms and its use in national legislation, and indicate a need for an in-depth legal analysis of the different understandings of these terms.

## **Conclusions**

The general principles of law, custom in international water resources law and judicial decisions as applied to international water resources help to some extent with transboundary water conflict prevention and resolution. However, detailed conflict resolution mechanisms in case disputes erupt have not yet been developed. On the one hand, there are methods for resolving disputes outside of litigation (for example, water disputes can be handled diplomatically), but on the other hand, this dimension engages multi-state institutional arrangements and the binding rules of cooperative behavior. Each country has its own vision and its own interests for the use of water resources, which creates complications for policy planning and policy implementation.

# Electronic evidence in criminal proceedings

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*Mrs. Ilona Kurca<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Department of Doctoral Studies, Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The goal of the research is to define the essence and the meaning of electronic evidence in criminal proceedings.

## **Materials and Methods**

The research is based on the analysis of specialized literature. Both analytical, comparative and descriptive research methods were used in the research.

## **Results**

Nowadays the technologies'-based changes produced such kind of spatial relations, where both physical and digital worlds merged imperceptibly. In fact, a new mankind existence form emerges, where there is a need for unified approach in the regulation of public relations. Law enforcement agencies are also facing challenges, because of crimes committed more frequently in digital environment, where electronic data is being used in the processes of investigation and proving of the person's culpability. Electronic data, electronic traces and electronic evidence are new essence categories, only to be discovered by Latvian law researchers and practitioners.

## **Conclusions**

Academics' viewpoints on the place of electronic evidence in the general system of evidence differ in the specialized literature. There is a point of view, that electronic evidence, by its nature, should be rated as the secondary one. The admissibility of such an evidence in criminal proceedings is regulated by common requirements of evidence gathering. However, it should be noted that electronic evidence differs from traditional evidence by its digital nature.

# Fiduciary duties of Member of the Board

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*Mr. Andrejs Nikiforovs*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The current regulation of Commercial law grants to any Member of the Board of commercial company wide powers to act with Company's assets to provide financial benefits for shareholders. However, this does not mean permissiveness. Fiduciary duties of Board Member to act as honest and careful manager doesn't allow to act in conflict with interests of the Company.

## **Materials and Methods**

To determine the results the following materials will be analyzed: The Commercial Law and the respective Commentary; legal doctrines, that analyze the fiduciary duties; and case law.

An analytical and descriptive method will be used to reach conclusions. The descriptive method will help to define the standard of "honest and careful manager" and to determine the fiduciary duties, that are binding for the Board Member. The analytical method will provide an opportunity to find out in which cases Board Member had acted with due care and loyalty to the company, but when he had fault.

## **Results**

The result will establish, that each member of the board of any commercial company shall be loyal to the company and shall manage affairs of the company with respective care, that excludes any subjective risk of neglect.

## **Conclusions**

The fiduciary duty of Board Member to be loyal to the Company means an obligation, primary to take care of the welfare of the Company and ensure shareholders of the Company with maximum possible income. The duty of care shall prevent a Member of the Board from carrying out his duties carelessly. Board Member shall be able to evaluate a future transaction to exclude possibility of even minimal losses for Company.

# General education student's administrative responsibility for hooliganism on internet in the distance learning process

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***Mr. Rihards Erdmanis***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

To analyse the administrative responsibility of minors for in the remote learning process, by clarifying the rights and obligations of children, in distance learning process.

## **Materials and Methods**

The author with the grammatical interpretation method provides provides explanations, for example, for terms such as "hooliganism", "ICT" etc. On the other hand, the systemic method looks at the relationship between legal provisions, both national and international legislation, which governs the use of ICT for both teaching and the other meaning full purposes. The teleological method is used to characterize legislation governing the behavior of children and other rightholders in the virtual environment, the purpose and meaning of their responsibility

## **Results**

Such a rapid transition from school-based learning to distance learning, with students at home at computers, posed challenges to the education system. Teachers began to make intensive use of the so-called distance learning methods, during which information and communication technologies are used - computers, printers, mobile phones, etc. Specialists in the field of education and psychology point out that the use of ICT has introduced risks. For example, that students tend to violate public order and also the rules of ICT use.

## **Conclusions**

There is a little research done in Latvian legal science about hooliganism in the Internet environment. Hooliganism in a virtual environment during distance learning is considered a disruption of public order and would qualify as petty hooliganism. Author to impose an administrative penalty, for example, for petty hooliganism in the Internet or virtual environment, which, in the author's opinion, could be interfering with the teacher's work by posting inappropriate or vulgar, etc. content during an online lesson. In the author's opinion, such an activity could also be interpreted as a disturbance of educational institution work because it directly disturbs the course of the lesson.

# Historical scope of the registration, updating and deletion of the servitude of right of way

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*Ms. Jolanta Dinsberga*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

Until 1 December 2019, there were certain procedures for registering, updating and deleting a certain type of data on the servitudes of right of way in the Land Register and State Land Service (SLS). Following legislative amendments and the judicial reform, the judges of the Land Register were included in district (city) courts, separating the competence and responsibility of the district (city) court and the SLS in terms of data registration, updating and deletion.

## **Materials and Methods**

Analysing the historical development of the legal framework of the procedures for registering, updating and deleting of the servitudes of right of way, to depict the positive and negative trends and problems in the legal framework and practical implementation thereof, to arrive at conclusions and to provide recommendations for improvements. Used scientific research methods – descriptive, analytical, inductive and deductive and interpretation of legal norms – historical, grammatical, systemic and teleological.

## **Results**

Since the restoration of Latvia's independence, the procedures for registering, updating and deleting the servitudes of right of way have undergone significant changes to simplify this process. The procedures for document circulation were facilitated for service recipients after separating the competence and responsibility of the district (city) court and the SLS. However, this created additional burdens and responsibility for the judges of district (city) courts. Judges need to evaluate the document justifying the establishment of the servitude of right of way and also its graphic attachment.

## **Conclusions**

Unfortunately, submission of a graphic attachment drawn up by a certified person and depicting the precise position of the territory of the servitude of right of way has not been prescribed by laws as a mandatory requirement in the process of data registration and updating. Therefore, documents containing imprecise data are submitted and registered quite frequently, resulting in problems when exercising the servitude of right of way in practice.

# Illegal mining of mineral resources in Ukraine: state, determinants, prevention

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*Mr. Ihor Zdorovylo*<sup>1</sup>

*1. The National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine named after Bogdan Khmelnytsky*

## **Objectives**

1. To provide a general description of the state of crime in the field of illegal mining.
2. To analyze factors, which are determining it.
3. To distinguish the general features of the measures of its prevention.

## **Materials and Methods**

Research was conducted on the base of the official statistic data of the Prosecutor General's Office, the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine and sociological methods as study of archive criminal cases, survey and others.

## **Results**

The indexes of the illegal mining of mineral resources in Ukraine during 2013-2020 are characterizing by instability. The last tendency of it is the sharp decrease of crime rate and some rising of incarceration rate of crimes under Article 240 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. The unit weight of these crimes in the structure of crimes against the environment consist 10-24 % and 20-30 % of the convicted persons for committing a crime against the environment.

The criminological structure of illegal mining in Ukraine shows that: its "geography" is inextricably linked with the places of mineral resources deposits; such crimes are committed outside large cities; the tools, used by criminals, in the overwhelming majority, are primitive, that testify about absence of the necessity of a high engineering and technical level of training for preparing these crimes committing; the overwhelming majority of crimes are committed at night; their commission has a seasonal character, etc.

The main determinant of these crimes focus on the motive of self-interest (first of all on the aim of illegal sale). The measures of the illegal mining in Ukraine are divided into the social general, special criminological and individual level.

## **Conclusions**

The system of the illegal mining prevention should be based on the latest developments of criminological science and the significant characteristics of crimes, related to violations of the rules of protection or use of subsoil.

# Insolvency proceedings in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic

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***Mr. Valdis Savickis***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The author is set two main objectives, researching the topic concerning the influence of the COVID-19 PANDEMIC to the insolvency proceedings: 1. How the scope of prohibitions and restrictions impact the insolvency proceedings? 2. What legal and financial instruments were implemented on national and European level, influencing insolvency proceedings policy during the emergency period?

## **Materials and Methods**

In the research there are used analytical and descriptive methods. Using these methods are analyzed normative acts and political decisions. Comparative method is used to compare the scope of legal and financial instruments of national and European level.

## **Results**

State, faced with the unprecedented situation of COVID-19 infection in so-called first wave of the infection in Spring 2020, acted rapidly and promulgated the state of emergency (12 March 2020). Government invented unprecedented scope of prohibitions and restrictions throughout the country, caused large scale prohibitions and restrictions to critical sectors of the economy. Recognizing the dramatic impact of the invented measures, especially on the solvency of private sector entrepreneurs, legislator adopted the legal framework, introducing the so called “moratorium” in sphere of insolvency proceedings.

Author initialized, that the scope of action plans of Latvia and the European Union – both there aimed to suppression of consequences of the spread of COVID-19 infection, but with different speed of introducing the concrete legal and financial instruments.

## **Conclusions**

Declaring the emergency situation, scope of prohibitions and restrictions there invented on one hand, but promoting targeted financial and legal assistance on the other hand. The extent of the bargaining was balanced with the support mechanisms, also in the sphere of insolvency of the legal entities, highlighting a clear and predictable insolvency policy. Scope of legal and financial instruments, invented on both, national and European level, in majority of cases there of the same nature, but with the different perspective of implementation and availability.

## Insolvency proceedings policy – COVID-19 affected?

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***Mr. Valdis Savickis***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

### **Objectives**

The author main objectives, researching the topic concerning the influence of the COVID-19 infection to the insolvency proceedings policy: 1. How the scope of suppression of consequences of the spread of COVID-19 infection affected insolvency proceedings policy? 2. What direct and indirect measures can be assumed in insolvency sphere?

### **Materials and Methods**

In the research there are used analytical and descriptive methods. Using these methods are analyzed normative acts and political planning documents. Comparative method is used to compare the scope of direct and indirect measures in whole economy sector and particular in insolvency sphere, measuring impact on social welfare.

### **Results**

According to the decision of Government of the Republic of Latvia the state of emergency there promulgated second time (09 November 2020). In comparison to the first state of emergency (12 March 2020), scope of prohibitions and restrictions invented throughout the country changed, but at the same time strongly impacting the economy as well. Such sectors as catering, culture and sports events, beauty and recreation establishments, part of secondary schools and higher educational establishments there affected directly. Despite the situation in Spring time, legislator chooses not to introduce the so called repeated “moratorium” in sphere of insolvency. On other side such parts of insolvency process as legal protection proceedings there still in focus of the government and parliament agenda.

### **Conclusions**

Inventing second emergency situation, and successively scope of prohibitions and restrictions, their level and implementation directions remained more focused and precise. Also, financial aid and support for private sector entrepreneurs there invented at the same time, ensuring links to restrictions and prohibitions, granting the continuity of economy and economical activity of population, reducing the damaging social impacts.

# Legal scope of the notions “servitude of right of way” and “servitude road”

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*Ms. Jolanta Dinsberga*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Faculty of Law, Rīga Stradiņš University; College and University of Economics and Culture; College of Business Management*

## **Objectives**

Legal sectors (sub-sectors) form the basis of any legal system. Each of the legal sectors contains its own specific governing methods, principles and terminology characteristic to the sector. The correct understanding and use of the sector’s notions and terminology ensure consistent application thereof.

By analysing the notions “servitude of right of way” and “servitude road”, to disclose the content thereof, characteristics of use and problematic issues in laws and regulations and legal practice, to arrive at conclusions and to provide possible solutions to the problems.

## **Materials and Methods**

Used scientific research methods - descriptive, analytical, inductive and deductive and interpretation of legal norms- historical, grammatical, systemic and teleological.

## **Results**

1. The notions “servitude of right of way” and “servitude road” are not synonyms.
2. The Civil Law of the Republic of Latvia covers a general definition of the notion “servitude” which is understood as the right to property of another party. The respective definition is also directly attributable to the explanation of the notion “servitude of right of way”. However, in practice, the commonly used notion “servitude of right of way” which is to be understood as an object – a road intended for walking or driving – has not been defined in the Law.
3. In practice, the notions “servitude of right of way” and “servitude road” are used ambiguously and thus cause problems related to the application thereof.

## **Conclusions**

In order to ensure consistent, correct and accurate use of the notions “servitude of right of way” and “servitude road” in laws and regulations, legal practice and legal documents, the part on Property Law of The Civil Law ought to be supplemented with the definition of the notion “servitude road”.

# Meaning and the possible classifications of the payment instruments under PSD2

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***Ms. Anete Boze***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Doctoral Study Programme "Law", Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

To research one the payment services under PSD2 - issuing of payment instruments. Indicate the meaning of respective payment services and the possible classification of the payment instruments. The classification of components of the payment instrument helps wider to define payment instrument.

## **Materials and Methods**

The used research methods are analytical, comparative and historical method.

## **Results**

The PSD2 defines "payment instruments" however, the definitions do not provide a classification of payment instruments. The classification of the payment instruments would provide a wider understanding of the payment instrument and its relations to other payment services. Different components of the payment instruments may change the duties of the payment service provider therefore, it is important to have a classification of the payment instruments.

## **Conclusions**

The ideal classification do not exist. Different authors have provided different types of general-purpose classification of the payment instruments but each of the classifications faces some drawbacks. Moreover, the PSD2 sets that the definition of payment services should be technologically neutral and should allow for the development of new types of payment services, therefore, the classification of the payment instruments are affected also by the new technologies used to provide payment service – issuing payment instrument.

# Opportunities of the modernization of the procedure of the securing a claim

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*Mr. Andrejs Gvozdevičs*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

Within the framework of author's scientific activity, the author conducts a research with the aim to identify the existing problems in the legal regulation of securing a claim in Latvia, incl. examining the compliance of the existing procedural rules for securing a claim with the crisis conditions caused by the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic. The aim of the work is to conduct research and analysis of the legal regulation of the procedure of securing a claim in order to prepare a scientific substantiation for the solving of the issues of the problems of the securing a claim.

## **Materials and Methods**

In the research, using the analytical, descriptive and deduction / induction method, were analysed the normative acts and the valid Latvian Civil Procedure Law.

## **Results**

Appreciating of the legislation relating to the procedure of the securing a claim is found that the regulation of the securing a claim in several cases does not meet the conditions of crisis caused by the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, consideration of the question about cancelation of the securing a claim appointing a court hearing hinders consideration of this issue, if it is recommended not to hold a court hearing during an emergency situation, thus causing significant damage to the defendant, if the securing a claim was ungrounded.

## **Conclusions**

Current regulation of the securing a claim is not economic and therefore ineffective, several procedural solutions of the securing a claim, such as entering a mark of the securing a claim in public registers, are outdated, do not work fully and require urgent modernization, therefore a special attention should be paid to improving Latvian civil procedure regulations, incl. in several cases, allowing courts to examine cases, related to securing a claim in a written proceeding without holding court hearings.

## Pandemic and self-isolation: social and legal issues

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***Ms. Alina Kalinina***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Academician Stashis Scientific Research Institute for the Study of Crime Problems, National Academy of Law Sciences of Ukraine, Kharkiv*

### **Objectives**

To analyze the main social and legal issues of the coronavirus pandemic drawing on the example of both Ukraine and some European countries.

### **Materials and Methods**

The theoretical basis of the research is specialized literature on sociology, psychology and criminology. The methodological basis on the empirical level is statistical analysis (of the official statistic data of the Prosecutor General's Office) and survey (public has been taken as a group of respondents; total number of surveyed is amount 2 400 persons).

### **Results**

COVID-19 conditions have roundly changed the spatiotemporal paradigm of society. The establishing and observing the self-isolation regime has influenced on the systems of state legislation through the adoption of new and amendments to existing laws.

The consequences of self-isolation as the main quarantine measure can be divided into:

- 1) internal: changes in the psychological state (the emergence of fear, anxiety, apathy, depression, etc.). According to survey of Ukrainian public, every third person currently feels depressed, and every fourth is in a state of constant emotional stress
- 2) external (the expression of such state in a human behavior), that include
  - increasing of the phenomena, which are the background for crime (alcohol abusing, drug using, etc.);
  - the impact on the state of crime. For example, the level of domestic violence in Ukraine in 2019 amounted to 1,068 crimes (220 of which were committed while intoxicated), and in 2020 it amounted 2,213 (558 of which were completed while intoxicated).

### **Conclusions**

Self-isolation is an effective way to influence on the spread of a pandemic. In addition to the positive effect, it has negative consequences: 1) it is the cause of changes in the psychological state of a person; 2) it influences on the increasing of the phenomena, which are the background for crime; 3) it has intensified some types of crime.

# Possibilities for the court to assess evidence obtained in operational activities

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*1. Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Rīga Stradiņš University; Riga East Clinical University Hospital*

## **Objectives**

The aim is to study the possibilities of the court to evaluate the information obtained in operational activities, to identify legal and practical problems in this, also put forward proposals for solutions.

## **Materials and Methods**

Analysis and description of regulatory enactments, scientific literature, expert surveys. Comparable and logical methods are used. Methods of interpretation of legal norms are used in the work: grammatical, systemic and teleological method.

## **Results**

As a result of the research, it has been confirmed that in cases when information obtained during operative activities is to be assessed as evidence, the judge has limited possibilities to assess this evidence.

## **Conclusions**

During the research, it was concluded that amendments to regulatory enactments would always allow to evaluate the mentioned evidence.

# Problems of the legal framework for controlling the spread of COVID-19 infection

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*Dr. Andrejs Vilks*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The aim of the report is to analyze the “Covid-19 Infection Spread Management Law”.

## **Materials and Methods**

The author uses analytical and descriptive methods. The results are formulated as research questions, which will be answered in the presentation of the report.

## **Results**

From a legal point of view, it is important to determine whether the legal framework for controlling the spread of Covid-19 infection is complete and in line with the epidemiological situation in the country. The purpose of this law is debatable. How can this law work at the present time, if its purpose is to restore the law after the end of an emergency, if the relevant situations are still difficult to predict? Is it possible that the general legal order does not work during an emergency? The law stipulates that there must be effective action by state and local government institutions in connection with the spread of Covid-19 infection in the country. What are the efficiency criteria? Are these criteria defined and are they (will) be met? Can the spread of infection be controlled? Is it possible to manage an epidemiological phenomenon, or can we still try to manage the limited resources available to deal with the negative effects of Covid-19? Are the factors determining the prevalence of Covid-19 precisely known, which could be one of the most important directions in the pandemic control strategy? Can and to what extent are restricted human rights in the context of the Covid-19 crisis? These are just some of the issues related to the legal framework for pandemic containment.

## **Conclusions**

Certain regulatory guidelines for controlling the spread of Covid-19 infection could be controversial and disputable.

# Problems of trade mark and consumer protection regulation

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## **Objectives**

Trade marks are markings used for recognition purposes which can ensure the public recognition of a company. The company's profits depend on the brand's recognition and popularity. These days, especially when the world is struggling with the pandemic, it has become more popular to buy goods through electronic resources. Consequently, the number of traders has also increased. Among them are those who sell counterfeit goods. Sometimes these offers include discounts and consumers are attracted to the idea of buying a good at a convenient price without thinking about the possibility that the trademark is counterfeit. Such infringements not only contribute to unfair competition, violate the rights of the trade mark owner, but may also violate the rights of the consumer, since the Customs Service needs to take all necessary measures, including confiscation, if the goods are subject to restrictions or prohibitions.

The aim of the study is to draw conclusions and make proposals to ensure the protection of trade marks and consumer rights within the legal framework.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study uses the methods of general science - descriptive, analytical, induction and decomposition - and the methods for interpreting legal norms - grammatical, systemic and teleological.

## **Results**

There is no legal framework in Latvia to protect good-faith consumers in situations where a counterfeit product is seized. The current solution proposed by the Consumer Rights Protection Centre (PTAC) is to initially address the dispute with the trader itself and then refer to the PTAC, where the dispute can be dealt with by the Consumer Dispute Commission. However, the problem is that detention of goods is only reported to the seller and not to the consumer.

## **Conclusions**

The legal framework for protecting trademarks and good faith consumers interests needs improvement by providing a mechanism for recovering invested funds in the event of seizure of goods.

# Processing of personal data of an employee, collected by employer using digital technologies

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*Ms. Agnese Reine*<sup>1</sup>

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

## **Objectives**

The aim of this article is to analyse the amount and categories of an employees' data collected by employer using the technical access control devices, to analyse for what purpose the employer is entitled to use such data in order to ensure the protection of the employees' privacy at the same time.

## **Materials and Methods**

In the article, the author uses methods of interpretation of legal acts - grammatical method, systemic interpretation method as well as teleological interpretation method in order to analyse the legal regulation of personal data processing in employment legal relationship.

## **Results**

The monitoring of electronic devices in the workplace, provides an opportunity for an employer to analyse large amount of employee's personal data. Employer can receive data not only from such devices as phone, personal computer, email, etc., but also from different devices used as access control systems (e.g., physical electronic authorization devices (smart cards), etc.). This kind of monitoring and data processing can be considered as the main threat to employees' privacy. Data collected from the devices used for the access control in the working place, should be used only for the security purposes, but in practice, these data can also allow the tracking of all employees' activities.

## **Conclusions**

The article reveals that despite the fact that the employer has access to large amounts of employee personal data collected from technical access control devices, the employer can only use them for specific purposes. The employer's wish to control the daily work of the employee is not sufficient to use all the data at the employer's disposal.

## Rights to use own money

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***Mrs. Tatjana Jukna***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

### **Objectives**

The aim of this paper is to evaluate the existing regulation and banking practices affecting the possibility of individuals to use own money (if allowed).

### **Materials and Methods**

Descriptive and analytical methods are used to achieve the aim.

### **Results**

Article 105 of Satversme guarantees the rights on the private property. Money being a form of property is used as saving instrument as well as etalon for evaluation of other property.

It is recognized two broad forms of money: cash (money in the form of the banknotes or coins) and cashless (digital value stored in an account). Modern society becomes cashless society due to the rapid development of digital payment methods and legal restrictions imposed on cash transactions.

To store cashless money individuals are not able to open account directly with the Bank of Latvia, hence an account shall be opened with the bank. The digital value stored in such account by its legal nature is not money, but is digitally stored claim rights toward to the bank (cashless money).

The bank has legitimated rights to abstain himself from execution of the individual's order to use cashless money when the source of cashless money credited into account is not clear. Thus, the right of withdrawal effectuated by individual in good faith depend upon decision of the bank.

### **Conclusions**

State regulations on the one hand guarantee rights on the money, but on the second hand limit these rights till the claim rights toward to the bank. The state guarantees 100000 EUR (most broadly) when the bank becomes a bankrupt.

The bank controls and uses money of the individual, the last uses claim rights only, but the usage of the claim rights by individuals are controlled by the bank. The State controls banks imposing penalties on the basis of the ambiguous regulation.

# Search for persons at the national and international levels

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***Dr. Erika Krutova***<sup>1</sup>

*1. State Police College*

## **Objectives**

The possibility of free movement was temporarily limited by national restrictions introduced during the pandemic. In such circumstances, however, the need for searching people has not disappeared at both the national and international levels. The new regulation affecting the acting of the Schengen Information System introduces new opportunities to improve cooperation. It is of great importance to reflect the novelties in the legal framework. The subject of the study is the process of search for persons at both the national and international levels.

## **Materials and Methods**

The aim of the article is to analyze the legal process of search for persons by providing practical recommendations for the use of sources available. In order to achieve it the author analyses, assesses national and international provisions concerning the process of search for persons, describes potential problems and makes recommendations for solving them. Improper understanding and application of legal provisions lead to violations of rights. Respect for the rule of law is a prerequisite for respect of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and human rights. To meet the targets the author used analytical, comparative, descriptive methods.

## **Results**

As a result of the study the author concludes that there is a need to consolidate the legal framework at the national level that will ensure the transparency of the process of search for persons.

## **Conclusions**

Not only police officers, but also judges and prosecutors have to be trained on existing search tools at the international level because the use of the Schengen Information System is difficult due to a lack of competences. It is essential to develop common practices for search for persons because it is important for every service and agency involved and for every citizen. Improper and inaccurate provisions need to be improved to facilitate cooperation at both the national and international levels.

# The beginnings of competition law in Roman law institutions

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## **Objectives**

To explore, consider and analyze information that can be found in the original sources of Roman law in relation to the monopolies, unlawful agreements of merchants, the artificers or contractors, and the illegal and prohibited practices of bath proprietors.

## **Materials and Methods**

In the course of the research, the primary sources of Roman law - the *Code of Justinian (Codex Iustinianus, C 4.59.tit.)* were explored, considered and analyzed, by using inductive, deductive and comparative method.

## **Results**

The Code of Justinian (*Codex Iustinianus*, 529/534 AD), inter alia, contains particular legal norms which prohibits the monopolization of the sale of certain goods and provision of certain services - the performance of works. (C 4.59.2.pr.) Just as nowadays (see Sect. 11 **(1) 2), 3), 7)** of Competition Law of Latvia), in the sources of Roman law can be found something similar to prohibition of agreements regarding the allocation of markets and actions, due to which the entry of a potential market participant into a relevant market is made difficult. (C 4.59.2.1) Various kinds of roman corporations (*species diversorum corporum*) were forbidden to conclude agreements regarding fixing of prices and tariffs. (C 4.59.2.pr.) There was obligation to report authorities about the existence of such prohibited agreements. (C 4.59.2.1) The punishment for practitioners of monopoly trade was quite severe - the confiscation of all property and permanent exile. (C 4.59.2.2)

## **Conclusions**

The sources of Roman law contains particular legal norms which actually aimed at protecting the economic interests of consumers by ensuring competition between suppliers of goods and services. Ones of the oldest known such a kind of legal norms that can be regarded as rather efficient, detailed and complex (at that time) legal tool for ensuring longevity and sustainability of the ancient Roman state.

# The challenge of the lawyer's profession in an era of prevention of money laundering, terrorism and proliferation

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*Ms. Sandra Joksta*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Baltic International Academy, Doctoral Study Programme, Legal Science*

## **Objectives**

The article provides insight about the concept of advocat's immunity, it's borders pursuant to the requirements of the legal framework of prevention of and the fight against money laundering and terrorism. The aim of the article is find an answer to the question whether intervention in form of said legal regulation, expressed as an obligation for the advocat to notify any suspect case to the competent authority, basing on subjective, unconcrete personal advocat's evaluation and opinion, is proportionate with this privilege

## **Materials and Methods**

In the writing of this article different case-law of EU law courts has been used, the legislative framework in force has been investigated as well as the evaluations of the industry professionals.

## **Results**

The concept of advocat's immunity and principle of proportionality is undermined in the absence of precise framework of criteria, with introduction of the obligation for advocats to report any suspect case in accordance with the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism and Proliferation Financing

## **Conclusions**

- Rights to professional secret and confidentiality are fundamental to fair trial and alongside with the independence of the advocat, they are integral components of rights to a fair trial, maintaining the Rule of Law and securing the Democratic State. These rights are not only privilege, but simultaneously they are important and vital duty and precondition for the establishment and functioning of sound legal system, allowing each party involved within the system, to implement it's rights and lawfully expect a fair trial.

# The impact of the information space on public health (on the example of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ukraine)

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***Ms. Sabriie Shramko**<sup>1</sup>*

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## **Objectives**

To investigate the impact of the information flow on public health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic spread, to establish channels for obtaining information, as well as to identify the risks of spreading false information on this infectious disease.

## **Materials and Methods**

The empirical basis of the study was the results of a survey conducted in Ukraine during November-December 2020 (2,396 respondents). For the complete vision of the problem of the information space impact on public health, the analysis of scientific publications in the databases of systematic reviews of the NCBI MEDLINE, PubMed using dialectical, comparative, statistical, and graphical methods.

## **Results**

Research has shown that information space is the main channel for the population to receive health information. It was found that 64.1% of respondents learned about the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ukraine and abroad through the media (radio and television news), 32.1% - on the official website of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, 34.1% - from news portals and 21.7% - from acquaintances and friends. The fastest dissemination of content aimed at raising public awareness of anti-epidemic measures, obtaining an expert opinion on the nature of the disease, and medical advice, is through social networks.

## **Conclusions**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the social crisis resulting from this pandemic have changed the normal way of life of the majority of the world's population. Fear of the disease and its consequences, leads to the deterioration of people's psychological health. Ensuring open and reliable information is a key priority for governments. It is open sources of data on the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus and its possible consequences that have become a valuable channel of information for the population. But misinformation spreads along with useful information. The majority of the population is not able to distinguish authentic medical content from fake news.

# The importance of the CISG Advisory Council and its opinions in uniform application of the CISG

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## **Objectives**

The United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) is a well-known uniform law in international trade. Article 7 of the CISG sets general guidelines for its interpretation, among others – the need to promote uniformity. Most academics have “agreed” that this interpretation obligation means that courts and arbitral tribunals before rendering their judgement should evaluate the case law of courts in other jurisdictions and read the academic writings. It could be stated that the most comprehensive discussion of academic views in the field of international sales law is reflected in the opinions published by the CISG Advisory Council.

The objective of this study is to focus on the role and contribution of the Advisory Council in ensuring the uniform application of the CISG. In order to achieve this objective, the author analyzes whether and how this source has been used in CISG-related cases by courts in selected CISG contracting states and especially in Latvia.

## **Materials and Methods**

This is a doctrinal research with empirical elements where author evaluates and compares the findings expressed in academic publications with the opinions expressed in court decisions and evaluates their compliance with the objectives of the CISG.

## **Results**

The study reveals that, although the Advisory Council is not an official interpretative body of the CISG, its role in the interpretation of the CISG has become more important, taking into account that more and more courts have referred to its Opinions. However, the situation in Latvia differs. It can be concluded that the courts in the Republic of Latvia have been rather reluctant in using the Advisory Council’s opinions as a tool in interpreting the CISG.

## **Conclusions**

The author concludes that the Advisory Council’s Opinions (at this moment, 21 in total) on unclear and controversial CISG issues contribute to the uniform application of the CISG

# The legal aspects of a dismissal of the municipal council

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*Mr. Juris Radzevics*<sup>1</sup>

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

## **Objectives**

In a democratic state governed by the rule of law the authority of any public institution and official should be balanced by their accountability and liability. The above-mentioned provision also shall pertain to the municipal council. The most severe disciplinary sanction for any official is his or her dismissal. Sections 91 and 92 of the Law “On Local Governments” provide the Saeima with the right to dismiss a municipal council in the cases specified in this Law by appointing a temporary administration and after that shall be organized a new election of a municipal council. The topicality of the article is determined by the dismissal of the Riga City Council and the amendments to the regulatory enactments that changed the term of the newly elected City Council.

## **Materials and Methods**

The aim of the research is to evaluate the amendments to the regulatory enactments and the impact of the emergency situation on them. Scops of research embraces legislation and case law, taking into account the conclusion of the legal researches.

## **Results**

Considering the principle of objectivity dismissing municipal council should be applied by taking into account the limitation period. The amendments have the shortcoming by defining the term of office of the extraordinarily elected council.

## **Conclusions**

There is a necessity to amend section 92 Law “On local government” order to restrict an authority of Cabinet of the minister to submit a draft law, regarding the dismissal of a city or municipality layin down the limitation period. Should be deleted concept “the remaining term of office of the dismissed council” into Section 1 of the law “On municipal council election” and corresponding amended “Law On the Status of the Deputy of the Republic City Council and Municipality Council.”

# The legal framework and the application of the temporary trusteeship in urgent cases

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*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The study was performed in order to explore the problems in the field of temporary trusteeship and to make a proposal for the corresponding legal regulation. The new legislation on legal capacity entered into force on 1 January 2013 in Latvia. This abolished full/plenary guardianship, introduced partial legal capacity restrictions that only allow for the restriction of material rights and introduced a temporary trusteeship in urgent cases. However the law did not include supported decision making mechanisms to restore the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities. The temporary trusteeship in urgent cases can be established of a person who has health disorders of mental nature or other and who cannot understand the meaning of his or her action or cannot control his or her action; it does not restrict the legal capacity of the person; it can be established if is the only way to protect a person's interests (i.e. no alternative safeguarding mechanisms), it is urgently necessary in the interests of a person (to conduct only certain urgent matters of the person or ensuring of basic needs or care for the person); disorders are temporary; a person cannot cause damage to himself or herself by his or her active action.

## **Materials and Methods**

The analysis of the legal framework of national law and case law analysis was performed.

## **Results**

Significant discrepancies within national regulatory framework and problems in the application of the temporary trusteeship in urgent cases in the recent case law were detected.

## **Conclusions**

The introduction/implementation of supported decision-making or legal safeguards/safeguarding could minimize the risk of inappropriate application of the temporary trusteeship in urgent cases.

# The legal status of a chairman of the municipal council

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*Mr. Juris Radzevics*<sup>1</sup>

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

## **Objectives**

The basis of a democratic state is a legally defined state administration, organized in hierarchical order according to functions, tasks, and objectives. The role of every institution and official in the state administration is determined by the procedure of its appointment and removal, the set of rights and duties, the types of supervision and responsibilities. Local governments are part of state administration and they form an indirect administration whose supreme decision-making body – the council – is elected by the citizens. Considering the discussions about separating decision - making power from the executive power at the local government level, will be assessed the position of the chairman of the local government council in the state administrative system.

## **Materials and Methods**

Scops of the research embraces legislation and case law, taking into account the conclusion of the legal research to identify the legal status established by provisions and their compliance with the role of a political official and analyze liability of his or her. The research utilizes descriptive, analytical, and comparative methods. Also, will be applied basic methods of interpretation of legal provisions.

## **Results**

The law “On Local Governments” does not specify a person that could be defined as the administrative head of the derived public person. However, the chairman of local government could be recognized as such according to the rights and liabilities of the office. The established right in Section 93 of the law “On Local Government” to relieve the chairman of local government council could be recognized applying disciplinary liability which contradicts paragraph two of Section 71 of State Administration Structure Law, as a result of which the mentioned norm should be excluded.

## **Conclusions**

In the first, third, fourth, and ninth points of Section 62 of the law “On Local Governments”, the word “councils” should be substituted with “the city or municipality”.

# The problems associated with identifying and evaluating main interest centers within the context of cross-boarder insolvency of natural persons

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*Mrs. Inga Eglite*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Sworn Advocate*

## **Objectives**

Summarizing these issues (GIC) in identifying and analyzing the most common stumbling blocks in court decisions, the need to introduce common practices in order not to create or at least reduce new precedents of a similar nature.

## **Materials and Methods**

To present what nuances are and which are not taken into account in order to determine the main center of interests in the field of natural person insolvency by conducting research of legal regulation and analysis of court rulings, so that these procedural solutions can be used to improve and facilitate Latvian courts. The research, using the comparative, analytical, descriptive, deduction and induction method, has analyzed Latvian and foreign regulatory enactments.

## **Results**

Analyzing the Council Regulation, it is clear that the court does not have an unequivocal case law on this type of dishonest debtor and, worse, of course, the promoters of such cases are mostly lawyers trying to interpret the law and not follow the main purpose of the Insolvency Law and Council Regulation.

## **Conclusions**

The correct understanding and definition of the concept of the center of main interests is essential in order to decide in a fair trial which of the natural persons who have filed an insolvency application with the court, the insolvency proceedings are to be declared in Latvia.

It can be concluded that the current and largely decisive opinion in Latvian court practice and legal literature on determining the center of main interests, within the meaning of the New Regulation, is not efficient and ineffective, which does not really provide a methodologically uniform approach to determining the center of main interests, thus creating new precedents.

# The role and possibilities of accounting forensic examination in resolving economic disputes

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3. Doctoral Study Programme “Economics and Entrepreneurship”, Faculty of Business, Management and Economics,*

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## **Objectives**

The aim of the study is to determine the role, rights, and potential of accounting forensic examination in the context of Latvian legislation and international experience in order to promote fair settlement in both criminal and civil proceedings. The study examines the right of forensic accountants to indicate significant findings outside the questions asked, and to use the resources available to experts in addition to the submitted research objects.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study analyses international practice in the application of accounting examination in connection with the Criminal Procedure Law, the Civil Procedure Law, the Law on Forensic Experts, international recommendations, and practical observations. The study methods include an analysis of regulatory enactments, methods of analysis and comparison, a conceptual approach.

## **Results**

It is clear from the list of articles of the Criminal Procedure Law and the Civil Procedure Law that the tasks of an expert in both processes are very similar – they are aimed at helping the person conducting proceedings in clarifying the objective circumstances of the case. In international practice, the range of issues to be considered in the accounting examination is very wide, and experts are not limited only to the submitted documents in their research. Forensic accountant does not only detect criminal offenses – fraud and embezzlement, but also resolves economic disputes, such as disputes over lost profits and distribution of property in cases of divorce, assesses causes of a company’s insolvency, etc.

## **Conclusions**

The authors offer to use the potential of accounting forensics examination in Criminal and especially Civil proceedings as much as possible, in order not to delay the settlement of economic disputes that could affect the course of business. In turn, experts themselves should try to use their right to provide significant findings to the processes more often, as well as to use the available resources

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# Ukrainian citizens' attitude to comply with the requirements of anti-epidemic legislation during the COVID-19 pandemic

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## **Objectives**

Success in counteracting the spread of the acute respiratory disease pandemic COVID-19 in Ukraine directly depends on citizens' compliance with anti-epidemic requirements. They are crucial for the health and socio-psychological well-being of the population thus, they are regulated and protected by law. Thus, analyzing the level of people's consciousness in situations that threaten their lives and health will help better organize activities to overcome the pandemic's negative consequences.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study is based on the results of a survey of 2383 respondents (2020, Ukraine). In addition to the survey method, analytical, synthetic, statistical, and graphic methods were used to process the relevant material. The theoretical basis is special literature on law, medicine, sociology, statistics.

## **Results**

Among the surveyed, 46.4% of Ukrainians had COVID-19; another 33.8% noted that they might have been ill but without any symptoms; 77.5% always adhere to the law's quarantine restrictions. 13.6% make comments to violators and appeal to law enforcement agencies about violations of quarantine requirements by other citizens or institutions and organizations. 22.2% of respondents partially adhere to the restrictions, 0.3% generally ignore them. According to the respondents, the deepening of the COVID-19 crisis was influenced by such mass events in Ukraine as mass entertainment events (79.1%), in particular, those organized on the eve of local elections (62.2%), mass protests (53.1%), worships (42.6%), sports competitions (22.9%), etc. Only 27.4% of respondents agree with the introduction of strict quarantine measures.

## **Conclusions**

The legal awareness of Ukraine's population in the conditions of the need for compliance with the requirements of anti-epidemic legislation is not high enough, which leads to a decrease in the effectiveness of measures introduced by the state. This will require establishing the negative socio-legal and criminological consequences of such safe behavior and making reasonable efforts to inform the latter about the deteriorating anti-epidemic situation as a result.

# **Medical And Sports Law**

## Appealing against decisions in anti-doping case

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*1. Attorney at Law at Law Firm TGS Baltic*

### **Objectives**

The core document that encompasses the anti-doping polices, rules and regulations worldwide is the World Anti-Doping Code. Harmonizing those rules into national law system might be quite challenging. Also for Latvia, which introduced new amendments to the Sports Law in 2018 thus initiating considerable reforms of anti-doping violation case review procedures, as well as appeals procedure.

Objective of this presentation is to examine and analyse new appeals system in Latvia; its correspondence to the rules of Code and case law; possible pitfalls and solutions.

### **Materials and Methods**

The presentation will outline the current appeals system provided by Sports Law, as well as requirements of the Code and conclusions of the Court of Arbitration for Sports in this regard.

Author will examine the Sports Law; the Code and Case law of the Court of Arbitration for Sport and other scientific sources by applying methods used in legal analyses.

### **Results**

The appeals system provided by the Sports Law does not entirely correspond to the Code. There are few discrepancies which will be further detailed in the presentation.

The national appeals system is very complex. Possibilities to appeal, as well as jurisdiction shall be each time reviewed by the Sports Law, as well as the Code, as the Sports Law mainly refers to the rules of the Code without separately citing specific provisions or requirements into national law.

The appeals institutions provided by the Sports Law reviews the case based only on the rules of the Code, and not the rules of specific sport's federation which might cause double appealing process for the same case.

### **Conclusions**

Although still having few discrepancies the national appeals system of anti-doping cases in general lines provide for solid ground to continue the initiated reform and to implement a clear, accessible, timely, fair and impartial appeal procedure in anti-doping cases in its essence.

# Artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies as innovative medical devices

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*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The focus of this article will be the research of Latvian regulatory enactments in the context of medical devices, identifying whether artificial intelligence technologies fit between them. The research aim is to indicate the meaning and depth of the term medical device, and determining whether artificial intelligence, which is taught by machine learning technology, is identifiable as a medical device.

At the same time, it will be concluded whether the existing regulatory framework also includes the regulation of artificial intelligence technologies in the field of health care or nevertheless leaves it unregulated.

## **Materials and Methods**

In order to achieve the set objective, Latvian regulatory enactments will be analyzed, for example, European Parliament and Council Regulation No. 2017/746 on in vitro diagnostic medical devices, European Parliament and Council Regulation No. 2017/745, Medical Treatment Law, Cabinet Regulation No. 468 on approval of medical technologies used in treatment and introduction of new medical technologies procedures, Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 689 on the Procedure for Registration, Conformity Assessment, Distribution, Operation and Technical Supervision of Medical Devices and other regulatory enactments.

An analytical and descriptive method will be used for the research. The analytical method will help to analyse the medical device term and on what principles it is determined, meanwhile, descriptive method will describe the artificial intelligence and machine learning technology definition and processes.

## **Results**

As a result, it will be clarified that artificial intelligence technologies used in healthcare and using machine learning technology meet the national definition of a medical device, regardless of the complexity of the program algorithm or the amount of training received.

## **Conclusions**

Given that artificial intelligence trained in machine learning technology qualifies as a medical device, it is subject to the same criteria governing a medical device, according to the respective risk of the medical device affecting the patient.

# Criminalisation of doping in sports

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*Dr. Karina Zalcmane*<sup>1</sup>

1. The EKA University of Applied Sciences

## **Objectives**

To analyse a foreign experience in unique approach to criminalising doping in sports, in order to prove that self-regulation in regards use of doping is ineffective and there should be enacted sports-specific legal norms that criminalise the use of prohibited substances of a World Anti-Doping Code (hereinafter - WADC).

## **Materials and Methods**

The methodological basis of the study consists of general scientific methods (monographic method, analytical method, historical method, comparative method, induction deduction) and Methods of interpreting legal norms (grammatical, historical, teleological and systemic methods).

## **Results**

Most notable European examples of implementation of sports-specific legal norms or laws that criminalise the use of a prohibited substances of WADC are Austria, France and Italy.

Moreover, sports-specific laws or legal norms not only call the user of a prohibited substances of WADC to criminal liability, but criminalise other Anti-Doping Rule Violation (hereinafter ADRV). Such as, for example, the possession of prohibited substances or methods of WADC, the supply or distribution of prohibited substances or methods of WADC (trafficking), the administration or prescription of prohibited substances or methods of WADC to athletes, and failing to cooperate with anti-doping investigations being conducted by a National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO) or other public authority.

## **Conclusions**

The recent examples of use of doping, constantly growing number of it, as well as their cover up serves as a proof that the criminalization of doping in sport is a forced and obligatory measure. Moreover, notable prosecutions for criminal doping offences demonstrate that this type of approach in order combat any ADRV defend the public interest.

# Current legal issues in Medical Law practice: problems and challenges

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***Dr. Karīna Palkova***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

To clarify the role and importance of medical law in national and international legal practice, as well as to identify and ensure the legal culture, problems and challenges in the field of implementation medical law in such legal issues that include several positions as confidentiality, autonomy, consent to medical treatment, disclosure of information in the consent process and clinical negligence.

## **Materials and Methods**

The author used several research methods: comparative method, synthesis and analysis method, theoretical modeling method, deductive and inductive method, analytical method, as well the author is using methods of interpretation of legal norms - grammatical, teleological, historical. Author provides case law, legal documents, scientific article etc. analyses to achieve the objective.

## **Results**

Medical law is a new body of laws at national as well as at international level. The legal field concerns the rights and responsibilities of medical practitioners and patients. There are several well-known main areas of focus for medical law. However, taking into account fast growing technological progress in the field of medicine and biomedicine, more new fields can become an object of the medical law as body of law. Medical law becomes more multidisciplinary and complicated field of law. The changes and legal evolution provide new challenges on theoretical, practical level and clinical practice as well.

## **Conclusions**

The issues discussed are particularly important within theoretical, practical, as well as clinical practice today. Multidisciplinary approach can increase the role of medical law from the several perspectives. Due to fast growing changes in the field of medical technological business, medical law and medical law practice faces socio-legal transformation. The transformation connected to new medical law practice subjects. The legal regulation around new technologies becomes more specific because its uncharted territory, time, legal systems incomplete regulation.

# Flaws of anti-doping regulation in the Republic of Latvia

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*Mr. Edgars Gūte*<sup>1</sup>

1. *University of Latvia*

## **Objectives**

Main objective of the paper is to identify possible improvements of legal acts regulating fair trial process in anti-doping cases.

Recently it is discovered that athletes do not have access to information about procedure how their possible breaches will be investigated. If the breach is reviewed in National Anti-Doping Committee, there is no national regulation how the procedure of trial will be conducted. For example there is no regulation about Athletes representative, how possible evidence will be examined and so on.

## **Materials and Methods**

Mainly empirical method will be used evaluating case studies, national regulation's compliance with WADA Code and emphasizing situations where athletes can not properly use their rights to fair trial in cases of anti-doping.

Materials consist of summary and content of relevant Legal acts. As well doctrine including Papers of Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Nafziger and other well known academics in the field of Sports law.

## **Results**

Results will consist of list of necessary improvements in legal system of Latvia.

Author is a member of working party that deals with possible improvements. Therefore results of the Paper most likely will be practically implemented.

## **Conclusions**

Main conclusions of the paper:

1. Legal acts of Latvia do not have provisions explicitly governing procedure of trial in Anti doping cases.
2. Mentioned regulation could be implemented into Sports law or other related legal acts
3. Principles of Administrative procedure could be used to provide necessary framework for athlete's guarantees to fair trial.
4. Administrative procedure principles need to be used because of subordination between athlete and national Anti-doping authorities.

# Legal and ethical aspects of the application of prediction algorithms in healthcare

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***Mrs. Liva Rudzite**<sup>1</sup>*

*1. University of Tartu*

## **Objectives**

Development of the Artificial Intelligence (hereinafter – AI) has provided previously unreachable horizons in many fields one of them being healthcare. Applications of AI can be availed, starting from drug discovery to diagnostic purposes. For instance, there are algorithms that could predict the risk of having a heart attack, committing suicide, the end of life and even to diagnose the Covid-19 by telemedicine, namely, displaying only the sound of a cough. Albeit the application of particular prediction algorithms in healthcare may serve for a legitimate purpose, the legal and also ethical considerations should be conducted. Therefore, the objective of the paper is to analyze legal and subsequent ethical aspects on the application of prediction algorithms in healthcare to conclude about lawfulness and ethics of such an application.

## **Materials and Methods**

To conduct the research, a variety of sources have been explored, namely, books, journals in different languages as well as law and case law.

Regarding methods: 1) comparative method comparing various national and international legal regulations and case law; 2) analytical method – evaluating and concluding about the legal framework of the application of prediction algorithms; 3) inductive and deductive methods - stipulating objectives and creating conclusions of the research; 4) logical method - analyzing legal framework of the application of prediction algorithms in healthcare and introducing conclusions of the research.

## **Results**

The research outlined that although various prediction algorithms serve for a legitimate purpose, some of the applications could not be considered lawful.

## **Conclusions**

Prediction algorithms have the potential to support the attainment of the highest possible standard of healthcare. Nonetheless, numerous of the proposed applications could be deemed as rather potential than currently legally and ethically acceptable in healthcare.

# Legal liability of sports event organiser in Latvia

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***Mr. Āris Kakstāns***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Sportslaw.lv*

## **Objectives**

Discuss the legal acts currently in force that govern legal liability of sports events, identifying the gaps and suggestions for better protecting the athletes and organisers, in the matters directly concerning the medical aspects

## **Materials and Methods**

A dive into the main legal acts adopted by the legislator of the Republic of Latvia, seen in the light of regulations adopted by selected sports associations operating in Latvia, that aim to govern or protect the medical topics of participants.

## **Results**

The law prescribes general liability matters, certain topics in the sports events laws and regulations are in delay to catch up with developments in other law areas. The example of motor sports / autosports regulations gives a good example on how the associations have not defined very clearly and reliably the matters in their internal regulations in the medical aspects, to protect the participants

## **Conclusions**

The government should improve the level of medical protection offered to the amateur athletes in sports events through mandatory provisions, also the same can be said of the professional (elite) athletes. The respective sports associations should be held liable (or under obligation to provide certain insurance in line with market standards) for the gaps in their regulations, if any, especially concerning the health of top elite athletes. Especially so, if there are severe consequences to the health of those athletes.

# Patient safety incident reporting-learning system availability for patient reporting

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*Mrs. Andreta Slavinska<sup>1</sup>, Mr. Reinis Upenieks<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Karīna Palkova<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

To find out how the recommendation formulated in the EU Council Recommendation on Patient Safety 200 /C151/012 has been implemented in Latvia - establishment or strengthen blame-free reporting and learning systems on adverse events that: (1) provide information on the extent, types and causes of errors, adverse events and near misses; (2) provide, as appropriate, opportunities for patients, their relatives and other informal caregivers to report their experiences.

## **Materials and Methods**

In order to achieve the aims of the research, an analysis of national and international law was required applying the methods of interpretation of legal norms. Quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis were used to analyze the data in the register of Latvian medical institutions.

## **Results**

The Recommendations of EU Council 2009/C151/012 have been partially integrated into the Latvian legal framework. Although Cabinet Regulation stipulates that medical institution must implement and maintain a non-identifying internal patient safety reporting-learning system, they do not determine the opportunity to report their experiences to patients, their relatives and other informal carers. The research of the websites of medical institutions shows that out of 5013 medical institutions, only 14 medical institutions provide the possibility for a patient to report a patient's safety case also in electronic form. The experience of the Children's Clinical University Hospital shows that reports from patients and their families are a potentially valuable source of knowledge and patient safety.

## **Conclusions**

In order to fully implement the EU Council Recommendation necessary:

1. Clarify the legal framework for patients, their relatives and other informal carers to report patient safety incidents through reporting-learning systems; distinguishing between patient safety cases and formal complaints, disciplinary proceedings and legal proceedings.
2. Provide the ability to report online through a single reporting point which can be integrated for internal reporting in any healthcare organization.

# Patient's right to cross-border healthcare when effective hospital treatment is available in the patient's Member State but the method of treatment used is against the patient's religious beliefs

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*Ms. Laura Šāberte*<sup>1</sup>

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

## **Objectives**

On October 29, 2020, the Court of Justice of the European Union delivered a judgment in Case *A v. Ministry of Health*, No. C-243/19. Court of Justice of the European Union in that judgment analysed significant legal issues relevant to Latvia. Therefore the aim of the study is to analyse the main proceedings about patient's right to cross-border healthcare when effective hospital treatment is available in the patient's Member State but the method of treatment used is against the patient's religious beliefs.

## **Materials and Methods**

The methods of legal interpretation and scientific research methods such as descriptive, analytical and deductive are used in the study.

In the study, firstly, European Union and national legal framework and scientific literature in the field of patient's rights to receive cross-border healthcare have been analysed. Secondly, facts of the main proceedings in national court cases have been analysed. Thirdly, the judgment case of the Court of Justice of the European Union has been analysed. Fourthly, the judgement case of the Senate of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Latvia and the following judgement case of the Regional Administrative Court of the Republic of Latvia have been analysed.

## **Results**

The results of the study that will be presented at the conference shows that the national court's legal analysis (District Administrative Court and Regional Administrative Court) of the main proceedings was not only contradictory but also legally incomplete – the courts did insufficient European Union law analysis of the main proceedings.

## **Conclusions**

Based on the judgement in the case *A v. Ministry of Health*, No. C-243/19 delivered by the Court of Justice of the European Union Latvia's public authorities and courts have the opportunity to improve hereafter the comprehension and legal action in the field of patient's rights to cross-border healthcare related to patient's religious belief.

## Quality of healthcare during forensic mental health examination: clinical case report of a submitted complaint

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*Dr. Janis Buss<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Anita Slokenberga<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Nikita Bezborodovs<sup>2</sup>*

*1. Health Inspectorate, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, 2. Department of Psychiatry and Narcology, Rīga Stradiņš University; Child Psychiatry Clinic, Children's Clinical University Hospital*

In the year 2019 the Health Inspectorate received an application by a person that underwent an inpatient forensic psychiatric evaluation, to evaluate the quality of healthcare he received. In the process of evaluation of this complaint it became apparent that neither Latvian regulatory framework, nor the medical technology “Forensic psychiatric examination” or clinical practice, has formulated any regulation for the healthcare process of persons undergoing forensic psychiatric examination, and did not define the criteria for quality and quantity of allowable psychiatric treatment.

Furthermore, significant legal differences between the healthcare process and forensic psychiatric evaluation process were found, that can impair the ability of a psychiatrist to simultaneously act as a treating physician, and a forensic expert. For example, forensic psychiatric examination is a court ordered procedural operation, performed by the forensic psychiatric expert, whereas psychiatric care is a treatment and diagnostic activity, performed by a physician. Moreover, the suspect in criminal proceedings, has an obligation to allow for oneself to be subjected to a study of an expert, whereas a patient has an obligation to be actively involved in medical treatment and to provide the attending physician with information within the limits of his or her abilities and knowledge. Furthermore the duty of a forensic expert is to provide the information acquired during an expert-examination only to the person directing the proceedings, whereas a patient has the right to receive information regarding ones state of health from the attending physician.

As a result of the evaluation the Health Inspectorate has recommended to initiate a discussion to amend the normative regulations, in order to strictly separate the forensic psychiatric examination from psychiatric treatment. This measure has a potential to improve the quality of both psychiatric care, and forensic examination, and ensure better oversight by the supervisory authorities.

# Sport and politics: sports role in formulating and consolidation of power relations

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*Mrs. Marina Kamenecka-Usova*<sup>1</sup>

1. The EKA University of Applied Sciences

## **Objectives**

To analyze sport as a tool to strengthen the authority of the state.

## **Materials and Methods**

Empirical-analytical group of the research methodology.

## **Results**

If there would exist a perfect friendship, it would be union between sport and politics. The relationship between sport and politics is one of the most enduring and pervasive examples of society's impact/influence on sport as stated by Lin, Lee and Nai. Also authors state that evidence suggests that it is no longer possible for any serious social commentator to posit a separation between the worlds of sport and politics. According to Horne et al. 'sport (and play) involves rules and regulations which are derived in some way from the 'real world'; sport provides politically usable resources; sport can promote nation-building and international image-making. In fact, modern sport has seldom been free of politics'. Different sources notice that in the USSR, sport was not only the tool to strengthen the authority of the state, but also the entire socialist system as a whole, sports was intended to demonstrate the advantages of a socialist lifestyle over a capitalist one. The USA, on the contrary, tried to demonstrate strength and authority of their system through sports, bringing democracy and liberal values of Western lifestyle to the world. A famous quote from Orwell states that international sport and the Olympics is a 'war minus the shooting', in his turn 35th President of the United States J. F. Kennedy, declared: "The prestige of the nation is flight to the moon and Olympic gold medals".

## **Conclusions**

Until today these statements are still topical and applicable to reality. Undoubtedly the results of professional and high-achievement sport affects the international prestige and image of the country, where in its turn a legislative framework efficient enough for the development of professional sports takes a key role.

## Sports Law and access to justice in anti-doping cases

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*Dr. Inga Kačevska*<sup>1</sup>

*1. University of Latvia*

### **Objectives**

Part 3 of Article 11.<sup>2</sup> and part 4 of Article 11.3 of the Sports Law of the Republic of Latvia provide that certain questions regarding the decisions in the anti-doping cases can be appealed in the Court of Arbitration for Sports in Lausanne (CAS). However, CAS proceedings and costs relating to those proceedings are too expensive for majority of athletes. Even though CAS has introduced legal aid program, still it is not accessible for everyone. The purpose of this article will be to discuss whether there is a reasonable relationship of proportionality between means employed and the aim sought to be achieved incorporating the reference to jurisdiction of CAS in the Sports Law.

### **Materials and Methods**

CAS case law, ECHR case law etc.

The author will use comparative, historical, forecasting, analytical, legal practice analysis, inductive and critical research methods.

### **Results**

Access to justice is not an absolute; however, in the light of human rights and sports law there is need for further discussion whether provisions of the Sports Law do not limit the access to justice. For example, the author will consider whether the dispute resolution in the anti-doping cases shall be or shall not be reviewed mostly in national level foreseeing impartiality and due process.

In alternative, one may suggest that if the law stays unchanged should the state provide for the assistance of a lawyer when such assistance proves indispensable for an effective access to arbitration. Further, it will be deliberated how in the national level the anti-doping cases shall be reviewed in order to safeguard the fairness of the proceedings.

### **Conclusions**

Author will give recommendations what reforms shall be or shall not be done. Meanwhile Sports law is in force with current wording, author will suggest how provisions of law shall be enforce in practice to guarantee the basic rights of individuals.

# Substances of abuse – the changes and challenges associated with it in anti-doping system

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***Mr. Roberts Lauris***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Anti-Doping Bureau of Latvia*

## **Objectives**

Through the acknowledgment of past regulation in anti-doping system and the meaning of the amendments associated with substances of abuse, to see possible changes and challenges in anti-doping system starting from year 2021.

To find solutions for the challenges associated with substances of abuse regulation .

## **Materials and Methods**

World Anti-Doping Code 2015

World Anti-Doping code 2020

Prohibited list 2019

Prohibited list 2020

2021 World Anti-Doping Code and International Standard Framework

Development and Implementation Guide for Stakeholders

World Anti-Doping Agencies testing figures report of 2017, 2018 and 2018

Court of arbitration for sport case practice

Information that has been received by participating in World Anti-Doping Agencies webinars about substances of abuse

Information received by participating in United Kingdom Anti-Doping agencies webinars

Why WADA 2021'S New 'Substances Of Abuse' Regime Needs Urgent Clarity By Louis Weston

Why WADA Should Reclassify Cocaine As A "Specified Substance" - The Inequitable Case Of José Paolo Guerrero By Paul J. Greene, Roy Vermeer

Breaking down the process for determining a basic sanction under the 2015 World Anti-Doping Code by Antonio Rigozzi • Ulrich Haas • Emily Wisnosky • Marjolaine Viret

There will be used qualitative data collection method and also the quantitative data collection method. For this I will use secondary data combining them wit primary data.

## **Results**

The understanding of the purpose of substance of abuse regulation and its impact to the anti-doping system. The understanding of challenges in anti-doping system and the probable solutions and steps that should be taken to apply the regulation.

## **Conclusions**

The regulation is needed for the anti-doping system.

The new regulation provides different sanctioning system for the substances of abuse.

The sanctions that are imposed to the athletes by usage of substances of abuse was to harsh and unproportioned.

Anti-doping system getting more complicated.

Athletes health as a priority in anti-doping system.

# The educational program “Professional Competence of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Specialist”: assessment of legal capacity

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*Dr. Ligita Landzmane*<sup>1</sup>

1. Foundation “Institute of Conflictology”

## **Objectives**

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia (CMRL) has approved the Classification of Occupations of the Republic of Latvia (CORL). According to CORL complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) senior specialists formally belong to the Unit group 2230. Despite the legitimacy, the institutionalization of the CAM in Latvia is not politically promoted.

Promoting the development of CAM system in Latvia, the Foundation “Institute of Conflictology”: 1) studies world best practice in developing the qualification of CAM practitioners; 2) promotes the educational program for CAM practitioners in Latvia.

The aim of the study described in the summary is to appraise the non-formal education program “Competence of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) professionals” (NFEP), proving the legal capacity of the program.

## **Materials and Methods**

1. Legal content analysis of the NFEP description.
2. Analysis of the content of NFEP binding regulatory enactments.
3. Comparative analysis of the legal content of NFEP and regulatory enactments.
4. Examination of the overall legal capacity of the NFEP.

## **Results**

1. The content of 10 regulatory enactments and policy documents is analyzed.
2. 10 sources for understanding the good legal practice of CAM education are analyzed.
3. Examination of NFEP performed by 5 persons (doctor’s degree + scientific/academic/ professional experience at least 7 years).

## **Conclusions**

NFEP can be used for qualification development of CAM practitioners, because the NFEP corresponds to:

1. the set of knowledge and skills necessary for the occupational activity of CAM professionals;
2. the formally determined form and content of the short vocational education programs implemented in the system of higher education (2<sup>nd</sup> level);
3. all other requirements specified by the Latvian legislator and included in regulatory enactments;
4. WHO recommendations for the development of qualifications for CAM practitioners in good practice;
5. volume requirements for non-formal adult education programs.

# Trade marks in sports

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*Ms. Stella Kaprāne*<sup>1</sup>

*1. University of Latvia*

## **Objectives**

Clarify the concept of sports trade marks, draw conclusions on various types of sports trade marks and applicable Nice classification classes for such marks, define the use of sports trade marks and preconditions for the implementation of sports trade mark protection.

## **Materials and Methods**

European Union Court of Justice court rulings, Republic of Latvia court practice, legal literature - publications and doctrinal works, and various normative acts in regards to trade marks and their protection are used in this work.

Methods used: comparative method, analytical method, deduction and induction methods.

## **Results**

The author of the work has analyzed court practice, doctrine and periodicals, different author legal opinions on sports trade marks and their protection, defining various potential sports trade mark types, noting applicable Nice classification classes, potential genuine use of sports trade marks and their protection, as well as specifying breaches of such marks.

## **Conclusions**

Sports trade marks can be divided according to the product or service in regards to which marks are used - sports equipment, sports food-stuffs and supplements, sports club logos and merchandise, sports services. Sports trade marks can be registered as word marks, figurative marks, three dimensional marks, position marks, ornamental marks, hologram marks, etc.

Trade mark registered in respect of a certain category of goods must be regarded as having been put to genuine use with all the goods in that category, if it has been used only in respect of at least some of such goods, unless it is apparent from the applicable facts and evidence that the potential consumer perceive them as an independent subcategory. In the case of an unauthorised use of the trade mark, it is irrelevant if the sign has been used to support or loyalty and respect to the trade mark owner – sports club, sportsman or sports clothing brand.

# **International Relations And Political Science**

# Approaches and factors of small power candidacy for United Nations Security Council: Baltic example

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*Mr. Eduards Gailišs*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The main objective of the research is to assess and compare the main approaches and factors in candidacy process of small powers for United Nations Security Council and to analyze how these approaches are used in the international society concept. This is based on the example of the Baltic States.

## **Materials and Methods**

Published documents of foreign services of Baltic States, press releases and materials in the media on bilateral meetings are primary sources for this research. Qualitative text analysis is used in the research to characterize the main Small Power approaches for candidacy process in the United Nations Security Council.

## **Results**

All Baltic States increased their participation in structures of United Nations during the candidacy process. Estonia created an image as e-governance solution broker and showed itself as innovative small power that aims to improve conflict prevention at United Nations Security Council. Lithuania relied on bilateral political Factors, bilateral meetings, experience in other international institutions and it's reputation at United Nations. Estonia was elected for (2020-2021), but Lithuania was elected for (2014-2015). Latvia has only started it's Candidacy process for non-permanent seat in United Nations Security Council (2026-2027).

## **Conclusions**

The Baltic example demonstrates that a small power has to increase it's membership in different structures of United Nations in order to be seen as serious Candidate for non-permanent seat in Security Council. The approach to Candidacy may include exchanging reciprocal support for the Candidature, gaining International Reputation in other Institutions and relying on bilateral political Factors and Meetings. Another and more expensive approach is to create an image of a country, support specific values and come up with themes related to International Norms in the United Nations Security Council. In order to get non-permanent seat in United Nations Security Council, small power is recommended to acquire specific strategy to gain reputation in International Society.

# Being a digital citizen: attitudes towards control of activities

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*Ms. Ieva Strode*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Advanced Social and Political Research Institute, University of Latvia*

## **Objectives**

When discussing digital citizenship manifestations on the Internet, the main debate is organized around an issue of the control of activities and information (eg Hintz et al.2019). Recent events evidence that discussion about various regulations and their compatibility with freedoms is inevitable (e.g., social networks (Twitter, Facebook) depriving US President Trump of the platform for communication with the public). Thus, the objective of this study is to understand the public's attitude towards such regulations, their relationship with "being a good digital citizen".

Hintz, A., Dencik, L., & Wahl-Jorgensen, K. (2019). Digital Citizenship in a Datafied Society. Cambridge: Polity.

## **Materials and Methods**

Quantitative analysis of the online survey data gathered on February 2020 (1005 respondents, aged 18-75 years).

## **Results**

Although the right to information and freedom of expression appears among the most frequently mentioned spontaneous rights of the digital citizen, research shows that a "good digital citizen" is expected to follow etiquette (courtesy, respect for others), obedience to the law, non-dissemination of fake news, false information, etc. The general public mostly supports the right to restrict an individual's activities on the Internet: 74% agreed with the statement "If someone misbehaves on the Internet, the right to operate there should be limited". More than half (58%) agree that "If someone expresses anti-governmental beliefs on the Internet, the right to operate there should be limited". However, only 32% agreed with the statement "For security reasons, the State should have the right to control human activities, internet communications". Data also indicate a difference in attitudes of various sociodemographic groups .

## **Conclusions**

Although a large part of the Latvian population supports that someone's activities on the Internet may be restricted, most likely, the understanding of what kind of regulations are acceptable is forming as a reaction to the actual application of such restrictions and existing attitudes, etc.

# Bureaucratic policy and defense cooperation among the Baltic States

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*Mr. Olevs Nikers*<sup>1</sup>

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

## Objectives

This presentatin covers the bureaucratic policy effects on defense cooperation among the Baltic countries, which has not been a subject of more detailed study until yet.

Objectives of this inquiry are:

1. Analyze role of defense establishment in defense and security policy formulation and implementation.
2. Assess and analyze bureaucratic policies and defense and security agenda setting in the three Baltic countries.

## Materials and Methods

This inquiry provides theoretial overview (literature review) related to the bureaucratic politics, relating the New institutional theory to the subject on debate over the bureaucratic insistutions as a more independent actors, rather than integrated part of the democratic decisionmaking process. Empirical study outlines the characteristics of current institutional defense cooperation among the Baltic countries which is followed by discussion on cultural behavior and organizational habits of the Baltics in the third section.

## Results

Research within this study succefully follows up the processes set by the elected decision makers of the Baltic countries and the role of bureaucratic institutions into subsequent policy implementation within the field of defense:

1. Defense establishment has a critical role in defense and security policy formulation and implementation regarding the in tra-regional cooperation matters.
2. Bureaucratic policies are the primary actors setting defence policy agenda in the three Baltic countries.
3. Defense establishments and parliamentary relations in defense cooperation policies.

## Conclusions

While it has not been a subject of an extensive study before, this inquiry concludes, that instiutions and administrative bodies across the Baltic countries always has had their discretion and impact on rather politically driven processes and played a key roles in matter of cooperation and synchronizatoon of the Baltic defense and security.

Findings of this inquiry leads to more focused analysis of the phenomena of the role of institutions and bureaucsratic policy within policy making of the three Baltic countries.

# Communicative narratives as soft power: case study of the “17+1 cooperation platform” using CODA method

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*Mr. Mārtiņš Daugulis*<sup>1</sup>

1. Faculty of European Studies, Rīga Stradiņš University

## Objectives

Social constructivism within the field of International Relations focuses on rules international community is built upon. According to N. Onuf particular rules can be disguised under various regulative or potentially regulative acts - starting from speech acts and ending with embedded normative elements, such as judicial agreements and laws. The objective of particular article is to deconstruct communicative narratives of “17+1 cooperation platform” (Cooperation between China and 16 Central and Eastern European countries) thus identifying elements of soft power by testing CODA method.

## Materials and Methods

The scope of research materials includes official “17+1 cooperation platform’s” public documentation and speeches of China’s president - Xi Jinping. Adjusted research method is cognitive discourse analysis (CODA) which focuses on those properties of discourse that are accounted for in terms of cognitive concepts, such as various types of mental representation, modelling of common knowledge and which are usually defined in cognitive terms, such as metaphors, overall topics or themes, coherence, presupposition, relevance, and others.

## Results

In course of CODA several communicative narratives were identified that supports “17+1 cooperation platform” as instruments of soft power:

- 1) Narrative of *visible hand* - as a counter argument on liberal economics (and to invisible hand concept by Adam Smith) with it’s unpredictability. Element of soft power lies in governmental resources to deal with market uncertainties.
- 2) Narrative of *silver bullet* - a twin narrative of *visible hand* only in domain of political decisions. Includes assumption that effective cooperation with China as a leader within community implies quick solutions to any sorts of decision making problems.
- 3) Narrative of *multi-layer multilateralism* - includes promise of spill over of cooperation from one domain to another.

## Conclusions

CODA is promising method for narrative identification in international relations even in dynamic environment of multilateral cooperation platforms.

# Cooperation of the Baltic States in the implementation of the Rail Baltica project

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***Mr. Kristiāns Andžāns**<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Department of Doctoral Studies, Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

This study aims to explain the Baltic States' cooperation in the rail transport infrastructure project Rail Baltica.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study has been based on a comprehensive range of materials – theoretical framework, project-related documents, and other information sources. Qualitative research methods have been applied to develop this study.

## **Results**

The study has been conducted within the framework of Liberal intergovernmentalism, initially developed by Andrew Moravcsik. Using the analytical lens of this theory, it was possible to analyze the Rail Baltica project's development at different levels, thus explaining its long and convoluted plot. This study explores how project development took place on three levels - the national level, the Baltic States, and the European level.

## **Conclusions**

Although the project's implementation will link the Baltics with the European standard gauge rail line network, it was not easy to agree on the project's need. As it is a transnational project, it was first necessary to convince its need at the national level. Throughout the project, it was accompanied by national conflicts from various interest groups. For example, in Latvia, there was pressure to build a high-speed railway to Moscow instead. There was a will to abandon the project altogether in Lithuania after a European gauge connection was constructed from Kaunas to Poland. While in Estonia view on the project's implementation was more positive. Therefore, the project included a lot of state to state bargaining to move forward. As most of the project is funded by the European Union, the European Commission has pushed national governments to form a common approach, even by threatening to suspend its support if consensus cannot be reached. Thus, the Baltic States' common position was essential to further present it at the European level and bargain for better financing conditions.

# Educational diplomacy: universities in the context of Latvia's international aspirations

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*Ms. Zane Šime*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

One of the latest sources of dynamism in Latvia is higher education. Institutions across Latvia welcome increasing numbers of students from all over the world. Earlier elaborations on the role of higher education institutions focused on the economic benefits of such an influx of students and explored the quality dimensions of the curricula, students' expectations and attractiveness of Riga as a study destination. The role of universities as supporters of Latvia's diplomatic efforts and foreign policy goals remains understudied.

The objective is to draw wider attention to the evolving literature on educational diplomacy. A broader debate directed towards planning specific actions would be even better. It should carve out the role of individual institutions and the higher education sector in enhancing the ties of foreign students to Latvia not only during their studies but also during later stages of their academic or professional career.

## **Materials and Methods**

The literature on the role of universities in the context of educational and science diplomacies, earlier participation in science diplomacy discussions and training events feed into the overall conclusions.

## **Results**

Latvia's capacity to attract increasing numbers of students from abroad should be considered as an opportunity to invest in the future extended network of 'Latvia literati'. Such efforts in relationship-building should rest not only on the shoulders of the hosting higher education institutions. It should engage a broader scope of institutions in extra-curricular training and networking events offered to the foreign students. These events should help them explore how after the completion of studies in Latvia they might consider extending collaborative ties with the country.

## **Conclusions**

This is an invitation to look at Latvia's international aspirations beyond the Latvian diplomatic and economic outposts and people-to-people contacts facilitated across the Latvian diaspora. A growing new type of community has distinct memories and intellectual familiarity with Latvia.

# Framing the Baltic States in the US security policy discourse during Donald Trump Jr. administration

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*Mr. Martins Vargulis*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University; Riga East Clinical University Hospital*

## **Objectives**

The objective of this paper is to analyse how the US security policy discourse agents have formulated the Baltic States and what is the “framing” of the Baltic States in the discourse of US security policy during the Trump’s administration.

## **Materials and Methods**

This paper is based on the qualitative content analysis of primary sources. It analysis Trump’s administrations’ official documents, speeches, and event data sets made by author. Information sources analysed: National Security Strategies, State of the Union Addresses, speeches and remarks of U.S. president, U.S. Secretaries of State and Defence. Focus on the analysis: how the Baltic States have been framed and identified?; whether the Baltic States have been resilient to internal and external shocks of the US security policy discourse?

## **Results**

The conducted research outlines that: a) an official US security policy discourse during the Trump’s administrations towards the Baltic States has been resistant to internal and external “shocks”, b) the framing of the Baltic States have been interconnected with their commitment to devote the necessary resources to the defence.

## **Conclusions**

The analysis concludes that Baltic States have had a “special” role in the US security policy discourse during Trump’s administration being identified as “best friends” and “closest allies”. However, the involvement of US in the Baltic States can be described as “conditional” depending on the financial commitment of the Baltic States.

# Higher education policy in Latvia (2010–2020): analysis of party platforms

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*Mrs. Elina Graudina*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

One of the tasks is to study how EU and UNESCO guidelines in the field of science are implemented in practice in Latvia. It is necessary because education is one of the priorities for the development of western societies, as justified by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that “The UNESCO strategy for science is to promote and develop the link between science and society, emphasizing science as a key tool for development.” Equally important for all countries of the European Union. In order to ensure its economic growth, Latvia should promote the development of higher education and science.

## **Materials and Methods**

Materials used are: European Commission as expressed in the Communication on Improving and Modernizing the Education System (from 7 December 2016). Indicating necessity of improving and modernising the educational system. National planning documents (Latvia’s development plan 2030; National development plan 2021-2027), Pre-election programs of political parties (2010-2020).

Methods used are: critical analysis of the documents.

## **Results**

The National Development Plan 2021-2027, drafted in 2020, only points to the fact that government investment in research and development is inadequate to stimulate innovation and to support economic growth. State investments in research and scientific development programmes are among the lowest in the European Union, thus it is impossible to ensure the amount of knowledge needed to achieve national development goals and to transfer them to education.

## **Conclusions**

The paper shows that political parties in Latvia lack any vision in this matter, because their pre-election platforms do not even mention higher education, scientific development or research.

This shows that the global educational development context exists mostly in the mass media, while education policy enforcers work within the national context, which is a narrowed understanding of global trends and lacks worldwide practices.

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# Ideology matters: framing effects and support for humanitarian intervention in dynamic message environments

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*Dr. Juris Pupcenoks<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Qihao Ji<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Marist College*

## **Objectives**

This article engages with international relations scholarship on military humanitarian intervention and scholarship in communications science to inquire how different framing strategies influence support for interventions in grave humanitarian crises abroad among Americans.

## **Materials and Methods**

We conducted two experimental studies among distinctive populations in the US: college students (Study 1; 193 participants) and general adult population (Study 2; 466 participants). In both studies, participants were randomly selected to read a mock news story about a humanitarian crisis in a lesser known country. To examine the effects of the message manipulation and political ideology on attitudes toward support for intervention in, we averaged responses to the four options outlining different forms of intervention presented to the participants to create an aggregated index as the dependent variable. To test how political ideology may affect an individual's attitude towards humanitarian intervention, we estimated a linear regression model with intervention as a product of message conditions and political ideology. Next, we tested a model with political ideology as the moderator using Hayes' PROCESS macro for SPSS.

## **Results**

Findings indicate that the framing effect on respondents' support for military humanitarian intervention interacted with ones' political ideology, and prompted distinctive reactions among different populations: liberal students were generally more supportive of intervention, while conservative students tended to support interventions if the crisis was deemed relevant to domestic security concerns (Study 1). Among the general adult population (Study 2), liberal participants were notably more, and conservative participants notably less, willing to support intervention when presented with the economic costs frame. A follow-up design (Study 2) shows that the specific order of message framing has an important effect.

## **Conclusions**

These results not only reflect nuanced and framing-dependent reactions of American voters toward military humanitarian interventions, but also provide some guidance to organizations and policymakers hoping to better communicate with the public debate.

# Latvia's defence and security institutional thinking in the framework of European Union Common Security and Defence Policy

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*Mr. Valerijs Bodnieks*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

One of the Latvia's defence and security policies dimension is participation in the European Union (EU) Common Security and Defence policy (CSDP). EU CSDP includes variety of tools (military missions and operations, EU Battle groups, Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), etc.). Latvia's Ministry of Defence (MOD) plays the most important role in Latvia's defence policy.

From the perspective of new institutionalism institutions are significant, and new institutionalism has three basic strands: historical, rational choice and sociological institutionalism. With sociological institutionalism can be identified institutional thinking (script).

The aim of the paper is to identify Latvia's defence and security institutional thinking in the framework of EU CSDP.

## **Materials and Methods**

Paper is based on document analyses and interviews with the officials from Latvia's MOD.

## **Results**

The establishment of Latvia's policy in the framework of EU CSDP is based on the obligations that derives from Treaty of Lisbon. Latvia joined all policies, including EU CSDP. Latvia's MOD naturally and synergistically engages in EU CSDP mechanisms.

## **Conclusions**

The aim of the Latvia's membership in the EU CSDP is to demonstrate solidarity, participate in decision making process, gain experience and receive security guaranties. Wider engagement in CSDP is supported by society. The most important directions for Latvia are EU military missions and operations, EU Battle groups, PESCO and European Defence Fund (EDF). The additional aim for Latvia is national defence capacity building. Latvia's defence policy is based on NATO, but EU CSDP has supplementary role.

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# Recognizing the inevitable: Latvian media narratives about climate change

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## **Objectives**

Media are essential mediators in transmitting, framing, and embedding the attitudes towards climate change, and they are not neutral mediators. Informed by the strategic narrative framework and cascading activation framing model, we aim to discover climate change narratives as projected by Latvian media.

## **Materials and Methods**

We account for the diversity of Latvian media narratives produced in Latvian and Russian-speaking traditional and digital media, using qualitative content analysis of around 200 media articles, video and audio broadcasts from August 2020 till January 2021. We analyse data using a unified coding protocol, focusing on such elements of narrative structure as actors, scene, action, and time.

## **Results**

Our findings indicate that climate change has emerged as a topic in Latvian media, though the Latvian-speaking media outlets pay considerably higher attention to it than the Russian-speaking ones. In the majority of cases, climate change appears either as a primary or secondary theme, predominantly evaluated negatively. Yet in one-third of cases, climate change receives neutral assessment. Its impact on the environment is the dominant thematic frame, followed by economic implications and international efforts to mitigate climate change. In half of the cases, journalists tell the story about climate change in relation to Latvia. Out of them, half are personified, depicting local actors and places. Latvia is evaluated positively or neutrally, though in one-sixth of the cases a negative evaluation is provided.

## **Conclusions**

We assess that the 'recognition' narrative is the dominant narrative in the Latvian media. It underlines that climate change is real and takes place. Less popular is the narrative that climate change is an opportunity for Latvia's economy. An apocalyptic narrative that the world will cease to exist as a result of climate change gets only minor visibility; it is, in most cases, refuted by the narrative that one can save the world.

# Securing public trust and democratic accountability in local governance: perceptions of regional reforms in the case of Latvia

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*Mr. Armands Astukevics*<sup>1</sup>

1. Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

## Objectives

Local government is often perceived as the political level closest to people, able to better address issues of effective public service delivery, civic engagement, and citizen satisfaction than its national-level counterpart. Meanwhile, the global trend of regional reforms provides a broad area of work for researchers looking into policy development and implementation, as well as other aspects of regional reforms. Similarly, the aim of this article is to provide an insight into the process of adopting regional administrative-territorial reforms of 2009 and 2021 and its challenges in the case of Latvia.

## Materials and Methods

To capture the high complexity of regional reform process, an in-depth case study design was chosen, which includes document analysis, records of public consultations and parliamentary sessions, as well as interviews with representatives of local municipalities and other actors.

## Results

While the recent central government-led reform efforts have been focused on the need for improving local government capacity, local governments have pushed back, emphasizing the important role of democratic accountability and public trust of the local level governance. Nonetheless, state – local relations could have benefited from more local government involvement and consultations in designing of the reform, thereby gathering support for its adoption. Similarly, lack of credible and comparable data in the context of municipal governance and public service delivery is one of the reasons that gives rise to disagreement and hinder proper evaluation of the reforms.

## Conclusions

While diverging views exist on the impact that the regional reform will have on local level democracy, it is nevertheless important that concrete steps are taken to support it. The tensions between different levels of government in their objectives and values is an integral part of multi-level democracy, but such tensions can also give rise to disagreement and conflict, even to the extent as to question legitimacy of much needed political reforms.

# The end of conditionality? An analysis of conditionality and governance safeguards in International Monetary Fund lending during the COVID-19 pandemic

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*Ms. Māra Rūse*<sup>1</sup>

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

## Objectives

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the deep global economic crisis it has caused, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has since the start of 2020 provided financial assistance to more than eighty countries. The IMF rapidly doubled the amount of emergency liquidity available to countries with pressing balance of payments needs through instruments that previously were intended for small amounts with limited need for conditionality. The use and effectiveness of IMF conditionality has been subject to an active academic debate since the Global Financial Crisis, but recent developments in lending instruments have yet to be explored. The objective of the present study is to examine the treatment of conditionality amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as the source of the crisis is a health-related lockdown, rather than structural problems in the economies.

## Materials and Methods

The study targets all new lending of the IMF in 2020. In order to assess conditionality, data is gathered from the Monitoring of Fund Arrangements (MONA) Database, as well as on governance commitments in letters of intent for COVID-19-related emergency lending. The qualitative document analysis is followed up by interviews with IMF staff.

## Results

The study points out that most of IMF disbursements in 2020 have been made in the form of emergency lending arrangements (Rapid Credit Facility and Rapid Financing Instrument) or precautionary arrangements (Flexible Credit Line or the Precautionary and Liquidity Line) with weaker or non-existing conditionality demands. With fewer traditional IMF programs, creditor protection has been ensured with governance safeguards in the form of governments' letters of intent. In the case of precautionary arrangements, this has been ensured through ex-ante conditionality.

## Conclusions

While conditionality in IMF lending continues to ensure creditor protection, the role of the IMF as a catalyst for structural reforms has been discontinued by virtue of most new lending taking place without ex-post conditionality.

# **Communication Studies**

# A Latvian dictionary of media and communications terms: pain of giving birth

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*Prof. Ainars Dimants*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Faculty of Communication, Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The aim of this oral presentation is to justify, firstly, the necessity of precise and unified terminology of media and communications in Latvian language, both for the common understanding of the role of mass media in democratic society and by politics, especially media policy and media law, as well for the appropriate use within the media and communications industry. Secondly, the necessity of close collaboration between linguists and media and communications scientists in the elaboration of the field's terms, what is not the case until now. Thirdly, to outline the ways for the improvement, especially the creation of a Latvian dictionary of media and communications terms in cooperation with Latvian State Language Centre.

## **Materials and Methods**

Presentation shortly describes the current situation of Latvian terminology in the field. As a basis for argumentation is used the case analysis of some main terms, like mass media which is officially used as *plašsaziņas līdzekļi*, meaning means and not media. Such term is examined as a counterproductive one also from the terms system's point of view, taking into account other officially approved terms, which, in opposite, include the precise name: *mediju politika*, *medijpratība*.

## **Results**

Specific recommendations to elaborate a Latvian dictionary of media and communications terms are provided as the result of analysis made in presentation, among them the creation of interdisciplinary working group under umbrella of State Language Centre, leading by media and communications scientists from different Latvian universities.

## **Conclusions**

The systems theory in sociology and the division of powers principle in political science and law as a precondition for a democratic order and rule of law clearly indicates the necessity of separation of an autonomous mass media system with its own regularities and therefore with a precise terminology in Latvian language too. The Latvian dictionary of media and communications terms would be extraordinary helpful for that.

# Balancing between the freedom of speech and the need to regulate in the murky world of fakes

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*Mrs. Julija Kalpokiene*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Vytautas Magnus University*

## **Objectives**

The objective of the paper is to survey how delicate the balance is between the need to regulate (be it legal regulation or self-regulation) of social media platforms and the need to protect the freedom of expression. The author will strive to highlight the difficulties when one seeks to find the right balance between the two, especially when one is faced with “fakes” in the mist of all the communication. Here, the fakes are not limited to fake news or conspiracy theories, but includes the technology of deep fakes as well. It will be highlighted how the task of striking the right balance in regulation is made much more difficult by the fact that various “fakes” are employed in the communication of some.

## **Materials and Methods**

In order to achieve the objectives, the author will analyse the case law relating to freedom of expression. Also, examples of social media platforms self-regulation will be analysed in order to tease out the problems self-regulation might create. In addition, the laws applicable to regulation of fake communication will be briefly overviewed to provide the background for the discussion. Socio-legal research method will be employed.

## **Results**

It will be highlighted that no straightforward answer to (non)regulation exists and this is an especially delicate and contentious issue when we are faced with “fakes”.

## **Conclusions**

It will be concluded that it is vital to have regard to both sides of the argument when contemplating regulation. Although it is easy to jump to conclusion as to how to regulate based on an outrageous public scandal, it is dangerous to do so. Although the world full of fakes might seem a daunting prospect, careful consideration is required before implementing further regulation. Perhaps further legal regulation is not the answer and we as people will have to learn to live in the world with fakes.

## Communication during the COVID-19 pandemic

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*Dr. Sergei Kruk<sup>1</sup>, Mrs. Diāna Kalniņa<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

### **Objectives**

The paper analyses the media representation of Covid-19 related issues and the attitudes of population to the information about Covid-19 as well as the government policies during the first wave of pandemic.

### **Materials and Methods**

National representative survey in September 2020, N=1003.

Content analysis of seven news portals (March-June 2020).

Content analysis of television evening newscasts (October-November 2020).

### **Results**

Factor analysis of the National representative survey data reveals various responses to the Covid-19 pandemic depending on the personal experience of the pandemic and socio-demographic and socio-economic parameters of respondents. Acceptance of the government policies correlates with higher institutional trust and trust to news media. Trust to the news media has considerably decreased since the October 2019 survey however. Lack of diversity in the media content suggests that the underrepresentation of private experience is among the reason of declining trust and opposition to the government policies. All the media relied heavily on the official sources of information; civic society was not invited to share the experience of the crisis, first-hand testimonies were underrepresented as a journalism genre. Television news content suggests that during the second wave the practice of representation had not changed.

### **Conclusions**

A credit of trust to the government issued during the first wave of pandemic permitted Latvia to pass through the problems smoothly. However the misrepresentation of private experience constrained the communication feedback and consequently the government decisions were actively opposed by the population by the end of 2020.

# Do we all live in the same democracy? Understanding the perspective of Latvian youth, emigrants and ethnic minorities

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*Ms. Liene Ločmele<sup>1</sup>, Ms. Baiba Šķērīte<sup>1</sup>, Ms. Marita Mūze<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences*

## **Objectives**

The tendency exists in Latvia to characterize locally originated groups such as youth, ethnic minorities, and emigrants as abstract and often anonymous categories with very few and often negatively loaded traits in their relation to democracy and civic participation. For instance, the youth typically is accused of being passive voters, the ethnic “others” are doubted in their loyalty to the state, and emigrants’ work ethic and morality upon the decision to leave the country is questioned. This study aims at overcoming these biased notions and offering the analysis applicable for effective policy suggestions by focusing on the lived experience by individuals in Latvia whereby they face, interpret, and practice democracy in a variety of meaningful ways. The study is informed by a general research question: what meanings do the youth, ethnic minorities and emigrants from Latvia assign to the democratic values, processes and practices? It is a part of the project “Values in Action: promotion of responsible, secure and educated civil society in Latvia through research and model development” (VPP-IZM-2018/1-0013).

## **Materials and Methods**

This study-in-progress employs a qualitative strategy, whereby interviews and focus group discussions are conducted with approximately 150 participants from above mentioned groups. We use qualitative content analysis and cultural discourse analysis to analyse and interpret the data.

## **Results**

Among others, the preliminary data analysis illuminates the notion of “freedom” as one of the common denominators that is used by participants to conceptualize their experience of democracy. Yet, the interpretation of the said “freedom” varies across the groups and contexts to a great extent.

## **Conclusions**

While the youth see it through their everyday relationship and conflicts with institutions such as school, university, and family, emigrants associate it with personal economic independence but ethnic minority representatives emphasize the belonging that often is best achieved abroad. These interpretations are of importance for inclusive policy-making.

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# Does media literacy predict civic participation? It's complicated

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*1. Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences*

## **Objectives**

Media literacy is sometimes seen as part of the solutions to the vast challenges many societies face today, some of which are decline in voting and other forms of engagement in civic society. The aim of this paper is to examine the role of media literacy in various forms of civic participation.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study is based on a survey of 871 respondents from Latvia (41.9 % male) aged 18 to 78 ( $M = 39.12$ ,  $SD = 14.65$ ). The survey combines New media literacy scale (Koc & Barut, 2016) and an Civic participation scale (Davidsonsone & Silkane, 2018), which identifies diverse forms or civic participation, including participation in elections, participation in political parties, communication with public officials, social media activism, political consumption, and participation in NGOs. The New media literacy scale relies on self-assessment of new media skills and competences. Descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and hierarchical regression analysis were carried out.

## **Results**

Results show that the distinct media literacy factors – functional and critical consumption, functional prosumption, and critical presumption – play different roles in predicting civic participation. Namely, (1) functional and critical consumption explain a variation of participation in elections and political consumption; (2) critical prosumption is an important predictor of all civic participation activities except participation in elections; and (3) functional prosumption is negatively predicted by participation in political parties and communication with officials.

## **Conclusions**

Our research demonstrates that the link between these two concepts is not straightforward and reminds us that media literacy and civic engagement have diverse manifestations, which, in turn, interact in complex ways. Media literacy competences associated with critical consumption and production of media content do have a high potential in fostering some forms of civic engagement, but these are not necessarily the traditional forms of engagement such as voting in elections.

# Education goes digital: (a prospect of) communities of life and knowledge

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*Dr. Yevgeny Brazul-Bruszkowski*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Russian State Social University*

## **Objectives**

Forced digitalisation of education due to the coronavirus pandemic has intensified the digitalisation of society itself by which we mean that *electronic channels of interactions among different economic, social, political, and cultural agents gradually become main, constitutive, or sole* thus replacing or modifying the primordial channels of interactions (the question of whether these channels are ‘natural’ or merely ‘constructed’ can, however, be left aside for a while). The presentiaon discusses both dangers and prospects of this process as related to the tasks of in-depth inclusive education.

## **Materials and Methods**

Effective management of digitalisation of education requires discussion of not only educational goals, but also of *the goals of educationas human practice* (in its social and existential dimensions). Within the behavioural context, education, in the words of Carl Wieman, is about “helping people make better decisions”. However, the value of knowledge cannot be reduced to gathering, assessment and transmission of information. It also (and foremost, as I shall argue) has a profoundly personal, existential, spiritual and intrinsically communal meaning to every person by helping to make one’s self one’s own home. Thus for our analysis we use concepts of fluid identities, principles of non-oppressive pedagogies, and transcendental phenomenology.

## **Results**

Since the pandemic outburst gave no time to educators and policy-makers alike, going digital mostly ment transfer of existing educational practices and philosophy (seeing person as a set of socially meaningful and preferred qualities) onto digital platforms that increased depersonification of social contacts, personal deprivation along with further transformation of a person into a social function, as well as the lack of accountability and transparency in decision-making.

## **Conclusions**

I shall argue, however, that philosophically laden and conceptually designed digital educational milieux can become inclusive and safe places helping individuals to explore and develop their dynamic and essentially communicative selves into viable and sustainable communities.

# From fatigue to news avoidance: analysis of the society attitude towards news on COVID-19 in Latvia

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*Prof. Anda Rožukalne<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Sandra Murinska<sup>2</sup>, Ms. Ieva Strode<sup>3</sup>*

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Rezekne Academy of Technology, 3. University of Latvia*

## **Objectives**

This study focuses on society attitude towards COVID-19 news employing theoretical findings on news avoidance and perceived vulnerability to the disease. Objective of this study is to understand, what is the impact of the COVID-19 news on people's trust in news, behaviour and psychological mood during pandemic.

## **Materials and Methods**

Two surveys were used for the analysis of COVID-19 news perception: national survey in September 2020 (1005 respondents) and the Internet questionnaire in April 2020 (3414 respondents).

## **Results**

Depending on self-assessment of COVID-19 disease risk, respondents were divided in five categories: not concerned, who assess the risk as low and unreal (14%); a little concerned (46%); moderately concerned (22%), rather concerned, who think that risk is high and real (9%), very concerned (3%).

Analysing public attention towards news about COVID-19 contradictory data are obtained: 55% of respondents try to follow news, 53% say that they feel tired of news, 32% admit that they avoid news on pandemic. When assessing psychological impact of COVID-19 news 38% respondents admit indifference, 37% believe that news helps to feel safer, 28% of respondents suppress news, 27% think that news encourages to follow pandemic recommendations, 22% admit that they feel insecure due to insufficient and contradictory information about COVID-19.

## **Conclusions**

Respondents who rate the risk of the disease as higher and more realistic try to follow the information regularly and to a lesser extent acknowledge that COVID-19 news creates insecurity, hopelessness, indifference. The group of respondents, who assess the risk of becoming ill as high and real, trust the news more, rarely feel hopeless and less likely to avoid COVID-19 news. The members of the undisturbed group who believe that the risk of illness is low and unrealistic, are less interested in news, feel more tired, avoid the news more often, thus, this group can be described as pandemically vulnerable.

# Graphic design in social media: Kafa Magazine, Tuhaf Magazine, Kafkaokur Magazine Instagram pages

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*Dr. Bahar Soğukkuyu*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Dokuz Eylül University*

## **Objectives**

In the promotion of the product or service, the distance between the viewer and the design product, the way the product is used, is important in determining the size of the graphic design product and placing the design elements inside this surface. Nowadays, there is a virtual presentation of graphic design products which are prepared by taking into consideration the distance between the screen of the mobile phones, tablets used by the individuals and the eye-screen while using these devices.

## **Materials and Methods**

In this study, Instagram pages of Kafa Magazine, Tuhaf Magazine, Kafkaokur Magazine's social media platforms will be examined by using comparative descriptive analysis method in terms of using graphic design elements. With the aim to reveal the sustainability of the brand, the cooperation of the print media with the new media in the communication of the brand with the readers will be questioned through the findings obtained from the images of selected periodicals.

## **Results**

The distance between the design and the user is half a meter or less. As well as product or service required to be announced, introduced, and presented, graphic design products, which include functions such as opening a door of thought, educating, and creating awareness, can be displayed on digital media and reach to thousands, millions of people.

## **Conclusions**

Social media accounts are the digital environments that brands use to increase their users, consumers and to keep the brand in mind. The common feature of people who follow the social media accounts of a brand is that they come together around the brand to follow the activities, posts made by the brand. In these accounts, which hold the target audience together, various daily, weekly shares and campaigns are carried out. Through the study, it is aimed to reveal this virtual communication of brands with consumers through social media.

# Health behaviour model as a tool for strategic communication planning to promote COVID-19-related preventive health behaviour

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*1. Faculty of Communication, Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Master's Study Programme "Health Communication", Faculty of Communication, Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

Within the framework of the project Life with COVID-19: Evaluation of Overcoming the Coronavirus Crisis in Latvia and Recommendations for Societal Resilience in the Future (project No. VPP-COVID-2020/1-0013), a study has been conducted (from August to December, 2020). The aim of the study was to investigate COVID-19-related preventive public health behaviour (COVID PHB), formulate environmental, social, and psychological impact factors of COVID PHB and identify appropriate behaviour change techniques (BCT) to achieve the desired public behaviour.

## **Materials and Methods**

Quantitative and qualitative methods were used in the study: nationally representative sociological surveys online and in-depth interviews (N=30), that were based on the structure of theoretical domains of behavioural analysis by Centre for Behaviour Change (UK).

## **Results**

The qualitative study identified an appropriate ontology - Health belief model (HBM) as an evidence-based scheme of the interrelationship of factors that influence behaviour, as well as 46 BCT corresponding to influence factors. The HBM reveals that people PHB is influenced by the perceived barriers, perceived benefits, perceived consequences of behaviour, self-efficacy, perceived susceptibility (PSc) and severity (PSe) of the disease, and socio-demographic factors. The quantitative study shows that PHB is affected by the PSc and PSe the most. Respondents with high scores of these factors are more willing to follow the recommended COVID PHB. The study found that behavioural stimulants are very significant. The triangulation of qualitative and quantitative research data was used by analysing the identified influencing factors of COVID PHB in relation to more than 93 BCT.

## **Conclusions**

The study can be used in practice to model future interventions: if policy makers and communication professionals realise which BCT should be used and know which factors exactly affects people's actions, they can develop a strategic communication plan, including new regulations etc. and elaborate ideas on how to frame the messages.

# Is COVID-19 an ‘ordinary flu’ that benefits politicians? Perception of pandemic disinformation in Latvia

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*Prof. Anda Rožukalne<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Alise Tifentale<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Sandra Murinska<sup>2</sup>*

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Rezekne Academy of Technology*

## **Objectives**

This study seeks to understand the society’s susceptibility to COVID-19-related disinformation in Latvia, linking it to the evaluation of the perceived COVID-19 health risks. The main research questions of this paper are: how do Latvians perceive disinformation about COVID-19 and how this perception relates to different degrees of perceived COVID-19 risks?

## **Materials and Methods**

A nationally representative survey was conducted in September 2020 reaching 1013 Latvia’s residents. In the process of creating the questionnaire, a feasibility study was carried out to identify the most common COVID-19 disinformation narratives.

## **Results**

54% of the respondents have encountered disinformation, however, 20% cannot assess it and 26% have not noticed COVID-19 related disinformation. Regarding the respondents’ reaction to false information, we found that 33% do not react at all, while 13% try to ensure the reliability of the source before sharing it and 7% try to find out the source of information. When asked about false statements related to pandemic, 38% of the respondents indicated that they do not believe in any of the proposed statements, 33% agreed that statistics on COVID-19 deaths are misleading, 30% thought that “the COVID-19-related chaos is beneficial for politicians,” while 17% believed that “COVID-19 is like flu.” Regarding conspiracy theories on COVID-19, 15% believe that pandemic measures aim at full population control, 9% of respondents agree that the pandemic is led by global corporations.

## **Conclusions**

Respondents with a higher level of education and more active media usage habits are more likely to recognise COVID-19 disinformation. Moreover, this skill is linked to a higher degree of the perceived threat of the disease. Meanwhile, respondents with a basic education and the unemployed are more inclined to believe in disinformation. Conspiracy theories’ supporters rate the risk of the disease as low and unreal, thus, the susceptibility to disinformation is determined by the COVID-19 risk self-assessment.

# Is there any-body out there? Mediatisation of life under COVID-19 and virtual influencers

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*Dr. Ignas Kalpokas*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Vytautas Magnus University*

## **Objectives**

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated some of the trends that had already been in the making: the mediatisation of everyday life, including work and pleasure, the growth of digital encounters at the expense of analogue ones, and the increasing confinement of individuals within their own digital worlds. Still, working from home, lockdown experiences, social distancing and the broader curtailing of social, cultural, and entertainment activities have all lead to a greater reliance on digital media than it was considered likely even just over a year ago. In light of these developments, this paper aims to study the the substitution of the analogue with the virtual in the mediatised everyday life through an analysis of the Virtual Influencer phenomenon.

## **Materials and Methods**

The paper will combine insights from mediatisation and posthumanist theory with visual discourse analysis applied on a sample of five most popular virtual influencers.

## **Results**

Interim results, which are still to be expanded in both scope and depth, indicate that Virtual Influencers provide an opportunity for digital escapism to a degree that is hardly achievable for human influencers, particularly during the pandemic. Hence, it is hypothesised that Virtual Influencers offer their followers a fantasy of carefree techno-solutionism while also extending the notion of normality through a combination of the old-normal of pre-pandemic freedom with the new normal of virtualisation.

## **Conclusions**

While it is still early to speculate about the long-term societal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is nevertheless expected that this paper will provide some preliminary insights into the broader processes of mediatisation and virtualisation that seem to now be greatly accelerated. It transpires that synthetic phenomena, such as Virtual Influencers, are rapidly becoming normalised and might signal a near future of deeper, and more personalised, human-machine coexistence in which having the physical body of a human might be of only tangential importance.

## Media literacy and news literacy: what is the connection?

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*Dr. Agnese Davidsons<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Vineta Silkane<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Jānis Buholcs<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences*

### **Objectives**

The aim is to compare self-reported media literacy levels and actual knowledge about media and to establish the extent to which the level of news media literacy relates with different domains of media literacy. Another objective is to identify gaps in respondents' news media literacy that can be later addressed through educational interventions.

### **Materials and Methods**

The study is based on survey of 871 respondents from Latvia (41.9 % male) aged 18 to 78 ( $M = 39.12$ ,  $SD = 14.65$ ). The survey combines New media literacy scale (Koc & Barut, 2016) and Questions about News media knowledge (adapted from: Maksl, Ashley, & Craft, 2015). Descriptive statistics, correlation analysis and hierarchical regression analysis was performed with the survey data.

### **Results**

Media literacy – functional and critical consumption, functional prosumption, and critical prosumption – and media literacy knowledge are negatively related to age ( $r$  is in the range from -0,10 to -0,39). Individuals with a higher level of education are characterized by higher indicators of media literacy and media literacy knowledge. There is a positive correlation between different aspects of media literacy and media literacy knowledge. The respondents with higher level of self-reported media literacy (1) are knowledgeable about the media ownership in Latvia, (2) are aware of the objectivity criteria in the news content, (3) can distinguish the main differences between news media and social media. However, more than half of the respondents (52%) are not aware of the influences of the consumption of information on their attitudes or evaluate the influences as insignificant, and 77% of the respondents either do not know or believe that for becoming a journalist in Latvia, one needs to pass a certification.

### **Conclusions**

Our study point towards the paradox that one can feel confident about his/her media literacy without actually holding the correct knowledge.

# National network to combat disinformation as a tool of media literacy: contributions to health and democracy

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*Ms. Christiane Versuti<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Maximiliano Martin Vicente<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho – UNESP Bauru*

## **Objectives**

The objective is present the concept of media literacy and the brazilian project National Network to Combat Disinformation (<https://rncd.org/>) as a media literacy tool. The NNCD is a virtual collective organization that brings together several fact checking projects on a single platform, following ethical principles aimed at the good of the Brazilian community, especially in a performance focused on quality information. Currently, the work is mainly related to the Covid-19 Pandemic, strongly linked to political and economic interests that can cause harmful consequences not only to the health of citizens, but also to democracy.

## **Materials and Methods**

Bibliographic review and exploratory research to articulate the concept of media literacy with the work carried out by NNCD in checking information.

## **Results**

According to Bévort and Belloni (2009), the concept of Media Literacy is formed by the elements: 1) Access to information; 2) Understanding and critical analysis of information; 3) Content creation and communication. Thus, the work of the NNCD can be considered a media literacy tool, as it allows citizens to reach information from several platforms in a single place and access to quality information, which contributes to improving access to information, critical thinking and also communicative action by citizens in alerting their networks (on-line and off-line) with the information they receive, or even create their own content with better bases, making the debate about these subjects more qualified in society.

## **Conclusions**

As a media literacy tool, the NNCD project seeks to provide citizens with quality information, especially on the COVID-19 Pandemic, making available fact checkings already done, request for new fact checkings and also news from several trusted sources on various topics, including politics, technology, communication and climate change. Projects like this contribute to democracy by highlighting misinformation and offering quality information, providing citizens with qualified bases for dialogue and action in society.

# Political communication mobbing: Facebook case study of 13th Saeima election campaign

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*Ms. Barbara Roskoša<sup>1</sup>, Prof. Ilga Kreituse<sup>2</sup>, Mr. Mārtiņš Daugulis<sup>3</sup>*

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## **Objectives**

6th Saeima elections reflected that the parties like “People’s Movement for Latvia” and “Latvian Unity Party” were the first who used the populist promises to become a member of the Latvian government. A similar yet more targeted situation reoccurred in the 13th Saeima elections when the political party “KPV LV” got the second place and took a position in the government. These reoccurring situations both in Latvia and internationally show the need to evolve the research methods of political communication especially in the context of social media. Therefore, the aim of this study is to develop a research method for the analysis and evaluation of this type of political communication.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study reflects a quantitative content analysis of Artuss Kaimins Facebook profile communication starting from May 1st to October 6th, 2018. The table of coded units was created during the data analysis, including the following aspects - individual words, visual symbols, messages, etc. political communication tools - together identifying 191 variables.

## **Results**

The purpose of the political communication mobbing is to mobilize the public through a condemnation form of criticism to the existing power, thus pointing to the obligation that society is a victim, so the current public administration is condemned as being responsible for the individual well-being.

## **Conclusions**

The political communication mobbing is gaining even more popularity with the influence of social media; therefore, it is important to determine the communicator’s abilities and opportunities to address citizens in a targeted manner. This study reflects the instruments being used in a successful, targeted communication, which can be used further when analyzing other communication actors, thus promoting an unified method of research to recognize and analyze the political communication mobbing.

# Power of opulence: Baroque culture as communication structure

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***Dr. Deniss Hanovs**<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The presentation will reflect upon the methodological challenges of reconstructing the politics of opulence in the Baroque culture of 17th-18th century Europe. How can the theses of cultural turns, especially of performative turn be applied to the multimedial culture of European Baroque? Where to start? How can interdisciplinary analysis of political discourse of absolutism be linked to the history of communication and theory of art styles? How are we to define Baroque? As a style or a cultural period with its own agenda of power, body and voice? These and other issues will be included into an analysis of Baroque which was long time denied its own autonomous value in the history of culture. The major issue analysed will be the political communication of absolutism courts of Europe in its variety, stating that aesthetical categories had been applied to politics.

## **Materials and Methods**

Discourse analysis, defining culture as multimedia semiotic space. European music theatre its major genre opera will be analysed using the frame of performative turn, defining opera as social drama displaying cultural meanings, defining power institutes in their performativity (festivals, Festzug, festa teatrale etc.).

Various operas of the 17 and 18th century will be analysed as message and media.

## **Results**

New theses on the communication structures of Baroque courts in early absolutism period.

## **Conclusions**

The Baroque culture is intense aesthetisation of political communication of 17th and 18th century absolutism courts. Various communication tools, such as opera, were used to create new type of sacral image of rulers, linked to Greek mythology.

# The activities of the Soviet Latvian Amateur Film Association (1962–1972)

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***Dr. Rosario Napolitano**<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Department of Communication, Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The goal of the following research is to debate on the role and the activities of the Soviet Latvian Amateur Film Association (Latvijas PSR kinoamatieru biedrība) during its first ten years of activities—from 1962 till 1972. The association, born in April 1962, had as goal to improve the amateur cinema field which could represent an important aesthetic and educative tool among the Latvian population.

## **Materials and Methods**

The method used for this research is based primarily on field research since this topic has been marginally treated before by other scholars. The research, in fact, uses archive material examined at the Latvijas Valsts Arhīvs and the Personāla dokumentu valsts arhīvs. The use of literature concerning the history of Soviet cinema, such as Youngblood, Taylor and Beumers, helped for clarify the historical background of the Soviet cinema.

## **Results**

This research shows the openness by the Soviet Latvian system to the first amateur association in Latvia within the frame of the cinema as well as it was under the administration of the Cinema Committee at the Council of the Ministry of Soviet Latvia.

## **Conclusions**

With this topic I try to explain that the association represented an important turning point for the cinema lovers in Latvia, an alternative that could popularize and make the cinema more “attractive” for the Soviet reason.

# The cultural and historical heritage as an element in formation of the city identity. Case of Hanzas Perons

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*Ms. Lolita Ozoliņa<sup>1</sup>, Ms. Žanete Eglīte<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Latvian Academy of Culture*

## **Objectives**

To explore, how cultural and historical heritage can be used to shape the city's identity by developing a prosperous urban environment and sense of place.

## **Materials and Methods**

Semi-in-depth interviews, case study

## **Results**

- The renovated buildings extend the city's architectural heritage and provide new opportunities for arts and cultural development by offering a renewed cultural, historical and narrative heritage.
- The positioning of the renovated buildings shapes an image of unique environmental and cultural destination of the city of Riga.
- The combination of the aesthetic architecture and experiential design provide the self-sustained cultural content for the city identity.

## **Conclusions**

The research is significant in order to emphasize Riga's rich cultural and architectural heritage on the integration of the architectural aesthetics and experiences within the city identity.

# The integration of COVID-19 topics to Kremlin-backed propaganda: Lithuanian case

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***Dr. Viktor Denisenko***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Vilnius University*

## **Objectives**

Kremlin-backed propaganda is the challenge for Lithuanian space of information. This threat is recognising scientists (Vaisnys, Kasciunas, Jastramskis and others, 2017; Martisius, 2010; Maliukevicius, 2008) as well as official institutions (see public reports of State Security Department of Lithuania). This challenge is not new compare to coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, the topic of the spread of coronavirus infection very fast become one of the significant points of media-agenda. This topic became visible in narratives of Kremlin-backed propaganda too. For the understanding of processes of modern propaganda, it is valuable to explore how new narratives are adopting in propaganda's agenda-setting.

## **Materials and Methods**

The period of research was the first wave of the pandemic in Lithuania (March-April, 2020). The materials of research - publications in media known as a source of Kremlin propaganda in Lithuania (i.e. Sputniknews.lt, Ldiena.lt etc). Method of research: analysis of media communication based on Lasswell's "5W" Model (Wenxiu, 2015).

## **Results**

Results of the research show that Kremlin-backed propaganda widely adopted the narrative of COVID-19 pandemic. For the topic of coronavirus was not created new narratives - it was integrated into the old, already well-known narratives. As an example could be mentioned statements that COVID-19 is a real threat when the military threat of Russia for Lithuania is just "fictional", pandemic showed lack of European solidarity, the pandemic of coronavirus will have catastrophic consequences to the economy of Lithuania etc.

## **Conclusions**

In the case of COVID-19, the new topic is integrated into old narratives, is using as additional evidence of the propaganda's statements.

The topic of COVID-19 (health issue) is mixing with other topics, i.e. security (including military security) and geopolitical (the question of solidarity in EU and NATO).

# We have been left alone – how the journalistic profession was affected by the COVID-19 epidemic in Romania

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*Ms. Ioana Avadani*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Center for Independent Journalism*

## **Objectives**

The COVID-19 pandemic hit us all - people and societies the same - forcing us to adapt and change our operating patterns. Media was not an exception. In Romania, the health crisis added to the pre-existent systemic crisis, brought about by the internet-induced changes in the consumption patterns, and the specific crisis, generated by the local structure and conduct of the media actors.

The paper analyses the impact on the media profession of the measures imposed by the authorities during March - December 2020. It looks into the three elements that define a profession: autonomy, distinct professional norms and public service orientation (Hallin, Mancini, 2009) and analyzes the way these elements have been affected by the decisions and conduct of the Romanian authorities. It describes the coping strategies adopted by the journalists and the societal response to the media performance under pandemics.

## **Materials and Methods**

For this study, we have used a desk research approach, processing the first-person accounts of journalists gathered into the “Dairies from the newsroom” project conducted by the Center for Independent Journalism. We complemented the Diaries with testimonials and other personal reflections of journalists on social media.

## **Results**

We found that lockdown and isolation measures, as well as the concentration of the public information in Government’s hands affected the “infrastructure” of the journalistic profession, both the hard one, with journalists confined to their homes, and the soft one, with them separated from their information sources and support networks. All three elements of the professional identity have been damaged and lead to a fragmentation, down to the level of individual, of a professional corps that was already lacking inner strength.

## **Conclusions**

This resulted in eroded credibility of the media and journalism in the eyes of the public, and the journalistic profession apparently engaged on a sustained down-spiral affecting the Romanian democracy.

## “Airbags” of residents of Latvia

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*Mrs. Diāna Kalniņa*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

### **Objectives**

The paper summarizes and analyses the views of Latvian residents on support systems that they believe can be relied on by a person in financial difficulty in Latvia (for example, because of illness or loss of work).

### **Materials and Methods**

National representative survey of permanent residents of Latvia aged 18-75 in October 2019, N=1012.

### **Results**

The results of the study show that the majority of Latvian society, in the event of financial difficulties, sees support from their relatives or relying on personal savings. A significantly smaller proportion of the population relies on the support of national social insurance systems or local governments and public organizations.

The survey data shows statistically significant relationships between the population’s “airbags” and a series of social demographic factors as well as social values. For example, women, Latvians, workers, people who actively help their relatives rely more on the support of family members. According to Schwartz’s value model, these people also are more self-transcendence and openness to change. Meanwhile, more reliance on the state’s social-insurance system are seniors, lone people, people with small stockpiles, according to Schwartz’s value model — with pronounced conservatism.

### **Conclusions**

The results of the study provides new information on people’s attitudes to different support systems, highlighting the most problematic and sensitive populations.

# **Social Anthropology**

# Becoming in-visible: small family farms in rural Latvia in the framework of the National and EU Agriculture Policy

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*Mrs. Kristīne Rolle<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Andre Thiemann<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

Latvia's accession to the EU in 2004 triggered a major formalization of daily practices of family farms. The ability and willingness to adapt to, respect and implement the new regulations and policies is contingent upon a farm's social, cultural and economic capital and wider networks. Most family farmers are reluctant to formalise long-established practices like dairying that are suddenly counted, controlled or even banned. Being ambiguously placed vis-à-vis the EU and national agriculture policy that prioritize economic specialization and growth and threaten to bureaucratically turn small-scale farming invisible and worthless, these rural households have diversified their income sources, and selectively formalized some activities to access EU subsidies and/or rural development funds.

The objective of the paper is to discuss the strategies of neo-rural small family farms in Latvia countryside in the framework of the National and EU Agriculture Policy.

## **Materials and Methods**

Ethnographic fieldwork conducted in the rural areas in Latvia (2018-2020).

## **Results**

Drawing on our comparative fieldwork we discuss two contrasting sets of cases. On the one hand, a household rich in children but poor financially and inspired by an organic worldview critical of the "system" has founded a cultural NGO and accessed the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). On the other hand, a new cooperative of sea buckthorn growers following an integrated farming approach has captured significant European Regional Development Fund subsidies to upscale production, pool output, and enter the bulk export market.

## **Conclusions**

The formalizing certain aspects of farming went hand in hand with deliberately invisibilising others: a strong reliance on kinship ties, the creative and intelligent use of local resources and widespread social networking to protect and ensure the involved households' socioeconomic viability.

# Cooperatives as interfaces and boundary objects in supply chain infrastructures – Moroccan argan oil

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*Dr. Bertram Turner*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Max Plack Institute for Social Anthropology*

## **Objectives**

Cooperatives processing natural resources or agrarian products are praised as role model of self-organized grassroots enterprises. They are promoted by institutions of the global governance as an effective organizational tool in the fight against rural poverty. Within a complex supply chain infrastructure, they provide an interface between a local economy of solidarity and the global capitalist market. In this presentation the cooperative model is addressed as a boundary object and a gateway for the upstream introduction of new production technologies necessary to meet the demands of a global capitalist industry and the downstream legitimization of extraction of both raw material, and local knowledge.

## **Materials and Methods**

These plural techno-legal entanglements are examined using the case of production cooperatives as part of the infrastructure of the multilayered supply chain that brings Moroccan argan oil to the global market.

## **Results**

Moreover, cooperatives follow a legal script composed of components from a variety of legal repertoires, such as transnational legal templates setup by the UN, codes of best practice, and much more, contributing to what I call ‘supply chain legal pluralism’ meaning the normativity inherent in infrastructural designs of supply chains. As translation machines they translate the normative power of invented technology and materiality into local practice.

Conversely, however, so my argument continues, the cooperative model proved very useful as a container for local models of labor cooperation which led to a wide range of local enactments forming a boundary object that allows for an official acknowledgement of local producers by development, commercial and state agents and also opened access to external funding.

## **Conclusions**

Thus, production cooperatives compose, so I argue, nodal points in the infrastructure of a supply chain where natural resources and raw material, grassroots actors, development agents, technologies, normative orders, commercial enterprises and the state assemble.

# Making infrastructural work visible in Latvian research institutions

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***Dr. Ieva Puzo***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The objective of the paper is to examine how the infrastructural labor performed by scholars at Latvia's research institutions is made visible through engagement with technologies, broadly understood.

## **Materials and Methods**

In the paper, I rely on the ethnographic data collected in Latvia in March-December 2020. During this time, I conducted semi-structured interviews, both in person and online, with researchers and administrators at Latvian research institutions, as well as government officials overseeing Latvia's

## **Results**

My paper shows that scholars at Latvian research institutions perform invisible infrastructural labor to fill the gaps and ruptures in existing research infrastructures. Focusing on the experiences of international scholars in Latvia as well as their "local" colleagues, I show how engagement with particular technologies, such as bureaucratic documents and websites, renders visible the infrastructural work performed by researchers on daily basis.

## **Conclusions**

In line with the literature on the inequalities, insecurities and uncertainties embedded in the contemporary knowledge regimes across the globe, my paper suggests that, even though the amount and consequences of infrastructural work performed by researchers increase, this labor remains unvalued by research performance indicators.

# State and kinship: exploring assisted reproductive technologies in Latvia

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***Mrs. Diāna Kiščenko***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

Since the middle of the 1990s, private clinics in Latvia offer services of assisted reproductive technologies. In 2012, a state-financed infertility treatment programme was launched and has been evaluated as successful by clients and clinics. At the same time, the state has not been able to set up a national gamete donor register in Latvia. In this paper, I will discuss the role of the state in the formation of kinship in Latvia by exploring the state financed infertility treatment programme and national gamete donor register.

## **Materials and Methods**

The paper is based on the qualitative research (semi-structured interviews, secondary data and policy document analysis) carried out in the period from July till September 2020 in Latvia.

## **Results**

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Law currently stipulates that medical fertilization cannot result in more than three children being born from a single donor's germ cells in the country, and only the genetic and anthropometric data of the gamete donor may be disclosed to potential parents. In order to obey the law, clinics maintain their own donor registers, but no national gamete donor register has been established. The lack of state-run register and anonymous donation policy can create issues related to genetic malformation and inadvertent incest, which can lead to incestuous marriage - an illegal practice in Latvia.

## **Conclusions**

Accordingly, the state plays an ambiguous role in infertility treatment in Latvia. While it supports its desired kinship forms by financing infertility treatment procedures, it can also create undesirable forms of kinship in the future by not maintaining national gamete donor register.

# State as a technology of kinship

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*Prof. Klāvs Sedlenieks*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Faculty of Communication, Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

In this presentation I will argue that contrary to the received wisdom, kinship and state should be treated as complementary technologies of social governance.

In this presentation I will argue that contrary to the received wisdom, kinship and state should be treated as complementary technologies of social governance.

## **Materials and Methods**

The empirical material for this presentation comes from interpretation of historic and contemporary interaction between the “state” and “kin relations” in the geographic territory roughly corresponding to contemporary Latvia.

## **Results**

This analysis demonstrates that throughout the known history, there have been attempts to regulate kin relations and put them into a particular frame of “correctness”. However, the ideas of the proper kin ties did not originate outside the society itself but instead was a result of certain circulation of ideas inside the society. Thus, instead of saying that the state attempted to regulate and rule kin relations, we should speak of certain social groups that attempt to promote their particular ideas of kin against the perceived “incorrect” or “inappropriate” practices of other members of the society. These “appropriate” notions are incorporated in the fabric of the state, e.g., state as constituted of relatives (citizens) that should keep particular detachment from other members of the kin group (nation).

## **Conclusions**

Thus, rather than interpreting state as a detached autonomous sphere that produces governance and works against kinship in general, I interpret the state as a mechanism through which the notions of proper and appropriate kin relations are being negotiated and enforced.

# What the Flying Spaghetti Monster can teach us about religion in the 21st century

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***Prof. Michael Strmiska***<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

The purpose of the paper is to examine the internal dynamics, social influence, and theoretical implications of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster (CFMS). Sometimes called a “parody religion” or an “anti-religion” because the CFMS was consciously created by an American graduate student of physics in 2005 to mock more traditional forms of religion, to expose absurdities in religious belief and question religious privilege in society, the CFMS has generated interest and controversy around the world and attracted a considerable following, even achieving official recognition in some countries. Whether the CFMS should be classified as a religion or an anti-religion or a pop culture phenomenon or a protest vehicle are questions that push the boundaries of how we think of religion and its function in society. Furthermore, the way the CFMS was propagated through the internet shows it to be a forerunner of less amusing 21<sup>st</sup> century political/religious movements/phenomena such as ISIS and Q-Anon. Spending time with the Spaghetti Monster can provide enlightenment about how religion, popular culture, political trends and digital media interact in the current time.

## **Materials and Methods**

The primary text *The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster* as well as news reports and social science analyses of the CFMS will be examined to see how the CFMS fits or resists common scholarly definitions of religion in both Religious Studies and Anthropology as given by such thinkers as Durkheim, Geertz and Kottak. The work of scholars of New Age and New Religious Movements (NRMs) such as Mark Heelas will also be consulted.

## **Results**

The intended result will be a publishable scholarly article for an academic journal such as *Nova Religio*.

## **Conclusions**

Concluding analysis will show how CFMS straddles boundaries between religion and other cultural or social phenomenon, complicates analytical categories, and exposes role of digital media in 21st century religious life.

# Psychology

# Assessment tool for the requirements of disabled students in higher education

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*Mrs. Ingūna Griškeviča<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Dina Betherer<sup>2</sup>, Mrs. Dace Stieģele<sup>2</sup>*

*1. Department of Health Psychology and Paedagogy, Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Institute of Educational Sciences, Liepaja University*

## **Objectives**

The Ministry of Welfare of Latvia this year in the frame of the project “Equal Opportunities” has prepared Guidelines for Higher Education Institutions on Inclusive Study Environments formation ensuring the coordination functions of the horizontal principle. The guidelines aim to facilitate access to higher education for people with disabilities by raising awareness of people with disabilities disability needs in higher education and provide the guidelines for higher education institutions for the adaptation of the study environment and process.

## **Materials and Methods**

The Erasmus Call 2020 Round 1 KA2 - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices KA203 - Strategic Partnerships for a higher education project “Smart Solutions for the Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Higher Education” aim to develop the systems of integrated digital assistive technology services for higher education processes. In the frame of the first phase of the project, the assessment tool for the requirements of disabled students in higher education in Liepaja University Institute of Educational Sciences together with researchers from University of Maribor Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (Slovenia), The University of Patras Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Greece) and Centre for Social Innovation Research and Development organization (Cyprus) is elaborated.

## **Results**

The research demonstrates the steps in the development of criteria for assessing the requirements of disabled students in higher education and necessary data set analyses in order to meet the requirements of disabled students in higher education and build the appropriate digital assessment tool.

## **Conclusions**

Scientific contribution in the field is necessary as studies reflect the fact that, among European countries, the understanding of what is a disability and what is needed to include students with disabilities in higher education is very diverse.

# Healing at a distance: phenomenological perspective on patient experience of teleconsultation

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*Dr. Māra Grīnfelde<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University; Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia*

## **Objectives**

The global crisis of Covid-19 pandemic has considerably accelerated the use of telemedicine (the use of ICTs in health care). When on-site face-to-face consultation posed a threat to everyone's safety, many countries, including Latvia, followed the recommendations issued by WHO, which advocated for the use of telemedicine to reduce risks of patients' spreading the virus by traveling to hospitals. Taking into account the sudden increase in the use of telemedicine, especially in the form of teleconsultation, it becomes of crucial importance to understand what kind of impact the use of teleconsultation has on clinical encounter and, by extension, on the wellbeing of the patient? In this talk I will introduce my ongoing research project, which approaches this issue from the field of the phenomenology of medicine, which is a heterogeneous field of research using concepts and distinctions from the classical phenomenological tradition as well as phenomenologically informed qualitative research methodology.

## **Materials and Methods**

I will use conceptual material from the phenomenological tradition (concepts of embodiment, lived-body/object-body, life-world, intentionality, body-schema, alienation etc.), as well as conceptual framework for the understanding of the nature of clinical encounter provided by Edmund Pellegrino and S. Kay Toombs. I am planning to conduct qualitative research using research methodology called "Phenomenological Interview."

## **Results**

Based on the analysis of 12 semi-structured interviews, the study will result in the disclosure of invariant structures of patient experience of teleconsultation. In this stage of the research I will present the advantages of the phenomenological approach and the provisional results regarding the impact of teleconsultation on patient experience.

## **Conclusions**

The disclosure of invariant structures of patient experience of teleconsultation will help both to rethink the significance of the on-site face-to-face clinical encounter and to avoid teleconsultation's potential pitfalls and harvest its potential benefits for the improvement of patient wellbeing and care.

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# Intelligence Structure Test adaptation in Latvian sample: descriptive statistics and demographic correlates

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*Ms. Inese Jokste*<sup>1</sup>, *Dr. Jelena Lubenko*<sup>2</sup>, *Dr. Ingrīda Trups-Kalne*<sup>1</sup>, *Dr. Jelena Kolesnikova*<sup>2</sup>,  
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*1. Psychology Laboratory, Rīga Stradiņš University, 2. Department of Health Psychology and Paedagogy, Rīga Stradiņš University*

## Objectives

Intelligence-Structure-Test (IST) 2000R (Liepmann et al., 2007) measures verbal, numerical, and figural reasoning abilities and knowledge, and has proved the necessity to be adapted and standardized in Latvian sample, to be used in psychological evaluation and research. The aim of this study was to investigate the descriptive statistics and demographic correlates of the given sample.

## Materials and Methods

The 997 participants of the research (63,19% female; aged 15 to 72;  $M=31,53$ ;  $SD=12,63$ ) were recruited via University's information channels. Participants filled socio-demographic questionnaire, and were tested using supervised offline administration mode of IST Latvian version.

## Results

Data show statistically significant gender differences for gender in all IST components, except figural reasoning abilities. Male showing higher results, including, general abilities:  $t(987) = 3,4$ ,  $p < .00$ . Statistically significant differences for different age groups were found, including, general abilities:  $F(6, 976) = 11.57$ ,  $p < .000$ , where the higher results were found for age groups: 21 to 25 ( $M=107,44$ ), 25 to 30 ( $M=106,23$ ) and 31 to 40 ( $M=106,24$ ). Statistically significant correlations were found between participants' and their parents' level of education and participant's test results, showing general tendency – the higher the education level, the higher are test scores in all components.

The correlations were also found for academic achievement and test results, showing the strongest correlation for mathematics and general abilities ( $r_s=0.68$ ;  $p<0,001$ ) and for mathematical abilities ( $r_s=0.66$ ;  $p<0,001$ ).

## Conclusions

The research results are in accordance to previous findings on gender differences, showing that male tend to have higher results in intelligence tests. Many theories support assumption that higher results are also typical for adults in their middle life. Associations between intellectual abilities and education level of respondents and their parents support the theoretical assumption on the role of genetics and environment in intelligence. Finally, academic achievements also show its connection to intellectual abilities as in previous findings.

# Relationship between employees' perceived attribution of corporate social responsibility and turnover intention

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*Dr. Loreta Buksnyte-Marmiene<sup>1</sup>, Mrs. Dovile Valyte-Zeimiene<sup>1</sup>*

*1. Vytautas Magnus University*

## **Objectives**

Corporate social responsibility does not always create added value. Depending on the employee attributions to socially responsible organisations, it can lead even to negative behaviour. This presentation aims to find a relationship between an employee's perceived attribution to corporate social responsibility and turnover intention.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study involved 83 employees from different socially responsible organisations, operating under the United Nations Global Compact and belonging to LAVA (Lithuanian Responsible Business Association). Employee's attribution to corporate social responsibility. In order to evaluate employees' attribution in relationship with corporate social responsibility, the questionnaire created by Chaudhary and Akhouri (2018) was used. To measure turnover intention, the Brasheara, Manolis and Brooks (2005) questionnaire was used.

## **Results**

According to the expression of dominant attributions, the participants were divided into two groups. The amounts of the answers were calculated. The higher the amount, the more one of the attributions (self-centred, others-centred) was considered to be more expressed by the participant. The difference between the predominant attributions had been greater than 2. Those respondents who rated the attributions of others-centred and the attributions of self-centred very similarly (the difference between the predominant attributes was less than 2) were eliminated from the statistical analysis.

The non-parametric Mann-Whitney U test was carried out to discern whether or not there was difference between the two groups of dominant attributions, self-centred and other-centred, regarding turnover intention.

## **Conclusions**

The study results indicate that if an employee expresses stronger other-centred attribution to socially responsible organisations, such employee expresses less turnover intention than the employee who expressed stronger self-centred attribution.

# Relationship between personality traits and attitudes towards aging in older adults

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*Ms. Zane Ulmane*<sup>1</sup>

1. Rīga Stradiņš University

## **Objectives**

The aim of this study is to identify personality traits associated with attitudes towards biological, social and psychological aging factors.

## **Materials and Methods**

Participants were 45 Latvians, aged from 60 to 85 years. The data were obtained by self-report questionnaire – Latvian Personality questionnaire (LPA-v3, Perepjolkina & Reņģe, 2013), and The attitudes towards aging questionnaire (Ulmane & Perepjolkina, 2019).

## **Results**

There were statistically significant negative correlation between attitudes towards psychological factors of aging and Neuroticism ( $r = -.29, p < .05$ ). Openness to experience has statistically significant positive correlation with attitudes toward social ( $r = .37, p < .01$ ) and biological aging factors ( $r = .33, p < .05$ ). Attitudes toward psychological aging factors have statistically significant negative with subscales of Neuroticism Anxiety ( $r = -.31, p < .05$ ), and Vulnerability ( $r = -.36, p < .01$ ). No statistically significant correlations were found between attitudes towards aging factors and personality dimensions such as Extraversion, Conscientiousness, Agreeableness and Honesty-humility in this study.

## **Conclusions**

The results of the study provide a deeper insight in the relationships between personality traits and different aspects of the attitudes towards aging and may be used to predict older adults attitude towards their own aging.

## The identity of psychology: research project

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*Mrs. Sílvia Marina Amado Cordeiro*<sup>1</sup>, *Prof. Miguel Bernardo Ricou da Costa Macedo*<sup>1</sup>

1. University of Porto

### **Objectives**

Nowadays, psychology is a science with widespread acknowledgement, used in a growing number of fields. In an ever more specialized and flexible world in what concerns professional identities and careers, the development of psychology as a profession demands the establishment of guidelines and limits, besides an introspective attitude about the current psychological practice. Otherwise, psychology as a profession risks losing its identity, shrinking with the pressure that is imposed on it by its different specialties and areas of action. The main goal of this project is to develop a cross-cultural study to analyze the perceptions of psychologists, other professionals and general public, about the exclusive goal of psychological intervention, the tasks that are exclusively performed by psychologists and, also, the tasks that are performed by psychologists, but which may also be performed by other professionals who are not psychologists.

### **Materials and Methods**

A questionnaire was specifically designed for this study and the aim is to analyze the perceptions of psychologists and the perceptions of other professionals who can work with psychologists. Data analysis will be performed using thematic categorical content analysis. A closed-ended questionnaire will be constructed based on the results obtained in the previous studies to evaluate the understanding of the general public about psychological intervention. Data analysis will be done through SPSS.

### **Results**

We intend to help in defining the exclusive goal of psychology practice, that distinguish it from any other profession or activity. Portuguese results showed that psychologists lack agreement concerning the three questions under study, which created a significant number of subcategories.

### **Conclusions**

Define an exclusive goal for psychological intervention, one that is able to integrate the diversity of interventions in the field of psychology. This can be useful raising expectations about psychology and helping to build a trustful relationship between people and psychologists.

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# The sense of belonging of public and private sector employees, during the COVID-19 crisis

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## Objectives

Explore the differences in population sense of belonging indicators before and during the COVID-19 crisis, and also assess the differences between public and private employees in these indicators.

## Materials and Methods

By using the stratified random sampling method by administrative territorial division, data were collected from a representative sample of Latvian residents, within a framework of the national research programme “Challenges and solutions for Latvia’s state and society in an international context (INTERFRAME-LV)” in October 2019 and within a framework of the national research programme “Life with COVID-19: Assessment of overcoming the crisis caused by coronavirus in Latvia and proposals for the sustainability of society in the future” in September 2020, in cooperation with the research centre SKDS.

## Results

Regarding the indicator “*I feel close to people in my place of residence*” results show statistically important differences between surveys conducted in year 2019 and 2020 (year 2019:  $M=4.01$ ,  $SD=.820$ ,  $t(6.35)$ ; year 2020:  $M=3.76$ ,  $SD=.944$ ,  $t(6.34) = 6.358$ ,  $p < .000$ ). Regarding the indicator “*I feel accepted in society*” there were no statistically important differences between surveys conducted in year 2019 and 2020 (year 2019:  $M=3.93$ ,  $SD=.838$ ; year 2020:  $M=3.88$ ,  $SD=0.883$ ,  $t(1.3) = 1.331$ ,  $p=.183$ ).

When examining differences between public and private sector employees, statistically significant differences were found for the indicator “*I feel accepted in society*” Welch’s  $F(2, 951) = 8.670$ ,  $p < .000$ . Statistically significant differences Welch’s  $F(2, 952) = 8.035$ ,  $p < .000$  between these groups were also found for the indicator “*I feel close to people in my place of residence*”.

## Conclusions

The COVID-19 crisis has diminished the sense of belonging to society. Employees in the private sector feel less belonging to the society and to the people in their place of residence, compared with employees in the public sector.

# **Economics And Business**

# A state of art review: negotiation management from the corporate perspective. Negotiation models

---

*Mrs. Liga Brikena*<sup>1</sup>

*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

An understanding of negotiation strategies, usage of negotiation instruments, a person's individual traits in terms of trust development, socializing, risk aversion and many more factors, have been analyzed in research papers to provide a valid answer for the question – what drives negotiation outcomes? The aim of this paper is to analyze negotiation management from the corporate perspective and meet 3 objectives: classification of negotiation models; identification of main tendencies in the development of negotiation models, and the identification of an agenda for future research.

## **Materials and Methods**

The analysis includes peer-reviewed articles and research studies for period from 1965–2020. Databases: Science Direct, Scopus, Proquest. Sources in the field of negotiation and management science make the primary object of this paper. Sources addressing negotiation as mediation, conflict resolution analysis, from the perspective of psychology, are excluded.

## **Results**

An interest in negotiation models mainly derives from the perspective of negotiation analysis and involves the application of game theory. These negotiation models are further used either to develop “negotiation games” to meet learning goals or applied to develop automated negotiation solutions. Descriptive negotiation models, on the other hand, might be applied as the guidelines to identify constitutive elements of a negotiation case and serve for developing relevant negotiation strategy. These models vary based on negotiation type, number of parties, negotiation objective, etc. When negotiation models within a particular company (individualized negotiation models), an industry, a business model and business goals play a role.

## **Conclusions**

As a negotiation model provides an answer to the question “How does a negotiator meet negotiation goals?”, descriptive negotiation models should be addressed in an institutional process of negotiation management. Individualized negotiation models provide a direct linkage to reaching business goals. Methodology of developing individualized negotiation models is a subject for future research.

# Development of a marketing strategy to assess the importance of sustainability for consumers in the digital age in the French market

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## **Objectives**

Is to develop an international marketing strategy for JSC Madara Cosmetics based on topical theory, market specificity analysis and expert recommendations.

## **Materials and Methods**

Monographic, secondary data and case analysis, graphic method, qualitative research and abstract-logical method, which allows the authors to analyze the company's existing marketing strategy, to develop a strategy for MÁDARA brand in the France market to assess the importance of sustainability for consumers in the digital age.

## **Results**

JSC Madara Cosmetics is a Latvian company operating in the production of natural cosmetics. MÁDARA brand products are available in physical retail in more than 30 countries worldwide, with the largest markets being Finland, Latvia, Germany and Italy. The French market is the second largest market for natural cosmetics in Europe, with sales of EUR 450 million, which is expected to grow rapidly in the next few years, so it is important for the company to expand its presence in this market as soon as possible.

## **Conclusions**

French consumers are loyal to local brands, but JSC Madara Cosmetics has every opportunity to successfully develop its operations in the French market thanks to its reputation and product range with ECOCERT certification. However, in order to achieve the business objectives of the company in the export market, the marketing strategy must be tailored to the specifics of the market, in particular by choosing sales channels, customizing product packaging and choosing communication channels for the relevant messages.

# **Disease economics – economic aspects of anti-bacterial and anti-microbial resistance: comparative analysis of Europe and other world regions**

---

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The role of public health, and for that matter even more a disease, is a comparatively lower and thus underestimated factor in economics and business. It is however recognized as an issue by economists and entrepreneurs themselves, but not enough by general public and partially insufficient by public health practitioners. This is not an accuse to any field as in the economic governance era of labour division, specialization and focusing on one's designated speciality is a conventional paradigm. On the other hand, even though the specialization has taken widespread place, the interdisciplinarity and potential of inter-sectoral cooperation is widely increasing. As the economic system of societal governance is rather bio-logical then mechanic system, the production and thus success factors in economics and business, particularly labour, must, of course, be nurtured also from the perspective of bio-sector, namely medicine and health. Another aspect showing the increasing interactivity and interdependence between the medicine and business is the high increase of amount and easiness of availability of medicine for general consumer society, including those of antibiotics. The aim of the article is to show economic and other related non-medical aspects – their impact and consequences – of the anti-biotoxic and anti-microbial resistance.

*Keywords:* Economics and Business, Health Economics, Public Health, ABR, AMR.

# **Economic and legal aspects of higher education quality and accordance assurance: comparative analysis of Latvia within European Higher Education Area**

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The role of higher education and its various related organizational, administrative, managerial, format-wise and content-wise aspects is being increasingly challenged by both, labour market / business environment and by changing trends in public governance. Therefore, also the very administrative procedures envisaged to ensure higher quality and accordance to the needs of labour markets, business environment and society in general are being challenged in many countries and are subjected to significant change. This chain of effects are very much related to global technological and societal governance development, that changes social norms and skills needed for competitive welfare life.

The article will analyse the changes in higher education quality and accordance (to the labour market) assurance breaking it down to major dimensions – quality assurance procedures, which is part of the legal aspects, and higher education supply formats and contents, which shall be analysed from economics point of view. This will largely include also the analyses of the higher education demand side, which is heavily affected by the mentioned global technological and societal governance shifts.

The major aim of the article is to identify the best practices that allows to keep optimal balance between ensuring the quality of science / higher education itself and its accordance and the new role to the labour market / business environment and higher education demand side.

The major research method is the comparative analysis of Latvia case study within European Higher Education Area.

*Keywords:* Higher education quality management, Higher education accreditation.

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## EU's assessment of business environment in Central Asia

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### **Objectives**

Since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Central Asian region has achieved a rapid economic growth in spite of region's extremely low intra-regional trade. The European Union remains an attractive partner for Central Asian countries and is a biggest economic partner for Central Asian countries. Since 2007 the European Union has been supporting Central Asia in its efforts to adequately respond to the needs and economic challenges of the region. In 2019 the EU revised its Strategy for Central Asia by putting emphasis on the region's economic development and by increasing trade and investment flows between the EU and Central Asian countries.

The promotion of an open, sound, secure and attractive climate for business and investment in Central Asia is one of the key elements of the revised strategy. The new strategy provides political guidance for programming new assistance programmes for Central Asia for the new financial framework of 2021-2027.

### **Materials and Methods**

The article aims to address some of the issues related to the EU's assessment of business environment in Central Asia by analysing publicly available expert interviews on this subject.

Furthermore the article looks at a brief conceptual overview of the business environment of Central Asian countries by using PEST analysis method.

### **Results**

Finally, the research results indicates that national reform agendas of Central Asian government should better support national policies and to improve local business environment by ensuring equal access to public services and improving business climate.

The results also indicates that the promotion of EU norms and values in promoting economic growth in Central Asia should be prioritized.

### **Conclusions**

Furthermore, a comparative assessment on the impact of the EU assistance programmes to the business environment in Central Asia is required.

The research also concludes that achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth still remains the main challenges for Central Asia.

# Filling the knowledge gap caused by occupational mobility on IT: gender-specific strategies

---

*Ms. Oksana Žabko*<sup>1</sup>

1. University of Latvia; Baltic Institute of Social Sciences

## **Objectives**

Based on the learning approaches discovered by Braun et al. (2012), compare the strategies of filling the knowledge gap of professionals of both genders who after several years' work in a particular industry have changed the profession to any of the technical positions in IT.

Brown, A., Bimrose, J., Barnes, S.A., Hughes, D. (2012). The role of career adaptabilities for mid-career changers. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, 80: 754-761.

## **Materials and Methods**

28 working-life biographical interviews (12 men and 16 women) conducted November 2019 - January 2021. Age of participants was 25-45 years, the duration of experience in the original profession was 2-20 years, the experience in the IT lasted from 7 months to nine years.

## **Results**

Men's and women's entry paths in the IT industry are different, and so are the initial learning methods. Men are more likely to enter through informal social networks (strong ties), and challenging work with self-directed learning is the most common approach, especially if the individual has previously worked in engineering or the study process required the acquisition of digital tools. This approach is maintained as long as men work as self-employed or in small business settings. Women are more likely to enter through formal or informal educational institutions and choose larger corporations, thus, social networks have provided them with emotional rather than training support. However, when becoming embedded into a particular workplace, learning strategies of both genders become more similar due to the specific organizational culture.

## **Conclusions**

Men and women initially rely on different learning sources when entering the IT professions. While men rely on self-directed learning and challenging work, women value training which results in the issuing of credentials. Whether the differences in the approach lead to a variety of outcomes in terms of career sustainability and progress in IT may become an issue of further studies.

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# Guidelines for Research, Technology Development, and Innovation for 2021–2027: towards excellence paradigm for Latvia

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*1. Ministry of Education and Science*

## **Objectives**

To study the transformation and implementation outcomes of the mid-term research policy in Latvia, based on ongoing transition from output-based to quality-based measures. Reassessment of pandemic impact in relation to science, technology and innovation policy.

## **Materials and Methods**

Statistical analysis of data originating from EUROSTAT, OECD, Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia. Comparative analysis regionally and in the EU. Gap technical analysis. Econometric studies.

## **Results**

The previous guidelines for 2014-2020 have been very successful in fostering the overall increase of impactful research publications, which happens aligned with increasing quality: the output in top 10% most cited publications increases from 6,2% in 2014 to 11,1% in 2020. This corresponds to transition of Latvia from “modest” to “moderate” category on European Innovation Scoreboard. Causal factors are primarily increased competitive funding with international peer-review, and internationalisation efforts.

At the same time “flow” type indicators like GERD have not much improved, indicating that further objectives like increase in scientific workforce can be achieved very modestly. The recommendations arising from two Policy Support Facility studies on governance and human resources will require further efforts aligning the Research and innovation system to additional performance criteria. While the pandemic was a windfall for many research communities, and science gained unprecedented leadership and prestige in dealing with COVID-19, and the international cooperation reached unprecedented heights, keeping them will require harsh competition with other priorities (OECD STI Outlook 2021).

The increase in quality of publications together with open science strategy, further research collaboration and improved industry-academia partnerships is the backbone of next period guidelines.

## **Conclusions**

The feasibility analysis in Latvian science and technology policy assigns to quality aspects the outstanding role in a complex, multi-stakeholder, uncertainty driven socio-economic development period, with anticipated alterations in traditional policy streamlining, with excellent potential to exploit contributions arising from inter-nationalisation, complete carrier-paths and smart specialisation.

# Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on enterprise health in Latvia

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## **Objectives**

The COVID-19 global crisis has posed new challenges not only for physicians but also for entrepreneurs. Businessmen in many parts of the world have made and continue to implement far-reaching changes with the main goal of speeding up the adjustment of strategic direction and the use of resources. Such changes result in higher profitability, sustainability, and growth. Our main goal is to analyze how entrepreneurs in Latvia have been affected by the pandemic, and how they responded to it.

## **Materials and Methods**

We used both primary and secondary data in our study. The primary data set consists of Latvian Business Survey conducted in the second half of 2020. The secondary data set includes the most recent research papers on the subject and official statistics.

## **Results**

Looking at the financial situation of the surveyed entrepreneurs in 2020, there is a significant correlation between the changes in the financial indicators and the factors influencing them. The worst deterioration was in the services and manufacturing sectors. As a result of our research, we have developed a crisis response coefficient and performed calculations of this indicator for companies of various industries in Latvia.

## **Conclusions**

The sectors that have responded most significantly to the economic impact of the imposition of an emergency are: wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; and financial and insurance activities. In response to the crisis, many entrepreneurs optimized the organization of their work, increased the use of their IT and digital solutions in business, and implemented new management approaches.

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# Legal challenges of teleworking in Latvia

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## **Objectives**

Economic and technological changes and Covid-19 pandemic as well, have given rise to new forms of employment across the world. It is believed that new forms of employment can help to build a more flexible and inclusive labour market. Recent data shows a significant increase of telework in Latvia. That leads to a discussion about sufficiency of regulations for telework in Latvia to ensure adequate employee protection and acceptable working conditions. The need for a clear legal regulation of telework is also proved by the significant breach of labor law in the implementation of telework during the Covid-19 pandemic in Latvia.

## **Materials and Methods**

Both primary and secondary data were used in the study. The primary data set consists of three surveys conducted in the second half of 2020 - the Latvian Business Survey, the Population Survey and the Employee Survey. Additionally, recent scientific literature analyze, case study analyze and analyze of legal acts was conducted.

## **Results**

In the result the authors have concluded on most significant obstacles to implementation on telework in Latvia. In general those are: lack of a definition of telework in Latvian Labour law, lack of clear rights to disconnect from digital devices in labour law and disorganized tax system for telework. The results of the study also emphasize the need to strengthen the role of mediation in labor disputes - especially with regard to remote work.

## **Conclusions**

Finally, the authors conclude that there is a need to adjust regulation in Latvia to meet the need of wide spread of the use of telework. The changes are needed not only in Labour law, but also in tax regulation. The authors also conclude that a significant role to protect labour right is to governmental authorities to explain the rights to employees and employers.

# Sustainable brand as consumer behaviour influencing factor in Latvia

---

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*1. Rīga Stradiņš University*

## **Objectives**

Objectives was to define sustainability in the context of business, identify the factors that motivate and determine the sustainability of the company, find out factors that influence consumer behaviour when choosing a sustainable product.

## **Materials and Methods**

According to the United Nations definition, sustainable development is “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. This includes social, environmental and economic aspects, which must create synergies with each other, to create the prospect of sustainable development.

Monographic method - to outline the nature of consumer behaviour and sustainable branding information on sustainability theory is collected using diverse literature. Secondary data analysis method - existing data on the development of sustainable business in Latvia and Europe is studied. Qualitative research method: expert interviews - expert interviews is conducted in order to evaluate sustainable brand perspectives in Latvia.

## **Results**

There are three important aspects that influence consumer decision in Latvia: use of natural raw materials in production, recycling and communication, but main factors influencing consumer behaviour, when choosing a sustainable brand, are marketing communications and price of product. In conclusion, in Latvia the most developed sectors in terms of sustainability are energy, forestry, agriculture and the banking sector, perspectives are in food, energy, finance and transport sectors.

## **Conclusions**

1. Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development ,Environmental Protection Department of Latvia, partnering with World Wide Fund for Nature and Latvian entrepreneurs, need to implement educational and informative sustainable marketing campaigns on the importance of sustainable consumption.
2. In communication with consumers, use opinion leaders or Influencer marketing. This ensures that information is passed on quickly and specifically to the target audience, as well as wide visibility, without investing much money, as would be the case when using communication channels such as: television, press, radio and others.

# The effect of the Latvian business environment on society's motivation to engage in entrepreneurship: comparative context with Estonia

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## **Objectives**

The thesis examines the motivation of society to do business in Latvia, analyzing the development of the business environment, specific elements, and comparing them with the Estonian business environment. Thus, the objective of the research is to find out the motivation of Latvian society to do business, based on the development of the Latvian business environment in comparison with Estonia.

## **Materials and Methods**

Primary data sources include official national policy and economic strategy documents; issued reports on country competitiveness in various business-related segments; statistics from official statistics websites. Secondary data include books about the elements of business environment and individual motivation to do business, and publications in various internet sources.

Research methods include quantitative method: survey - conducting a survey and analysis of the motivation of Latvian society to do business; and performing comparative analysis of the elements of the business environment in Latvia and Estonia.

## **Results**

The results of the study show that elements of the business environment are less developed in Latvia than in Estonia, which explains Latvia's lower rankings in the international competitiveness indices. This is reinforced by the analysis, which concludes that the goals of Latvia's developing business environment strategy have largely not been achieved. The opinion of the Latvian society correlates with the results of the research. The motivation of Latvian society to do business is very positive, however, it is due to personal motivation factors, because the business environment created and developed by the Latvian government is perceived negatively.

## **Conclusions**

Proposals on further in-depth research, business environment and Latvian society's motivation development were concluded. Further In-depth research is needed on the possibilities of increasing the motivation of society in Latvia, analyzing specific categories of business environment separately. Further business environment development is needed. Latvian society's motivation development is to be achieved if additional measures and plans are executed.

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