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Adverse events following Covid-19 vaccination among the Albanian community

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Abstract

In the primary prevention of infectious diseases in public health, vaccination is one of the most important and effective strategies. The Covid-19 pandemic has probably led to an unprecedented collaboration between the scientific world and pharmaceutical companies, aiming to obtain a vaccine that is safe, effective, and available in a short period of time all over the world. However, even vaccines, like all drugs, can cause side effects which in some cases can generate fear and hesitation in the community. The aim of our study was to report the occurrence and type of adverse events following Covid-19 vaccination in Albania, by using an online questionnaire distributed among the adult population from May to August 2022. From 578 participants who answered the questionnaire, 301 (52.1%) reported one or more adverse events. The most common adverse events observed were fever (42.7%) and pain/swelling in the injection site (42.4%). Other adverse events were fatigue (28.6%), headache and/or vertigo (20.5%) and nausea (4.2%). Most respondents (52.1%) declared that side effects occurred within 12 hours after vaccination, Furthermore, 40.3 % of those interviewed stated to have used medication to alleviate these side effects, where antipyretics (79.8%) were the most used drugs. In this scenario, where the debate on vaccines continues to be very heated, it is essential that government and scientific institutions take action to disseminate scientific and evidence-based information also for future epidemics or challenges in the public health.

Keywords: adverse events; vaccination; developing countries; Covid-19.

Political Participation of Women: Comparison of National Governments in 27 EU Countries

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Abstract

Women were excluded from political decision-making processes for decades. The promotion of gender equality gave women the opportunity to participate in political life. This paper focused on the comparison of women in national governments within the 27 countries of the European Union. We used data from EIGE – European Institute for Gender Equality to examine the composition of national governments, focusing on the number of women represented in individual countries. The percentage composition of national governments of individual EU countries was observed for the reference period 2012 – 2021. Our results showed that differences in the representation of women in national governments existed in all monitored EU countries and there were also significant differences among the individual countries. There were countries where the representation of women in the national government has been low for a long time, such as Hungary, which did not even have a single woman in the government between 2015 and 2017, as in only one of the monitored countries. The long-term low representation of women was also in other countries, such as Cyprus, Greece, and Malta. Even though an increasing proportion of women are currently represented in governments, women still do not dominate their male colleagues in this area. The only country in which the share of women in the government was higher than 50% during the entire monitored period was Sweden. A higher proportion of women in national governments, but not more than 50%, was also in Finland and France.

Keywords: Gender, women in politics, political decision-making, European Union countries.

Ensuring Equality and Inclusiveness in Georgian Higher Education Institutions

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Abstract

Our study highlights important evidence on how universities in Georgia can and do promote equal opportunity and inclusion. Recent research shows that groups living in Georgia such as rural residents, women, vulnerable groups, ethnic minorities, internally displaced persons, migrants and people with special educational needs and disabilities face the problem of quality education and development opportunities.

The study shows that the reason for this lies in insufficient coordination between authorities and universities. In addition, higher education institutions do not have clearly defined strategies and approaches to create an equitable and inclusive environment. Derived from a survey and in-depth discussions with university staff, scholars and students about their practices and challenges, it offers a unique picture of how universities in Georgia are tackling the problem with an unprecedented breadth and scope.

This work will further help universities develop their more effective strategies and policies. We are sure that it can also inform policy makers and other stakeholders in this field and serve as a basis for a fruitful dialogue to support the development of Georgian society in the years to come.

Preservation of (Military) Traditions as a Link between the Hungarian Defence Forces and Nation

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Abstract

The preservation of tradition can be seen as a kind of bond between the armed forces and society. The priority goal of the Ministry of Defence is to further strengthen its relationship with civil organizations and society. Its most important task is to preserve, pass on, and bring back those Hungarian military traditions that play a decisive role not only in the Hungarian Defence Forces, but also in the life of the individual soldier. Bearing in mind the relevance of the research, we can state that the role of tradition creates value for the future, and at the same time, its preservation ability based on the past appears as a fundamental glue in the life of every nation and community. Our passed down and surviving traditions conserve our memories, which contribute to strengthening our national identity and belonging. Some of the national traditions of our modern society are closely intertwined with the military traditions preserved by the Hungarian Defence Forces, but the organization and its formations have an independent memory and past, as well, which strengthen the sense of duty and team spirit of the soldiers when performing their duties. As an organizational element of the Hungarian Defence Forces, the display of Hungarian military traditions within the organization, as well as its representation in the direction of Hungarian society and in an international context, is an integral element of the task system of the HDF “vitéz Szurmay Sándor” Budapest Garrison Brigade. The Garrison Brigade is responsible for the protocol service of state, national and military holidays, and for nurturing Hungarian military and musical traditions. The guarding of the Holy Crown, which embodies Hungary's statehood and independence, and the protocol guarding of the Office of the President of the Republic (Sándor Palace) are the exclusive competence of the 32nd National Ceremonial Unit, serving under the Garrison Brigade. The 32nd NCU displays the national unity and ancient institution of today's Hungarian armed forces, its past and present glory, and the moral foundations of the Hungarian soldier.

Keywords: military tradition, Hungarian defence forces, heritage, culture, identity, national remembrance.

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Abstract

Access to energy resources has become a challenge of the modern world. The current processes taking place in the world have made the urgency of this problem even more obvious. To fully solve this problem, a green agreement has been adopted in Europe, one of which is green building. With this agreement, along with the search for new sources of energy, the construction sector, as the largest consumer of energy, needs to find ways to use energy economically. The article discusses the benefits of building blocks obtained by us using recycled plasma waste. In addition to using plasma waste, a serious environmental pollutant, in its production, the unit is highly energy efficient and lightweight, making it easy to use during the construction phase. The article describes the features of its advantages and the effect that will be achieved with its mass use.

Human Papillomavirus infection; Prevention as a fundamental approach towards cervical cancer control in Albania

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Abstract

Cancer represents the main cause of death worldwide. Many types of cancer are still considered life-threatening diseases, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Thanks to the progress made in developing modern diagnostic techniques, nowadays we know for sure that some types of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) are responsible for the development of cervical cancer. In this context, Albania has taken steps forward regarding the proper control of this infection. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the epidemiology of HPV infection along with a closer analysis of the current status of cervical cancer prevention in Albania. In the framework of global strategies to eliminate HPV infection, Albania, on November 1st, 2022, has included the HPV vaccine as part of the national mandatory vaccination calendar, targeting primarily girls aged 13 years old. It is now available the quadrivalent HPV vaccine which provides protection against four types of HPV (type 6, 11, 16 and 18).

Infection prevention is a fundamental approach towards cervical cancer control, as a result, the policy effort of mass vaccination is considered a critical key that Albania should amplify and expand at the same pace in the future. In addition to the primary control strategy, WHO encourages every country to follow the mass screening approach of women at the age of 30 and above every 5 to 10 years, to enable a quick and appropriate orientation of each positive case, aiming for a near cervical cancer-free future.

Keywords: HPV, HPV vaccines, prevention, mass screening, cervical cancer, mandatory vaccination calendar.

Consumer Attitudes Towards Online Sustainable Consumption

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Abstract

The potential end of natural resources, the growth of pollution, and tons of waste opened the eyes to move towards sustainable consumption. Thus consumers start looking into possibilities to find brands that suggest impacting the planet earth and represent sustainability. This article investigates the principal attitudes influencing consumers to choose sustainable products online. It also emphasizes the reasons for choosing more sustainable products versus traditional ones. It is essential how consumers incorporate sustainability priorities into their consumption, even though the potential rivalry between consumerism and sustainable consumption might appear.

Keywords: sustainable consumption, consumer behavior, online consumption.

"Fit for purpose" principle from customer's viewpoint: RefStyler - case study of a simple novel bibliography style translator

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Abstract

The work consists of two interrelated, yet conceptually different parts. In the first, we introduce the Fit for purpose principle, but, in contrast to the usually elaborated, from the viewpoint of the customer. We also relate the principle to the concept of economy of time (i.e. involvement) and give rather broad perspective to this concept, in the context of article publication process, and more specifically to the problem of quoting sources from literature. We continue by reviewing available computational aids in writing bibliography for scientific articles. In the second part of the work, we concentrate on one possible solution to the problem laid out in the first part. As it turns out, there is possible rationale in adopting otherwise seemingly sub-optimal solution (software), taken into account customer's individual cost-benefit analysis. In course of work, a piece of program code has been designed and tested to function as a case-study. The software developed is lightweight, relatively easy to adapt to specific needs and practically requiring no user engagement prior to use. As presented in the work, it is designed having in mind the specific needs of a niche of customers wanting to avoid repetitive steps in bibliography formatting, but at the same time not willing to spend too much effort to adopt some of the more comprehensive automatized solutions available on the market. The software developed is given as open-source JavaScript code freely available on GitHub.

Keywords: time-effort economy, fit for purpose, bibliography style, javascript
