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Similar but different. The reglementation of administrative tutelage control in Romania

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Abstract

In order to meet the broad and diverse societal demands, public authorities and institutions exercise public power, but if the decision-making process is carried out with excess of discretion, significant irregularities may arise. Irregularities may also occur unintentionally, due to various human or procedural errors. Thus, the control function over the administration is among the most useful tools necessary for a well-functioning administration.

Administrative tutelage control represents a key mechanism for ensuring the legality of certain administrative acts, playing an active role in protecting the general interest. The absence of such control can potentially trigger two issues. Without the tutelage control (1) certain regulatory provisions issued by local public authorities enjoying administrative and financial autonomy under decentralisation may be contrary to the general interest and (2) infringements of civil service and civil servant legislation could go unnoticed and uncorrected.

The Romanian legislation establishes that the administrative tutelage control can be exercised both by the prefect and the National Agency of Civil Servants (NACS). The purpose of this paper is to highlight the similarities and differences between the tutelage control carried out by the two public institutions.

For this paper, we have chosen to use the comparative approach. Therefore, the research will be qualitative, based on documentary observation.

Keywords: administrative tutelage, control, National Agency of Civil Servants, prefect's institution, regulations.

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Towards SDG UN goals: analysis of the most innovative companies in the automotive industry

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Abstract

Thanks to their innovation capacity, companies operating in the automotive sector can significantly contribute to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by proposing solutions such as the adoption of low-emission technologies, promoting accessible sustainable transportation, and enhancing road safety. However, automotive companies are facing an increasing need for transparency and accountability in addressing environmental and social challenges. Sustainability Reporting is recognized as crucial to demonstrate and communicate the company commitment to responsible resource management and sustainable practices. Particularly, materiality analysis is useful to guide companies in selecting key sustainability issues that are mainly influenced by company's activities and those that are the most relevant to stakeholders as to identifying the issues that merit most to be addressed by companies. This paper analyses the sustainability reports of the most innovative companies in the automotive industry, considering the Boston Consulting Group 2023 ranking. A Qualitative Content Analysis (QCA) approach is used to assess how the selected companies communicate their commitment to sustainable development and their contribution to achieve SDGs. The results show that companies are focused on: SDG 8 'Decent work and economic growth', 9 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure', 11 'Sustainable cities and communities', 12 'Responsible consumption and production', 13 'Climate action'.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sustainability Reporting, SDGs Reporting, Materiality Analysis, Innovation, Automotive.

A general overview of SME sector in Albania

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Abstract

The SME sector in Albania has a significant impact on the country's economy. The total number of economically active enterprises in Albania increased by 1.4% in 2021 compared to 2020, reaching 104,031 enterprises. Microenterprises experienced a decrease of 5.8% compared to 2016, while small and medium-sized enterprises showed growth with an increase of 27.09% and 23.24% respectively in 2021 compared to 2016. SMEs in Albania play a vital role in employment generation, accounting for 60.3% of total employment in the country. While microenterprises constitute over 92% of SMEs in Albania, they employ a relatively smaller proportion of the total number of employed individuals compared to their number. Small and medium-sized enterprises have shown an increasing trend in employment, with increases of 26.79% and 22.86% respectively compared to 2016. The SME sector in Albania contributes approximately 55% of the total turnover realized in the economy. Microenterprises generate 21.97% of the total turnover, small enterprises contribute 30.55%, and medium-sized enterprises account for 26.50% of the turnover in 2021. The value added by SMEs in Albania has shown an increasing trend. Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises experienced growth rates of 30.12%, 66.84%, and 66.63% respectively compared to 2016. Small enterprises consistently accounted for the highest percentage of investment during the analyzed years. However, there have been fluctuations, with large enterprises taking the lead in investment in 2017 and 2018. Overall, there has been a decreasing trend in investment growth in Albania, with negative growth rates observed in 2020 and 2021. Productivity: The labor productivity of SMEs in Albania has increased every year from 2016 to 2021. Larger enterprises generally exhibit higher labor productivity compared to smaller ones, benefiting from economies of scale, resource allocation, and access to advanced technologies and systems. Albania has made progress in implementing the Small Business Act (SBA) and has achieved high average scores in areas related to SME policy and support. Efforts to create a supportive ecosystem for SMEs include improvements in the institutional and regulatory framework, operational environment, public procurement, standards and technical regulations, and internationalization of SMEs. Limited accessibility to finance, technology, and knowledge remains a significant challenge for SMEs in Albania. Addressing this challenge requires efforts to improve access to finance through specialized lending programs, loan guarantee schemes, and enhancing financial literacy among SME owners. In conclusion, while SMEs in Albania make a significant contribution to the economy in terms of employment, turnover, and value added, there are areas that require further attention and support, such as access to finance and investment. Efforts to address these challenges and promote a favorable environment for SMEs can contribute to their growth, competitiveness, and overall economic development.

Keywords: SME, internal and external factors, growth

Evaluating genotoxic stress via a simple effective assay

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Abstract

The genome is under constant stress from agents that alter and/or modify and damage the DNA. The level of damage or alteration in the genetic material is dependent on the three major factors: type of cell, its location and lastly, its function. At the same time, three main mechanisms of action have been shown to cause the most DNA damage: environmental agents, chemical agents and cell metabolic products and byproducts. Erythrocytes, also known as red blood cells, are responsible for the transportation of most of the compounds circulating in the organism. They take an active role as first responders against harmful external pathogens. This exposes and makes them susceptible to a variety of harmful agents, leading to short-, medium- and long- term stress, which in turn leads to the accumulation of DNA damage.

This study is focused on evaluating the damage caused to the DNA when exposed to chemical agents by using Comet assay as a genotoxicity test for *in vivo* organisms. This semi-quantitative test has the advantage of being able to detect stand damages in the cell, be they either single- (SSB) and/or double stranded (DSB). We hereby show that comet assay serves as a simple molecular method able to assess cumulative DNA damage effects in organisms living in contaminated waters.

Keywords: Comet assay, genotoxicity, DNA, strand, stress

Migration and Ethnicity. European Challenges and Solutions

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Abstract

People's movement from place to place is a process characterising the entire evolution of humankind. The motivation for mobility is a wide and thorough analytical endeavour, as it involves a constant adjustment to the challenges of present times. However, such challenges lay at the basis of the reconfiguring of the epistemological framework and they are reasons for the increasing interest in the analysis of the phenomenon of the European and international migration.

As for the European Union space, we have two distinct approaches of population movement: on the one hand we report to the mobility of people from Member States of the European construction project, whose circulation is guaranteed and prescribed by treaties and regulations and, on the other hand, we report to the migration of people from third states into the community space and to the migration of people from Member States into the non-EU space. The aim of the paper is to expose the current context of migration at a European level and to analyse the theories that define the phenomenon and the current classification directions.

The European construction is based on cultural and traditional diversity, which is specific to the various regions composing it, and hence the "we" vs. "them" dichotomy must also be properly managed as an ethnicity pattern. This approach requires a serious involvement of the State, which plays a fundamental role in mediating the relation between individuals and society and implicitly generates inclusion and exclusion processes. This is particularly obvious in Eastern European countries. The 1990s were a real challenge for the European Union given the increase of the number of asylum applications continuing with the 2015 migration crisis until nowadays. In such a context, European integration has significant effects on the production of "good" and "bad" international migration models. The encouragement vs. restriction policy is not in agreement with the migrants' characteristics, but with the way in which international migration is seen by the states and supranational decision makers.

The migration topic has so many aspects and it implies so many analysis directions that this perspective that we may limit to a political, institutional and sociological level partially covers the generosity of such a discursive field. Once known, migration tendencies may be examined from the view point of their positive and negative effects and they may thus give a valuable answer firstly to local decision makers and secondly to national and European decision makers in order to have a better understanding of ethnicity and its limits.

Attitudes towards Slovak and English among ethnic minority Hungarian high schoolers

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Abstract

For the Hungarian ethnic minority living in Slovakia, Slovak is commonly considered as a second and English as a foreign language. In this paper, I present the results of a survey in which I examined and compared the Slovak and English language attitudes of 244 ethnic Hungarian high schoolers who attended secondary schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction. According to the public opinion, the level of Hungarian secondary school students' knowledge of the official language is low. Nevertheless, my research shows that the assumed lack of Slovak language proficiency is not only due to inadequate teaching-learning methods. Similarly, the main reason for increasing English-language fluency of the youth is not solely the English class at school. In the average teenager's life, English plays a vital role and holds significant social prestige, which results in predominantly positive attitudes towards English language learning, which is a key to its success. Due to the gap-filling nature of the completed survey, the results can serve as a basis for conducting larger-scale research.

Keywords: language attitudes, minority education, foreign-language acquisition.

Challenges and results of architecture teaching via online platforms during the Covid-19 pandemic

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Abstract

The teaching of first-year architecture students is always a challenge, as we face with different level of their foreknowledge. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused student from the University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Technical Sciences to continue learning through different online platforms. This paper presents the challenges, experiences and achieved results after work with 120 first-year students of architectural engineering in the one semester course Architectural Analysis, functions, and typology, which is the main subject where student acquire basic knowledge of architecture, space dimensioning and other basics of this engineering profession. Given that this is a subject where classes take place through lectures and exercises with practical tasks, the challenge was how to jointly discuss and correct their drawings with spatial-functional proposals. Teachers from the course established a method by which each student had a continuous insight into the comments of all proposals and was able to hear the answers and comments as well as to discuss with all colleagues. After the end of the semester, analyzing the results of the work and the final grades of students, it turned out that this method gave excellent results, despite the doubts of teachers about the final outcomes of this remote teaching and learning. However, after the end of semester and communication with students, it was showed that working in classrooms, through direct contact, is better for gaining knowledge and developing the engineering personality of young colleagues.

Keywords: architecture, teaching, learning, Covid-19 pandemic.

Fostering practice relevant skills through business simulation games in higher education

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Abstract

Our research deals with a qualitative exploration on how business simulation games (BSGs) may contribute in building up relevant soft and hard skills in the field of business education. This research topic stems from our continuous endeavour to enrich the students' learning experience with the goal of preparing them for an ever-changing, globalized, and hard-knock labour market. Thus, we ask "if and in what way do BSGs contribute to the process of skill acquisition and development, in a higher education context".

The methodological research setting has been grounded with taking into account the fundamentals of the qualitative data collection and analysis. Thus, after experiencing different types of BSGs in several management subjects, business students have been asked to describe within reflective essays and focus groups, their perception regarding learning styles, learning and winning strategies, and they also assess in an analytical manner if and how business simulation games contribute in building up the employers' demand of professional attributes. For data analysis, we deployed the MAXQDA 2022 software, which allowed the usage of some preliminary data analysis tools such as generating auto coding and word clouds.

Our preliminary results show that BSGs enrich traditional learning techniques, contribute in developing skills, and may ease students' later labour market insertion.

Keywords: game, simulation game, higher education, management teaching.

Opinions about the use of Hungarian language among secondary school students in Slovakia

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Abstract

In Slovakia, based on the 2021 census data, more than 420,000 persons declared themselves to be of Hungarian nationality and more than 460,000 persons declared themselves to be Hungarian as their mother tongue. Therefore, Hungarians constitute the largest national minority in the country. The defining element of the identity of the Hungarian minorities living outside Hungary's borders is the Hungarian language. At the same time, the minority Hungarian language varieties show differences compared to the Hungarian standard in Hungary, characterized by a greater degree of dialecticity and contact phenomena created as a result of bilingualism. In many cases, the assessment of these differences is negative, and this assessment can contribute to the loss of space for minority languages. In our questionnaire research examining Hungarian language varieties in Slovakia, we asked 793 Slovak high school students studying Hungarian about whether they had received comments about their language use. 13 educational institutions from the regions of Slovakia inhabited by Hungarians joined the research. Our results show that 56% of students have already received comments about their speech. The students' answers revealed that almost half of the comments were about the dialect they used. About 20% of the respondents reported a negative comment about their speech. Among the answers, there were also comments in which Slovak native speakers criticized the use of the Hungarian language in certain speech situations. In our presentation, we analyze the speech situations in which the informants received criticism regarding their speech.

Keywords: dialect, attitude, minority, Hungarian language.

Ecological transition potential of tourists in mountainous Ajara: a problem and the perspective

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Abstract

One of the main directions for sustainable development of mountainous regions is rational application of touristic and recreational resources, especially in quite densely populated regions, and environment is known with low sustainability. The mentioned issue constitutes one of urgent topics of modern times and identification of issue and setting a reference in line with its settlement (on the example of particular region) will bear an applicable significance. Tourism is granted with priority in line with increase of social and economic level of mountainous Ajara, but there are number of problems in its development. The work evaluates the potential of touristic and recreational resources of mountainous Ajara, geographic originalities of tourism development and the role of tourism in increase of local population's living standards. There are established the territorial originalities of ecological transition potential of tourists and on the basis of existing resources, there are determined the development perspectives of some particular type of tourism.

Keywords: resource, potential, tourism, ecology.

University of Foggia: Promoting an Interdisciplinary Path in Security Issues, from the Crime Scene to Cyber Security

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Abstract

The Department of Law of the University of Foggia is engaged in researching issues related to crime scene investigations, cyber security and digital investigations. From these researches, two unique courses in Italy were born with the objective of providing a set of interdisciplinary skills on security issues (from the crime scene to the investigations of terrorist scenarios to cybersecurity issues).

The first one, the three-year degree course in Investigative Sciences, offers a training course aimed at acquiring the basic knowledge of legal subjects related to crime scene investigations. It is combined with the knowledge of the main criminalistics techniques of intervention on the crime scene through a practical laboratory.

The aim of the course is to provide a set of specialized knowledge in the study of both physical and digital traces.

This course is completed through a two-year degree course in Legal Sciences of Security with the goal of creating professionalism that pertain to the sphere of security.

This course focuses on the fields of privacy, cyber security and their effects in the legal, economic, institutional and social fields, and aims to provide specialized knowledge in three specific fields of intervention, such as data security, safety at work, and security of the State.

The Department, through the creation of these courses, responds to the need to create the figure of the jurist of the future in an interdisciplinary perspective for understanding and combatting the most criminal phenomena in the national territory, with particular regard to organized and digital crimes.

Keywords: University, Crime Scene, Cyber Security, Criminalistics, Criminal Phenomena, Digital Forensics.

The Girl Hero: The Hero's Journey in Robert Munsch's *The Paper Bag Princess*

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Abstract

Joseph Campbell, in his work *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, charts the typical journey that heroes in literature take on their quests. In Robert Munsch's pivotal children's picture book, *The Paper Bag Princess*, Campbell's theories are highlighted and reinterpreted; however, there is one major difference between the stories Campbell discusses and Munsch's hero. Elizabeth is a girl who defeats a dragon to save her handsome prince who has become the gallant in distress. Elizabeth's journey resembles those taken by male characters, but this story, first published in 1980, creates a safe space for girl readers to explore their strength and ingenuity as they encounter their own dragons. Munsch delineates the heroic quests Campbell's work outlines but by using a teenage girl instead, accompanied by illustrations by Michael Martchenko. This text has become an integral introduction to feminist thought for millions of readers since its first publication.

Keywords: Children's Literature, Feminism, Hero's Journey.

Place Branding and the Healthcare Brands in 21st Century

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Abstract

The place branding has interesting influence over the industries and Markets. The research about links between place branding and the healthcare organization is very vital to understand the process of Healthcare Branding and the Brand Building Block in this market. The research has the hypothesis that - "Good Healthcare is strongly linked to branded Geographical Locations ". From the general Hypothesis we have some following ideas:

H1. To brand healthcare organization for international customers start with branding of the place.

H2. For the branding of healthcare organization important is Ingredient Branding

According these main and sub hypotheses, the research project was started. Firstly, due to Explorative marketing research the Literature review was undertaken. After that the Expert Analyzes were started with the tactics of deep interview.

The 47 experienced nurses and doctors were participated in this process. The results is the model of the healthcare organization branding in link with place branding of the area where this organization is located.

Keywords: branding, healthcare marketing, ingredient branding, place marketing, place branding, country marketing.

Quiet Diplomacy. Lessons Learned from the International Olympic Committee

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to analyse quiet diplomacy and strategic ambiguity as communicative strategies employed by the International Olympic Committee. The main research questions focus on the manner in which the IOC uses political neutrality and strategic ambiguity at a discursive level and how concerns related to freedom of speech or violations of human rights are addressed. A case study on the boycotts against China as host of the Olympic Games has the purpose exemplifying the above-mentioned strategies.

Visual Communication and Cultural Diversity in International Advertising

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Abstract

Cultural environment influences advertising. Although markets are becoming increasingly similar in most of the countries, the biggest challenge of marketing and advertising decision-makers of multinational companies is how to communicate effectively with consumers of a different culture. Previous studies emphasize the necessity of adapting advertising strategies to the consumers' culture. Meanwhile, in effective advertising, sometimes visuals communicate better than words. In this context, the main purpose of the study is to investigate how visuals are used in international advertising in Albania, how they are designed and how they reflect cultural differences. The study is based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods of scientific research: descriptive analysis of respondents gathered through questionnaires and in-depth interviews with advertising agencies specialists in order to examine to what extent the cultural traits are taken into consideration by advertisers in international advertising campaigns. Findings show that Albanian companies and advertising agencies are more focused on ethical than cultural issues of advertising. Being a small market and the financial crisis of the media has affected the lack of attention to cultural differences in advertising. The study emphasizes the need to pay more attention to the cultural aspects of international brand advertisements, especially style and visual communication.

Keywords: visual communication, individualistic/collectivistic culture ,diversity, advertising.

Technological scheme of two-phase separator

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Abstract

When oil is lifted from the wells, the pressure gradually decreases, as a result of which gas begins to be released from the oil. The more the pressure decreases, the more the gas volume increases and the oil flow becomes two-phase. In case of stratification of water and oil, the flow can be three-phase. The volume of gas under normal conditions is usually several tens of times greater than the volume of liquid, so it is economically feasible to separate gas from oil and transport them separately. The process of separating gas from oil is called separation. The apparatus in which this occurs is called an oil and gas separator or a two-phase separator. So, separation is the first processing after extraction, which consists in the separation of products: gas, oil and water. Types of oil separators: vertical installation, horizontal installation.

Keywords: Separation, wells, two-phase, extraction.

For linguo-historical study of one Zan hydronym of Western Georgia

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Abstract

Any name is the result of a person's rational activity and therefore, it is a conscious act. The naming of any object was and is in accordance with the Linguistically nominative traditions that have been formed for thousands of years and the logical and psychological point of view of the collective that gave the names. Fragments of one of the Kartvelian languages of Zan (Mingrelian-Laz languages) are tangibly represented In the vocabulary of the western dialects of Georgian language which is qualified in specialized literature as a Zan substratum. Traces of Zan language can be seen in Western Georgian dialects, that is, the motivation of the naming can only be determined from the data of the Mingrelian-Laz languages. As for the toponymic substratum, it is a trace of the defeated (foreign or related) language in the toponymy of the victorious ethnos as a result of the mixing of languages. Hydronymy is an ancient and interesting part of toponymy. It contains a lot of interesting information for studying the material and spiritual life of the ancestors, for determining the history of the language development. A hydronym is the name of a hydrographic object like a large and small river, its separate section - a whirlpool, a waterfall, Mosabruni (the point where the turning takes place) a fishing place, a branch, Fshani(aspring that flows from the river), as well as a sea, a lake, a canal, a swamp, a marshy are, etc. In this paper, we present one geographical name confirmed in Western Georgia (Ajara), namely, the historical and geographic information of the hydronym "Bartskhan" and its linguistic analysis.

Keywords: toponymy, hydronymy, Zanism, substratum, history, etymology.

The role of industry 4.0 on manufacturing sustainability

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Abstract

Covid-19 pandemic has determined a reconfiguration of the way business work, and digitalization is playing an important role in enhancing the firm's internationalization process and in particular for firms that operate in manufacturing industry. In particular, firms have shown an acceleration of their internal and external operations. This study aims to investigate the role of Industry 4.0 in accelerating sustainability in manufacturing industry. Albanian firms that operate in manufacturing industry are investigated. The results indicate that firms that do engage in sustainable business practice can increase growth and global competitiveness through operating more efficiently, enhancing productivity and saving cost. Moreover, the results indicate that firms that do engage in sustainability show high level of firm's performance rather than firms that do not engage in sustainability. This study contributes to international business literature with a particular focus on internationalization process through sustainability.

Keywords: Sustainability, Industry 4.0, Internationalization, Manufacturing, Albanian Firms, Innovation

Inbound and Outbound Tourism in China: New Perspectives

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Abstract

The tourism industry has undergone significant changes over the years, driven by numerous factors such as globalization, technological advancements, and changing consumer preferences. In China, tourism has emerged as a significant contributor to the country's economic growth, with both inbound and outbound tourism playing crucial roles. This thesis aims to explore new perspectives on inbound and outbound tourism in China, highlighting the key trends, challenges, and opportunities in this dynamic industry.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the tourism industry, with both inbound and outbound tourism ending. The pandemic has highlighted the need for the tourism industry to adopt new approaches and adapt to the changing environment. For example, there has been a growing focus on domestic tourism in China, with the government encouraging citizens to explore their country and support local businesses. Additionally, there has been a surge in virtual tourism, with travelers using technology to explore destinations and attractions remotely.

Inbound tourism faces several challenges in China, such as language barriers, cultural differences, and visa restrictions. China has taken steps to address these challenges, such as implementing visa-free policies for certain countries and investing in infrastructure to enhance the tourism experience. However, there is still room for improvement, and China needs to continue to enhance its tourism infrastructure and addressing the concerns of international travelers.

Outbound tourism in China has grown rapidly in recent years, driven by the country's growing middle class and increasing levels of internationalization. Chinese tourists have become a significant force in the global tourism industry, with their spending power and travel preferences influencing destinations worldwide. However, there are also challenges associated with outbound tourism, such as safety concerns, language barriers, and cultural differences. The Chinese government has implemented various measures to address these challenges, such as providing safety guidelines and travel advice to its citizens and working with other countries to enhance travel safety and security.

The tourism industry in China is dynamic and rapidly evolving, with new opportunities and challenges emerging all the time. As the country continues to grow and develop, the tourism industry will play a crucial role in driving economic growth and enhancing cultural exchange. However, to fully realize the potential of the industry, China needs to continue to innovate and adapt to the changing environment, taking into account the needs and preferences of both inbound and outbound travelers.

Keywords: inbound tourism; outbound tourism; China; new perspectives.

The role of the biology laboratory, as well as experimental work, in achieving effective teaching, as well as increasing the level of student learning, in the acquisition of biological scientific concepts.

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Abstract

The subject of biology, which is dealt with in the group of subjects of the scientific field of natural sciences, deals in its subject matter with a series of concepts, where their acquisition by pupils and students is achieved only if the theory is applied in practice. Therefore, it is necessary and immediate that in the process of teaching biology, teachers, in addition to the scientific level they must have in the knowledge of biological concepts, in order to achieve the biological formation of students, it is very important that the teacher in the teaching process must use efficient methods, especially the practical ones: experiment, observation, excursions.

Purpose: Through the study, it is possible to draw the conclusion that the experimental method is used by biology teachers, in the process of teaching biology, in function of connecting theory with practice, in order to increase the level of learning of students in the subject of biology.

Methodology: The research was carried out in several high schools in Tirana. For the realization of this study, the qualitative method was applied. At the same time, observations, records and comparisons were made. The interviews of biology teachers and students of these schools were used as a research instrument.

Results: Showed that biology teachers recognize the importance of experimental work that takes place in biology laboratories, at the same time the condition of these laboratories, identifying their condition as well as the deficiencies they have in infrastructure and laboratory tools. Absence that brings a lot of damage to the teaching and learning process. At the same time, the study managed to identify the real state of these laboratories, the possibilities that these laboratories have for the development of experimental works, as well as their role in increasing the level of students as well as in connecting theory with practice.

Conclusion: The research study leads us to the conclusion that the experimental works that are carried out in the biology laboratory occupy an important place in every step of teaching, as they serve as a source for the acquisition of knowledge, theories, biological concepts by students and their application in practice. At the same time, the study highlighted that, in addition to schools that had quality laboratories, there were also schools where the situation was not good with lack of teaching aids. This has caused this process to not be evaluated properly, leading to a decrease in the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process.

Keywords: Laboratory, experiments, teaching, learning, method, concept.

Artificial change of toponymy as a tool of propaganda of Soviet ideology

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Abstract

Toponymy, this original area of the vocabulary of the language, is a kind of guide, since taking into account the conclusions obtained on the basis of its scientific study is the best way to fully understand nature, landscape, historical past, culture, the area of ethnic groups, migration, the existence of a particular country.

We consider it especially important to include toponymy as an auxiliary discipline in the educational process of general education schools.

With this goal, since 2022, we have started work on the project "**Georgia through Toponymy**". The topic turned out to be very diverse. We already discussed a number of issues in the process of formal and informal training with students of senior classes (several schools of city of Tbilisi).

This time we present only one aspect of the project - "**Artificial change of toponymy as a tool of propaganda of Soviet ideology**".

We consider it important, observing the artificial change of pre-selected toponyms (names of small cities), to give students an understanding of the tragic history of 20th-century Bolshevism-infected Georgia, which is still not fully appreciated and underestimated by modern society. In this direction, students research, analyze materials, and then record and evaluate certain episodes from the country's history. The dramatic pages of history seen in this way, the acts of authoritarian rule that they reveal, make the entire picture of that era even more vivid.

In the report, we present several interesting examples of artificial toponym change.

Keywords: Toponymy, Soviet, Georgia, propaganda, education, school.

Student Accommodation in the City of Split: Socio-economic Aspects

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Abstract

The city of Split is a student city as well as a popular tourist destination and as such shapes specific living conditions for students. The aim of the paper is to analyze the socio-demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Split students. Also the aim is to explore experiences and attitudes about the problem of finding student accommodation in the city of Split and students' satisfaction with the quality of life in student dormitories and private accommodation. The research was conducted during July 2021 using an online survey method with 20 mostly close-ended questions. The sample included 460 students of the University of Split whose residence is outside of Split. The sample was stratified according to the available socio-demographic characteristics of students based on data from the Student Center. Results indicate that the majority of respondents who use a student dormitory do so solely because of their lower socio-economic status. More than a quarter of the respondents did not experience subsidization for private accommodation, and most of them encountered at least once the request to leave the accommodation during the summer exam period. The results indicated student dissatisfaction with the price of private accommodation in Split and general satisfaction with their own student accommodation. As the basic problems of accommodation, students cite insufficient capacity of dormitories and excessively high prices of private accommodation, as well as requests to leave from their accommodation units due to the tourist season.

Keywords: student accommodation, mass tourism, quality of life, Split, dormitories, private accommodation

Science-integrating university teaching at Socratic Lectures symposia

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Abstract

We report on experiences with introducing scientific work and digitalization into curriculum of undergraduate students. The process initiated in 2008, when a plenary lecture donated by a renown scientist was included in the elective course of Hip Biomechanics at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana. The event included the exam of the students in which they had to answer questions related to the plenary lecture, and to the lectures presented during the course. The plenary lecturer and other colleagues who attended the live event were encouraged to help the students to present optimal answers. In the following years, the emerging themes included experts from different fields and the students of the other faculties from University of Ljubljana and abroad. The events were called Socratic Lectures (www.lkb.si/about). The development of digital tools enabled online events with excellent lecturers as well as students from all over the world. Within the curriculum, the students are obliged to attend the symposium online. Following the plenary lecture (45 minutes) and a 10-minute break, the students are divided into section rooms. The sections last 2 hours. The students receive the exam questions, and those that are in the same room must produce a joint online document in which they outline the contents of the plenary lecture and the particular scientific section. They also answer the exam questions that are related to the contents. The documents of all sections are placed on the forum (e.g. Google drive) and access is made available to all the attendants of the symposium who are encouraged to check the results and suggest improvements. After the revision by the teacher, and a review of the editors, the summed up document is published in the symposium proceedings, along with papers from the scientific sections. The objective of the curriculum is for the students to learn of recent developments in excellent science, to communicate directly with world top scientists in the respective fields and to experience contributing to a document that merits publication. We found modern communication tools as valuable instruments for introduction of excellent science to undergraduate students.

Greek traditional dance festivals and cultural tourism. The case of the Municipality of Orestiada Evros, Greece

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Abstract

In recent years dance festivals and dance events have been the fastest growing sources of tourist attraction and appear to play an important role in the tourism industry. One of these festivals is the 'Greek Traditional Dance Festival of Nea Orestiada in Greece, which takes place every year at the end of August and is visited by dance clubs from all over Greece. The aim of this research is to study the contribution of Greek traditional dance to the development of cultural tourism. More specifically, taking as an example the Festival of Traditional Dances of Nea Orestiada in Greece, this research attempts to investigate through the cultural experience of the participants, how this dance festival contributes to the development of cultural tourism in the region. The collection of the data was carried out using the ethnographic method. More specifically, the data collection was carried out through a structured questionnaire and through a semi-structured interviews. Finally, the analysis and interpretation of the data was carried out on the basis of Geertz's "thick description", as a type of writing and ethnographic analysis that simultaneously involves the description and interpretation of ethnographic data. From the analysis of the data it was found that the festival of traditional dances of the municipality of Orestiada was an unforgettable cultural experience for the participants, creating a positive image in them of the hosting place, resulting in their desire to visit the region again or to promote the region as a destination. Finally, it could be said that the festival of traditional dances of the municipality of Orestiada has positive effects both on the society of Orestiada and on the dancers themselves, contributing to the cultural, economic and social development of the region, which it should be noted is not a tourist area of Greece.

Keywords: Dance, Cultural tourism, Dance festivals.

Comparison of the frequency of reflexive methods implementation and the importance of factors in their selection by teachers from the perspective of selected variables

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Abstract

The aim of the study was to analyze the frequency of implementation of reflexive methods by teachers and to assess the importance of determinants underlying the selection of their use from the perspective of selected variables. To monitor these aspects, a self-developed questionnaire consisting of two types of scales was used. The research took place in all regions of Slovakia. It involved 342 teachers working at the lower secondary level of education (teaching 7th-grade students). Their average length of experience was 15.76 years (SD=10.03). A statistically significant difference was demonstrated in the frequency of implementation of the reflexive method of self-observation, self-evaluation, and lesson preparation in terms of teachers' gender. Additionally, a statistically significant difference was found in the frequency of implementation of the reflexive method of pedagogical journal, teacher portfolio, studying professional pedagogical literature, and considering students' opinions on the course of teaching in relation to teachers' interest in undergoing education focused on reflective teaching. We also identified a statistically significant difference in the frequency of implementation of the reflexive method of professional standard in terms of teachers' years of experience (this difference, considering pairwise comparisons, was observed between teachers with 2 – 5 years of experience and 26 – 30 years of experience). A statistically significant difference was found in the importance of the factor of reflection goal in the selection of reflective methods in terms of teachers' gender. Additionally, a statistically significant difference was observed in the importance of the factor of material-technical equipment of the school in the selection of reflective methods in relation to teachers' completion of education focused on reflective teaching. We also identified a statistically significant difference in the importance of the factor of material-technical equipment of the school when selecting reflective methods in terms of teachers' years of experience (this difference was observed in pairwise comparisons between teachers with 21 – 25 years of experience and 31 or more years, 16 – 20 years of experience and 31 or more years, 2 – 5 years of experience and 31 or more years). The findings suggest that the frequency of implementing reflective methods and the importance of factors in selecting reflective methods may be (in some cases) influenced by teachers' personality characteristics and level of experience.

Keywords: factors, professional reflection, reflective methods, school, teacher.

Inclusive Pedagogy as a New Scientific and Organizational Paradigm. Croatian Educational Context

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Abstract

Inclusive pedagogy directs its focus to the creation of scientific consideration of quality parameters for the implementation of educational inclusion as well as practical models for successful implementation. Education workers within the education system are included in the *medias res* position. In the context of the paradigm of permanent professional development, there is a continuous need to create additional training programs for teachers to work with children and students with special needs, both in regular educational institutions and in special institutions with the aim of strengthening the personal and professional competences of teachers and professional associates for the successful implementation of inclusive education. Presentation of modern competencies for working with students with special needs through the prism of Bronfenbrenner's theory of human ecology and the theory of social constructivism represent the fundamental goal of this work, since it is necessary to continuously develop them, and thus adapt to modern tendencies of inclusive thinking. As educational inclusion is a part of social inclusion, the paper will present the connection between theoretical starting points in scientific reflections on educational inclusion and the concept of social inclusion in whole. In the creation and implementation of the program to strengthen competencies for inclusive work, the educational system highlights soft and transversal skills as priority activities. Inclusive education is based on the principle of accepting diversity among individuals, recognizing differences among students as an incentive for work, not an obstacle. In the spirit of understanding quality inclusion, it is extremely important to ensure both the educational inclusion of children with developmental disabilities and the social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labor market. By defining the key organizational, material and program assumptions for quality inclusion, the role of each key participants in educational practice at the level of the institution is strengthened. Inclusive pedagogy becomes a new paradigm.

Keywords: educational inclusion, inclusive pedagogy, Bronfenbrenner's theory of human ecology, theory of social constructivism, key participants in educational inclusion, education system.

Worth a Risk? A Study on Thai People's Attitudes Toward Invasive BCIs for Recovering Permanent Vegetative State Patients' Awareness and Consciousness

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Abstract

Invasive brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) were widely recognized for their remarkable ability to directly interface with regions of the brain, making them a potent tool for detecting and interpreting brain signals. This state-of-the-art neurotechnology had been the focus of extensive research and development over several decades. Nevertheless, in an age marked by rapid technological advancement, a significant concern arose: the possibility that the pace of innovation might outstrip our collective comprehension of how to ensure the ethical and responsible development and application of brain-computer interfaces. In this study, we discussed the societal perspectives and attitudes regarding the application of invasive brain-computer interfaces in patients with a permanent vegetative state (PVS). Through the presentation of hypothetical scenarios to survey participants, we encouraged deep contemplation on whether they would support the use of invasive BCIs, specifically for individuals trapped in the challenging condition of PVS. It was crucial to note that PVS was characterized by a widely accepted belief in its irreversibility, which left many patients unable to provide consent. Consequently, the significant responsibility of decision-making often fell on their closest family members. Our objective was to unravel the complex web of public opinion and ethical considerations by offering insights into the perspectives of our participants, primarily consisting of Thai youths.

Keywords: invasive brain-computer interfaces, permanent vegetative state, societal attitude

Albania towards European Union

An analysis of the conditionality of the Justice Reform

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Abstract

The fall of the Berlin Wall initiated the collapse of the communist regime in Albania. Through the last three decades the country has gone under numerous reforms, determined in the political agenda towards the European Union. The paper analyzes progress reports of the European Commission addressing issues regarding the judiciary and the measures that should have been implemented. In 2016, the justice reform was publicly discussed and imposed to the Albanian state to be initiated. The political actors that embraced the reform were European Union as well as United States of America. The mixed methodology of the paper includes qualitative analysis of European Union official documents and US State Department, and the indexes measuring the democracy and the rule of law in Albania. The contribution of the study will determine if the conditionality of the Justice Reform has contributed to the integration process. The case of Albania can highlight which is the reform process that other countries can implement to establish an impartial and uncorrupted judicial system.

Keywords: Democracy, rule of law, judicial system, Europeanization
