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Effectiveness of Electronic Monitoring in Achieving the Purposes of Punishment and Protecting the Rights of the Convict and Society

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Abstract

This study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the electronic monitoring system, encompassing all parties affected by its application. It also seeks to discuss some practical issues raised by this system, offering suggestions to avoid them or at least drawing the attention of concerned parties to address them. Given the importance of electronic monitoring and extensive readings on the topic, it has been revealed that most have overlooked the impact of this system on society, as well as its role in achieving the purposes of punishment, despite being an alternative to traditional punishment. This results in serious effects on both individuals and society. Thus, we have decided to dedicate this study to examining the balance that the electronic monitoring system strikes between achieving the purposes of punishment and rehabilitating the offender, as an alternative to custodial sentences, while also protecting the rights of the convict and society, as the convict serves their sentence within the community.

Keywords: electronic monitoring system, punishment, rehabilitation, offender, rights, society

Literature Review on the Importance of Rural Tourism

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Abstract

Rural tourism has a special importance in the economic and social development of rural regions. It provides opportunities for diversification of income sources for residents of rural areas, helping to preserve local traditions and culture. Through rural tourism, visitors have the opportunity to experience the way of life of the villagers, nature and beautiful landscapes, as well as local products. Another important aspect is the positive impact on environmental protection. Rural tourism often promotes sustainable practices and helps conserve natural resources. Also, this type of tourism stimulates the development of infrastructure and services in rural areas, creating jobs and improving the quality of life. However, it is necessary to carefully manage rural tourism to avoid negative consequences, such as pollution and destruction of nature. Therefore, a well-planned and sustainable approach is essential to ensure that rural tourism has a long-term positive impact on these communities.

Keywords: rural tourism, economic development, tradition, management challenge

Coaching attitudes of higher education coaching students - *Coach-Athlete relationship* -

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Abstract

Many studies have found - and our own previous research on women's football has confirmed this - that the role of the coach is of paramount importance in sport. Their work is wide-ranging, not only in planning and managing the sporting activities of their athletes, but also in providing mental support and motivation. A good coach can have a positive impact on retention and reduce drop-out.

In this light, the training of coaches is also a key task in all sports. Our university also runs coaching courses for future coaches of several sports. In our research, we investigate the coaching attitudes and beliefs of these students and how these change as a result of the pedagogical-psychological courses they have taken. Since, as mentioned earlier, coaches play an important role in the lives of athletes, our research will focus on students' experiences with their own coaches. Using the CART-Q questionnaire, we investigated how prospective coaches look back on working with their own coaches. In the future, we will also examine how these experiences have influenced the students' own coaching. In this presentation, the results of the CART-Q questionnaire are discussed in more detail.

Keywords: coaches, coach training, higher education, CART-Q

Expecting the Unexpected: The Recent Decision of Romania's High Court Concerning the Statute of Limitation in Repeated Corruption Offences

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Abstract:

By its Decision No. 1/2025, Romania's High Court of Cassation and Justice established the date on which a corruption offense is considered to have been committed in the particular case when, on different moments in time, several normative modalities of the actus reus or multiple acts that make up one of the characteristic actions incriminated by the corruption offence are carried out. The adopted solution, with some support in the classic national criminal law doctrine, comes, however, in contradiction with the legal solutions adopted in other states, both in Europe and beyond, posing a serious risk of undermining the criminal prosecution and punishment of corruption offenses and hindering Romania's compliance with its international obligations regarding the fight against corruption.

Therefore, while foreseeable from a certain perspective, the solution seems unexpected, difficult to comprehend on a wide social basis, and potentially capable of generating severe consequences.

Keywords: repeated corruption offences; beginning of the statute of limitations; Romania's High Court decision n. 1/2025.

The COVID pandemic: An opportunity for new digital expressions in opera management

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Abstract

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic acted as a shockwave disrupting the linearity of daily life worldwide, including the opera. This abrupt crisis created a totally new and constantly evolving reality for opera theaters across the world. In order to maintain their relevance to the public, rather than halting operations, many cultural institution managers quickly and actively engaged with audiences through innovative forms of delivering their cultural products (opera performance) to their public. The primary priority for opera management during this period was to ensure the continuous delivery of cultural productions to the public. The most widely adopted approach by all opera houses involved broadcasting archived performances, followed by the development of live-streamed productions. This innovative strategy of virtual offering proved to be a crucial launch point. Artistic experiments specifically conceived and produced for digital transmission were encouraged, leading to productions with distinct aesthetic objectives compared to live performances. These productions targeted different audiences and employed alternative modes of communication. Against this backdrop, opportunities for innovation became a fertile ground for those willing to look beyond apparent obstacles. Artists, organizations, and institutions worldwide responded to the challenges posed by the pandemic with agility and adaptability. For many, the crisis accelerated the transition toward digital environments, where self-preservation became a driving force for innovation. Opera management developed innovations as a response to the novel challenges imposed by global health restrictions and the increasing digitization of daily life. This study examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the digital transformation of the opera sector through the lens of innovation management. Evidence gathered from personal observations is presented. Results of a survey of theater managers and members of their audiences from Romania are presented, discussed and conclusions formulated.

Students report on Socratic Lectures as a part of the curriculum within the STEAM approach to university teaching

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Abstract

Socratic Lectures symposia www.lkbf.si/about have been organized since 2008 for the principal purpose: to introduce science to the students of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, within the curriculum implemented in the subject Biophysics and Biomechanics. Since our previous report in 2023 entitled “Science-integrating university teaching at Socratic Lectures symposia” that was presented at the Academia conference taking place in Vienna in 2023, our activities have expanded (both geographically and across interdisciplinary sections) and become better focused (approaching topics from different angles). The conferences hosted top scientists from different fields and students from different universities (from Egypt, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Spain, Serbia, Ukraine, and Slovenia). The latest symposium in 2025 was organized as a part of Z-STEAM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) consisting of a networking event with a concert of classical and contemporary music, and a recital by a renowned musician. Classical music included performances of the students of the Academy of Music and Contemporary music included compositions and performances of scientists presenting at the symposium.

Here, our focus is on interaction between the students and the symposia lecturers. As a part of the curriculum, the students composed reports on the contents of the lectures, to be published in the conference proceedings. Also, as a part of the curriculum, they assembled review articles on specific topics. By using modern communication tools, the lecturers were able to interact with the students in a real-time to improve and correct their work. The students used also artificial intelligence to accomplish their reviews. We observed the following challenges, related to the involvement of students: definition of sections (questions) to be addressed in the manuscript, and proper distribution of students over the tasks, to obtain good results and avoid confusion.

Natural Capital: Catalyst for Economic Growth or Obstacle to Sustainable Development

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Abstract

The ownership of natural capital, i.e., natural resources, plays a significant role in driving economic expansion. However, this alone is not sufficient to ensure long-term sustainable development. To achieve the full economic potential of an economy, additional factors are required, such as technological advancement, a well-educated workforce, and strong institutional frameworks. The paper presents and analyzes various perspectives on natural capital, ranging from its positive economic contributions to the potential risks associated with the "resource curse" and the "Dutch disease." Practically, while reliance on natural capital can stimulate economic activity, excessive dependence on its exploitation may hinder trade, reduce investments in other sectors, and limit progress in education, potentially encouraging corruption. A well-diversified economy, effective resource management, and strong institutional mechanisms can help mitigate these negative effects and support sustainable economic stability. Natural resources remain an integral part of industrial growth and business development, particularly in developing economies, but their responsible use and focus on energy efficiency are becoming essential components of modern economic strategies.

Keywords: natural capital, economic growth, diversification, institutions, investments, sustainable development

Investments in Physical Capital as a Factor of Economic Growth and Development Dynamics

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Abstract

The accumulation of physical capital significantly impacts economic expansion, yet its relationship with other forms of capital remains complex. Research indicates that investment in physical capital is inversely proportional to investment in natural capital. Human capital plays a crucial role as a complementary factor, enhancing the marginal productivity of physical capital and stimulating its further accumulation. Technological advancements, foreign direct investments, and education contribute to improving the productivity of physical capital, with both public and private investments being essential for its development. The impact of physical capital on economic growth depends on the level of economic development, as illustrated by the case of China. This paper also examines challenges in investment coordination, the implications of infrastructure projects, as well as the effects of globalization and financial flows. The analysis concludes that while investment in physical capital brings long-term benefits, its integration with other growth factors is necessary to mitigate risks and ensure sustainable economic development.

Keywords: physical capital, economic growth, investments, infrastructure, human capital, economic development

Territorial exaptive resilience: the case of Olsztyński subregion in Poland

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Abstract

The aim of the study is to indicate how existing resources can be used for other purposes in the face of a geopolitical crisis and whether it is possible to find a new development path for region as opposed to path dependency. The results show that actions that are part of the exaptive territorial resilience strategy can be identified with resilience phases (Masik, Grabkowska 2020; Masik, Gajewski 2021) that take into account a time-space configuration of strategic actions. In the first phase, in response to an external crisis, a given region should be resistant (persistent, withstanding pressure). Therefore, in line with engineering interpretation of resilience expenditures on technical infrastructure and defense sector should be increased. The next stage, i.e. absorption may concern the absorption of refugees and migrants e.g. from Ukraine, who can fill gaps in the labor market. The adaptation phase (in line with ecological resilience) may include the adaptation of buildings to new needs or purposes. Adaptability (in line with evolutionary resilience) may concern larger cities and the capital of the region with a critical mass to enter a new development path. These centres should invest more in innovation, support the defense sector and develop logistics.

Integrating artificial intelligence in tourism: A pathway to sustainable and digital transformation

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Abstract

Tourism is a sector marked by pronounced seasonality and sensitivity to macroeconomic trends, geopolitical events, sociological shifts, and climatic variations. In an era of rapid technological progress, artificial intelligence (AI) emerges as a transformative tool that addresses key challenges while fostering sustainability, digitalization, and resilience. This paper examines the integration of AI into tourism, emphasizing its role in optimizing business processes, enhancing strategic planning, and enabling real-time, evidence-based decision-making. Rooted in the EU-funded Futourist – AI Platform for Tourism Predictions project, this research presents an innovative AI-driven system for circular and digital tourism. The system harnesses large volumes of data—from weather conditions and historical visitor trends to social media insights—to generate reliable forecasts of tourism activity. By leveraging machine learning, big data, and predictive analytics, AI improves resource management and demand forecasting, supporting sustainable decisions aligned with environmental and economic objectives. Moreover, applications such as chatbots, virtual assistants, natural language processing, and smart travel assistants are revolutionizing customer interactions by personalizing experiences and enhancing operational efficiency. AI-driven predictive models also mitigate challenges like workforce shortages, environmental impacts, and crisis response, thereby ensuring a resilient and competitive tourism ecosystem. While AI offers significant benefits, its adoption raises concerns regarding data privacy, governance, and ethical considerations. This paper highlights AI's potential to shape the future of tourism in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and European strategic frameworks, and concludes with recommendations for developing AI-driven business models, ensuring responsible data management, and promoting sustainable practices, ultimately positioning the tourism sector to remain adaptable and future-ready.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, tourism, sustainability, digital transformation, Futourist

Exploring Gender Equality and the Innovation Capacity in Leading Companies

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Abstract

In recent years, gender equality has been acknowledged as a key factor for sustainable growth and improved business performance. Although this topic is of great importance and is currently being debated, the relevant scientific literature has several gaps. This study aims to investigate the relationship between gender equality and innovation capacity in highly innovative organizational contexts according to the ranking “The 50 Most Innovative Companies of 2023” by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG). A content analysis has been conducted to determine the level of completeness of corporate communication in their sustainability reports in terms of strategic vision, actions taken, and results achieved, with specific reference to gender equality and the corporate implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), set by the United Nations (UN) in the 2030 Agenda. The findings reveal that while the most innovative companies recognize the value of gender diversity, its direct impact on innovation is not always evident. The companies at the top of the ranking do not exhibit a direct connection between gender equality and innovation capacity, asking for a more comprehensive analysis of critical factors such as those related to the cultural and sectoral business contexts that can promote gender diversity as a driver of corporate competitiveness.

Keywords: gender gap, gender equality, innovation, sustainability reports, SDGs, content analysis.

The Battle of the Sexes: The Differences in Humor in Books Written for Girls Compared to Books Written for Boys

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Abstract

Is there a difference between the humor used in books written specifically for girls compared to the humor in books targeted for boy readers? There are three main theories of humor in literature – Incongruity Theory, Superiority Theory, and Relief Theory. Authors writing for both genders use all three humor theories; however, authors writing more for a girl readership use Incongruity most often and reject the tendency towards ridicule and nervousness that the other two theories include, while boy book authors will use more of a mixture of the theories. In *Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, Elizabeth*, author E.L. Konigsburg uses mostly Incongruity Theory almost exclusively. Jon Scieszka, the author of the Time Warp Trio novel, *The Knights of the Kitchen Table* mixes Incongruity Theory with both Superiority Theory and Relief Theory. Even though the books are funny and entertain readers of both genders, Konigsburg's novel is gentler and kinder in the type of humor. Scieszka's humor is not quite so kind and refined, which tends to appeal to boy readers.

Keywords: Humor Theory, Boy Books, Girl Books, Children's Literature

Difficulties encountered by students in learning the biology curriculum, as well as the teacher's role in eliminating these difficulties. Case study in some high schools in Tirana

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Abstract

The curriculum of biology as a scientific subject is very important in its program, which plays a very important role in the general and biological education of students, due to the fact that its program includes topics from the fields of medicine, genetics, zoology, ecology, as well as health and environmental education. Such a broad field of biology creates the potential for it to increase students' interest in this subject. The biology curriculum as a discipline goes beyond the memorization of scientific facts and terms, it provides a framework for understanding the complexity of living organisms and their intricate relationships with the environment. The biological formation of students takes on a great and special importance not only for technical preparation, but it is more related to everyday life.

Like the whole science that is evolving more and more, there is an unstoppable evolution of biological concepts and great achievements of this field in daily practice.

The 21st century is rightly called the century of technology and biology.

This great development of biological disciplines in this century had to be accompanied by a quality level of teaching and an increase in the level of student learning. But today, in addition to the achievements in the level and desire of the students for the biology curriculum, there are problems with the learning of a percentage of students who present a low level of or unwillingness for this subject. Every teacher of biology at school faces such a problem today. This is confirmed by the study conducted on this issue, which will be discussed in more detail in this study.

From the study done in the high schools of Tirana: "Aleks Buda", "Ibrahim Rugova", "Qemal Stafa", it turns out that some students have difficulties in the subject of biology. The study showed that the causes of this phenomenon are of an objective and subjective nature, but the most essential are: Lack of motivation to learn, lack of laboratories and didactic material base, but there are also teaching problems that appear sporadically, as well as presenting difficulties in understanding and learning some biological topics and concepts, which will be more clearly addressed in this summary study.

The study showed that by analyzing the results that were carried out in the questionnaire interviews with students and teachers, as well as by making comparisons between classes within the school and between schools, it turns out that in addition to other very important factors in increasing the level of learning of students in the biology curriculum, it is related to the professional level of the teacher, which encourages passion and inspiration to increase the interest of students in the biology curriculum.

Purpose: To highlight the difficulties presented by students in the biology curriculum, the causes of these difficulties, as well as the role of the teacher in raising the success of students with difficulties in learning biology.

Methodology: Research, quantitative and qualitative methods were used for the realization of this study. The review of the literature is based on the most contemporary literature related to the issue. Questionnaires and interviews with teachers and students served as pillars of the study. The study population was the teachers and students of "Aleks Buda", "Ibrahim Rugova", "Qemal Stafa" gymnasiums. The sample is two-layered consisting of the teacher and the student.

Results: From the analysis, discussion and evidence of the problems derived from the answers of the students and the opinions of the teachers, it results that some of students present difficulties for the subject of biology in learning. The study managed to identify the causes that have influenced the students who present learning difficulties.

Conclusions: The school and teachers should engage more in the identification of students with learning difficulties, perform their work to reduce the number of students with learning difficulties by eliminating the negative factors influencing the decrease of students' desire for the subject of biology, as well as teachers to plan and use contemporary teaching methodologies to increase students' interest in the subject of biology, as well as the level of learn.

Keywords: Biology curriculum, biological training, technology, teacher, motivation, learning, contemporary, didactic methods, techniques.

Identification and legal support for effective control of human trafficking (using the example of legal regulation in Latvia)

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Abstract

The problem of human trafficking is one of the most serious challenges to a modern state governed by the rule of law. Understanding the vastness and seriousness of the problem of human trafficking is enshrined in the form of criminal law protection of human rights to protection from any form of exploitation.

The article examines the legal regulation of the phenomenon of human trafficking in Article 154¹ and 154², as well as its interpretation in the Criminal Law of Latvia. Attention is paid to the special protection of the rights of the child – a victim of exploitation, regardless of the means used.

Research objectives: 1) to identify the relevance of the problem of human trafficking; 2) to summarize legal, including criminal law means of preventing human trafficking; 3) to analyze statistical data in Latvia on cases of human trafficking and also taking into account the percentage of latent crimes – human trafficking.

The article examines the legal regulation of the phenomenon of human trafficking in Articles 154¹ and 154², as well as its interpretation in the Criminal Law of Latvia. Attention is paid to the special protection of the rights of the child - a victim of exploitation, regardless of the means used.

Results of the study: in the light of EU regulations, an analysis of the problems of identifying forms of human trafficking was carried out, a summary of Latvian statistical data on Article 154¹ of the Criminal Law and criminal liability for human trafficking (from 2021 to 2024) was made, and an analysis of the legal protection of children - victims of human trafficking in Latvian legislation was carried out.

Research methods: descriptive, analytical, inductive and analysis of statistical data.

Keywords: Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Law, human rights, human trafficking, exploitation, rights of the children – victims of human trafficking.
