Social Innovations: Theoretical and Practical Insights

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White-collar crime terms in contemporary legal systems. Bilingual semantic analysis

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Abstract

Purpose. The research deals with the terms denoting offences which in law are called *white-collar crimes.* The term *white-collar crime* was coined in 1939 by Edwin Sutherland and referred to illegal activities committed in the course of work by people of high social status (wearing suits and white collared shirts) – politicians, public administration and business professionals. The paper presents the results of a contrastive analysis of the terms denoting white-collar crimes in English and Lithuanian and seeks to reveal their semantic differences.

Methodology. The research was performed using the descriptive-contrastive linguistic method which enables to unveil and compare the semantic peculiarities of terminology of different languages. The English legal terms were sourced from the Acts of the Parliament of the United Kingdom and the United States Code. The Lithuanian equivalents of the terms were selected from the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania. In addition, several monolingual and bilingual dictionaries of legal terms were used. The selected English terms were matched with the closest Lithuanian equivalents and contrastive semantic analysis of each pair of the terms was performed.

Findings. The research revealed the scope of terminology denoting white-collar crimes in English and Lithuanian and disclosed their semantic differences, e.g. some English terms cover a wider semantic field (encompass more types of criminal activities) in comparison to their Lithuanian counterparts or vice versa, some of the terms in the matched pairs have essential semantic differences and cannot be considered equivalents. The results allowed to group the English and Lithuanian terms into equivalency categories (near equivalents, partial equivalents and non-equivalents) and give recommendations to translators of legal terminology.

Research limitations/implications. The research focused on a limited group of terms denoting crimes committed by politicians, public administration and business professionals. The authors hope that the given paper will give impetus to further study of semantics of legal terminology in English, Lithuanian and other languages.

Practical implications. The offered insights into semantics of the terms denoting white-collar crimes are believed to be valuable for more efficient international communication of legal professionals, in legal translations, as well as in teaching and learning legal language.

Originality. The analysis carried out is the first attempt to analyse and compare semantics of the terms denoting white-collar crimes in English and Lithuanian.

Keywords (3-5): comparative legal terminology, white-collar crimes, semantic analysis.

Research type: research paper.

The system of state control and regulation of corporate relations in Ukraine and its influence on financial security of joint stock companies

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Abstract

The **purpose of the research is** the generalization and specification of the current system of state regulation of joint-stock companies functioning and the determination of problems and directions of improvement through the prism of the impact on the financial security of business entities.
Design/methodology/approach – This article examined the system of state regulation of joint stock companies (JSC) in Ukraine. Joint stock companies (JSC) play an important role in the economy of many highly developed countries as the most effective organizational form of corporate relations, which allows significantly expand financial opportunities of business. Transformation processes occurring in the economy of Ukraine significantly affect activities of joint stock companies demanding changes in terms of their functioning and implementing new approaches to define their own place in the market environment. The system of state control and regulation has a tremendous importance for the development and effective functioning of joint-stock companies. Despite a large number of investigations, the evaluation of the impact of government regulation on the efficiency and financial security of stock companies has not been given enough attention in the national literature.

Findings – State regulatory and supervisory authorities significantly affect the condition and the level of financial security of JSC via the adoption of normative legal acts regulating the requirements for joint-stock companies as issuers of securities and stock market participants, as well as the implementation of law enforcement monitoring their activities. The analysis of the current regulatory processes of joint stock companies on the stock market of Ukraine indicates the insufficiency and inefficiency of activities of controlling and regulatory authorities in the field of implementing the considered directions of the state's influence on the state of JSC's financial security. The proof this conclusion is that the vast majority of Ukrainian JSCs are formally present on the considered market. As a rule, joint stock companies do not attract the capital for their development through the mechanism of issuance and circulation of securities. In other words, the functioning joint-stock form of management in Ukraine, which is one of the most effective organizational forms in foreign countries, has not led to the activation of the investment process in the country. In addition, the current state of corporate governance in Ukraine characterized by the lack of transparency of JSCs' activities, lack of coordination of actions by the organs of state administration in the regulation of corporate relations.

Research limitations/implications – The reseach is concentrated on the system of state control, regulation of corporate relations in Ukraine.

Practical implications – There is the necessity of adjusting the strategy of state regulation of JSC's functioning and it's focusing on streamlining of relationship between JSC as issuers of securities

and investors (shareholders) and the regulation of corporate relations and corporate governance in joint stock companies in general.

Originality/Value – Effective system of state control and regulation can contribute to raising the level of financial security of joint stock companies.

Keywords (3-5): JSC, government regulation of JSC activities, financial security.

Research type (choose one): research paper.

Victims and perpetrators of identity theft in cyberspace

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Abstract

Purpose – Crimes convicted in Cyberspace have their own peculiarity including some specific perpetrators and victims. One of the most dangerous and most progressing negative social phenomenon in Cyberspace is Identity theft, having huge impact for economies and global business. Identity theft as a crime *per se* is criminalized in some few countries, but in most of countries this activity is not criminalized. Identity theft as harmful activity in most of the cases is preparation to convict other crimes (for example, terrorism, fraud, etc.). The knowledge about perpetrators and victims of Identity theft is very useful for detection, prosecution and prevention of Identity related crimes. The purpose of this article is to study peculiarities and classification of victims and perpetrators of Identity theft in Cyberspace.

Design/methodology/approach – The research is based on secondary analysis, case studies, comparative studies and historical methods.

Findings – Group of scientists has analyzed what paculiarities of perpetrators and victims of Identity theft. Classification of victims and perpetrators was examined and provided.

Research limitations/implications – As far as in numerous cases, Identity theft is very latent negative social phenomenon, therefore it was difficult to find correct data and information on the subject of the research.

Practical implications – Study of perpetrators and victims may help to simplify crime detection, prosecution, prevention and to prepare recommendations how to minimize risk of Identity theft.

Originality/Value – Identity theft is very mobile and shifting negative social phenomenon. The scientists have researched peculiarities of this phenomenon related to victims and perpetrators. There are very few new specialized scientific studies in this field of research.

Keywords (3-5): Victim, Perpetrator, Identity theft in Cyberspace.

Research type (choose one): research paper.

The effect of market concentration in Lebanon

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Abstract

Purpose – The banking sector in Lebanon contributes towards 7% of the country's GDP and its performance is highly satisfactory. However, the structure of the sector seems to be highly concentrated and major players are very often accused of acting as a Cartel influencing the fiscal and monetary policy decisions. In recent years, the Central Bank of Lebanon has been encouraging mergers and acquisitions to help the sector's compliance with the Basel IIII requirements as well as in response to the recommendations by the US Administration to consolidate the sector and bring down the number of banks from the current 52 to 25. This might well reduce competition, increase market concentration and harm further the already questionable financial efficiency of the sector. This study aims to investigate the effect of market concentration in the banking industry on banks' performance in Lebanon.

Design/methodology/approach – There are several frameworks in industrial economics to analyze the effect of market concentration on performance. The SCP approach is widely used in the literature and can be used in the Lebanese context due to data availability. According to this approach, one would expect more competition to bring better performance. As such, the different indices of market concentration are discussed and the change in market concentration since 2008 is presented for different banks' groupings (i.e. Alfa banks, Beta banks, Gamma banks, and Delta Banks) using data from Databank. Using panel data analysis for a sample of 52 banks over the period 2007-2013, and using both fixed and random effects, the validity of the hypotheses are verified.

Findings – The empirical results are expected to find a positive effect of market concentration on banks' profitability as well as the effect of both allocative and operation efficiency. These results can allow concluding if the market structure matters and are the main drivers of banks performance in Lebanon.

Research limitations/implications – This paper could alternatively use the "structured" approach to identify the effect of market concentration however the lack of data prevents using take this approach. Moreover, it would be preferable to cover the period since 1990 but the Databank doesn't provide data for that period.

Practical implications – The findings of this paper have tremendous implications on competition policy in the banking industry in Lebanon. If market concentration appears to have a positive effect then it would be possible to predict that the recent trends initialized by the Central Bank will further enhance market concentration and profitability of the banking industry.

Originality/Value – To our knowledge, this is the first paper in Lebanon that investigates the issue of market concentration in light of the recent trends and provides policy insights.

Keywords (3-5): Banking Sector; Market Concentration; Competition; Lebanon.

Research type (choose one): research paper.

Direct application of the WTO agreements Lithuanian legal system: the challenges for the development of international trade regulation framework

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Abstract

Purpose – The article examines the main World Trade Organization (**WTO**) agreements (GATT agreement (1994), the Agreements on the determination of customs value of goods and the customs origin of goods) and describes problems of the direct application of these source of law in the Republic of Lithuania from the moment of accession to the WTO (2001) and entry to the European Union (**EU**). The article seeks to answer the question whether these sources of law in the national legal system are recognized as the legal acts, which have the capability of direct application and can be invoked on a national level by individual persons in order to protect their legitimate rights and interests in international trade operations.

Design/methodology/approach – analysis of relevant issues is based both on theoretical (analysis and synthesis, systematic) and in particular empirical methods (statistical analysis of data, analysis of documents, generalization of professional experience, in particular – practice of the courts of Lithuanian Republic in disputes with customs authorities, practice of European Court of Justice (**ECJ**) in cases regarding interpretation and application of WTO agreements). The article consists of an introduction, three chapters and conclusions.

Findings – although many legal systems of the World and the practice of ECJ recognizes that WTO agreements are not recognized as the source of law (international treaties) which has the capability to be directly applied and it is not permitted for the litigants to rely on their provisions in order to challenge the validity and legitimacy of national and EU laws (decisions), the practice and experience of Lithuania in this area is rather specific and unique, since 2013 national case law is essentially based on the provision that these sources could be directly applied on a national level in cases, regarding taxation of international trade operations.

Research limitations/implications – the article analyzes the practice of Lithuanian national courts (since 2001), compares it with the relevant practice of ECJ and gives insights on the compatibility of Lithuanian case-law with the case-law, formed by ECJ. Practice of national courts in other foreign countries are analyzed only as an additional source in the article.

Practical implications – the article submits comments on the general international trade regulatory regime in the Republic of Lithuania and its compatibility with the WTO and EU law as well as basic provisions of international economic law and presents the recommendations for the implementation of the WTO agreements in the national legal system.

Originality/Value – although the questions on the application of the WTO agreements is widely considered foreign and EU legal doctrine, there are no detail studies on a similar issues in the Lithuanian legal doctrine and the question of the legal significance of these international treaties in the

Lithuanian legal system is not analyzed (particularly taking into account the developing national case-law on the application of WTO agreements).

Keywords (3-5): international trade, international economics law, WTO law, WTO agreements, GATT agreement.

Research type (choose one): research paper.

An Innovative Dimension of the Regional Social-Economic System

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Abstract

Purpose - Our work revises the essence of innovation, innovation sphere and cluster models of regional social-economic system and presents the characteristics of innovative activity and the classification of innovation possibilities of the enterprise. We propose an organizational-economic mechanism of sustainable social-economic development of the territory as an instrument of territorial planning.

Design/methodology/approach – Our analysis is based on a study of the Russian and international evaluation systems of scientific and technical activity and opportunities advancement of innovations for support of small and medium business enterprises in Russia's regional economic systems.

Findings – We justify that successful functioning of innovation infrastructure objects in the form of the innovation-technological center (as cluster) may become a real instrument for spatial planning. This tool gives a significant multiplicative effect in conjunction with changes in the entire regional social-economic system, enhancing the life quality of citizens. The nature of this tool lies in the fundamental law of economic development – high innovative receptivity is ensured only by appropriate technological level on the national scale.

Practical implications - According to this, in order to secure innovative receptivity of economy, the state needs to develop sufficiently high technological level in the key regional industries. The authors have also presented the main principles for stimulating innovations, dedicated to enhance the region's competitiveness.

Keywords: Innovations, Sustainable Development, Regional Economy, Territorial Planning, Cluster.

Research type: viewpoint.

Composition of legal terms in English, Lithuanian and Russian

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Abstract

Purpose. When creating a new term, every author has to decide which term formation criteria are most important in a given case. A term might take the form of a single word or a combination of a number of words joined by different syntactic means. A term may just serve to denote a concept or it may also reveal, to some extent, the content of that concept. The more complex the concept is, the more complex the term might be to express that concept. The aim of this research is to analyse and compare composition of the terms used in legal acts of constitutional nature in English, Lithuanian and Russian and to establish the predominant patterns of term composition in these languages.

Methodology. The research was conducted using the principles of descriptive-contrastive and quantitative-comparative analysis which enable to disclose the patterns of term composition in the investigated languages. The data for the research was collected from the main sources of the constitutional law in the UK, Lithuania and Russia: translations into Modern English of major UK legal acts of constitutional nature (Magna Carta (1297), Habeas Corpus Act (1679), the Bill of Rights (1689) and the Act of Settlement (1700)) and the original text of the Human Rights Act (1998); the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (1992) and the Constitution of the Russian Federation (1993). The selected terms were classified according to their composition and the quantitative-comparative analysis of the term patterns in English, Lithuanian and Russian was conducted.

Findings. The research revealed what term composition patterns dominate in the investigated legal acts. In the UK constitutional acts, one-word terms prevail over multi-word terms while in the Lithuanian and Russian constitutions multi-word terms are predominate. Most multi-word terms are composed of two words in all three languages; three-word and longer terms are much more seldom. The least number of long terms with complicated structure is found in the English constitutional acts while the Russian constitution contains twice as much terms of such composition. The findings not only disclosed the predominant term composition patterns in the investigated legal acts, but also provided an insight into general term composition tendencies in the English, Lithuanian and Russian languages.

Research limitations/implications. The research focused on terminology of constitutional law acts in English, Lithuanian and Russian. Further research might encompass other areas of law as well as other languages to create a more comprehensive picture of legal term formation tendencies in different languages.

Practical implications. Comparative research on legal term structure provides information about term formation traditions in different languages, enables to reassess native terminology and gives ideas to its formation. The findings of the given research are believed to be valuable to term creators, researchers and translators, as well as users and learners of legal terminology.

Originality. The analysis carried out is one of the first attempts to analyse and compare composition of legal terms in English, Lithuanian and Russian.

Keywords (3-5): comparative terminology, legal terms, constitutional law, one-word terms, multi-word terms.

Research type: research paper.

Towards more inclusive e-health development

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Abstract

Purpose – striving for innovative and sustainable health care system, to assess the extent of e-health development and trends from the perspective of stakeholders' network, as the most important success factor in the e-health deployment. We present results of the research project "*Integrated Transformations of eHealth Development: the Perspective of Stakeholder Networks*", which was supported by European Social Fund under the measure „Support to Research Activities of Scientists and Other Researcher (Global Grant)" administrated by Lithuanian Research Council (grant No. VP1-3.1-ŠMM-07-K-02-029).

Methodology – document analysis was applied for identification of findings of former research, analysis of Lithuanian eHealth laws, strategies, and eHealth projects. Comparative analysis was used when experience in neighbouring countries was researched. Semi-structured individual and group interviews were executed to allow the diagnosis of the content of participation of the stakeholders in the e-health design and deployment process and provide the cause and effect context for the analysis of e-health elements. In total, 60 interviews were executed in healthcare institutions and state governance bodies in 9 cities of Lithuania. Nvivo and Atlas applications were used for data processing in this research. To explore the extent and trends of the engagement and participation of stakeholder groups in the process of eHealth development, method of quantitative survey was applied. The representative sample of key eHealth stakeholder groups, such as policy decision makers, health service providers, IT suppliers and consumers was questioned assessing the level of public awareness and satisfaction levels in relation to a current state of eHealth development. To determine the extent to which the developers, implementers and users of eHealth system represent their legitimate interest and to explore the nature of cooperation between the participants and the dynamics of these relationships, Social network analysis (SNA) was performed.

Findings – Compared to the analysis made by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania in 2011, the national e-health development is showing a positive trend. While, in 2011, only a quarter of all surveyed institution had e-health systems, our study demonstrated that at present, 67 per cent of professionals working at healthcare institution use e-health information systems on a daily basis. Such rapid development shows that this strategic policy are is bringing results.

Only a small number of healthcare professionals believe that Lithuania has a sufficient range of e-health information systems. In the current period, the following e-health services are mostly developed in Lithuania: online patient appointment reservation, completion of medical statements, online tracking of patient insurance and enrolment, online filling of the statistical form of outpatient accounting. Significant inequalities exist in the overall development of e-health services as well as their accessibility and use among medical professionals and residents.

Patients are almost completely ignored in the process of e-health development and deployment. Their role is mostly theoretical, based on knowing that they seem to be important for product development; however, no real efforts are made to make this practice operational.

The Ministry of Health has too many functions in the field of e-health while too few of them are entrusted to healthcare institutions. This can be partly explained by the novelty of the e-health and evaluation of errors made during the first stage of the system's development when processes of e-health development lacked leadership and coordination of the Ministry. However, currently, there is a lack of bolder leadership among healthcare institutions in assuming functions of decision-makers. Still, a trend is observed that despite the state of the knowledge cycle, e-health participants would want to have a strong coordinating party at each stage.

The results of the qualitative survey show a shift in the attitude towards various e-health participants and their roles. Increasingly more attention is given to the need to exchange knowledge and experience, and consideration of each other's needs and expectations. However, it is not always clear, who of e-health participants — medical professionals or patients — are end users and should receive most benefits.

Research implications – We developed the model promoting stakeholder engagement and participation. The model of the eHealth Platform for Stakeholder Cooperation (PSC) is based on the lifecycle of ideas, in which the main object under management is an idea, which survives all knowledge management cycles from accumulation to gestation of ideas.

Practical implications – The accomplished qualitative research has revealed the attitude of e-

Research limitations/implications. Findings allow hypothesizing that the generation gaps in youth NGO leadership significantly affects the capacity of these organizations to engage with the public sector and a systemic development of these capacities would allow for a greater scope of value created and greater efficiency of youth policy implementation in general.

Practical implications. We find that the engagement of youth NGO's and national and local government organizations is sporadic and uncoordinated, although both in practice aim to achieve similar goals and important synergies can be found.

Originality/Value. This is the first attempt to describe the output of youth NGO's beyond the value created to their members in Lithuania and as such creates a theoretical framework for more focused inquiries in narrower aspects of Youth NGO outputs with regard to public policy aims.

Keywords (3-5): youth policy, youth NGO's, social value.

Research type (choose one). Research paper.

Trajectories of Youth Policy Development in Lithuania in a Decade since Lithuania's Accession to the EU

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Abstract

Purpose. An overview of the past decade of youth policy development in Lithuania was commissioned by the Lithuanian Youth Council to systematically describe key achievements and shortcomings.

Design/methodology/approach. The overview was conducted in cooperation with the Dept. pf Statistics of Lithuania, who provided data gathered on Lithuanian youth. Policy documents and regulation which was enacted over the period studied and referring to youth and youth policy measures were reviewed in an attempt to identify key trajectories of policy change and relate these trajectories with the evidence provided by statistics.

Findings. The term "youth" tends to be abused. Since 2003 the framework law describes the principles that any policy document referring to youth as a target group needs to subscribe to, that in fact is not the case. The reason for that there is no enforcement or institutional cooperation framework that could achieve this. The law in question itself identifies a classification of youth policy aspects that do not have a clear criterion. As a result the Min. of Labor and Social Affairs has resorted to creating a network of agencies hierarchically under it to implement the main aspects of the framework law. In many cases we find this to have been a successful practice, but in parallel there is evidence of unneeded duplication in policy areas of other line ministries.

Research limitations/implications. We find that further study of youth policy-related terminology and policy classifications is needed.

Practical implications. The overview allows for policy changes which could improve youth policy coordination across institutions.

Originality/Value. A study of this sort has not been conducted after the Lithuania's accession to the EU and is a means of documenting the policy dynamic and a basis for comparative research at the EU level.

Keywords (3-5): youth policy, policy development, policy classification.
Research type (choose one). General Review.

Youths with mild mental Retardation career education content Lithuanian general education school: situation and analysis

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Abstract

Purpose: Analysis of the concept of career, systemic analysis of career education and its theories, theoretical and methodological justification of the research of career education.
Design/methodology/approach – The methods of the research are the following: analysis of scientific literature, the method of analysis and synthesis, logical analysis.
Findings – in the latest scientific discourse career concept and career education theories methodological justification is deified as problematic. The preparation for the profession of students with specials needs remains one of the most problematic areas of the Lithuanian education system. Young people's preparation for life, the opportunity to acquire professional skills could be improved by the transfer and adaptation of practices of other countries for educational practice in Lithuania. The transition from school to the professional activity for young people with special educational needs is often a challenge.
Research limitations/implications – the study is grounded in a theoretical data analysis.
Practical Implications - this study aims to analyze more deeply the concept of career and offer the methods practicered in a theoretical dadeep1□CID 36□BDC 1 g88.584 406.2.si0 1 l2r-2(479.5 55.34oBT1□0 0

A Social innovation pilot study in Aydin, Turkey: Innovative projects developed with "bring out your inner inventor" education and post education in primary education aged school children

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Abstract

Purpose – As a social study by Aydın Regional Inovation Platform, Education and Awareness Creation work packet, supported by TÜBİTAK, this project was created with the aim of introducing middle school students from a rural area in Aydın to the concept of "innovation". It allowed students to become aware of their talents bringing their ideas and dreams to reality.

Design/methodology/approach – The Education and Awareness Creation work packet, as part of Aydın Regional Innovation Platform, through working together with Adnan Menderes University and the Provincal Directorate for National Education arranged an "Innovation and Projects Festival" in 2013 for middle school students. The projects were evaluated by a jury created by the Platform, Adnan Menderes University and the Provincal Directorate for National Education. It was planned that projects carrying high inventive characteristics would be given awards and projects gaining high scores would be exhibited in an area open to the public. The necessary preparations were carried out along with announcements being made on the websites of the Aydın Regional Innovation Platform, Adnan Menderes University and the Provincial Directorate for National Education websites. Also, the Aydın Regional Innovation Platform- Education and Awareness Creation work packet leaders gave a presentation at İncirliova 50. Yıl Middle School in Aydın. The presentation was named "bring out your inner inventor" and had "write-bring, do-bring, draw-bring" as a slogan. Project applications to the "Innovation and Projects Festival" were made using the on-line appliction system of the Regional Innovation Platform website. It was planned that projects carrying innovative characteristics would be given consultancy services in order for them to apply for a patent. It was decided that projects that were in the top three would be given new technological equipment to allow them to follow new developments.

Findings – For the Innovation and Projects Festival, 48 applications were received from young inventors within 5 months, of which 3 months was the summer holiday. It was determined that of the 48 applications, 6 carried inventive charateristics. At the award ceremony, only the names of these projects were announced. In order for the projects not to loose their invention characteristics, a detailed

explanation of the projects was announced only after application to the Turkish Patent Institute was made. As an interesting point, four of the six projects were submitted from the school at which the presentation had been made. An application for a patent for the winning project was made and the patent has beenawarded.

Research limitations/implications – Due to the time restrictions on this project, presentations could not be made at all schools. It is thought that if more presentations could have been made then the number of applications would have increased. It is also believed that as a part of the application period occured during the summer holidays the number of applications was affected. Due to budget restrictions a patent application for only one project carrying inventive characteristics could be made.

Practical implications – As the practical element of this project occured within a short period of time, it is thought that this is a good example of how productive our students are. The message that this project wanted to convey was: don't be afraıd.

Originality/Value – An improvement in education and social life and a small intervention in an individual's lifehas opened the door to the world of innovative development. At a local level this is an example project which has combined innovation with education and social life. As an outcome of this project, a patent has been granted. The area of social innovation is a new area for Turkey and outcomes such as these will help to increase the number of projects.

Keywords (3-5): Innovation Platform, invention, project festival
Research type (choose one): case study

Innovation in Social Risk Management in Lithuania

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Abstract

Purpose – The purpose of the article is to analyse and discuss the social innovation development in the social risk management in the Lithuania, analyse influence of social innovation and social risk management in the Lithuania to increases in the wealth of nation and Sustainable National Economic development.

Design/methodology/approach - Research based on general scientific methods, especially analysis, synthesis, comparison, induction and deduction. Essential sources of information were professional publications, data of state Statistics Department, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, The State Social Insurance Fund Board documents. In the literature, it is possible to find a wide range of approaches to social innovation and social risk management.

Findings - Findings of this article are new social innovation information in this area, which can be useful for another research. Interest in social innovation is growing. It needs to. Our societies are facing extraordinary challenges: increasing inequality, rising poverty rates, unstable economies, climate change and a raft of other issues. The speed of change is faster than ever, and the social and

environmental need is reaching a frightening level. "Social innovation" is the increasingly common shorthand for this approach to public-private partnerships. Effective social innovation in social risk management in the Lithuania is essential for promoting sustainable Lithuanian economic development. The article discusses the main issues and methods of social innovation and social risk management. Paper disclose the importance of social innovation in social risk management and current situation in Lithuania. Effective social innovation and social risk management enable to support social innovation implementation in the fields of social inclusion and employment. Social innovation helping for social risk and socially excluded persons integrate into labour market, thereby reducing their social isolation. Social innovation can empower migrants for self-help and to take over a bridging function towards migrants of the particular milieu, needing support in diverse areas.

We are all increasingly aware of the power of social networks and we must find methods how it uses for social innovation. Social Innovation is about fostering new ideas for social change, so we need in Lithuania to establish a culture of innovation, creativity, experimentation, and encouragement.

Research limitations/implications – There is no unified definition of the social innovation, hence it is difficult identify which projects or activities can be considered as social innovations. Article demonstrates the social innovation and social risk management problems under complicated uncertain conditions, difficulties in the social risk assessment. The article analyse Lithuania Ministry of Social Security and Labour, how it planning and use social innovation and social risk management. The article analyse where social innovation successfully installed, where there are still problematic. Social innovation and Social Risk Management are designed to reduce social exclusion, carry out its prevention and to ensure equal opportunities, protect the citizens, employees, customers, and public from negative events or from negative outcome. These are just the initial threads of a theory to help us to better understand how to create environments that foster social innovation.

Practical implications – In this paper presented methods and procedures applicable to the social innovation and social risk management process in the Lithuania. Paper reveals the success of social innovation practices in different fields of social security in Lithuania. Article identifies areas requiring of social innovation and social risk management improvement or new methods, to insure integration of social risk groups, promotion of equal opportunities, social integration, reduce of social exclusion. Social innovation could be developed in three ways: renovation, adaptation and creation new.

Social innovation and social risk management is creating synergies on social security, which leads to long run, increases in the wealth of nation. It is essential for us in Lithuania to create and maintain a culture of innovation, creativity, permission, fun and authenticity.

Originality/Value – The article deals with a wide range of innovative activities in terms of social innovation. There is no detailed analysis of the various innovative approaches to social innovation and social risk management in an open economy; a small country. These are just the initial threads of analyze a theory to help us to better understand how to create environments that foster social innovation.

Keywords: Social innovation, **S**ocial Risk Management; Social Security; Sustainable Economic Development.

Research type: research paper.

Developing a Responsible Research and Innovation Culture in a University

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Abstract

Purpose - The aim of this paper is to draw major perspectives and barriers for academic culture change necessary to improve the ability to innovation and creativity in higher education system in Lithuania. The systemic and organizational conditions for integration of dimension of responsibility into research and innovation are discussed.

Design/methodology/approach – Innovation and creativity are two the most desired organizational culture values of research and business institutions that accumulate the technical and social progress of societies globally. Knowledge and creativity management come along with a certain style of leadership and organizational culture, mostly characteristic to learning organizations. Unfortunately, but institutions of higher education often lack the features of learning organizations.
Since 2003 European Commission started forming European research policy implementing the dimension of responsibility and ethics into research. It evolved into separate part of on-going research funding programme of Horizon2020 called "Science with and for Society". New approach defined as 'Responsible Research and Innovation'(RRI) encompasses several strategic goals: "a) engage society more broadly in its research and innovation activities, b) increase the access to scientific results, c) ensure gender equality in both the research process and research content, d) take account of the ethics dimension, and e) promote formal and informal science education."[1] These goals are mostly associated with the better alignment of societal needs and scientific activities in the future. These strategic priorities pose a lot of challenges for academic institutions, especially among the most recent member countries of EU from the post-communist Central and Eastern Europe. The heritage of old hierarchies and organizational structures, the bureaucratic organizational cultures and other relics of old science system are the major obstacle to develop new governing styles and academic cultures conducive to innovation and creativity.

Findings – development of higher education system in Lithuania was marked by rapid expansion. Reforms of the system mostly address quantitative, but not qualitative indicators. The applied criteria for funding of science are not encouraging innovations and co-operation between universities. Fragmented, isolated small teams of researchers are formed on the basis of institutional and personal relations, not on the scientific capacities or interests. Low ethical awareness and weak ethical self-regulation of academic institutions added to academic culture not supportive to innovation are the biggest challenges to address for the nearest future. Lack of political will and consistency in the government of the Lithuanian higher education system further sustain the outsider position within the European Research area.

[1] HORIZON 2020 WORK PROGRAMME 2014–2015. Science with and for Society // http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/main/h2020-wp1415-swfs_en.pdf

Research limitations/implications - Methodological limitations related to the choice of available information sources and theoretical literature on the subject.

Practical implications. Insights and recommendations provided by the research in this paper are of strategic and practical importance both for gate-keepers of higher education system and institutional bodies, as well as for individual researchers in modernizing their research policies and priorities towards more innovative and responsible research.

Originality/Value. This is original research as it is a first systemic attempt to apply the approach of responsible research and innovation to the system of higher education of Lithuania at its present state.

Keywords (3-5): creativity and innovation management, social responsibility, government of higher education institutions.

Research type (choose one): meta-analysis; document analysis; field research.

The impact of politic News on the Lebanese financial market

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Abstract

Purpose – This paper examines the impact of Lebanese politic news announcements on Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE) returns and volatility from 2005 to 2014;

Design/methodology/approach – Using a sample of (294) Lebanese politic news, the Generalized Autoregressive Conditional Heteroscedasticity model (GARCH-M) was used to capture the volatility spillover between Lebanese political shocks and financial market returns. The Exponential Generalized Autoregressive Conditional Heteroscedasticity model (EGARCH) and the autoregressive Conditional Heteroscedasticity model (ARCH) were added to explore, the magnitude, the leverage and the sensitivity of politic news;

Findings – The results from GARCH, EGARCH and ARCH models reveal a significant impact of favorable and unfavorable political news on BSE returns. The favorable political news has a positive impact while the unfavorable political news has a negative impact. This research confirms also that both favorable and unfavorable political news announcements increase BSE volatility. Additional analysis shows that unfavorable political news has a greater impact on BSE volatility and returns than favorable political news. It seems that BSE investors are more sensitive to unfavorable political news which leads them to avoid the regret feeling by following the market tendency. Finally, the findings of this study have shown that the Lebanese banking sector plays a positive role by mitigating the negative impact of bad politic news;

Research limitations/implications – The results are exploratory due to several limitations. The first limitation is associated to the analysis of BSE data. We considered in this study that BSE volatility resulted only from political news while it can be affected from macro and micro economic news. The second limitation is related to the selected political news. Some selected politic news may be viewed

as insignificant for the investors. We also ignored the endogeneity problem between BSE volatility and political news that occurs due to loop of causality between dependent and independent variables. The evidence of this research is important but it could be developed over a longer period of time to compare the impact of political news on BSE returns and volatility before and after 2005, the date of PM R. Hariri assassination. Finally, the analysis can be improved in a future research by considering some macro and micro economic indicators.

Practical implications – The Lebanese banks in Lebanon witnessed unexpected growth during the political crises in Lebanon. Even the political instability, both investors and depositors have to consider the Lebanese banking sector one of the most attractive and stable investment in the region;

Originality/Value – Based on a new data in non-explored region, this study focuses on the impact of political news on the volatility of the Lebanese financial market. It also contributes to understand the function of Lebanese banks as solid fundamentals and proven resilience to crises;

Keywords (3-5): financial market, volatility, political news, banking sector, market returns.

Research type (choose one): research paper.

Conditions of International Trade and their Assessment in Lithuania

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Abstract

Purpose - International trade is an integral basis of each country's economic existence that allows satisfying the needs of the country, its business and residents by importing raw materials, produce and services, when the needs are impossible to meet or satisfying them would be economically disadvantageous. Lithuania is compelled to actively participate in international trade as the economy of Lithuania has a relatively small and open economy with a small domestic market. The results of international trade in Lithuania depend on the conditions of international trade. The latter conditions are determined by many various factors, e.g. the economic processes in international and foreign markets, the international trade policy of the government of the Republic of Lithuania, the processes in the internal market; the behavior of the consumers and other factors. The purpose of the research is to analyze the factors which determine the conditions of international trade and also to assess the tendencies and further development prospects of international trade in Lithuania based on the data gathered for the research.

Design/methodology/approach. In order to achieve the set goal and purpose of the research, the latter is carried out based on a systematic analysis and generalization of the collected data. The method of systemic analysis was used for the evaluation and assessment of the relevant normative legal acts and regulations of the Republic of Lithuania governing the international trade policy of

Lithuania. The method of data generalization was applied in order to summarize the collected information and to reveal the prevailing problems in the field of the research object.

Findings. Foreign trade is a particularly complex formation of various factors and their interactions, determining the macroeconomic indicators and covering the country's market research and marketing, product development, the quality of the production, packaging, logistics, distribution, advertising, and sales. The regulation of foreign trade, and in particular the regulation of imports, is carried out by applying economic, legal, administrative and regulatory instruments.

Research limitations/implications. During the recent decades, the influence of international trade on the economic development of the country and the transfer of the latter influence to other countries is being increasingly emphasized. The theory of international trade also stresses that the influence of individual countries and regions on the growth of the economy occurs at national or regional levels. Moreover, the conditions that are being created must ensure the growth of international trade volumes. Following the analysis of the conditions of Lithuanian international trade of 2015, the following factors were found as having the greatest impact on the development of international trade: the recovery of the European Union economy; the developments in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict; the introduction of the euro. The projected growth of the European Union economy during 2015 and the introduction of the euro have created favorable conditions for international trade in Lithuania, while the Russian-Ukrainian conflict has a negative impact on Lithuania's domestic and foreign policy and trade.

Practical implications. The summary of the findings and results of the research may be applied in order to assess and comprehend the formation and creation of the strategies of international trade development. The finding of the research may also be used to comprehend the implementation of practical measures for the country's economic growth.

Originality/Value Foreign trade policy is one of the oldest policies ever launched by Lithuanian politicians, which, according to political analysts and as is evident from statistical data, significantly contributed to increasing the economic growth of the country and generally strengthening Lithuania as an independent country. Due to the latter, it may be stated that the maximum exploitation of the benefits of foreign trade has a positive effect on the growth rate of the economic indicators of Lithuania. Growing competition, emerging dynamic markets, the increasingly growing trade relations and events for correlation with other state policies lead to approaching the international trade policy in a novel way. It is crucial to seek innovative, perspective and the most advanced mean to meet and constructively exhaust any new challenges, and to increase Lithuania's competitive edge over other countries.

Keywords: international trade, GDP, economics.

Research type: literature review

The possibilities to assess the quality of higher education services using a modified SERVQUAL model

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Abstract

Purpose – The purpose of the study is to assess the possibilities of using the SEVQUAL model in evaluating the service quality in chosen higher education institution (HEI) in Lithuania. Today all Lithuanian HEI are facing fierce competition, so the need to find ways to measure service quality they offer to students becomes more important;

Design/methodology/approach – The study caries the character of descriptive survey, aiming to capture the perceptions and expectations students have about the services they receive in respective HEI's. This will help to evaluate the overall perceived service quality based on gap analysis and also to the SERVQUAL scale itself. The data was collected using the SERVQUAL modified for services in higher education institution questionnaire;

Findings – The data analysis revealed interesting findings on students' perceptions of service quality in the chosen HEI. The study confirms that the SERVQUAL approach is a suitable tool in assessing service quality in public sector, holding the same strengths as in private sector. The findings of the study showed a significant difference between the students' expectations and perceptions in all five dimensions of service quality and in all dimensions, students' expectations were higher than perceived services. Moreover, the comparison of the five dimensions showed that the students' perception of the received service quality dimensions differed, so the highest and the lowest evaluation were given to tangibility and empathy, respectively;

Research limitations/implications – the research carried the pilot research character, and has been carried out aiming to evaluate the possibility to use the SERVQUAL scale in HEI, so only one institution has been chosen, and the number of students was limited;

Practical implications – The continuous measurement of SERVQUAL in HEI's would help in engaging in a continuous improvement of service quality, creating a good basis for achieving higher objectives, focusing more on the student as a customer;

Originality/Value – The SERVQUAL scale has been used in Lithuania to measure service quality in private sector, but in Lithuanian HE institution has been used for the first time, also the new conception of quality in higher education has been explored;

Keywords (3-5): SERVQUAL, higher education institution (HEI), service quality, Lithuania;

Research type (choose one): research paper.

Social enterprises as hybrid organizations development trends

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Abstract

Purpose: the purpose of the research is to analyze and define the peculiarities of the practical management of social enterprises as hybrid organizations.

Design/methodology/approach – the methods of the research are the following: analysis of scientific literature, the method of analysis and synthesis, logical analysis.

Findings – in the recent scientific discourse social enterprises are classified as the fourth sector of emerging hybrid organizations. The organizations which belong the latter sector combine elements of profit, non-profit and public sector organizations. Social enterprises must reconcile various forms of organizations due to they face a considerable amount of new and complex challenges such as the selection of the legal form, financing, management of human resources *etc.* Social or, in other words, hybrid organizations cannot be managed in a uniform manner as their types differ, consequently requiring different and distinct management.

Research limitations/implications – the study is grounded to a theoretical data analysis.

Practical implications – social business is becoming increasingly important in the modern-day society. The public sector bodies alone are no longer capable of effectively solving a part of the social issues in fields of education, health care, sanitation, environmental care, human rights protection and others. Thus, social business becomes indispensable as the latter is becoming increasingly more prepared and capable of offering the most effective and acceptable means of tackling the issues encountered by social policies. The research hereto seeks to clarify and address the emerging constraints of the activities of social activity and to subsequently promote the development of the social business sector.

Originality/Value – the Economic and Social Committee of Europe has emphasized the importance of promoting social business in both the EU and EU Member State level. The amount of relevant scientific research considering the conditions of the effectiveness of the activities social enterprises, the adequacy of the management tools *etc.* is rare and undoubtedly insufficient. The findings of this research may be applied in practice for explaining and solving the constraints which may emerge in the activities of social business.

Keywords – social enterprises, hybrid organizations.

Research type – general review.

Social service organization perspective: situation analysis

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Abstract

Purpose - the article aims is to identify and evaluate the specific features of social service organizations and social services development opportunities in Lithuania and in selected European Union countries.

Design/methodology/approach – The methods of the research are the following: analysis of scientific literature, the method of analysis and synthesis, logical analysis.

Findings - from the results of the investigation it can be seen that the reasons of diversity of social service organizations are the need and importance of social services as the services are provided for different social service customer groups, and organizations activities depend on the users' group features and capabilities. The proper assistance for the customers and organization of work at the institutions can be assured only after identification and evaluation of customers according to their individual needs and personal situations.

Research limitations / Implications - the activities of organizations providing social services depend on the country's political, cultural and social life factors, on changes driven by the globalization. There is a discussion ongoing on how better organize the activities of these institutions for social service provision because of the need to properly apply innovative methods, with regard to the specific nature of services and client features.

Practical Implications - the activities of organizations providing social services is carried out in accordance with the standards and regulations that ensure the organization of services in accordance with the principles of social service provision. Therefore, social services organizations are required to comply with the principal provisions of its activities. The article authors reviewed the perspectives of the organizations providing social services with regard to the peculiarities of these activities, and specified the development trends of such organizations.

Originality / value - The increase of effectiveness of organizations providing social services is among the most important tasks of all states in recent years including Lithuania. We have to admit that there is no serious research carried out by Lithuania in this regard. Therefore, an attempt to perform this analysis from both the scientific and practical point of view is relevant.

Keywords (3-5): social services; development trends; organization.

Research type (choose one): general review.

Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad development: new opportunities for Azerbaijan and the region

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Abstract

Purpose - Baku–Tbilisi–Kars railroad (BTK), which is constructed on the territory of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, is one of the most important strategic projects of Azerbaijan. BTK shall create new opportunities as alternative inland rout for better goods transit in Eurasia. The trade using BTK route shall be successful only if the well-performing chain of goods transit shall be created. And there is very important for Azerbaijan to create proper supporting infrastructure. By creating such an infrastructure additional benefits can be gained from BTK, using this line for development of the country and the whole region in developing global market, attracting FDI.

The research was performed in Azerbaijan during the period from September to December, 2014 at The Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM).

The purpose and objectives of the study were to:

- Identify the opportunities, which are provided by BTK and which should not be missed, by identifying legal instruments for the future development in the most efficient way;
- Identify the main legal obstacles and risks, for such development opportunities.

Design/methodology/approach - The research was started by using data analysis method. This method was used to gather the already performed studies about BTK, analyse collected information and identify the main issues, under which the recommendations for smooth further projects development and risks mitigation ways is presented; Empirical method of interview was also used. This method helped to gain relevant and topical information about further developments, related to BTK, also identify other hindrances to reach the goal – build good reputation of Azerbaijan as transit country; Inductive and deductive logic methods were used to identify the main legal obstacles and risks for related infrastructure development; Comparative method was used for case analysis of relevant projects developed in other countries also to compare the situation in Azerbaijan to other countries.

There were investigated two legal instruments, which could be introduced in Azerbaijan:

- Establishing flexible and general framework for FEZ regulation. The flexible FEZ could help create free trade zones, including logistic centres, etc. The FEZ law should be an umbrella law (to be used as reference framework) encompassing all possible FEZ activities and management models. The individual FEZ projects would operate under this law by establishing FEZ'es by the decisions at the lower levels, e.g. ministries. This change could switch from the principle "it is not prohibited only that what is allowed", to the principle "it is allowed what is not prohibited";
- Establishing flexible and general framework for PPP and concessions regulation, which would be based on the main principles, indicated in the research.

- **Research limitations.** The author of the research focused on the further implementations and action plan scenarios for the most valuable gains offered by BTK project, i.e. creation and operation of logistic zones, special zones, possibility to attract private capital and use of PPP and concession models.

Practical implications – the introduction of the above mentioned instruments would imply:

- Successful FEZ'es may attract companies from logistics and other sectors able to ensure the necessary load for BTK line;
- Successful implementation of BTK project together with implementation of FEZ'es should contribute to the competitiveness of Azerbaijan as a regional transit hub and even more – as a country, which could contribute to global products chain by adding value for transited products, which benefit the whole region;
- BTK, together with efficiently operated special zones should have positive impact in the increase of the competitiveness and transit potential, which should contribute positively to the GDP growth rates and diversification of Azerbaijan economy;
- Creation of effective special zones and flexible PPP and concessions model shall benefit to safer FDI environment and in the medium term should bear positive returns; ensure further developments in the country and the region.

Originality/Value – the research analysed possible alternative ways for further developments, related to BTK, by avoiding repeating that, what already was analysed in the existing studies. As the research was performed by the visiting researcher, who practically works with the projects development in Lithuania and originally is from Lithuania – EU member state, the comparative approach helped objectively identify the future development targets related to BTK and evaluate the progress of Lithuania made after entering EU.

Keywords (3-5): Public Private Partnership (PPP), Free economic zone (FEZ).
Research type: research paper.

Rural communities in the context of globalization: situation and analysis

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Abstract

Purpose - The research aims to summarize the goals of establishment of rural communities, to examine their establishment opportunities and challenges in the context of globalization. After the restoration of property in Lithuanian rural areas the transition from collective to private ownership has significantly changed the rural people's living conditions, caused economic and social problems. Thus,

taking into account these changes a major rural policy changes were necessary to encourage the creation of rural communities and their strengthening.

Design/methodology/approach – The methods of the research are the following: analysis of scientific literature, the method of analysis and synthesis, logical analysis.

Findings - from the research it can be seen that the adoption of relevant laws and other legal acts was very important step for the establishment of the rural communities and strengthening of their activities. A very significant impact in the context of globalization is made by rapidly changing economic and social conditions. It often happens that project of rural comunities prepared long time becomes obsolete and there is a need to develop new project again under changing conditions. This is not an easy task for communities because, for example, the plans of improvement of business conditions in rural areas prepared for the economic boom period have lost its relevance during the period of economic crisis. Many problems are related with implementation of these projects due to system complexity, constantly changing rules, insufficient competence of project developers, very sophisticated procurement systems, complex project-related documentation, inadequate means of payment, absence of funds for administration, communities internal problems, negative attitude to communities and constant interference in their activities, insufficient skills of consultants and applicants' and so on.

Research limitations / Implications - The rural community is heavily influenced by the European Union countries political, cultural and social life peculiarities and the changes taking place in society. Therefore activities of rural communities and its future must be analyzed not only the practitioners but also by researchers accurately determining what modern developments and how influence the rural community activities.

Practical Implications - Lithuania's accession into the EU opened up new possibilities for rural development. Rural people become more active in the community life. There are new opportunities for improving of the quality of life of the population in rural areas, rural economic activity and social structure, as well as improvement of community relations in order to ensure economic and social cohesion, to protect and create jobs in rural areas, to protect and foster ethnic culture, landscape and natural environment.

Originality / value - The rural community in Lithuania is a new phenomenon compared to the developed countries, and it is difficult yet to define their place in society and the greater number of research. The rural communities and their benefit for its people are not much analyzed in the scientific literature. Therefore, it is appropriate to examine the opportunities and challenges for the establishment, activities and financing of these communities in Lithuania.

Keywords (3-5): community, village, activities, objectives.

Research type (choose one): general review.

From Welfare State to Welfare Society

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Abstract

Solving of social problems, as a rule, require economic and human resources. Though most advanced Western countries come through the economic crisis and decline of demographic measures. Initial trends lead to problems of assurance of social solidarity and distribution of wealth within the societies. In such contexts, provision of welfare for citizens is transferred from welfare state to welfare society. **The purpose** of our research is to investigate expectations of citizens in selected EU member states towards division of responsibilities between state and society in the sphere of welfare provision. The main research question is whether citizens are ready to take responsibilities for their welfare? Which factors make biggest impact on expectations of citizens in this context?

Design/methodology/approach. The research hypothesis is that as far as more citizens in most EU members states count on society but not the state in welfare provision. In order to test the hypothesis the empirical data of Special Eurobarometer "Social climate" and "European Social Reality" collected between 2006 and 2014 are used. The idea is to explore how opinions of citizens changed in pre-, during and post-economic global crisis. Five EU member states that represent different welfare state models: Sweden, United Kingdom, Germany, Portugal, Lithuania were selected for the analysis. Descriptive statistics and methods of multivariate correlation and regression analyses applied.

Findings. The research results reveal that Europeans hold optimistic attitudes compared to five years ago towards positive shift regard to the national employment situation, the cost of living, pension system and unemployment benefits. In terms of perceptions associated with social protection and inclusion, respondents usually are unsatisfied with unemployment benefits and the pension systems, and less about the ways by which states combat the inequalities and poverty. Though in recent years, measures on opinions related to combat the inequalities and poverty notable drop. Respondents who experience material deprivation, usually, are not satisfied with provision from state welfare system. Even opinions of those who almost never have material difficulties have slightly worsened as far. Measures of opinions are relatively higher when participation in the labour market enables escape poverty, though it depends on the composition of the household and burden of dependents. Life in partnership usually is related with overall satisfaction of well-being despite welfare state model. In other words, larger personal social network brings more satisfaction and means less requirements for the state, though burden of dependents in household create higher expectations of help from state.

Research limitations / implications. The empirical data on the topic are available in different international databases, though because of its compatibility difficulties to carry out more comprehensive analysis arise.

Practical implications. The research results could be useful for the development of social policy.

Originality/Value. Our research concerns expectations of citizens who represent different welfare state models and, as well, different social policies at national levels. Moreover, research findings highlighted importance of personal social capital in the context of welfare provision.

Keywords: welfare state, welfare state model, retrenchment, welfare society, social relationships.

Research type: viewpoint.

Lost in Translation? Issues of Terminology of Social Research Methodology in Lithuanian Language

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Abstract

Purpose – Terms and concepts are an integral part of any scientific discipline and professional language. They are used to indicate phenomena under study attaching specific meanings and contents that help scientists to communicate and exchange scientific ideas efficiently. However, at the same time production of scientific terminology can place challenges to communication as well as provoke confusion. The dominance of English as a *lingua franca* influences the development of terminology related to research methodology in Lithuanian as well. At the same time the preservation and development of Lithuanian language is a great concern. The purpose of the paper is to identify and highlight the difficulties that appear when introducing research methodology and methods related concepts in Lithuanian language as well as to critically outline consequential terminological confusion that can be observed in the Lithuanian methodology related literature.

Design/methodology/approach – This paper discusses the issues that appear in the context of social research methodology during the process of translating and adapting terms and concepts that were originally coined in foreign language into Lithuanian language. Paper is based on systematic analysis of literature in Lithuanian language that deals with social research methodology and methods. Target entirety includes literature in social sciences as well as other disciplines that deal with issues relevant for research process, e.g. literature in statistics and statistical data analysis. In addition, the authors summarize their insights based on reviewing descriptions of research methods in scientific articles and research papers in Lithuanian.

Findings – Analysis of literature reveals that there is a rather diversified and eclectic production/translation of terms and concepts into Lithuanian language. But suggested and widespread translations and uses of terms and concepts are problematic at least in these regards: there exist different titles in Lithuanian language for the same concepts (though many of those concepts have

a well settled one version in foreign language); the translation into Lithuanian language does not correspond to the core meaning of a concept / method / phenomenon meant by its version in foreign language; there is no adequate version of a concept in Lithuanian language. As a consequence of different translations of the same term or concept is confusion that creates an impression of many different methods/approaches/definitions while it is the only one. As an example are the terms *focus group*, *structured interview, sampling* and others presented and discussed in detail.

Research limitations/implications – The paper mostly discusses translations of concepts when original source is in English language whereas other possibilities (Russian, French, German languages) are not covered.

Practical implications – This review can be a starting point to practitioners working and publishing in the field of research methodology, so they are encouraged to collaborate in direction to create adequate Lithuanian equivalents of special terms.

Originality/Value – The paper is meant to encourage discussion among social scientists that would lead to a revision, clarification and a more coherent use of concepts in Lithuanian language.

Keywords: research methodology; terminology; translation.

Research type: literature review.

The Impact of Social Capital on Subjective Well-being

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Abstract

Purpose of this presentation is to reveal the relationship between the social capital of various levels, and subjective well-being.

Social capital concept in scientific literature appeared few decades ago. The concept has been the object of a great deal of interpretations. The definitions can be summarized into four main perspectives: 1) communitarian, 2) institutional, 3) synergy, and 4) networks perspectives (Brisson; Usher, 2005). In this paper, network perspective was employed seeking to reveal the relationship between social capital and subjective well-being of an individual; basic components of subjective well-being were distinguished and some results of previous research accomplished by various authors were presented seeking to stimulate discussion of the importance of suggested variables for the subjective well-being of people in Lithuania.

Design/methodology/approach: analysis of social capital theories, notions of subjective well-being and of related research findings. An approach to social capital is based on Bourdieu (1986), Lin (2001), Coleman (1990) ideas; the notions of bonding and bridging social capital are integrated from Putnam (2000) for distinguishing between the types of social capital ties with similar people (bonding) and with people in different socio-economic position (bridging). The use of different social ties produce different outcomes: using bonding ties individuals can get mostly emotional and material support,

while bridging social capital helps to get important information that may benefit individual's economic advancement, and to connect individuals into broader social environment.

Findings: Research findings revealed the existence of impact of social capital on subjective well-being. For example, research in Poland confirmed high impact of bridging social capital not only on subjective well-being (defined in terms of happiness and satisfaction with life), but also on individual earnings: low level of bridging social capital results in low subjective well-being and individual earnings (Growiec J; Growiec K., 2010). However, other authors found evidences that other factors also can influence subjective well-being, including socio-economic and socio-demographic factors (e.g. income level, welfare culture of the region, education, marital status, etc.) (Cramm et al, 2012). We may conclude that the relationship between social capital and subjective well-being is complex; the findings depend on research methodology. In some research models, social capital is treated as a component of social subjective well-being, in other models subjective well-being is defined as happiness and satisfaction with life in general. The diversity of social capital and of subjective well-being definitions and variables used for measurement creates difficulties for inter-country comparisons, besides that, indicators of subjective well-being are of different relevance in various countries and for various social groups. The findings reveal the necessity of further elaboration of the research instruments in order to discover cause-and-effect associations between social capital and subjective well-being indicators.

Research limitations/implications – research is limited to the analysis of traditional social networks and related social capital but does not include social capital obtained via online social media. It would be interesting to investigate a relationship between social capital obtained through social media networks and subjective well-being of Lithuanian people.

Practical implications - research findings can serve for creation of research instruments in searching causal relationships between social capital and subjective well-being indicators.

Originality/Value – Current studies in Lithuania and in the other countries rarely investigate the relationship between social capital and subjective well-being, therefore the results can give some new insights for further research in this area.

Keywords: bridging social capital; bonding social capital; network perspective; subjective well-being; welfare culture.

Research type (choose one): literature overview.

Negative Perception of Teacher's Work as Obstruction of School-Parent Non-Conflict Cooperation

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Abstract

Purpose – To establish tension fields in parents–teachers relationships on the basis of the data provided by the National Agency for School Evaluation (NASE) – The Survey on the Opinion of Parents on School Activity. Parental opinion survey is the required part of external quality evaluation of school activities carried out by NASE. To realize this purpose, the following tasks have been set: 1) to describe critical remarks made by parents concerning education quality during a class; 2) to discuss the scope of the spread of ineffective teaching, in the opinion of parents.

Design/methodology/approach –The aim of survey (conducted in 2010-2012) was to reveal the parents' views about the academic, social, emotional and physical environment of school. The qualitative research is complemented by discussion of the quantitative research results. The article discusses 7 assessment statements provided by the parents in the questionnaire: 1) I trust subject teachers as the specialists of their subject; 2) The volume of homework is neither too high nor too low; 3) If my child does not understand anything, he can always get an explanation during classes or consultations; 4) The school provides enough information about the assistance of specialists (psychologist, socio educational instructor, speech therapist et al.) which is accessible to my child; 5) We are satisfied with order and discipline during classes; 6) Teachers assess and grade my child fairly and objectively; 7) School teachers evaluate my child's effort and believe in his success.

Tiny percentage (approximately 10 %) of parents wrote comments. The comments of 605 parents have been analysed. Based on the character of the content, comments were positive (written praises, joy, and thanksgiving) and negative (expressed discontent, inappropriate, in the opinion of parents, activity, a situation that has to be changed). Negative comments were written by twice as many parents (N = 353 / N = 177). It has to be added that still more 67 parents, who filled in on-line questionnaires, perceived both positive and negative aspects in the activity of the evaluated school. This article discusses only the comments of negative character which were provided by 420 respondents. To analyse the data, grounded theory has been chosen (V. Žydžiūnaitė, 2006, 2007; B. Bitinas, 2006).

Findings –; According to the data of quantitative research, approximately 14 proc. (N-6848) are disappointed with the homework required for their children to be done; approximately one tenth of parents note the lack of assistance for the child (11.4 %, N = 5502) and the lack of fair and objective assessment of their children 11.3 % (N = 5456). There more one tenth of parents (11,1 %) are dissatisfied with discipline during classes. In addition 6.7 % (N=3246) do not trust subject teachers as the specialist of their subject.

The largest group of complaints expressed by parents is their discontent over the educational process of their child. This group consists of a few subcategories: ineffective teaching, a lack of assistance for the pupil (both during a class and after classes); the quality of the assessment of learning outcomes of pupils (objectivity, reasonableness, systematicity, and informativeness); a lack of discipline.

Research limitations/implications – When analysing the complaints presented by parents, it was borne in mind, that usually more active parents, who have information about the learning outcomes of their child, and his need for attainment, and seeking to get it, participate in such surveys. Qualitative data analysis enabled to see the aspects that concern parents regarding educational process during the classes. The limitation of this analysis should be borne in mind: here, we rely only on short (limited) comments of parents on the topic which is most relevant to them. To examine the opinion of

parents, semi-structured interview has to be used which maybe would not reveal *new* problems, however, the total view would be complemented by quite a few details.

Practical implications – Qualitative data analysis, which defined the tension fields in parents and teachers interaction, also enabled to understand the position of parents on every educational aspect which has become a problem to them. This illustrates that a conflicting interaction also has a positive potential: the behaviour of a conflicting personality highlights his desires, needs, strengths and weaknesses of his personality, moral maturity, psychological stability, and possibilities. However, due to the fact that both sides participate in the conflict, conflicting situations mentioned by parents also reveal the traits of some members of the school community (in this case it more pertains to teachers), those aspects of their activity that have to be improved. In order to achieve a more effective cooperation between parents and the school, it would be appropriate to pay more attention to conflict management.

Originality/Value – Revealed a wide spectrum of parents' negative feedback about school activity which can be understood as obstruction of school-parent non-conflict cooperation.

Keywords: parents, teachers, involvement, education

Research type: research paper.

Sustainable well-being through successful career: Review of career self-management resources in contemporary career frameworks

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Abstract

Nowadays, when a combination of economic and political crises, globalization and digitalization have affected the labour market, flexibility, willingness to learn and the ability quickly adapt to the changes are necessary for successful functioning. Such issues as cultural differences in the workplace, managing different life roles and commitments, and uncertainty in labour market catch the attention of researchers and practitioners (Neault, 2005). Growing markets demand highly qualified and innovative employees and the gap between requirements of the labour market and qualification level of employees becomes an issue in some countries (Yessengeldin, Sitenko, & Ramashova, 2015). The conception of career changes consequently. Career practitioners and theorists provide new constructs such as personal career management, career adaptability, and employability to help individual manoeuver in the changing labour market without losing the personal and social identity.

Purpose – The purpose of this review is to briefly describe and compare the main concepts of career resources and competencies, proposed in the most acknowledged contemporary career theories and career self-management models;

Design/methodology/approach – literature review and critical evaluation;

Findings – Having briefly reviewed the Career construction theory (Savickas, 2002), Chaos Theory of Careers (Pryor & Bright, 2007), self-directed career management model (Hirschi, 2012); employability (Fugate, Kinicki, & Ashforth, 2004) and career self-management (King, 2004; Sturges, 2008; Lent & Brown, 2013; Kuijpers & Scheerens, 2006; Akkermans, Brenninkmeijer, Huibers, & Blonk, 2012; Francis-Smythe et al., 2012), protean (Hall, 2004) and boundaryless career (Arthur & Rousseau, 1996) models, it is evident that the main career self-management resources can be divided in to at least five groups: psychological; identity and adaptability; social; human capital; self-presentation resources. Many of those resources are related to career and job satisfaction, career certainty, job search behaviors, performance, career planning, etc. (Abele & Spurk, 2009; Cullen, Edwards, Casper, & Gue, 2014; Kim et al., 2014; Koen et al., 2010; Lounsbury et al., 2003; McArdle et al. 2007; McIlveen, Beccaria, & Burton, 2013; Tolentino, Garcia, Lu, Restubog, Bordia, & Plewa, 2014; Zacher, 2014). Thus, it is evident that individuals need some career resources for successful career functioning, and psychological ones are essential.

Research limitations/implications – the main limitation of this review lies in the fact that it was not a systematic review or a meta-analysis. Nevertheless, several implications can be noticed. Firstly, different frameworks emphasize different resources and competencies, but none analyzed theoretical models fully covers the variety of potential career resources. Secondly, some potential resources remain outside any model despite the evidence that suggest their benefits in career path. Thirdly, due to the variety of potential career resources, there is a need to establish with certainty what are the interconnections and hierarchy of different career resources in successful career self-management. This could be achieved by employing longitudinal or experimental study design in future studies.

Practical implications – Organizations are concerned to recruit and support resourceful employees who use their strengths not only in personal gain but also in achieving company goals through performance, proactivity and innovation. Thus exploring the ways in which companies can contribute to employees' resources as well as creating tools for recruiting and assessing potentially resourceful employees, would highly benefit organizations. In addition, modern organizations might be interested in providing effective and efficient resource strengthening interventions for their employees. Finally, creating easily accessible self-help tools, such as on-line interventions, would be highly beneficial for employees, graduates, un-employed and other parties, interested in self-development;

Originality/Value – this review is an attempt to integrate the viewpoints of different career paradigms and to raise the possible issues of the field. Some valuable insights for future research and practice have been made while analysing the literature;

Keywords: career self-management, career resources, career competencies, employability, career adaptability;

Research type: literature review.

Psychological characteristics of adolescent victims of commercial sexual exploitation

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Abstract

Purpose. Commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) is the most prevalent form of human trafficking, and is researched for over two decades from different perspectives with the goal of finding solution to its prevention. Up till recent years, the main focus in search for risk factors to become a victim of human trafficking, including CSE, was on demographic, socioeconomic and psychosocial characteristics such as low education, dysfunctional family environment, being female, poverty, etc. However, research also show that not every person experiencing particular psychosocial, socioeconomic and demographic risk factor or combination of them, become victim of CSE. Moreover, not every person who is considered to be a victim, considers herself to be a victim. Trying to find explanation to the question why the difference in the outcomes of the presence of risk factors occur, some researchers started to research into personal experiences and cognitions of victims of CSE. The purpose of this study was to systematically review what psychological characteristics were observed in minor females before they were forced into CSE.

Approach. To study the topic, a systematic review method was employed. The articles were searched in PsychARTICLES, SocINDEX Full text, Academic Search Complete databases via EBSOhost database search engine. The criteria for article selection included that (a) it would be a research using quantitative or qualitative methods, or systematic review or meta-analysis, (b) the article would be in English or Lithuanian, (c) the participants of the research were females who were trafficked for CSE when they were minors, (d) research studies risk factors that include how the victim felt, what were their attitudes, thinking patterns, subjective evaluations, emotions prior to becoming victim of trafficking. Six articles matched criteria for final analysis.

Findings. Research show that victims of CSE demonstrate symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, mostly coming from experiences of sexual abuse; low self-esteem, subjective powerlessness over their life and decisions, feelings of abandonment, dysfunctional attachment patterns, feeling chaotic, different, hopelessness, lack of reflective abilities, mistrust in adult figure, feeling unsafe, experiencing high stress in daily life, sexual denigration of self and/or others, need for acceptance, etc. All of these characteristics are sensitized both by social and family environment in a negative way, thus, increasing vulnerability of the minor to risk-inflating behaviors (e.g. running away) and becoming victim of CSE.

Research limitations/implications. This research covered only very small portion of a very multivariate phenomenon. Since human trafficking, including CSE, is related to a number of interacting risk factors, it would be valuable to research cognitions and thinking patterns in victims of trafficking coming from different trajectories of interactions between socioeconomic, psychosocial risk factors and risk-inflating behaviours such as running away or substance abuse that lead to becoming a victim of CSE of minors.

Practical implications. This review can be a starting point for practitioners working with youth at risk to identify vulnerable individuals, so that they are able to employ appropriate means to prevent those individuals from becoming victims of CSE.

Originality/Value. There are very little research done in the field of cognitions and thinking patterns of victims of commercial exploitation prior to becoming the victim. Thus, this review summarizes what has been found so far, and might serve as a signpost for direction for future research in the field.

Keywords: adolescence, human trafficking, psychological risk factors
Research type (choose one): systematic review.

Gender differences in subjective health and quality of life evaluations: Tracking societal changes in Lithuanian higher education students' attitudes

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Abstract

Purpose – gender biased differences in Lithuanian higher education students' attitudes concerning subjective health and quality of life are analysed; results of survey, financed by Lithuanian State Studies Foundation are presented; methodology applying the assessment of gender biased attitudes as indicators of societal changes is discussed;

Methodology – attitude measures used as indicators of gender biased differences in subjective health and quality of life constructs, having for purpose the possibility of tracking societal changes reflected in changing attitudes over time; higher education students (N=1546) were chosen for the survey as this social group is the most promising in fostering and triggering social innovations for positive societal changes; subjective health and quality of life constructs were assessed using The World Health Organization Quality of Life-Bref questionnaire consisting of 26 items;

Findings – according to survey results gender biased differences are observed in subjective health evaluation and in three (out of six in total) subscales assessing quality of life: 1) satisfaction with social relationships and sexual activity; 2) satisfaction with home environment; 3) work capacity; when males perceive their health to be subjectively better than females, the situation is completely different in the case of satisfaction with social relationships and sexual activity, with home environment, and assessing work capacity – in all these cases young students females show better results than young students males;

Research limitations/implications – the importance of survey data will constantly grow taking periodic measures in various points in time reflecting societal changes observed in gender biased

attitudes as a result of gender socialization; much attention is needed in order to ensure instruments' equivalence in meaning over time as well as the representativeness of samples;

Practical implications – according to psychometric characteristics of the measurement instruments, the validity and reliability of the research is ensured, therefore the instrument is appropriate for the use in further surveys of representative samples in order to obtain the track of societal changes concerning gender biased differences;

Originality/Value – survey data is highly valuable in describing gender biased differences in Lithuanian higher education students' attitudes concerning subjective health and quality of life; it provides with the instrument for tracking societal changes; it provides with the possibility to assess the consistency between the societal changes and higher education students' gender biased attitudes;

Keywords: gender biased attitudes, higher education, social changes, subjective health, quality of life;

Research type: research paper.

Discourse-related devices of contrast in Lithuanian and English

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Abstract

Purpose – The aim of this study is to analyze if the semantic meaning of Lithuanian contrastive conjunctions *o* (*but/when/whereas/while*) and *bet* (*but*) coincides with the pragmatic meaning when they are employed to link sentences and become discourse relational devices and at the same time to draw some parallels with their English counterparts.

Design/methodology/approach – The advance of technologies enables linguists to apply linguistic corpora for language analysis at the same time enhancing applied language use in the new appearing technologies. A corpus-based approach is used to make generalizations of the usage of Lithuanian conjunctions and their English counterparts, whereas discourse analysis provides a theoretical framework to analyze the conjunctions in spoken language and distinguish their peculiarities typical of this social context. Comparative analysis is performed using Lithuanian and English linguistic corpora: *The Corpus of the Contemporary Lithuanian Language* compiled by Vytautas Magnus University and *The British National Corpus* (BNC) by Brigham Young University.

Findings – The research reveals that Lithuanian conjunction *bet* and its English counterpart *but* demonstrate similar pragmatic behavior. In many cases, the pragmatic function coincides with the semantic meaning of contrast. On pragmatic level both conjunctions *bet* and *but* serve to object indirectly, to deny interlocutor's ideas by first agreeing to them and then contradicting. Lithuanian conjunction *o* does not have a direct English counterpart. Lithuanian conjunction *o,* mainly contrastive in its semantic meaning, has manifold pragmatic meanings and therefore can be translated to English

not only by *but* and *and* but also by any other English utterance introducer depending on the context. Its semantic and pragmatic meaning of contrast and addition are tightly interrelated and in some cases cannot be separated.

Research limitations/implications – The focus of the research is spoken-like discourse which naturally implies certain limitations as it is not so much organized and more open to the recipient's intervention. The main function of DRDs in spoken language is to show the listener how to interpret what the speaker is saying, to guide the collocutor towards the intended interpretation of an utterance. In the Lithuanian language there is only one corpus which contains texts and provides data related to spoken language.

Practical implications – The comparative research of conjunctions gives more opportunities for language learners and translators. Knowledge of semantic meaning and pragmatic functions provides easily idenfiable advice on how conjunctions could be used and translated.

Originality/Value – The object of the research is comparatively new in Lithuania and adds to the research field related to discourse relations studies.

Keywords (3-5): discourse relational devices, conjunctions, corpus-based analysis, pragmatics.

Research type (choose one): research paper.

The foundation of values in the contemporary society

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Abstract

Purpose – The report aims at revealing certain features of a contemporary person's thinking which determine particular modalities of experience of values or their existential forms.

Design/methodology/approach – The assumptions made in this report arise from research in contemporary person's experience based on observations of psychological and spiritual processes and from the analysis of world-scale academic literature investigating the dynamics of thinking and values of the modern and contemporary person.

Findings – The thinking of the contemporary person is determined by the nowadays established process of the rationalization of reality in which we can discern two tendencies that profoundly condition the existential forms of values. On the one hand, the rationalization emerges as ideological thinking; on the other hand, it acquires the shape of technologisation of any reality, including the reality of the person. Such situation nowadays produces deep crisis in all spheres of human life (spiritual, psychological, political, economic, ecological, etc.) To solve this crisis, we will have to choose between two alternatives: either to delegate the power of thinking and decision-making to purely technological entities, the so-called "artificial intelligences", or to transform human thinking by steering it towards direct experience of reality and by relating it with spiritually-based transformation of humanity. In this report, the key contemporary thinkers and their concepts are presented as

directing the thinking of humanity towards the second alternative (starting with Henry Bergson's "intuition" and ending with Jeremy Rifkin's "empathy").

Practical implications – The statements of this report indicate the necessity to change a person's relationship with reality and the very self; and this requires transformation of practical activities in all spheres of life - spiritual-psychological, ecological, educational, political, economic etc.

Originality/Value – The author of the report presents and analyses the original concept of "ethics of thinking" which, according to the autho, has to become a new axiological foundation.

Keywords (3-5): Values, rationalization, technologisation, ethics of thinking.

Research type (choose one): research paper, viewpoint, technical paper, conceptual paper, case study, literature review, general review.

Moving toward integration: how do students communicate interpersonal conflict

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Abstract

Purpose – Conflicts may range from minor disagreements that are easily solved to major arguments that are much more difficult to reconcile, leaving long-lasting effects for the individuals involved. A response depends on dominant conflict style and either offers growth, stagnation, or destruction. *The purpose* of the presentation is to describe the characteristics of the expression of conflicting behavior of young Lithuanians (students). The tasks of the survey are to reveal the tendencies in the manifestation of conflicts between students and their peers (equal power opponents) as well between students and their teachers (unequal power opponents).

Design/methodology/approach – The questionnaire introduced the study and contained questions about handling interpersonal conflicts with opponents. 18 different items as possible reactions that may manifest during conflict were included in the conflict behavior questionnaire. A broad convenience sample of 238 students from Mykolas Romeris University participated in the study. Participation was voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. The students were given 20 minutes to complete the questionnaires. The survey was carried out in the academic years of 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

The survey contained questions asking the students to rate the aspects of their conflict behaviour experiences. The survey consisted of two sections: 1) conflicts with peers; 2) conflicts with teacher. Students were asked to rate each item on a Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (not at all) to 5 (always), keeping in mind how often the type of behavior described by the item occurred during their disagreements with 1) peers; with 2) university teachers.

Findings – Distributive conflict resolution strategies are rarely applied by students - avoiding is the most frequent of them, forcing – the least frequently used strategy while handling conflicts. Typical distributive actions during student conflicts are as follow: trying to forget about the disagreement, not defending his/ her opinion, avoiding communication, demanding attention to conflict issue by raising

his / her voice; mocking the opponent behind his/ her back (especially indirectly), not telling the truth to the opponent. These distributive conflict resolution tendencies should be borne in mind when developing student skills during lectures and seminars at a university;

Research limitations/implications – The study was using self-report measures and questionnaires that employ a forced-choice format. This study was consisted of a sample limiting generalizability.

Practical implications – Knowledge on the manifestation of conflict behavior is needed to manage it prevalence. Training in conflict management should enable to de-emphasize hierarchical relations – to encourage students say their opinions, teach them to justify their views, to argue, to manage emotions. It is important as well to emphasize the negative effects of distributive strategies, to discuss about possible overcoming of shortcomings of integrative strategies (problem solving, compromising). If there are used distributive strategies it may be interpreted depending on the nature of the situation.

Originality/Value – Nowadays society requires, among other capabilities, that students be able to work in teams and effectively manage conflict as they participate in modern organizations and negotiate their own careers.This recent study suggest how conflict resolution course can be modified for effective conflict management trainig at Mykolas Romeris University.

Keywords (3-5): manifestation of conflict behavior; distributive action; students; Lithuania;
Research type (choose one): research paper.

The Baltics' join the Eurozone Impact on the Convergence

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Abstract

The **purpose of the research is to investigate how** recent processes in EU space have influenced the Baltic region and how the debt crisis (Greece case), and weak euro against the dollar, the Russian-Ukraine conflict, sanctions against Russia, prices oil and gas. All Baltic countries have had a quick recovery from the recent recession and economies have a different development level than before the crisis. The study directed to investigate the impact of changeovers of the national currency to the euro on macro trends of the convergence and consumer expectations.

Design/methodology/approach – This article examined the trends of developments in Baltic countries affected by join the eurozone. When a small and open economy as each of Baltic counties is experiencing economic downturn and is not able to generate enough income to support its public spending the public sector there are not many options for the maneuver between monetary and fiscal policies to find relevant decision for recovery of economy and future developments. Each Baltic country build own way to achieve recovery goal. Estonia was better equipped by necessary reserves, Latvia asked for IMF loan, and Lithuania used internal capacity through cutting wages and salaries and using other fiscal instruments.

Findings – With the entry to the euro zone, Baltic countries improved the investment environment and should gain in the long-term. Latvian economy will be driven by domestic demand. Solid growth in wages, low inflation and falling unemployment will boost household consumption. Similar factors are in play in Lithuania and Estonia. Latvia's loan portfolio is still contracting, what restraints economic growth. Estonia's external environment is worsened by struggling Finnish economy. Favorable borrowing environment and weaker euro should help Baltic countries to adjust to changing export markets and to return to faster economic growth in the next years. The macroeconomic trends have influence the consumers' behavior and expectations. The lessons and experiences gathered from these activities are also fed into analysis and policy advice that informs policies in the Union, with particular regard to global economic developments and their potential effects on EMU, the international role of the euro, the reform of the international monetary system, the evolution of global external imbalances, the external representation of the EU and country-specific economic issues.

Research limitations/implications – Ther reseach concentrated on price stability, consumer confidence, and the growth of the average wage and unemployment reduction.

Practical implications – The Baltics as other countries highly depend on external cross connected terms. European debt crisis (Greece case), sanctions against Russia and Ukraine crisis in a short time created new risks and uncertainties for countries' developments.

Originality/Value – the multidimencioning of the research problem need to use combine different indicators of the convergence with the changeovers of the national currency to the euro on macro trends of the convergence and consumer expectations.

Keywords (3-5): Baltic Countries, Currency Regime, Convergence, Eurozone, Price Stability
Research type (choose one): research paper.

Researching efficient idiom learning strategies in different societies

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Abstract

Purpose. The study was conducted to examine the potential effects of using different teaching instructions - translation, historical and cultural origin explanation accompanied by related picture and output tasks (closing and editing) - on the idiom acquisition of Iranian and Lithuanian intermediate EFL learners. Another purpose of current research was to assess whether there was any consistency among the learning strategies that the learners usually had used to learn a new expression before any instruction and the effective method that was applied in this research, as well as to note any differences, if any, predetermined by the student ethnic background.

Methodology. 234 homogeneous intermediate learners were selected and randomly assigned to six equal groups (three Iranian and three Lithuanian groups). Following a pre-test, the six groups

attended four sessions of teaching in which all the learners received the same set of idioms through different methods: the first group -translation group- received treatment via translation of idioms in specific contexts. The second group -historical origin and picture group - underwent teaching of idioms via presented related picture and cultural origin. The third group -output task group - received instruction through completing two types of output tasks.

Findings. The results on idiom acquisition were processed statistically. It was established that teaching idioms with related picture and cultural note has a satisfactory significant effect on the acquisition of target items. Furthermore, a cognitive-learning questionnaire was given to all respondents before any instruction to assess if there was any consistency between the learning strategy for idiom acquisition and the applied effective method. The research revealed that although most of the participants focused primarily on meaning and contained words of an idiom before instruction, the picture along with cultural and historical note method fostered their learning.

Research limitations. The research focused on a limited number of idioms. The results achieved through instruction with picture and cultural note revealed that this trend indeed did not distract students' attention from the precise verbal input due to careful selection of the researchers. However, sometimes students seem to zoom on the 'wrong' elements of the scenes depicted by the photographs or pictures.

Practical implications. The findings call for some realistic, research proven expectations, for the language materials writers, textbook authors and CALL package designers to add pictorials and cultural explanation as indispensable tools to the verbal input for idiom acquisition and to make pedagogical materials more appealing for active usage.

Originality. The carried out research is among the first attempts to assess objectively (supported by precise statistically processed data) to find efficient and efficacious ways to teach and learn least translucent phrasal units in a target, i.e. English, language by students coming from different ethnic societies- Iran and Lithuania.

Keywords: English as a foreign language, Dual coding, Learning and cognitive style, Pictorial, Output tasks.

Research type: research paper.

Macro factors for European creative industries development

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Abstract

Purpose – the purpose of the article is to define factors of creative industries development in European context.

Design/methodology/approach – the methodology is based on index construction and econometric calculations. The important factors for the creative industries development are defined and grouped, data is normalized and sub-indexes are formatted. There is another index made for the

evaluation of creative industries. These indexes are compared and the correlations between them are calculated.

Findings – the main result of the research is the evaluating the impact of macro factors for creative industry in European context. The most significant factors are related to technology, economy and talent.

Research limitations/implications – research methodology is limited to the European countries, the global index is not available because of the lack of the data.

Practical implications – creative industries is becoming more and more important sector for the development of the economic system. The analysis of creative industries and factors that are influencing this sector is important for the national competitiveness strategies.

Originality/Value – the index of creative industries is original and newly developed.

Keywords (3-5): creative industries, development, talent, tolerance, creative environment, technology.

Research type (choose one): research paper.

Economic development concepts in the search for a typologization of the socio-economic history of lithuania from 1557 to 1861

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Abstract

Purpose – The purpose of the paper is to present the most influential non-Marxist (Karl Bücher [1893], Max Weber [1923]) and (neo)-Marxist (Witold Kula [1976], Immanuel Wallerstein [1974 a; 1974 b) concepts of economic development in comparative economic sociology and political economy by revealing their analytical value in the search of typologization of the socio-economic history of Lithuania 1557–1861.

Methodology – the methodological basis of the study is the access of comparative historical sociology which allows through analytical instrumentation of comparative historical economical sociology theories to integrate social and economic history of Lithuania of 1557–1861 into the context of global history. The period of 1557–1861 – the stage of *corvée* economy existence in Lithuania.

Findings – it is found that K. Bücher's evolutionary typology of economic development ("the domestic economy", "the town economy", "the national economy") and M. Weber's euro-centric world economic history concept is best suited to analyze the qualitative organization changes of economic life of the most developed countries in Western Europe. The Marxist (W. Kula's model of the feudal economy) and the neo-Marxist (I. Wallerstein's capitalist world-system (CWS) conception) economical development concepts suit better the socio-economic reality of less developed countries. The typological diagnostics of Lithuanian social economic

history of 1557–1861 is provided. Economic structure and evolution of Lithuania of 16th–19th centuries (up to 1861) mostly corresponds to peripheral capitalism farm type highlighted in neo-Marxist economic development CWS concept. In 16th–19th centuries (up to 1861) Lithuanian economy was weakly involved in international market [Žiemelis, 2013; Меркис, 1964]. For the behavior of the owners of commercial bondage folwark estates was not characteristic to accumulate capital (constant investment of profit in order to technologically upgrade the production [Žiemelis, 2011]), which testifies the agrarian feudal nature of economy. The observed constant residual folwark (agricultural) production exports structure shows the existence of peripheral capitalist elements. In 1795, when Lithuania was incorporated into the Russian empire – serfdom policy exercised by CWS in semi-periphery space [Norkus, 2012: 21–22] – its economy for political reasons and the absence of a port was focused not on the industry, but on the production of raw materials for the centers of empire and the Western market, and therefore its agrarian nature of the economy became even more intense. Its economic situation from 1795 to 1861 should be classified as periphery within the semi-periphery.

Research implications – 1) contributes to the development of dialogue of interdisciplinary historical and social sciences; 2) contributes to the research of social economic history which is neglected in contemporary Lithuanian historiography.

Practical implications – the results obtained allow a deeper knowledge of contemporary Lithuanian economic development in the global context.

Originality / Value – the most influential non-Marxist (K. Bücher, M. Weber) and (neo) Marxist (W. Kula, I. Wallerstein) concepts of economic development are analytically analyzed and for the first time in historiography the typological diagnostics of 16th-19th centuries (up to 1861) of Lithuanian social economic history is provided in the context of the world history.

Keywords: 16th-19th c. Lithuania's social economic history; economic development concepts; Karl Bücher; Max Weber; Witold Kula; Immanuel Wallerstein.

Research type: research paper.

New societal values, concepts and terms

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Abstract

Purpose – The aim of this paper is to show the evolution of some aspects of Western societies by means of new concepts and terms emerged in English and Spanish language that reflect the above-mentioned evolution in spheres as politics, environmentalism and new family models. The profound impact of new technologies in the configuration of current Western societies as well as the conflict between tradition and modernity in the different focus of this paper will be shown too.

Methodology –The theoretical approach is based on methods of Contrastive Linguistics. Following the principles of this branch of Linguistics we will be able to note the differences and similarities between English and Spanish language, mainly, in semantics. The comparison of concepts and terms in societies with different mentality also enables deeper understanding of the evolution and particularities of two -Anglo-Saxon and Hispanic -worlds.

Findings – The research covered in this paper is one of the first attempts to analyze and compare the terms related with evolving political phenomena, environmentalism and new family types.

Research limitations – The research is based on a limited number of terms in the above mentioned spheres of societal life. It is apparent that the study in future should encompass a greater intake of the evolving concepts and terms for denoting them.

Practical implications – The most important practical implication of this paper is the elaboration of a material that could be useful for professionals of politics and communication and in teaching/learning English and Spanish as foreign/second languages for specific purposes.

Originality/Value – The originality of the paper mainly rests on the study field that has not, to the best of our knowledge, has been researched in-depth. An additional value of this research is related with its interdisciplinary nature: there is an aim to analyze the concepts and terms, comprehending a strong connection between Linguistics, Teaching languages, History, Politics and Communication. Thus, it attempts to bring insights into evolution of Western societies.

Keywords (3-5): Contrastive Linguistics; Terms of Politics, Environmentalism, New Family Types.

Research type: research paper.

Multimodality of sonnet interpretation in contemporary societies

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Abstract

Purpose. The purpose of this paper is to explore some types of William Shakespeare's sonnet interpretations including book covers, illustrations, recitations, visions, film performance and their meaning making in recent multimodal contexts. Print-based sonnets are basically mono-modal and take on their meaning through the interaction among semantic, syntactic and phonetic elements; whereas, sonnet interpretations crossing the boundaries of printed text open new perspectives and acquire new content.

Methodology. This paper tackles the theory of multimodality, based on evolving multidisciplinary studies. Furthermore, the paper takes into account the principles and theory of comparative literature and translation studies since meaning making in multimodal contexts requires good understanding of primary printed poetic texts and engages analysis of other semiotic modes

where interpretation is articulated.

Findings. In traditional printed texts meaning making is based on verbal means and figures of speech. Whereas, poetry in multimodal contexts requires innovative methods of analysis due to the interaction of several modes that create meaning. The results of linguistic, visual, aural and spatial input into meaning of selected sonnets are presented.

Research limitations. The research focused on a limited group of sonnets and their multimodal interpretations. The authors hope that the given paper will give impetus to further studies in the ever-expanding contemporary scope of multimodal sonnet adaptations and interpretations.

Practical implications. The findings of the research could be used in a broad multidisciplinary arts field, as well as in literature seminars to demonstrate innovative methods of poetry interpretation of classical works.

The comparison of several Shakespeare's sonnets and their interpretation in multimodal contexts reveals a two-way process. On the one hand, it demonstrates an inevitable loss of meaning. On the other hand, utilizing several modes of meaning making create new meanings; thus, the gain of meaning. The current study, hopefully, adds to raising awareness in shift and expanding/specifying the meaning of sonnet multimodal interpretations.

Originality. Innovative theories of poetry interpretation are just emerging. Rapid technological advance requires reshaping of the traditional methods of poetry analysis and looking for new tools to analyse classical works. The study is one of the first attempts to look into the multimodality of sonnets in two -English and Lithuanian- languages and culture spheres.

Keywords: multimodality, poetry interpretation, meaning making**.**

Research type: research paper.

Poetry translation valuation practice. A case study of SOAR(T)

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Abstract

Purpose – The aim of this paper is to review the poetry translation valuation practice in the first poetry translation contest called by MRU Bachelor Degree students in Philology Degree Programmes. SOAR(T) translation contest from English into Lithuanian yielded a hub of reading and interpreting strategies, identification of translation contexts, building of relations between texts, cultures and identities; allapplied in translation valuation processes.

Design/methodology/approach – The translation valuation approach used in the contest was multilevel. The age of the poets and translators was used as a point of commonality in establishing translational relations. SOAR(T) offered young British poets' works to be translated into Lithuanian for the students of Philology Degree programmes at MRU. The original and translated texts were commented by two sets of editors, who provided different forums of the texts cultural identities, language norms, media assimilations and institutional involvement. Student attitudes and comments

were collected. The material was reviewed within the context of broader theories on translation practice and translation theory

Findings – 23 poetry translations were reviewed by two sets of editors. SOAR(T) contest as a translation experiment lead to unfinished translation results which is seen in SOAR(T) as a value in itself. SOAR(T) revealed disturbances in contextualizing of social, political, technological and . cultural identities.

Practical implications – Students' translation contest SOAR(T) is a site of practical implementation of many approaches to valuation of literary translations that can further be introduced into the practice of Philology Degree courses and into translation research.

Originality/Value – SOAR(T) is a new and unique poetry translation project for Lithuanian translation site. Its outcomes identify the new possibilities for creating hybridity in culture, language and identities.

Keywords (3-5): SOAR(T), poetry, translation, hybridity, relation.

Research type (choose one): conceptual paper, case study.

Plurilingualism as a value based principle in teacher competence development

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Abstract

Purpose –to present the concept of plurilingualism and teachers' plurilingual competence building. The paper also discusses the competences required for teachers in order to integrate plurilingual and intercultural dimension in teacher education.

Design/methodology/approach – the paper is based on the multilateral Comenius Project TC4PI experience (2012-2015) and literature analysis on plurilingualism which is viewed as a value and a competence, that is, a means of communication and a common and diversified way of relating to the Other/Ohterness.

Findings – Teacher competence building framework is based on the philosophy of linguistic diversity in the society and individual plurilingualism. Plurilingual competence is composed of knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and assumptions. Competence means the proven ability to use knowledge, skills and personal, social and/or methodological abilities, in work or study situations and in professional and personal development. Plurilingualism develops throughout life: individuals may acquire new languages and lose old ones at different points in their lives while taking language as a tool to serve different purposes and needs. Grounding on the principle of plurilingualism and

plurilingual awareness eight teacher training modules have been designed and tested with pre-service and in-service teachers from five partner countries.

Practical implications – Obtained findings and project outcomes will serve as guidelines for teachers' plurilingual education and plurilingual and intercultural awareness raising in school environment.

Originality/Value – The paper discusses the outcomes of the project which is still in progress.

Keywords (3-5): plurilingualism, plurilingual competence, teacher education

Research type (choose one): conceptual paper, case study.