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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**29-30
OCTOBER**

UBT
Innovation Campus, Kosovo

10th INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
BUSINESS, TECHNOLOGY
AND INNOVATION
2021



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

From:

10th Annual International Conference

Chapter: Management, Business and Economics
Chapter: Information Systems
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Chapter: Energy Efficiency Engineering
Chapter: Mechatronics, System Engineering and Robotics
Chapter: Computer Science and Communication Engineering
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Chapter: Language and Culture
Chapter: Sport
Chapter: Special Session

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Editor Speech of IC - BTI 2021

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This conference is the major scientific event of the UBT. It is organizing annually and always in cooperation with the partner universities from the region and Europe. In this case as partner universities are: University of Tirana – Faculty of Economics, University of Korca. As professional partners in this conference are: Kosova Association for Control, Automation and Systems Engineering (KA – CASE), Kosova Association for Modeling and Simulation (KA – SIM), Quality Kosova, Kosova Association for Management. This conference is sponsored by EUROSIM - The European Association of Simulation. We have to thank all Authors, partners, sponsors and also the conference organizing team making this event a real international scientific event. This year we have more application, participants and publication than last year.

Congratulations!

Edmond Hajrizi,

Rector of UBT and Chair of IC - BTI 2021

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Sustainability in Higher Education

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Abstract. The purpose of this thesis lies within the idea to create an understanding of the importance of sustainability and a sustainable development and furthermore to understand the effort of institutions of higher education towards these concepts. The focus is set on the performance of institutions of higher education based on their contribution towards the topic of sustainability.

The method, which has been used in this thesis, is the quantitative method, using the data provided from the ranking website (*Times Higher Education Impact Ranking*), which did the ranking of universities globally, taking into account their contribution towards the topic of sustainability. Through the analysis of linear regression it has been proved that, talking about the dependence of two variables (the dependent variable – *Overall Ranking* and the independent variables – *17 Sustainable Development Goals*) from 17 SDGs, there are several ones that have a higher impact on the overall ranking than others. The analysis has shown that SDG4 (*Quality education*) is one of the indicators having the highest impact on the overall ranking of the universities. SDG17 (*Global partnership*) has resulted to be as well one of the most influential indicators, which has been set as well as the one mandatory indicator, to provide information for, if decided to take part in the ranking. Finally, through this research it has been achieved to ensure an understanding of sustainability as a factor on the image of an institution of higher education and the identification of those indicators with a higher influence on the overall ranking.

Keywords: Sustainability, Higher Education, Ranking, Sustainable Development Goals

Pension Funds Management: Case Study Kosovo Pension Savings Fund – Trust

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Abstract: The pension system in Kosovo over the last three decades has gone through successive changes. The reason for these changes were undoubtedly enormous economic and political developments, due to the fact that after the last war Kosovo did not have a pension fund where people could contribute for their retirement. Based on the above considerations, the purpose of the research is to introduce the pension scheme in Kosovo, the differences between the pillars of the pension system and the impact of the pension system on the economy and also this research is focused on the institution's responsibility for the management of pension funds which have an essential role in the most efficient running of the retirement process, providing social funding in accordance with the legal provisions of Kosovo, and to identify the factors who assist or hinder the management of the Pension System in Kosovo. The methodology of this research is case study. The comparative and historical method has been used to compare on a quarterly basis from 2010 onwards, Assets under Trust Management, Unit Price, Investments in Financial Markets and the Local Market, Return on Investment, Pensions Paid, and breakdown for each category. SPSS had been used for statistical analysis, more specifically we used multiple linear regression and correlation.

The three pillars of the pension system are discussed, while a more detailed analysis will be made for pillar II, for the Kosovo Pension Savings Fund. KPST is an institution established in December 2001 and started operating in August 2002 to administer and manage mandatory pension (and voluntary)

contributions of employees in Kosovo. The results of this research reveal the assets under management, asset management and most importantly the investment policies and investment strategies that Fund pursues in order to increase the flexibility of the fund to improve performance in times of crisis. As well as from the analysis of multiple linear regression we have the following results: If Paid Pension increase per unit, Assets under Management will increase by 0.015, while Total Placements in Financial Markets will decrease by 0.008. And, If Financial Market Placement increases per unit, Assets under Management will increase by 0.851.

Keywords: assets under management, investment strategies, investment policies, fund, savings, pension.

Did Covid 19 Kill the Creativity of Project Managers?

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Abstract. Creativity is a tool that can enhance the project manager's effectiveness in the application of skills thereby improving the chances of success on a project. Through the effective use of creativity techniques, a project manager can enhance the application of technical processes and lead the project team to the successful delivery of project objectives. This is a random case that appears in a normal situation. But since 2020 we are facing with Covid 19 pandemic, and we assume that also this situation has an impact on project managers, particularly in their creativity to enhance new projects and also to get better results in ongoing projects.

The important part of the application of creativity from Project Manager, is to improve the interpersonal skills and productivity of the team, and prepare them for different challenges.

Our research is focused to evaluate the behavior of Project Managers during this pandemic period. We intend to assessed through brainstorming with respondents what are the key factors that affected from Covid 19 to PM job including motivation, team building, communication, influence, decision making, and project results.

Keywords: Project Managers, creativity, performance, results.

Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Public Debt and Economic Growth in the Western Balkans Countries

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Abstract. The main aim of this study is to empirically assess the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic through public debt on economic growth in the Western Balkan countries. This empirical analysis includes the countries of the Western Balkans such as: Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Bosnia. More specifically, this paper will examine and analyze the effect of anti-covid measures, and their impact on public debt and economic growth. The analysis period will include data from 1995 to 2020, and the source of data will be the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and Eurostat. To prove the hypotheses we will use various econometric methods and models, such as: OLS, Fixed Effects and Random Effects, Hausman-Taylor, and GMM method. The findings show that the global Covid-19 pandemic has caused economic crisis in both developed and developing countries, and as a result the countries of the Western Balkans from 2020 have rapidly increased the level of public debt compared to other years. Moreover, the results show a negative link between pandemic and public debt, because some of these countries had high levels of public debt before the pandemic period. Unbalanced growth of public debt as a result of the pandemic in the long run can negatively effect on economic growth. The results and findings of this study provide very important data in the field of public debt and economic growth for the governments of the Balkan Western countries.

Keywords: Covid-19, Economic Growth, Public Debt, Western Balkan Countries.

JEL Classification: E60, E69, E011, H63.

Global Issues in Project Management

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Abstract. As a result of globalization, overproduction, short life cycle of products, competition and uncertain domestic markets, businesses are extending their operations in international scale (Santoso & Loosemore, 2013; Grisham, 2011)

Projects are implemented with the goal to introduce changes and to deliver unique products based on customer requirements, (Grisham, 2011; Kerzner, 2009), however as a result of free movement and shared market (like European Union), innovations on technology (e-business, teleworking), outsourcing and new product development, projects are implemented within international scale and people and materials for international projects are now sourced globally (Grisham, 2011).

Furthermore, project managers are dealing with remote and virtual projects teams (Grisham, 2011) that are assembled from individuals that are representing different nation, religion, race and culture (Barczak, McDonough, & Athan, 2006).

In addition, project management is developed by western countries and un intentionally, western culture is imposed in to project management standards (Wang & Liu, 2007). Project management standards like, Project Management Professional (PMP), PRINCE2, (Projects In Controlled Environments), ITIL (Information Technology Infrastructure Library), and APM (Association for Project Management) are western project management approaches and they requires use of project management technology but also project management values and beliefs, that are representing western values and beliefs.

Keywords: Project Management, PMI, ITIL, PMBOOK

General Office Of The Auditor in Kosovo (OAG)¹ VS Court Of Audit in Slovenia (CA)² - Comparative Aspect Of Performance Indicators

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Abstract. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the efficiency of the work of auditors in the public sector in the Republic of Kosovo. We used secondary data due to lack of data from primary data. The database includes all auditors from the National Audit Office in the Republic of Kosovo and the Court of Audit in the Republic of Slovenia. A comparative method is applied according to 15 performance indicators ordered by INATOSA. The results show that to present comparative results should be summarized as follows in brief points: OAG's mandate is 5 years while CA's is 9 years, OAG conducts only two types of audits in the Republic of Kosovo while CA conducts all types of audits. Also in terms of finance OAG has a budget twice as small as CA's. In terms of professionalism, almost both of these institutions have adequate education. And finally in terms of time scope, CA has been operating for 25 years while OAG for 15 years.

Keywords: Independence; Legal Framework; Internal Governance; Ethics; Reporting; Human Resources and Training; Kosovo vs Slovenia.

Workforce Diversity and Innovation Performance: A Micro-Level Analysis of Transition Economies

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Abstract. The aim of this paper is to examine the relationship between the gender diversity of the workforce and innovation, using micro level data from 27 transition economies. The gender composition of the workforce is captured by the percentage of women employees, the Blau index of heterogeneity and Shannon entropy index. In exploring the effect of gender diversity, this study differentiates between product and process innovation. In addition to the main variables of interest, the empirical analysis is complemented by a set of control variables, industry and country dummies. To address potential endogeneity in the estimations, an instrumental variable approach is employed. The results of this study show that the presence of women in the workforce exerts a positive and statistically significant impact on both, product and process innovation. A positive association is also found between the gender diversity indices and the probability of introducing a new product and a new process, respectively. These findings are consistent with the view that having a more gender diverse workforce is associated with a variety of perspectives, skills and knowledge on performing creative tasks, new problem-solving techniques, which ultimately contribute to firm innovation.

Keywords: gender, diversity, workforce, innovation, transition economies

Monetary Policy in the Eurozone

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Abstract. The main goal of the ECB monetary policy is to keep prices stable and the inflation rate below or close to 2% in the medium term. The legal basis for the single monetary policy is set out in the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and the Statute of the ECB and the ESCB. The monetary policy strategy of the Eurozone countries is also associated with the stability of the balance of payments

To achieve its main objective, the ECB uses a set of monetary policy instruments as well as various procedures. The Euro system operations framework consists of the following set of instruments: Open market operations; Instruments available (permanent); Minimum reservation

Inflation represents an increase in the price of goods and services, thus reducing the role of money as a medium of exchange, acting as a tax on the holding of money. An environment with inflation makes it difficult for firms and individuals to make decisions, thus reducing economic efficiency. Not much attention has been paid directly to the exchange rate, but the main objective (price stability) of the ECB-led monetary policy depends on exchange rate movements

Interest rates play a very important role for a country's economy; they are the main aggregate for securing or absorbing liquidity in the banking market.

Keywords: Monetary policy, single monetary policy, monetary policy instruments, ECB, euro area, member states, interest rate, exchange rate, inflation.

JEL Classification: E5, E50, E51, E52, E58, E4, E42

Application of the self-checkout system in Kosovo

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Abstract. Kosovo is a new state which passed the period under occupation, under a system where the market economy did not dominate, to pass to the period of war, liberation, emergency system. During this process, Kosovo has marked concrete steps in the application and use of innovations and information technology in order to reduce costs, increase efficiency and effectiveness at work and reduce the customers waiting in front of cash registers in major markets in Kosovo.

The motive for the application of self-checkout system is the advancement and importance of the application of digital technologies mechanisms, such as robots to facilitate human life, awareness and their education for a better and innovative world.

The Self-checkout system will facilitate the procedure of long waits during payments in the trade chains; it will also make consumers feel more advanced and more productive when buying products in the markets.

The application of the Self-Checkout system is not a new concept as it is used in many countries with developed economies, while in Kosovo there is a shortage of it, i.e. this system is almost not used at all, and as a result of non-use, long queues are created, i.e. for the purchase of products we have to wait in queue and waste time, while time is money, while this system in these pandemic circumstances with COVID-19, is very convenient one because there will be not contact with individuals.

Keywords: self-checkout, purchase, products, technology, innovation, market.

Entrepreneurship as a contemporary process: Leadership - Innovation – Change

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Abstract. Change management is a key issue for the survival and realization of organizational objectives in today's business environment, which is changing in different ways. Change has become a necessary constant for companies that need to change in order to remain competitive in the market. The ability to manage this change is seen as a basic skill of successful enterprises in contemporary entrepreneurship. These changes are undoubtedly manifested both locally and internationally. Economic globalization as an integrator has caused these two levels to merge into one, causing the difference between them to fade. This integration has been very intense lately.

Leadership as the process by which an individual influences a group to achieve a common goal. Process means systematic and continuous actions and ways by which the leader influences subordinates. It should be noted that leadership is not a linear process but an interactive process and requires adaptation and innovation. Entrepreneurship and innovation in developing countries but also in developed countries in the contemporary era is influencing in all aspects of business development. This research for Kosovo condition confirms the following results: that the change process is an integral and necessary part of day-to-day management in these enterprises, identifying leadership challenges in implementing the change process and adapting enterprises to the contemporary environment continues to be vital to performance profitability and competitiveness. Answering research questions requires testing the relationships between variables (type of change, process factors, and success of the change). Testing of these connections is enabled using quantitative methods. As a result, the use of questionnaires as a method for data collection in this paper enables: research and analysis of possible relationships between the variables taken in the study, and tends to 'open' issues that will be of interest to be explored in the future.

These leadership activities, adapting the efforts to maximize the existing opportunities in the environment of strong competition and following the contemporary development trends in the enterprise have been researched during the processes of change in the enterprise are: creating a strong leadership team to lead the processes, develop a vision to assist and guide efforts to achieve strategic objectives, designing and communicating the strategy to achieve the planned results, providing training and career development for employees to understand, reduce resistance and motivate to achieve the mission and vision of the enterprise.

Keywords: changes, contemporary management, entrepreneurship, innovation.

Restructuring of Banking Systems

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Abstract. Since 2008 banks have operated in markets characterized by negative yields, which negatively impacted banks' profitability and reduced net interest margins, especially institutions dependent on maturity transformation and net interest income. In the wake of the earlier financial crisis in 2008, there was also an urgent need for strict regulatory control, which was very useful in the current context. At the same time, however, stricter rules have reduced the competitiveness of banks compared to bank surrogates.

The pandemic crisis comes as an additional burden on the problems banks have faced over the past years due to some trends that have meant increasing competitive pressure on banks. Though Kosovo banks have continued to operate successfully through pandemic crises, besides dealing with unprecedented situations, the Covid-19 turmoil is likely to have the effect that interest rates will remain low for much longer. Although banks will benefit from being the liquidity support channel and have access to central bank support in the short term, the profound crisis affecting the real economy will likely lead to a new surge in non-performing loans and rising unemployment.

Though the application of high capitalization of banks since 2009 and stress tests that affected the banks to enter the crisis with sound capital and relatively liquid, the size and duration of the situation are likely to exacerbate this due to overcoming predicted in many stress tests performed so far.

Although the Covid-19 crisis has triggered policy responses to stimulate lending to the real economy while safeguarding the banking sector in the short term, deep restructuring of banking systems will be necessary for the medium term.

Given the financial sector's significant challenges from pandemic crises, this study will examine Kosovo's banking strategies implemented during the pandemic crisis and the impact and implication of banking business systems for the future.

Keywords: Banking, financial system restructuring, financial crisis, Kosovo.

JEL Classification: E5 E58 G21 G23

Strategic Decision Making

“Game Theory”

Case study: “Viva Fresh Store and ETC market”

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Abstract. The decision making is a process which affects and includes people with vision, but to make this process more effective we have studied from the prospective of the Game Theory as an option to simplify the decision making process.

The game theory is a structural mathematic to calculate options and opportunities before individuals or institutions takes decisions. Game theory, analyzes subject's opportunities but at the same time analyzes the responses of the opponent, furthermore there is no game with a single player that's why we have to think also in opponent perspective.

At the beginning of last century many mathematicians have started to develop their theories about Game Theory, but John Nash was one of them who achieved to bring something new and useful for every decision maker. We use Game theory every time but businesses are the community which is most affects with decisions in daily or weekly bases.

This research for over six months in the perspective of Business Administration, at the two subjects of our study thesis Viva Fresh Store and ETC are potential companies to start using Game theory to increase their profits. While we have a lot of companies which operates in Kosovo's market this model will be a new perspective to structure the market.

Viva Fresh Store and ETC are expressing their commitment to use Game Theory in marketing companies because that will reduce costs of marketing. But, both firms are using Game theory in most of their decisions even if they don't know that they are taking decisions in Game Theory perspective.

Furthermore, Viva Fresh Store and ETC or other companies with same performance are collaborate when they can and compete when they must game theory will be easily used.

Keywords: Microeconomics, game theory, market imperfection, cost benefit analysis, decision making.

JEL classification codes: B21, C7, D43, D61, D81.

Privacy And Data Protection in E-Commerce

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Abstract. Today we are on the verge of a new explosion of information technology and robotics. Every day, millions of people identify in the virtual world through the use of the infinity of different applications that cyberspace offers. The main advantage of electronic communications is the rapid exchange of information with the whole world, but this also creates difficulties in some legal aspects. One such difficulty is the protection of privacy when conducting e-commerce.

Despite the broad consensus on the importance of privacy, there is still no unique definition of the concept of privacy in scientific circles. In the respective jurisdiction - of the EU and the US, privacy is understood differently.

For 2019, the world's top privacy and data protection issues again focused on the challenges of personal data transfer between the European Union and the United States. The European Union has raised standards for personal data protection. In May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force and changed the rules of the game for companies that collect, store or process large amounts of data about users.

The new Regulation affects businesses and users across the borders of the European continent. Any company operating in Europe, or having European users, will be required to adhere to stricter standards under the GDPR and give users more control over their data. The GDPR applies to any organization that collects, processes, manages or stores European citizenship data.

This includes most online services and businesses that collect, process, manage or store data. As such, the GDPR essentially sets a new global standard for data protection.

Keywords: GDPR, privacy, e-commerce, company, cookies customers.

A Comparative Research on Digital News Production Practices of Local Newspapers: The Case of Turkey, France and Azerbaijan

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Abstract. The functions of the local press are related to basic journalism functions such as bringing the wishes, expectations and problems of the people to the agenda, building a bridge between the local governments and the people, mediating the development of democracy and the inclusion of the problems on the agenda of the political decision makers. In addition, the local identity they have is also effective in the fact that these press organizations play an active role in the development and identity building process of the region they address. In addition to these features, local newspapers, which are an important part of the media eco- system, can also assume the position of news providers on prominent issues related to their regions to the national or international press.

In today's world, where digitalization has become a way of life and the dependence on new communication technologies in daily life is increasing, journalism has also taken a different form by digitalizing. Therefore, the local press has entered into a compulsory transformation depending on the technological developments in the media sector. In this context, by creating creative applications and business lines in the production of news for the local press, with the opportunities offered by new communication technologies; While providing the opportunity to reach different audiences without time-space boundaries, difficulties in adapting to the digitalization process have started to threaten the existence of the local press. However, the increasing demands for democratization and multiculturalism in the globalization process, which has accelerated with the development of new communication technologies, has led to a search for glocalization, which includes the local press and where localization demands increase. In this context, although the basic functions of the local press have not changed, the news production process has changed based on social media, artificial intelligence, mapping, location or application. In addition, the search for a wide variety of new and creative formats such as digital storytelling and multimedia/transmedia content production started to gain importance in the adaptation process of local journalism to digitalization. In this context, the main purpose of this research is to determine the creative and innovative news production practices developed by local newspapers in the digitalization process in different countries. Five local newspapers operating in the cities with the highest population density in France, Turkey and Azerbaijan were included in the sample of the study. The reasons for limiting the research to these three countries are the existence of a strong local/regional press in the country as a result of the breaking of the monopoly in the media in France; The problems experienced by the local press in adapting to the media ecosystem in Turkey and the ongoing debates on the independence of local/national media organizations from political powers, which played an important role in the struggle for sovereignty during the disintegration of the USSR. In this context, semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with senior executives and journalists working in the newspapers included in the sample in order to determine the digitalized news production practices of local newspapers in France, Turkey and Azerbaijan. The interview form is based on Radcliffe, D., Ali's (2017) studies examining the adaptation levels of local newspapers to the digitalization process in the USA on profitability-adaptation to new journalism practices and the changing role of journalists, and Ripolles et al. (2020) to identify new and creative content formats that local newspapers can use in the news production process. In addition, a section has been added to the interview form in which how the examined press organizations position and differentiate their functions within the framework of the future of the journalism profession, within the framework of glocality and digitalization. As a result of the research, significant differences were found in terms of the capacity of the local press to fulfill its basic functions, such as the level of adaptation of local newspapers to the digitalization process with different content practices, depending on the social political and economic structures of the three countries examined, and the capacity of the local press to carry out the basic functions of the local press, such as conveying the problems and demands of the region they are located to the national press/political decision makers.

Keywords: Local press, digitalization, glocalism, news production

Mountain tourism development: A case study of “Kodra e Diellit” in North Macedonia, and “Brezovica” in Kosovo

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Abstract. After an intense era of urbanization and recent lockdowns as a result of COVID-19, people are showing more interest in visiting the rural areas and mountain sights during summer as well as winter. Mountain tourist attractions, entertainment, and holidays are gaining more importance among home and foreign tourists, especially after facing lockdowns during the pandemic crisis. The reasons are obvious; fresh air, healthier environment, biodiversity, with the opportunity of entertainment activities to be dealt with such as hiking, skiing, cable car traveling, visiting of landscapes, and holidays. In this paper we consider the current state and prospects of mountain tourism of two cases, the first of which (Kodra e Diellit, or Popova Sapka) is in North Macedonia, and the second (Brezovica) in Kosovo, both found along with the Sharr mountain range. Another similarity between the two is that they are still in social or not clearly defined ownership and managed by the workers or a state agency, a status they have inherited in part from the previous system of self-management socialism. Depending on their operation until the recent available figures, the paper will recommend a policy strategy for them, including the method of privatization of the companies currently operating in this mountain range.

Keywords: mountain tourism, Kodra e Diellit, Brezovica, biodiversity, privatization.

JEL: L83, P31.

The Coming of Housing Bubble Burst in the Face of Emigration From Kosovo

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Abstract. Housing in Kosovo has always been the major life priority for the overwhelming majority of the families for two main reasons in sequence, as it is today: first, as a necessity, and second, as a perceived wealth to which many families spend their life lion's share of incomes in reaching this objective. The devastating effect of the 1999 war which left many people homeless, reinforced the belief that rebuilding life implies, first of all, shelter to be accommodated into a house or an apartment while the rest of human activities were of secondary importance. Strong confidence persists that the real estate as buildings and homes is a guarantee for not letting you slide into poverty as the property can be sold and transformed into money. The experience from the US economy with the world's largest share of immigrants proved that housing prices not only fall sharply but can collapse and cause severe financial crisis and depression. As a small emerging economy, Kosovo is experiencing a construction boom of apartment buildings beyond opportunities to fill them with the declining population. In this paradox between emigration and the construction boom, housing prices continue to remain relatively high despite the sales falling. This paper through empirical evidence aims at providing the answer to the critical question: how long this trend is likely to last, will it lead to the burst of a housing bubble and cause a financial crisis?

Keywords: Kosovo, construction, asset pricing, housing bubble, financial crisis.

JEL classification: H31, L74, N64.

Laplacian's Statistical Management of Heat Transmission

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Abstract. Laplacian's is an operator which plays a very important role in various scientific branches. It is an operator which is defined as the nabla square operator. Its role is very important also in relation to the various analyzes of the operational fields that have to do here with heat transfer. Its role is especially considered in relation to the analysis of potential fields, here related to the phenomenon of heat transfer.

Keywords: Nabla Operator, Laplacian Operator, Potential Operational Field

Economic Dynamics and Enterprise Digitalization Trends

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Abstract. This paper's goal is to examine and debate business digitalization trends and their impact on economic dynamics. This goal has been achieved through objectives such as researching the literature in the field of business digitalization and performance, respectively, in changes in the effectiveness and efficiency of businesses affected by the digitalization of processes and systems. The research work formulates and tests hypotheses related to the impact of digitalization of businesses on their business process productivity. Some case studies show relatively estimated trends of business digitalization and the impact of this process on business process productivity. It is noteworthy that trends differ when comparing developed countries with developing ones and the latter with underdeveloped ones. These trends may be considered as opportunities and as challenges for innovative business approaches, different work settings and possibly innovative industrial revolution enabled by new technologies. Research is limited to trends in some businesses located in some developed countries and in some developing countries, and suggests the future research to discuss the differences among development levels of countries in this research context.

Keywords: Business digitalization, economic dynamics, effectivity, efficiency, productivity.

The Impact of Psychology Management on Organizational Values

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Abstract. This article aims to discuss and analyze the psychology of management, considering this field as a very important and influential factor for the complexity and organizational theory. The paper assumes that leading organizational structures need to have clearer and deeper knowledge related to the individual and group behaviors in the workplace. Management psychology, observed at all management levels as a structure and as a process, focuses on performance, respectively on effectiveness and efficiency, on stress at work, and on engineering the behaviors of employees to prevent possible toxic and harmful behaviors on the work floor. A second assumption in this paper raises the discussion of whether there is a relationship between psychology management and organizational values. The studied literature bids many applied models and practices of psychology management. The quantitative research is conducted by surveying several local organizations including leaders, managers and supervisors of individuals, groups, departments and various organizations from the public and private sector. The results show that there is a significant relationship between management psychology and organizational values.

Keywords: psychology management, organisational values, performance, motivation, toxic behavior, job satisfaction.

The machine learning algorithms to the market return

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Abstract. The financial market and stock market have experienced great changes during the past decades, which lead to lots of excellent new methods about how to calculate and predict the return of the market and stocks.

Currently, a common practice of stock investors is to implement the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) and calculate excess returns with the difference between the real value and the theoretical value of stocks. Among Capital Asset Pricing Models, the Fama-French factors model is used frequently.

In this paper, we applied several machine learning algorithms in the stock market to find out whether they are useful in predicting the stock price and what are the possible reasons behind the results. With proper data, the result can also predict the return of the market with excess return in Fama-French three factors model.

The machine learning algorithms were used to predict the price of S&P500, using data of S&P500 constituents. It is chosen because S&P500 data is a standard of the return of the market, and the data of its constituents are highly related to the excess return α . Then the machine learning algorithms were proposed to identify the relationship between the excess return of the last day and the return of the market of the next day.

This research showed that some machine learning algorithms can do the prediction well with proper models and parameters. Besides, the return of the market can be predicted with proper data.

Keywords: Machine learning, Stock market, Return of market, S&P500

Phillips Curve in Self-management Socialism of Yugoslavia

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Abstract. Inflation and unemployment were two of the main issues that plagued the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) from 1965 to her disintegration. Economic history has taught us that uncontrolled inflation is a characteristic of the countries with a lack of democracy, but SFRY was more economically liberal and decentralized than any other communist country. Using the World Bank annual data from 1965 to 1990 for unemployment and inflation, the OLS (Ordinary Least Squares) findings demonstrate that unemployment is significant and positively affects the inflation rate, which stands against the theoretical paradigms known as the Phillips curve. The impulse response function (IRF) indicates that the positive shock of unemployment positively affects inflation in the short run. The Johansen test reports that unemployment and inflation were integrated into the short-run confirming the expectations-augmented Phillips curve. Moreover, contrary to theoretical expectations is the cointegration in the long run where the relationship between inflation and unemployment rate turned into an upward steeper slope. To this end, the results help the scholars to be informed on the historical relationship between inflation and unemployment in the context of SFRY, a formerly communist country with a differentiated economic model. The relevance of our findings goes beyond economic concepts by understanding them as one of the main factors contributing to the bloody disintegration of the SFRY.

Keywords: SFRY, self-management socialism, inflation, unemployment, Phillips curve.

JEL Classification: E24, E31, J64, N14, P24.

The Impact of Advertising on Consumer Decisions to Purchase Products

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Abstract. The epicenter of whole economic activity and enterprises' goal is the customer. Since the purchase decision means to increase the income, the latter in modern times are characterized by increased volume of production and products offered. Consumers are constantly faced with endless product alternatives. Differentiating products from those of competitors is made by marketing mix elements.

Thus, between the products offered by enterprise and the consumer, there should definitely be a communication bridge. This role is played by promotion, through several instruments, among which is advertising. Advertising is the most important tool of promotion, because of the effect it creates at the consumer, and also because of the width of the target achieved through it.

To address the effect of advertising to consumers, focused on the decision to purchase the product, the first chapter of this paper is dedicated to reviewing the literature of well-known authors. From the review we understand that advertising is not a simple mechanism or trend used by companies, but in fact its beginning is based on the science of marketing and is related not only to the consumer's decision to purchase, but also to a number of instruments and areas of this science, which gives exactly the attributes that makes it possible to understand such impact, starting from its foundation, development and then the finalization of its impact.

Empirical data provided through consumer surveys were collected to define the findings on the effects of advertising on the consumer when purchasing products.

Keywords: Advertising, Marketing Mix, Promotion, Consumer Behavior.

Impact of macroeconomic indicators on non-performing loans in the Balkan countries

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Abstract. According to the Regulation on non-performing exposures and restructuring (2019) of the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo, the bank will classify exposures as non-performing exposures if one or both of the following criteria are met: material exposures are more than ninety (90) days in arrears or the borrower is assessed as insolvent to repay his credit obligations in full, without the realization of collateral, regardless of the amount or days in arrears. Non-performing loans can be the result of a lack of sound lending policies, as well as a lack of sound credit judgment by management when approving loans. In addition to the bank's internal factors, the macroeconomic environment of a country can also affect the NPL. The NPL can be affected by the GDP of that country, then unemployment, inflation, etc. The purpose of this research is to extract the impact of macroeconomic indicators such as GDP, unemployment and inflation on non-performing loans of each country in the Balkan Peninsula.

The research was conducted through multivariate regression, where as dependent variable we have non-performing loans (NPL) and as independent variables we have Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Unemployment and Inflation. Based on the linear regression model, it is found that two variables have a negative impact, while one is positive, while in terms of the significant, two variables are more significant than one.

Keywords: Macroeconomic indicators, NPL, GDP, Inflation, Unemployment

Challenges in Human Resource Management

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Abstract. Human resource is an integral asset and very important for the functioning of the organization. The purpose of this paper is to analyze what are the key challenges faced by managers of different profiles in human resource management.

To conduct this research I used primary and secondary data. I extracted the primary data from a questionnaire where I interviewed about 20 employees of different levels and different companies regarding the challenges in human resource management. I analyzed the extracted data and then through the software application for statistical analysis SPSS (IBM Analytics) I extracted the results. While as secondary data I used sources from the Internet and various books.

From research we have seen that managing with each challenge towards human resources has increased success, productivity and easier problem solving, starting with performance, training, salary and diversity of employees.

The limitation of this paper is that the questionnaire had difficulty in distribution, as it is the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and in many companies targeted for the survey there was no possibility of penetration for various reasons.

This study will be of practical importance in the easier approach of problems in human resource management and their motivation. Challenges in human resource management were first identified. We then analyzed the relationship that each challenge has with the success and productivity of human resources in the company.

Keywords: Human Resource, Management Challenges

Industry 4.0 in the Central and Eastern European value chains: information and communication technology services' role

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Abstract. The article compares changes in tendencies of value added flows and the places held by the Central and Eastern European economies (11 countries: Visegrad countries, Baltic States, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Romania; CEE) in global value chains (GVCs) in manufacturing, services and their subgroup – information and telecommunication (ICT) services, by relying on the trade in value added data retrieved from the OECD's Inter-Country Input-Output Database, available over the period 2005-2015. The objective of this study is to understand the role of these economies in international production linkages applying a value-added methodology. Therefore, the study discusses the role of CEE economies in global economy in terms of forms of participation of services, especially ICT services, in GVCs, including the process of 'servicification' of manufacturing. This study led to the verification of two hypotheses: 1) the position of manufacturing in GVCs has been steadily weakening; 2) services, especially ICT services, can have a positive effect on participation of CEE economies in GVCs. The first hypothesis was confirmed by most of analysed countries. The other research question turned out not to be true for all CEE countries, but most of them proved this hypothesis.

Keywords: CEE, global value chains, services, ICT services

JEL: F14

The Effect of Country-of-Origin on the Customers' Perception of Product: A Literature Review

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Abstract. Customer purchasing is considered a very complex process because it is influenced by many intrinsic and extrinsic cues. The extrinsic cue of country-of-origin (COO) also known as a “Made in” label is found to have a significant role in customers' purchasing decisions. The country-of-origin growing popularity is in a large part attributed to the world trade globalization that enabled the free movement of goods between different countries providing the opportunity for buyers to have access to the numerous products produced in different parts of the world. It has been noted that the “Made in” label comes into play especially when consumers lack other important information about the product and then they tend to address products' quality based on the country in which the particular product is produced. The main purpose of this paper is to provide students and scholars with an overview of the existing literature related to the effect that country-of-origin has on consumers' purchasing decisions and their perception of product quality based on the “Made in” tag. The paper will also propose directions for future research.

Keywords: COO, country-of-origin, made in, purchasing decision

Loans with different nominal interest rates

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Abstract. In this paper we consider loans with different nominal interest rates applied during the maturity period, and the calculation of the effective interest rate of such types of loans is given. For the sake of simplicity, we consider loans with two different nominal interest rates. We also consider both loans without a fee and those with a disbursement fee. The structuring of such loans using the timeline is also given. The mathematical technique for necessary calculations is shown, and the financial calculator CASIO FC -100V is used to perform accurate calculations.

Keywords: nominal interest rate, periodical interest rate, balance, structuring, effective interest rate, fee, grace period, moratorium.

JEL Classification Code: G2

The Role of Senior Management In The Integration of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Activities

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Abstract. This paper is intended to display the the role of senior management in the integration of entrepreneurship and innovation activities of SME sector in Kosovo and their impact on firm's growth. In Kosovo through the years especially in the last ones, SMEs have had multiple barriers to doing business. Some of the most serious barriers that have contributed more to SMEs are in the area of management issues having in mind that about 60% are in same time owners and managers. Achieving Entrepreneurship and innovation capability and capacity imposes challenges for managers and executives of enterprises in general. Based on this result the innovation has emerged as a proper and important additional function for the enterprise and management. Businesses that want to maintain or enter in new markets must apply innovation have faced various barriers especially financial ones which have negatively impacted their development with particular emphasis on the time of the pandemic.

Innovation infrastructure in Kosovo generally lacks equipment and human resources for research and development, following over the years, neglect of research activities in Kosovo. Institutions have been established to support technology and innovation, mainly oriented towards providing education and advisory services to entrepreneurs. However, their performance and the effects of their work remain unknown, due to the lack of performance reviews and audits. Other challenges that are hindering the development of SMEs include the relatively high level of informal economy, unskilled labour force, lack of access to finance, low labour force participation rates (especially young people and women) and relatively high levels of the presumption of corruption. Kosovo's economy in the last decade has marked a positive rate of economic growth, despite the challenges caused by fluctuations in the global economy, especially in the European one, and has grown steadily above the average of the Western Balkan countries.

In order to increase the value of this paper, we conducted a research mainly through an online questionnaire distributed in the main regions of Kosovo. The survey were realised through google form mainly due to isolation as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. Out of the total of 337 respondents, 25.55% were women or female managers, which indicate an increase in this structure, especially in the last 10 years.

According to the SPSS statistical analysis, the level of manager's education, the position in Enterprise and firm's ownership has had significance with the Innovation in generally respectively a number of new products introduced in the market during the last three years

Keywords: entrepreneurship, innovation, management, SMEs, growth.

Impact of Macroeconomic Factors On Non-Performing Loans (NPL) In The Banking Sector in Kosovo

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Abstract. Over the last few years, more precisely, since the end of the global financial crisis, academic circles have increased their interest in the NPL and the empirical bibliography provides valuable information on the factors that influence them. According to studies conducted on non-performing loans, various analysts have tried to correlate the level of non-performing loans directly to two categories of factors: (1) macroeconomic factors and (2) banking or banking specific factors.

Consequences in the banking industry as a result of non-performing loans may be large if no preventive steps are taken. Non-performing loans negatively affect the performance and stability of the banking industry, increasing provisioning, lending and in more severe cases may result in a financial institution in insolvent condition. The banking industry in Kosovo has also been very careful in terms of managing credit portfolio quality, so the rates of these loans are very low, which has made confidence in this sector to be even higher.

The research will address the problem of NPLs through the econometric model, where the macroeconomic factors that are addressed in the research are: GDP, inflation, unemployment rate and interest rate, while banking factors are ROEA, ROAA and CAR. The research covers the period 2007-2019. The research results showed that inflation and interest rates have an impact on the JCEs in the banking sector in Kosovo.

Key words: NPL, Inflation, Interest Rate, Macroeconomic Factors, Banking Factors

The Effect of Remuneration on Quality Management in Public Institutions in Kosovo

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Abstract. In recent years, Kosovo has set the foundation for quality infrastructure in its journey towards European integration. Although it lags behind in comparison to its neighbors in terms of quality infrastructure, it has eliminated some of the existing barriers to legal infrastructure. Creating a quality system abide by the requirements of the EN ISO 9001 standard is easier to constantly install and monitor health care standards according to the definition of work guidelines for good hospital practices in particular and internationally recognized areas.

Continuous quality improvement and application of the requirements of the Quality Management System in the public system is a challenge for many countries, especially for those who have gone through or are going through a difficult period of transition from a system where quality was neither known nor measured and consequently not even improved, in the system where the provision of public services is different. This study investigates the evaluation of the Quality Management System in public institutions in the Peja region as a method of continuous improvement in public services.

In the last decade of the 20th century, the systematic approach to quality enhancement based on the Quality Based Management System has become the dominant model of quality management application. From the standpoint of developing business standardization, we can say that the ISO 9001 standard has become a general and acceptable framework for improving the quality of products and services regardless of sector.

Keywords: Standards, Quality Management System, Institutions, Public

The Effect of Influencer Marketing on Brand Awareness

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Abstract. With the advancement of social media platforms and the many opportunities on the internet, there is an increase/transformation on methods of how brands can achieve awareness in a market that is very competitive. Many brands worldwide are using social media as a platform to boost awareness through influencer marketing. This form of marketing is especially effective to target specific audiences as influencers have already built their base of followers in social media channels where they can attract potential brand consumers, and where they have already created their base of loyal consumers. Moreover, influencers can impact the chain of transmitting the information since they can promote specific brands to other groups of followers and this kind of commitment can generate buzz marketing which for nowadays digital generations is considered as word-of-mouth marketing. This paper aims to provide a general understanding of how influencers through social media can help brands raise awareness in large audiences. This paper will analyze secondary data from different verified reports and papers relevant to the topic. The results show that the long-term collaboration of brands with social media influencers has created many opportunities for a positive perception of brands in large audiences.

Keywords: Marketing, digital, social media, influencer, brand

Types of Financial and Economic Crisis

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Abstract. Financial crises have caused much debate among different economists. They have attempted to explore any possibility of detecting and preventing crises before they cause the damages that will require way more time and energy to repair the situation and bring the economies back on the right track of sustainable development. The purpose of this study is to analyze different types of financial crises that have affected the economies of the world in order to draw lessons from their experiences. Analysis of this study is divided into four types of financial crises: Banking crisis, speculative bubbles and the market failures, international financial crisis and the broader economic crisis. The methodological approach in this research is of qualitative nature. The materials used are derived from various books and academic journals of academics and professionals who have expertise in the area of financial crisis. This study concludes that appropriate monetary and macroeconomic policies are fundamental basis to detect and manage eventual crises that might occur. This research reveals that countries in transition and those moving from closed system of economy into the market economy are more likely to be attacked by speculators in comparison with countries that have more developed capital markets. In addition, this study shows that integration of capital markets among countries have an impact on their economies if any of them face financial crisis due to chain effect¹.

Keywords: Crises, Financial, Bubble, Banking

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_crisis

From Circular Economy to Business-Level Circularity: A Descriptive Case Study

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Abstract. The need to manage waste and foster environmental sustainability has opened a call to transform the current linear economic model into a circular one. Circular Economy (CE) is continuously growing as a backbone economic model in both developed and developing countries. Still, in Albania the scholarly considerations about the topic are missing or at best have been neglected. Using Albania as a research setting, this study aims to provide a macro and micro perspective of the circular economy and the way it applies to business level. The theoretical framework includes advantages and criticism to circular economy, circular business models, and measurement tools for business circularity. The research design relies on the descriptive case study method. Thus, we first introduce an overview of the circular economy in Albania, and then we describe the case of Green Recycling company. Findings show that Albania is still below the EU average levels of waste management. Although the circular economy seems not to be a trend in the Albanian market, few companies including the described case study show an increasing involvement in business circularity with concrete environmental impact. In terms of numbers, only by the performed activities of 2020, Green Recycling reduced 4200 tons of CO2 emissions.

Keywords: circular economy, business circularity, environmental sustainability, recycling, Albania.

Relationship Between Inflation and Unemployment: The Case Study of Former Yugoslav Countries

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Abstract. Unemployment remains a constant concern for national governments and often causes social unrest. This study addresses the relationship between inflation and unemployment known as Phillips Curve, for the seven countries that emerged from former Yugoslavia. This phenomenon is investigated with annual data covering the period from 2003 to 2020. According to the OLS outcomes, there is a negative tradeoff within unemployment and inflation for Slovenia, Croatia, and Montenegro, which stands in line with the Phillips curve paradigm. In the case of Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Bosnia, OLS findings indicate a positive relationship between inflation and unemployment. VAR results show that only in the case of Slovenia inflation is positively influenced by past unemployment. The impulse response function confirms that in former Yugoslav countries, positive unemployment shock to inflation holds only a short-run effect except for North Macedonia where the effect also stands in the long-run. The Johansen test shows that there is a co-integration relation between inflation and unemployment for the six selected countries except for Slovenia. From a policy perspective, results provide reliable indications for the national institutions in these countries on the importance of inflation and unemployment targeting.

Keywords: Phillips Curve, Inflation, Unemployment, Former Yugoslav countries.

JEL Classification: E31, E24.

Net Interest Margin [NIM] in Turkish Financial Sector

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Abstract. Recently, movements in the financial markets have demonstrated that management of net interest margin (NIM) is important for the well functioning of the financial sector in general and banking sector in particular. In this regard, net interest margin (NIM) accepted as the main indicator of financing balance and profitability of the banking sector and hence its stability and improved capacity for financing of sustainable real economic growth. According to literature, asset, liability and equity structure, non-interest income such as fees & commission, market concentration and efficiency, quality of management and some economic variables have been considered as factors affecting the NIM. This paper mainly investigates the relationship of NIM of the banking sector in Turkey with the macroeconomic, market and banking sector specific variables. In the regression analysis framework, movements in the NIM identified as dependent variable and growth and unemployment rate as reflecting the overall business condition, exchange rate of the currency and interest rate on the most liquid government bond representing the up to date market condition and banking sector specific variables for the financing state were included in the model as explanatory variables. In the analysis, it has also been identified whether ownership and functioning features affect the reaction of the NIM to independent variables. Ownership and functioning groups were identified as deposit taking public-local private-foreign-participation and development & investment banks group. Regression results indicated that market interest rate is statistically significant for explaining the movements in NIM in Turkey over the period of 2006Q4-2021Q2.

Keyword: Interest Margin in Turkey, Interest Rate Risk, NIM and Resilience.

How technology is reshaping the entrepreneurship ecosystem

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Abstract. Entrepreneurship and innovation have been identified in industry as crucial elements for economic success. Many studies have proven entrepreneurship as a key factor for economic growth and also for reducing unemployment. To be a successful entrepreneur, it is very essential to understand all the concepts related to entrepreneurship. This paper introduces a conceptual framework for the study of entrepreneurship, proposes a definition of the digital entrepreneurship ecosystem emphasizing the integrated perspectives of digital production and the digital environment. A collective intelligence approach is adopted to define a descriptive framework and to identify the distinguishing genes of a digital enterprise ecosystem.

The emerging technology paradigm is harnessing the potential of collaboration and collective intelligence to design and launch more robust and sustainable entrepreneurial initiatives. However, although the topic of digital entrepreneurship is important and timely, there is limited literature discussion on the true impact of digital technologies and collaboration in the entrepreneurial process. Since information and communication technology (ICT) skills are important elements of the success of a digital venture, it is important to know how it helps people improve their business.

Because the future of many businesses will depend on the relationship they have with IA and the digital ecosystem, on the investments they will make in terms of technology development and their undeniable importance.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, digital entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship ecosystem, information and communication technology, digital platforms, digital infrastructure.

The impact of artificial intelligence on entrepreneurial activities and the global market

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Abstract. In recent years, one can see the emergence of a large number of intelligent products and services, their commercial availability and socio-economic impact. This raises the question of whether the current emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) is simply hype or really has the ability to transform the world. This paper investigates the wide range of implications of artificial intelligence (AI) and delves deeper into the positive and negative impacts on governments, communities, companies, and individuals. This paper investigates the overall impact of AI - from research and innovation to deployment. The paper addresses influential academic achievements and innovations in the field of AI, their impact on entrepreneurial activities and thus on the global market. The paper also contributes to the investigation of factors responsible for AI advancement. For exploring entrepreneurial activities towards AI. The conclusions drawn from the research will provide an improved understanding of innovation and the impact of AI on businesses and society at large. It will also provide a better understanding of how AI can transform business operations and thus the global economy.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, innovation, economy, products, services.

Being a STEM women in Kosovo

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Abstract. Although it is difficult to accept, even in this time of development that we live in, women across the world face various difficulties as individuals. Male dominance in most fields makes it impossible to avoid gender discrimination. Gender discrimination all over the world is a huge drawback for women in almost every field. This phenomenon is even more prominent in business life and especially in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). In this globalized world, Kosovar women may not be an exception. Therefore, this research aims to examine whether women who work or have worked in STEM fields in Kosovo experience discrimination. The result of the research, similar to obtained in other studies, is that women experience discrimination in different ways in their business lives.

Keywords: STEM, Women, Women in STEM, Workplace discrimination, Women at work, Women in business, Gender discrimination.

The comparison of students' assessment in Kosovo High Schools through online test and hardcopy

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Abstract. The use of information technology in every field of life is marking an exponential growth as well as in education.

Digitalization plays an important role in education, where it had a major impact on the time of COVID-19 pandemic due to school closure measures.

The main purpose of this research is to use Information Technology for online assessment of students in the subject of Information Technology, and then to analyze how they affect medical high school. The other purpose of this research is also to extract information or data from practice, which serve to prove the use of online assessment where the classroom has a positive affect on raising student outcomes and which can be shared with fellow teachers in the school where I work, but also in other high schools.

Small and medium businesses development strategy in Republic of Kosovo – Case study “Municipality of Peja”

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Abstract: Small and medium considered as the backbone of economic development for all countries, especially in countries that are developing or transition economies this stage where even Kosovo. Having dealt with such matters as the backbone of economic development they would have to be supported by various strategies that come from relevant institutions. Within this study will be treated with care strategies of development of small and medium enterprises in Kosovo especially in Municipality of Peja. This will be done by starting from a historical that has to do with small and medium businesses in different periods of time and their evolution over the years. The methodology we based on primary and secondary data. The primary data will be from the survey where we did with small and medium businesses and secondary from a systematic literature review. Also, we used SPSS software to analyze and show them in descriptive analysis form which will be followed by One-way ANOVA, T-test, and chi-square. This techniques has given us a real statement results for Municipality of Peja focused on small and medium businesses.

Keywords: Small, medium, businesses, Peja, SPSS, one-way ANOVA, etc.

Impact of macroeconomic indicators on non-performing loans in the Balkan countries

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Abstract. According to the Regulation on non-performing exposures and restructuring (2019) of the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo, the bank will classify exposures as non-performing exposures if one or both of the following criteria are met: material exposures are more than ninety (90) days in arrears or the borrower is assessed as insolvent to repay his credit obligations in full, without the realization of collateral, regardless of the amount or days in arrears. Non-performing loans can be the result of a lack of sound lending policies, as well as a lack of sound credit judgment by management when approving loans. In addition to the bank's internal factors, the macroeconomic environment of a country can also affect the NPL. The NPL can be affected by the GDP of that country, then unemployment, inflation, etc. The purpose of this research is to extract the impact of macroeconomic indicators such as GDP, unemployment and inflation on non-performing loans of each country in the Balkan Peninsula.

The research was conducted through multivariate regression, where as dependent variable we have non-performing loans (NPL) and as independent variables we have Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Unemployment and Inflation. Based on the linear regression model, it is found that two variables have a negative impact, while one is positive, while in terms of the significant, two variables are more significant than one.

Keywords: Macroeconomic indicators, NPL, GDP, Inflation, Unemployment

Covid-19 pandemic and economic crisis: the experience of North Macedonia

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Abstract. This paper analyses the COVID-19 situation in North Macedonia, its effect on the economic growth y and the structural causes that worsen the coronavirus (COVID -19) crisis. In this context, this study aims to discuss the economic measures taken by the government of North Macedonia for mitigation of the economic crisis in the country and the potential first reactions of short and long term economic impacts of the pandemic. The findings reveal that the economic downturn in North Macedonia was triggered by spillovers from the COVID-19 outbreak, which not only led to a fall in the demand but also stopped economic activities from taking place when social distancing policies were enforced. The government responded to the crisis by providing financial assistance to businesses and households that were affected by the coronavirus (COVID -19) outbreak. These efforts should have prevented the economic crisis from occurring but it didn't. The economic measures taken by the government have supported the companies to keep their business open. The government need to develop new strategies to adjust to the new world order created by pandemic COVID -19.

Keywords: North Macedonia, pandemic COVID-19, economic measures, public health infrastructure, social welfare

The Impact of training on the Performance of Managers and Employees on the Success or Growth of SMEs in Kosovo

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Abstract. The purpose of this study is to display the Performance of Managers and the skills of employees in the overall success of SMEs growth in Kosovo. In addition, a very important segment that will be addressed in this study will be the impact of training on increasing in general the SMEs performance in Kosovo. Such a comprehensive reform in human resource capacity building has made SMEs to face with challenges in functioning of human resource management (HRM). Such a step, although difficult, will nevertheless create a good basis for building mechanisms for the SMEs functioning in the Kosovo market economy, a necessity that imposes the effective management and use of human resources.

It is well known that SMEs do not have the same characteristics in terms of ownership, number of employees and the activity in which they conduct their business but it also makes them distinct from each other in terms of scale or the level of application of HRM functions, practices and procedures, including training applied to their management and staff.

Among other important factors in the enterprise, staff is identified as the main resource which guarantees its competitive advantage, while the management of these resources should play a leading role for SMEs to reduce the barriers and challenges they face.

So, this paper is an attempt to study the performance of managers and employees more specifically the impact of staff training in SMEs and what impact staff training in general has on the performance and development of Small and Medium Enterprises in Kosovo.

Keywords: Performance, manager, staff, training, SME, growth.

JEL Codes: L260, O120

Least cost power supply options for Kosovo 2021-2030

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Abstract. Kosovo still does not have the necessary capacities to cover its electricity demand. To cover the lack of energy there is a need for imports, which in the last decade have been in large quantities and were associated with high costs.

To perform this study, there were taken into account the possibilities of developing new generation capacity, rehabilitation of existing, future policies and strategies related to renewable (RES) and CO₂ prices. The study takes into account sustainable power supply options and makes comparisons of those.

In order to assess which one of the four supply options studied is more favorable economically for electricity supply for the period 2021-2030, first the electricity demand has been identified by applying SPSS software, and then the simulation of supply cost optimization has been made through Solver which is an additional tool of MS Excel. NPV and IRR indicators have been evaluated to enable the assessment of which of the investment undertakings options is more favorable. Ranking of the supply option take into consideration also the compliance of the options with the new policies related to RES sources targets and CO₂ policies. The supply options were scored by taking into account the financial and technical indicators as well the fulfilment of the obligations related to RES and decarbonisation.

Keywords: Least Cost, Electricity, Supply Options.

Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards as A Basis For Reliable Financial Reporting

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Abstract. Methodological approach to the development of accounting principles from the aspect of collection, classification, system coverage, recognition of all balances and changes in balance sheet items control of accounting information and its processing and presentation would be impossible without accounting techniques and standards.

The paper discusses the contribution of key accounting and financial reporting standards — national and international — to reliable financial reporting and communication in the business world globally. The emphasis of the paper is on the factor and importance of standards in terms of realistic balancing and fair reporting in order to standardize the form and patterns to enable analysis on an international scale.

Financial reporting is a key document for a source of information that is important to all decision makers and it cannot be an end in itself. Financial reporting is not internal accounting (insider information) but a set of financial information for the needs of a wide range of external users, with an attempt to ensure that information asymmetry has the treatment of imperfections and anomalies, not a accidental errors. It is this problem that is solved by a quality financial reporting system.

Qualitative attributes of financial information that are useful in the first level are relevance and credibility, while increased usefulness is achieved if they can be compared at the international level of data exchange. It is therefore necessary, by implementing accounting standards relating to financial reporting, provide comparative analyzes in terms of convergence of accounting policies and practices of countries around the world.

Keywords: financial reporting, reliable financial reporting, relevance and credibility of financial information, accounting standards, convergence of accounting policies

IMPACT OF PRICES DURING DIASPORA FLOW (2017-2021)

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Abstract. In overall when we want to analyze the price movement, we need to compare a goods and services basket for two or more periods in order to catch the price movement. In addition, when we interpret the results we obtained, it depicts which goods or services are more sensitive in relevant days or months. Some goods may differentiate in price during some months in a year, in months when the demand for such goods may rise, or when the overall consume is relatively the same. To determine the goods and services basket would normally consider to be subjective for many reasons, most usually the basket is chosen for availability reason, therefore for the information that may be achieved.

Consuming basket in our study has been determined for availability reason and its accuracy, as its relied on institutions that gather these data in field and are monitored by relevant government authorities. Data gathering is done at local biggest malls, which are more frequently crowded by residents, and therefore it clarifies the actual consuming activity. In the last chapter is an analysis that shows how the price of these products have changed during the last three weeks while this paper was in final process, in this way it is an evidence of an actual consuming activity.

Results of this study have a purpose to depict not only price movement along the periods chosen to analyze, but to offer the reader a habit to research for prices to all available suppliers and then to opt for the best price that is offered in relevant malls, using the platforms that are disclosed below.

Keywords: Microeconomic behavior, inflation, prices, product and expenditure.

JEL classification codes: E31, D01, P22, P24, Q21.

Central banks' priorities today - price stability in relation to financial stability

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Abstract. The study aims to address the role of central banks today, namely their focus on changing based on external impacts globally. Historically the main objective of central banks was maintaining price stability. However, in the new context emerging from the post-global financial crisis (2007-2009), there is a gradual shift by many central banks towards maintaining financial stability, along with their primary focus on price stability. Therefore, taking into account the new circumstances that emerged from the crises, there was a need to change the traditional objectives of central banking too. This paper analyses the legal framework and the mandate of some central banks, mainly Kosovo's neighboring countries. Furthermore, the study also discusses the historical developments of the evolution of the legal priorities of the Central Bank of Kosovo, in the context of today's trend - maintaining financial stability. Moreover, the study describes the historical aspect of the evolution of the Central Bank of Kosovo mandate in the context of today's trends - stability and financial. The paper also deals with legal powers and developments for the US Federal Reserve, Bank of England, and European Central Bank. The results of this paper suggest that central banks should encourage more efforts in addressing financial stability alongside keeping price stability. However, there may be a permanent risk of conflict arising from pursuing the primary objective - such as price stability, which may affect financial stability.

Keywords: Central bank, price stability, financial stability, inflation, economic growth.

The contribution of SMEs to the economic development and in increasing of the employment rate of the country - the case of Kosovo

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Abstract. The contemporary dynamics of changes in the market, the free market of goods and capital and other concepts of market economy, have made small and medium-sized businesses face the modern challenges of doing business. Increasing demand from consumers for new and cheap products, difficulties arising from economies of scale and costs of operational activities are the factors most pronounced threats to SMEs today.

At the same time, this category of enterprises are the largest contributor to the country in increasing the employment rate and contribute significantly to the economic growth of a country. There are different views regarding the contribution of SMBs to a country's economy. One side tries to argue that they are the biggest contributors to reducing unemployment in a country, while other researchers believe that small businesses are irresistible in today's global economy and free market and go bankrupt more easily and quickly, so it is an overconfidence that the solution to the economic problems and unemployment in a country should be based on the development of SMEs. This situation is especially pronounced in underdeveloped and developing countries. This includes Kosovo with its economic development. This paper tries to measure the impact of SMEs on the economic development of Kosovo through statistical analysis and thus increase the employment rate in the country.

Keywords: SMEs, economic development, employment growth, market

The importance of existing HR department in SME's in Kosovo

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Abstract. Human resources are widely considered as the most valuable resources in every enterprise. Thus, SMEs always look for the best practices to manage and motivate their resources. One of the most discussions is if SMEs should have HR department or the HR responsibilities can be undertaken by direct managers. For this purpose, we have analyzed SMEs with existing HR department and their role as very important for management, evaluation and payment of human resources. In this paper we will analyze and empirically prove the importance of HR department. Analyzing the results of field research we will conclude about HR department's decisions on recruiting and selection process, including the tools that are used for these processes. SME's with HR department are very effective in performance evaluation and relation between evaluation and payment. Their employees feel more valued and paid. In the end we conclude that most SMEs award mainly short-term contracts and their contracts affect their motivation and confidence.

Keywords: HR Department, recruiting, selecting, performance, contract

Utilization of digital platforms in Kosovo

Case study: the digital platform MJEKU.app

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Abstract. Digital platforms are evolving, they used to underpin business functions, now they run the whole business.

Businesses in Kosovo have also started using digital platforms, influenced by factors such as the young population with an average of 30.2 years old, access on the internet of 91% of the population, also the usage of platforms such as e-learning(students), e-kosova(vaccination), e-banking(utility bills) during the COVID-19 pandemic, proved us that a lot of work could be done easily and we are ready to use digital platforms on our daily basis.

Time is very valuable, a high number of innovations nowadays are created on the basis of saving time and cost during the process. Mjeku.app is a digital platform which offers patients and doctors to manage their appointments online using the digital calendar 24/7.

Facilitating tasks and saving time which can be used for something more productive has already encouraged doctors to use and share the platform with their patients, so both could manage their appointments online. According to the research we've done, the process of scheduling an appointment has been very unprofessional and complicated, while using the Mjeku.app this process could be done within a few seconds.

The main goal of nowadays companies is efficiency, utilization of digital platforms that are centred on productivity and saving time is the future.

Theoretical and Empirical Literature on Entrepreneurial Activities and Economic Performance

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Abstract. The aim of this paper is to provide a critical appraisal of the literature on the entrepreneurship-economic growth relationship and the underlying theories supporting the hypothesised relationship between the two. The entrepreneurship-economic growth literature widely accepts the work of Schumpeter (1934; 1942) and the process of ‘creative destruction’ as the crucial contribution in the field (Aghion and Festre, 2017). Schumpeter’s underlining argument was that increased entrepreneurial activities, generated by the process of ‘creative destruction’ lead to increased economic dynamism and growth (Wennekers and Thurik, 1999). The pioneering work of Wennekers and Thurik (1999) provided a conceptual framework linking entrepreneurship to economic growth and has also been regarded to have influenced the subsequent volume of entrepreneurship-economic growth literature. As Baumol (2010) points out, although the empirical studies have developed significantly, especially in the last two decades, the theory of entrepreneurship has not yet received the deserved place in the mainstream economic theory. The majority of empirical studies investigating the impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth, or economic performance, in general, find a positive and significant association between the two (see Stam et al., 2010). Some studies, however, find that there is a negative relationship between entrepreneurship and economic performance (see Blanchflower, 2000), while others suggest that there is no significant relationship between entrepreneurship and economic growth (see Dejardin, 2001).

Keywords: entrepreneurial activity, economic growth, critical appraisal, positive relationship

Lean Six Sigma for Public Sector Process Visibility Improvement

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Abstract. This study provides innovative methods based on Lean Six Sigma (LSS) philosophy that is suitable for process improvement in the public sector. By improving the processes of public institutions, especially by making them more visible from the perspective of citizens, it becomes easier and cheaper for citizens to receive the necessary administrative services. In order to achieve the objectives of the study, the processes of public institutions which produce value for the citizen have been observed, defects in processes have been identified, especially in their visibility, and innovative methods have been proposed to be used. The methodology applied for identifying and improving processes is based on lean six sigma innovative philosophy, DMADV (Define-Measure-Analyze-Design-Validate), and its tools. With the application of the methods proposed by this study, public institutions will be more correct and effective in relation to citizens, the citizens will be more satisfied, the trust between them will increase and the quality standard of the public sector will increase.

Key words: Lean Six Sigma, DMADV, Visibility, Public Institutions

Economic and tourist effects of external migration in Kosovo

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Abstract. Recently, almost all over the world, migratory movements have become a persistent and very intensive process, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Significant differences in terms of economic, social, political, and demographic development between different countries have affected the intensity of migration. Migration is supplemented by various effects, especially in the economic and social aspects. Kosovo is considered as one of the most underdeveloped countries of the Balkan Peninsula and intrinsically faces large population emigration. Being a small country, Kosovo counts about 1.7 million inhabitants and 700,000-800,000 people were born in Kosovo, but living abroad. Accordingly, the focus of this paper relies on the economic and tourism effects that bring the emigration of people to different countries of Europe and beyond. This emigration is followed up by both positive and negative effects. Emigration has affected the improvement of living conditions for many families, investments in birthplaces, the endowment of various national contributions, continuous assistance and support to the family, remittances, etc. Emigration also has an impact on the development of tourism in Kosovo. Although Kosovo is at its initial stages of tourism development, the influx of emigrants in the homeland during the holidays but also in other periods during the year considerably affects the increase of revenues in the tourism sector.

Keywords: migration, economic development, tourism, Kosovo, diaspora

The Effects of the Covid 19 Pandemic On Global Economy, With a Special Emphasis on Kosovo

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Abstract. The end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, when COVID-19 first appeared and was heard, has plunged the world into a labyrinth from which it seems very difficult to get out, both politically and economically. and generally in humans relationship!

Covid-19 appeared and was identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and within a relatively short time of about three months it spread worldwide, deeply shaking the global system in terms of health, economy, politics and safety.

All ties, alliances, trade blocs, free trade agreements and free movement of people, created for a very long time globally, suddenly broke down!

Undoubtedly the first and most important impact is the one felt in the global economy.

Numerous uncertainties have been created as to how far the pandemic will go, when it will be able to be controlled, how much damage it will cause in terms of human health, how long it will last as a disease and these uncertainties apparently the global economy has been shaken a lot.

From this global disintegration, Kosovo has not escaped either, which was found to be very unprepared in terms of health infrastructure, as well as economic and social, so in the next topic we will focus on our analysis, in relation to the effects that COVID has had on the global economy with particular emphasis on Kosovo.

Keywords: Covid 19, pandemic, global

The role and importance of promotion in the development of Kosovar construction companies - Case Study - "Standard" and "Trade"

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Abstract. The construction industry is usually characterized by extreme competition, high uncertainty and risks, and generally low profit margins when compared to other industries. In this context, marketing can help construction companies stand out from their competitors, cultivate and/or retain customers, thus creating a competitive advantage. In the context of conducting this research, as a secondary goal we consider the analysis of the perspective on the importance of marketing by suppliers / investors of real estate and buyers or users. The methodology of this research consists of qualitative and quantitative data. In the research participated 15 employees from "Tregtia" and "Standard" construction companies and 195 citizens of the neighbourhood Rruga B in Prishtina. Based on the results of our study the effectiveness of advertising has turned out to be high. From the survey we see that advertising has become very necessary and the results it is shown that 60% think that promotion is necessary for the businesses and 40% of the think that promotion is very effective for the businesses

Keywords: marketing, promotion, company, construction, influence.

Recycling management for construction waste and pharmaceutical Waste-Case Study: “Gremlog” and “Heavy Machinery Viqa” –Dubai

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Abstract: In this paper we will address the importance of recycling management for construction and pharmaceutical wastes, in particular we will treat as a case study companies like Grem Logistic Trading "Gremlog" and Heavy Machinery Viqa - Dubai.

Research question: Does the recycling of construction and pharmaceutical wastes and the management of the same affect the external environment?

H0 Recycling of construction and pharmaceutical wastes and management of recyclable means have no impact on the external environment

HA Recycling of construction and pharmaceutical wastes and management of recycling means have an impact on the external environment.

The method used to collect data in this study was conducted on the basis of designing and distributing a questionnaire to supervisors of enterprises "Gremlog" and HMT. Based on analysis of the answers of the questionnaire by using SPSS software we came in the conclusion that: Management functions have a great impact on the growth and management of recycling assets of companies "Gremlog" and HMT, where they have marked continuous growth over the years, the development goals of companies are real and productive and the companies possess the discipline and professionalism of staff and management staff and many other factors.

Keywords: leadership, human resource management, reward, motivation, evaluation.

“Level of customer satisfaction for 4G service in the region of Prishtina, Republic of Kosovo”

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Abstract. In the telecommunications industry, mobile communication plays a major role, given that in recent decades this communication has developed rapidly in parallel and user demand has increased. The 4G platform is about a more advanced and efficient global network, where its users through their mobile phones have access to their data anytime and anywhere.

The purpose of this paper is to study and analyze the level of satisfaction of customers using the 4G platform in the Region of Prishtina, Republic of Kosovo. Research on this topic is relatively new in this region and our study relies on secondary as well as primary data.

For the collection of primary data we used the quantitative method of data collection where as an instrument for the realization of this work was the survey questionnaire, compiled in accordance with the studied topic. This questionnaire was conducted online and sent to various persons of family and society in the region of Prishtina in the Republic of Kosovo.

The biggest users of the 4G platform cooperate with the mobile telephony operator IPKO, which offers this service through various offers, which are attractive and financially affordable for its customers.

The result achieved from the field data have influenced the work to be completed, the data show that the private telephone operator has a higher level of satisfaction than the state operator. From the data we understand that the age that uses the most 4G platform belongs to the age group under 24.

Keywords: satisfaction, platform, costumer, 4G, mobile telephony

Determinant of profitability in the Kosovo Microfinance Institutions

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Abstract. In this study we assess the determinants of profitability in the microfinance institutions. The microfinance institution became very important to marginalized groups, they finance their endeavor that banks are uninterested. During this time the microfinance institutions managed to increase their capital substantially by being very profitable and as result slowly they started to move in to the turf of the banks.

The results reveal that the business loans are the most contributors to profitability in the microfinance. In terms of the cost, the labor cost affects profitability negatively mostly, showing that labor cost are important factors. Non-performing loans does not have any effect on profitability. We have used secondary data from the Kosovo Central Bank for year 2015 – 2019. The method we used are pooled, fixed effect and random effect, moreover, we did a hausman test in order to test which method is more appropriate.

Quality of financial information and accounting considerations during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Abstract. The COVID-19 pandemic has posed numerous difficulties before business entities and thus before accounting professionals. The paper summarizes the main issues financial reporting faces during the pandemic with respect to the quality of the financial information provided by the financial statements of the entities. The main quality characteristics of useful financial information are brought to light in the context of the impediments posed by the COVID-19 crisis.

Different aspects of financial reporting are discussed: the implications on the going concern principle; the effects on accounting judgements and estimates; events after the reporting period. The paper provides real-life examples for the worsened quality of the financial information caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: quality of financial information, financial reporting, financial statements, judgements and estimates, going concern, uncertainty, COVID-19

A Review of Evaluation Methodology and the Microeconomic Empirical Studies

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Abstract. This study will provide an assessment of the methodology applied in evaluating Active Labour Market Policies (ALMP). The aim of this study is to: (i) analyse the evaluation methodologies employed in microeconomic policy analysis and identify the key assumptions within the common frameworks; and (ii) review the empirical evidence specifically for European transition economies. The key role of this study is to examine the evaluation problem and the construction of counterfactuals for the reliability of the results. It is crucial to understand whether a particular active programme has been successfully designed, targeted and implemented and at the same time to evaluate the impact of ALMPs on the participants' future labour market outcomes. The evaluation analysis becomes even more difficult in a quickly changing environment, which is the case in most transition economies. According to Heckman et al. (1999), the choice of the most appropriate estimator depends on three factors: the assignment of individuals into the programmes, the quality of data available and the specific question to be answered. In social experiments the assignment of the participants into the programmes is performed randomly, hopefully assuring balance in observed and un-observed characteristics of the treated and control persons i.e., the characteristics of the two groups are similar hence comparable (Heckman et al., 1996; 1999). In contrast, in observational studies the assignment into the programmes is not random and thus causes possible selection bias. Choosing from the wide range of available evaluation methods when analysing the microeconomic effectiveness of active policies is a big challenge for researchers. This study provides an explanation of the evaluation problem, with particular emphasis given to the construction of the counterfactuals which provides arguments for using Propensity Score Matching and more specifically how this method may correct for any selection bias followed by an assessment of the efficiency of different matching methods.

Keywords: ALMP, evaluation, PSM, unemployment

The impact of remittances on economic growth in Kosovo

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Abstract. Migration continues to be a very pronounced and very complex phenomenon in the world. Also, Kosovo continues to face a large number of migrants in different countries of the world for economic, social and political reasons. Diaspora has an important role in the development of the country in several forms, but one of the most common forms are remittances. The purpose of this paper is to show the impact of remittances on economic growth in Kosovo. The techniques that used to study this research are panel data. The study uses quarterly secondary data for the period 2010-2020. Remittances are an important mechanism for economic growth in Kosovo. The positive effects of remittances are also observed in the facilitation of health care, education, welfare and general living conditions, but given the trend of economic development in the world including the pandemic and many other elements, it is likely that remittances will not be stable in the coming years, therefore, at the end of the paper, recommendations are given on possible policies on predestination of remittances, reduction of bank transfer fees, especially from Germany and Switzerland, return of migrants and investments in Kosovo.

Keywords: Economic Growth, International Emigration, Remittances.

The impact of organizational factors in ethical decision-making process of accountants in Kosovo

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Abstract. During the last decades we have heard about financial scandals that have occurred in the world such as: WorldCom, Enron, Parmalat or Lehman Brothers and many more. After many studies conducted by business ethics, it has been concluded that one of the reasons of bankruptcy to these companies is the deficiency of ethics by the accountants and financial directors of these companies. A lot of researchers from developed countries undertook a series of studies to understand the causes of deficiency of ethics in practicing the accounting profession.

During this research we noticed that in our country there is a deficiency of studies on this issue, therefore the analysis and identification of factors that affect the ethical decision-making of accountants is very important for the economic development of the country. In this paper we have addressed the organizational factors that influence ethical decision making.

The method of data collection was done through a questionnaire, where a total of 250 accountants were surveyed, who were selected by deliberate method. The collected data were processed in SPSS with the help of various statistical techniques such as: Independent sample t-test, ANOVA or linear regression.

At the end of this paper are the conclusions that have been reached as a result of the analysis of facts and various discussions of organizational factors that affect the ethical decision-making process of accountants in Kosovo.

Keywords: Organizational factors, Business ethics, Accountants, Ethical decision-making process.

The Impact of Minimum Wage on Social Schemes - The Case of Kosovo

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Abstract. Setting the minimum wage is a legal responsibility, which must be accompanied by a Government Decision, based on a proposal from the Economic and Social Council (SEC).

So the important issue is estimating how much it should be? It is estimated by many studies that a minimum wage at a level higher than 60% of the average wage, causes serious negative effects in terms of price increases and job cuts. Currently in Kosovo, the minimum wage of 170 euros, over the age of 35 is at the level of 36.50% of the average wage of 466 euros per month in 2020, published by KAS. While the salary of 130 euros is as much as 27.90% of the average salary. If the level of 60% of the average salary was taken, then the minimum wage in Kosovo should be 280 Euros.

The decision on the minimum wage, in a chain, also affects the categories of citizens involved in social schemes (war veterans, families without employees, etc.). The dilemmas about the budget burden, informal employment and the effect it has on social schemes have created an illegal situation for more than a decade regarding the implementation of the Labor Law. Minimum wage setting (MW) has been used as an important policy instrument used by governments to stabilize the labor market and also to improve working conditions. There has consistently been debate about the impact of the minimum wage, while poor quality enforcement has been repeatedly cited as a major challenge.

Keywords: Minimum Wage, Average Wage, Labor Law, Kosovo.

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THE REGIONAL DIVISION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA

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Abstract. The regional division of the Republic of Kosovo according to geospatial, functional and socio-economic criteria has been and remains an unceasing effort of many authorities and researchers with the last ones working upon the clarification of the essential definition based on the essential elements of its differentiation. Differentiation of elements as a complex category analyzes the natural landscape which constitutes the fundamental basis of space in the transformation of which socio-economic activities determine the degree and dynamics of development. Kosovo is located between 297 m above sea level (Vermica) and 2565 m above sea level (Gjeravica), and is surrounded by high and medium mountains in its peripheral parts. On the other side, in the inner parts of the country, field areas lie in the North-South direction, and in the center there are low mountains which create morphological diversity with elements of the natural landscape which are considered only as a representative indicator, but are decisive in its regional differentiation. Non-compliance with spatial criteria in regional differentiation has created problems in the process of its spatial and functional organization. As a consequence, the regional division of this space has been done according to statistical, administrative and political criteria, but with only few elements of relief factors. This paper aims on assisting local and central authorities in building the concept of regional division by respecting the morphological elements and ensuring a balanced distribution of socio-economic developments. The advantages of studying the geographical region are not limited to the inventory of geographical phenomena and processes, they also extend to determining the equilibrium, statistics, dynamics, complexity, functionality, parallelism, and aesthetics of the region.

Keywords: Region, Differentiation, Functionality, Spatial, Processes.

Data-Driven Decision-Making Implementation and Advanced Business Processes in the Digital Age

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Abstract. The purpose of this article is to examine and debate the impact of data-driven decision making on advanced business processes in the digital era. Data-driven decision making is becoming "business as usual" as digital technology becomes the primary driver of business processes, according to credible evidence in the literature. Businesses and organizations are increasingly turning to data-driven decision-making. The three objectives of this study are to discuss the evolution of data-driven decision making in advanced business processes in the age of data, to identify and analyze how businesses think about data-driven decision making in advanced business processes, and to assess the level of skilled staff involved in data science implementation within organizations. Using qualitative and quantitative research approaches, we seek to attain the desired research goal. Quantitative research is limited to enterprises based in a developing country's region.

Keywords: Data science, Decision making, Digital technology, Business processes,

The Impact Of Advertising On Consumer Decisions To Purchase Products

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Abstract. The epicenter of whole economic activity and enterprises' goal is the customer. Since the purchase decision means to increase the income, the latter in modern times are characterized by increased volume of production and products offered. Consumers are constantly faced with endless product alternatives. Differentiating products from those of competitors is made by marketing mix marketing elements.

Thus, between the products offered by enterprise and the consumer, there should definitely be a communication bridge. This role is played by promotion, through several instruments, among which is advertising. Advertising is the most important tool of promotion, because of the effect it creates at the consumer, and also because of the width of the target achieved through it.

To address the effect of advertising to consumers, focused on the decision to purchase the product, the first chapter of this paper is dedicated to reviewing the literature of well-known authors. From the review we understand that advertising is not a simple mechanism or trend used by companies, but in fact it's beginning is based on the science of marketing and is related not only to the consumer's decision to purchase, but also to a number of instruments and areas of this science, which gives exactly the attributes that makes it possible to understand such impact, starting from its foundation, development and then the finalization of its impact.

Empirical data provided through consumer surveys were collected to define the findings on the effects of advertising on the consumer when purchasing products.

Keywords: Advertising, Marketing Mix, Promotion, Consumer Behavior.

SECURITY AND VULNERABILITIES OF COMPLEX E-SERVICES – STATE-OF-THE-ART

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Abstract: Nowadays, each of us uses one or more different systems in which we manage to perform services according to ongoing requirements. These requests have already become part of our lives and accompany us to every place we go. This makes the flow of information much greater and consequently the possibility of compromising our data is much higher. In this paper we will present the weaknesses of these complex systems that we use continuously and the minimum requirements on how to protect ourselves against them. Although the large amount of data obviously requires efficient solutions in their processing, the challenges of providing E-services continue to be a challenge for developers and especially for users of these services.

Keywords: E-Services, Attacks, developers, data, complex services, etc.

Entrepreneurship as a contemporary process: Leadership - Innovation – Change

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Abstract. Change management is a key issue for the survival and realization of organizational objectives in today's business environment, which is changing in different ways. Change has become a necessary constant for companies that need to change in order to remain competitive in the market. The ability to manage this change is seen as a basic skill of successful enterprises in contemporary entrepreneurship. These changes are undoubtedly manifested both locally and internationally. Economic globalization as an integrator has caused these two levels to merge into one, causing the difference between them to fade. This integration has been very intense lately.

Leadership as the process by which an individual influences a group to achieve a common goal. Process means systematic and continuous actions and ways by which the leader influences subordinates. It should be noted that leadership is not a linear process but an interactive process and requires adaptation and innovation. Entrepreneurship and innovation in developing countries but also in developed countries in the contemporary era is influencing in all aspects of business development. This research for Kosovo condition confirms the following results: that the change process is an integral and necessary part of day-to-day management in these enterprises, identifying leadership challenges in implementing the change process and adapting enterprises to the contemporary environment continues to be vital to performance profitability and competitiveness. Answering research questions requires testing the relationships between variables (type of change, process factors, and success of the change). Testing of these connections is enabled using quantitative methods. As a result, the use of questionnaires as a method for data collection in this paper enables: research and analysis of possible relationships between the variables taken in the study, and tends to 'open' issues that will be of interest to be explored in the future.

These leadership activities, adapting the efforts to maximize the existing opportunities in the environment of strong competition and following the contemporary development trends in the enterprise have been researched during the processes of change in the enterprise are: creating a strong leadership team to lead the processes, develop a vision to assist and guide efforts to achieve strategic objectives, designing and communicating the strategy to achieve the planned results, providing training and career development for employees to understand, reduce resistance and motivate to achieve the mission and vision of the enterprise.

Keywords: changes, contemporary management, entrepreneurship, innovation.

CHALLENGES OF SME MANAGEMENT IN THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC SITUATION

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Abstract. Kosovo is one of the countries most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) such as gastronomy, catering, commercial enterprises, are the businesses sectors most affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. SMEs have already faced financial and non-financial crises, but the pandemic has brought many problems, ambiguities and other challenges. Many businesses are going through challenges from this unprecedented corona virus crisis, which has caused shutdowns, weakening of many businesses around the world causing income reduction, job reduction etc.

The Covid 19 pandemic and the application of social restrictions by governments has also resulted in changing the way of doing business. This situation became a challenge for the survival of businesses, but on the other hand also an opportunity for entrepreneurs and SMEs managers, who were creative and brought innovations in the way of doing business. This situation forces managers to bring innovation in the management, in order to survive, or even take advantage in a new environment created during these two years.

The purpose of this paper is to be treated a new reality of this pandemic period, which is bringing ongoing challenges. The role of management in this situation is to be creative as possible, to bring innovations and turn threats into new opportunities.

Key words: SMEs, management, creativity, innovation, challenges, covid 19 pandemic.

VULNERABILITY AND SECURITY AND IN XGS-PON AND NG-PON2 TECHNOLOGIES

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Abstract. Network security in general is attracting a great deal of attention from engineering community all over the world. Today most of the electronic equipment that we possess in our homes and offices have a degree of “smartens” and most of them require network connection to operate properly. Every equipment that is connected to a network, can be subject of security breach. This fact drawn a great deal of attention to the vulnerability of fixed access networks with special attention towards Fiber to the Home (FTTH) technologies. The reason is simple, FTTH provides a gateway to our data and privacy and if not addressed properly this can cause a very big security issue.

In the paper, we will address main security threats of FTTH technologies in general, with particular focus being on the future FTTH technologies such as XGS-PON (10G passive optical networks) and NG-PON2 (Next generation passive optical network). We will underline and analyze the latest security updates and best practices to address this security threats that FTTH technologies face today.

Analyzing the Information Security Risk Management in Banking and Microfinance Institutions in Kosovo

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Abstract. Danger is neither new nor unknown to mankind. From the beginning of mankind, dealing with various dangers was always present that changed over time, depending on the stage at which humanity was. At the same time, man also learned how to guard against them, to take appropriate measures for protection and, if possible, the complete avoidance of dangers. Today, we are witnessing the greatest technological development mankind has seen, where new and advanced technologies are introduced rapidly. These developments have an ever-increasing need for data supply. These developments are accompanied by the specific risks that pose a threat to the confidentiality, availability and integrity of data and information, making them one of the biggest concerns of our time. Among the most attractive sectors for various cyber-attacks is the financial one, because of the financial benefits that an eventual successful attack can offer. In this paper we will discuss the information security risk management in banking and microfinance institutions in Kosovo.

Keywords: Risk, Bank, Microfinance, Data, Risk Management, Finance.

Role of Information Systems in Facing COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract. For about two years the whole globe has been facing a very big challenge like that of COVID-19, which has affected and taken many lives. All countries faced various difficulties and health, social and economic problems, generating problematic that had to be overcome even in those conditions. Facing all the challenges demanded the attention of Policies and International Organizations which had to find quick and effective solutions to enable the continuity of life in all aspects. Under these conditions, the Internet and various Information Systems have played a very important role, which have enabled the continuation of many of the vital processes online, such as contact with doctors, work in different types of businesses, education, tracking the network of contacts from infected people, etc. Various technological innovations and applications have been developed to combat the corona virus pandemic. The pandemic, also, has a great influence on the design, development and use of technologies. Under these conditions it emerged as a need to increase understanding of the roles that information systems and technology researchers would play in this global pandemic. This paper will examine the technologies used to face the threats of COVID-19 and its challenges related to the design, development and use of technology both in terms of mass interpersonal communication and the operation of various platforms and programs that interfered with pandemic processes. Also, the paper will address the new scientific knowledge provided through information technologies, as well as bring suggestions on how information systems and technology researchers can help fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Given this challenging topicality, researchers in this field aim to research in the future towards the development of information technology to produce innovations and better solutions for dealing with similar global situations.

Keywords: Information Systems, Technology, Research, Communication, Informatics, COVID-19 Pandemic.

KPI's of Digital business models in Covid 19 period

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Abstract. Today's challenge of digital business is how to survive in a digital market, by facing with different competitors and new innovations in different fields. Developing new digital products/ services have their own opportunities and risks. The main fields elaborated in this paper are related to lifetime values, productivity, business sustainability, risk and consumer satisfaction. By developing SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-frame) KPI's and a permanent following of each of them, the business can achieve the plan, including the sales, profit and expenses by measuring them in an analytic way. Settling on metrics to measure digital performance is a challenge. Digital model looks different for every company, so there are no universal KPIs (Key Performance Indicators). Digital leaders expect positive results from digital technologies from the beginning of their operation, but only about a quarter of those companies have agreed on the key performance indicators (KPI) that would be used to track progress in their digital performance. Our research is focused to evaluate the main KPI's that are impacted by Covid 19 situation in retail business, and propose some main points to those businesses to focus on in near future.

Keywords: Digital business models, KPI, performance, results.

IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNET OF THINGS IN STEAM EDUCATIO

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Abstract. Internet of Things is considered one of the most trending topic in the world of Information Technology. Such IoT technology is now widely used in various fields such as health care, transportation, electricity and education. In education, IoT technology contributes to improving learning efficiency in the class by enabling learners to interact with physical devices and providing appropriate learning content based on this interaction. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education is a curriculum in schools to improve competitiveness in science and technology development. This paper will study the influence of IoT-driven educational activities and tools like software, hardware and educational material in STEAM education. Based on the STEAM concept, this paper proposes a teaching model for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics implementing the Internet of Things and the combination of theory, practice, and innovation.

Keywords: internet of things, STEAM, innovation, education

Web-Platform developed from data obtained from KBRA(ARBK), based on business development depending on location

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Abstract. Nowadays the term Big Data is very important as well as the visualization of this data. The data can be processed and therefore can be easily maneuvered to be modified and we can generate results through raw data. Raw data always contains different types of problems such as duplicate or duplicate data, deficient data that lacks specifics, which may display a weak pattern, and therefore the best techniques are used and reasonable enough to display satisfactory results through applications. Therefore, it is essential that the data be thoroughly cleaned before proceeding with the analysis step. The process that cleans a database depending on potential problems in the world of technology and programming is called data cleaning. Unfortunately, data cleansing is inevitable and primary, it is also a task that takes a lot of time to find the most appropriate way to minimize problems, this is due to the lack of information in the data that I have and have encountered in the data set of the Business Registration Agency in Kosovo.

In this work, a programming language that has been quite suitable for me is Python as a scripting programming language for developing data analysis in order to meet the requirements that fit the title of my work. The tool used through this language is able to identify potential data issues and report such results and recommendations so that users can clean the data smoothly and effectively with its help. Compared to existing data cleaning tools, this tool has been specially created to address tasks in the working machine and can find the optimal cleaning approach according to the data characteristics.

My paper aims to show a result in the use of tools for visualizing information, increase the readability and usability of data and finally how feasible it is to present results to unstructured data. The database analysis focuses on data maintained by the Kosovo Open Business Registration Agency (KBRA).

The results achieved are worked with a lot of dedication, and are results which contain detailed information so that the user has the opportunity to maneuver within the opportunities offered. At first glance the generated results serve as open information and not so detailed but through the options provided by the created site the user can have different display options to see in more detail about the information that the site has about the data on businesses in Kosovo. The analysis of this data was done through Geodata - data spread on a map of Kosovo where based on the filters are displayed results which are quite easy to read and offers maneuvering in the filters placed next to the attributes possessed by the dataset.

Keywords: Data visualization, data cleaning, generating results based on requirements

End-User Software Application Reliability: Case Study

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Abstract. The reliability of software applications is an important factor that affects the security of the system and is very important for the quality of the software, along with functionality, usability, performance, capability, sustainability and documentation.

This issue is not new, it has already been addressed in the implementation of various software, but outside the country, where their use requires confidentiality by users.

The goal of software application engineers is to increase the likelihood that a completed software application will work flawlessly for end users. Therefore, measurements and information from a trusted software application are very important. Software confidentiality and reliability measurements can be used to plan and control the resources for implementing software applications. They can also provide confidence in the accuracy of a completed software.

This paper should provide relevant information on the reliability of software applications in the country; a modified model of the statistical usage testing method (SUT) will be presented, which gives us the opportunity to assess and predict the reliability and reliability of a software. The statistical testing method is a certified software confidentiality method that is part of software engineering. The main purpose of the method is to verify the reliability and reliability of the software and to find errors with a major impact on the security of the software, as well as the method provides statistical rules during testing.

Keywords: Reliability, software applications, confidentiality, testing methods.

The Challenges of Information Systems in Uncertain Times: Managing in Extreme Ambiguity During the Period of Covid-19

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Abstract. The purpose of this research is to analyze and raise the debate about the role and importance of information systems during uncertain times, specifically during the Covid-19 pandemic period. Information Systems (IS) implied as sociotechnical systems are supposed to support and enable the collection and analysis of data, the creation and distribution of information in an effective and efficient way. In safe circumstances this process takes place together with many challenges and difficulties such as lack of information systems management strategy, high rate of project failures in information systems, implementation difficulties of emerging digital technologies, change management issues, etc. When it comes to manage information systems during uncertain times, we suppose that difficulties and challenges increase exponentially and can substantially affect the designed functions of information systems. Another supposition is set up to discuss the accurate role and importance of IS during the extreme uncertain period of the Covid-19.

Keywords: Information Systems, Extreme Uncertainty, Covid19, Digital technology, Business processes,

The impact of watching series on the activities of high school students in kosovo, 2021.

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Abstract: The development of technology has made a lot of changes in human's life and work. In the context of developments and perfection of technology in general and particularly information one, are included also, television, various phones, laptops/PC. The representation of youthful life portrayed here is maybe no disclosure to numerous instructors and guardians who watch and encounter it in schools, work environments, and communities. In any case, it isn't sufficient to basically bring these encounters in to the classroom (1).

Aim: To gather information regarding the impact of TV series on Kosovar youth, in their learning and other daily activities.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted in Kosovo. Sample of 131 high school students from the municipality of Gjilan. A pre-tested questionnaire was used to collect the data. Data were analyzed using SPSS 22.00. The associations between different variables were checked using the Chi-square test at (95%) confidence level.

Results: 36.6% of the taken sample were males while 63.4% were females. Based on schools we have 32.8% from the Natural Sciences Gymnasium, 32.8% from the Social Sciences Gymnasium and 34.4% from the Economics High School.

Conclusions: Since there exists a positive linear relationship between the studied variables with a correlation value of 0.814, the distance from which students watch TV impacts on wearing glasses. Whereas the average grade depends on the hours of watching the series.

Those students who do not like watching series at all do not attend any courses, while students that like it averagely and those who like to watch series are occupied with different activities.

Keywords: *Development of technology, Information System, Social impact, TV.*

The Impact of Accounting Software Characteristics on Organizational Performance: The Context of Kosovo's SMEs

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Abstract. Globalization in the growth of the world economy encouraged companies all over the world to compete in the global market that are leading to the emergence of a new series of accounting challenges such as multiple currencies and to follow a multitude of accounting and tax rules. Digitalization of accounting is one of the most effective solutions to many challenges of businesses around the world, thus facilitating the work in the preparation of financial and non-financial information, managing of inventory, cash, accounts receivable and other assets, managing liabilities such as payable accounts, taxes and salaries, managing the time and facilitation of procedures, thus influencing the increase of business performance and better decision making. The growing demand for advanced accounting software is increasing every day by businesses, especially commercial and manufacturing, but also service and non-profit businesses. Adoption of accounting software becomes the key factor in determining the survival and success of an organization. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to investigate the impact of accounting software on various businesses in Kosovo, thus focusing on some features of accounting software, such as: efficiency, reliability, ease of use, data quality and accuracy on organizational performance. Primary data were employed and collected through a questionnaire. Obtained data were analyzed using the SPSS Software Package. The overall research findings of the study indicates that there is a positive significant relationship between characteristics of accounting software and business performance.

Keywords: Accounting Software Characteristics; Organizational Performance; SMEs; Kosovo.

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The Impact of Accounting Software Characteristics on Organizational Performance: The Context of Kosovo's SMEs

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Abstract. Globalization in the growth of the world economy encouraged companies all over the world to compete in the global market that are leading to the emergence of a new series of accounting challenges such as multiple currencies and to follow a multitude of accounting and tax rules. Digitalization of accounting is one of the most effective solutions to many challenges of businesses around the world, thus facilitating the work in the preparation of financial and non-financial information, managing of inventory, cash, accounts receivable and other assets, managing liabilities such as payable accounts, taxes and salaries, managing the time and facilitation of procedures, thus influencing the increase of business performance and better decision making. The growing demand for advanced accounting software is increasing every day by businesses, especially commercial and manufacturing, but also service and non-profit businesses. Adoption of accounting software becomes the key factor in determining the survival and success of an organization. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to investigate the impact of accounting software on various businesses in Kosovo, thus focusing on some features of accounting software, such as: efficiency, reliability, ease of use, data quality and accuracy on organizational performance. Primary data were employed and collected through a questionnaire. Obtained data were analyzed using the SPSS Software Package. The overall research findings of the study indicates that there is a positive significant relationship between characteristics of accounting software and business performance.

Keywords: Accounting Software Characteristics; Organizational Performance; SMEs; Kosovo.

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The impact of banks new alternative digital channels on customer satisfaction

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Abstract. Artificial intelligence and new digital services of the banking sector are shifting the way financial products and services are accessed and used by bank clients. Innovative financial technologies introduced by banks are increasing options and improving customer comfort in the financial market.

In recent years, Kosovo banks have played an increasingly active role in supporting financial innovation through internal initiatives or external partnerships. Indeed, all banks are making significant investments in the digital financial technologies side of their business. These investments have significantly developed the way banks interact and connect with their clients and operate internally.

It seems clear that bank innovation allows the bank to reduce costs and creates a range of new opportunities that will allow banks to improve their performance in different ways. In particular, reducing the cost alone does not give a competitive advantage, and the focus has shifted to customer care experience. From this evidence, an analysis dedicated to the significant effects of bank innovation and general customer satisfaction in Kosovo commercial banks seems highly relevant.

However, existing literature on banking efficient performance focuses mainly on system efficiency in the delivery system. Other aspects, such as intangible value creation, received little attention, which created the idea to conduct a study from the Kosovo context to analyze the effects of banks' new alternative digital channels on customer satisfaction.

JEL Classification: G21, O14, G32,

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The migration of Albanians during the XIX-XX centuries part of the Serbian platforms for ethnic cleansing.

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University for Business and Technology - UBT

Abstract. Migrations were permanent part of general human evolution, a key factor in development of humans, important occurrence in daily life of populations, different groups of people, families and individuals. Every historical period, just as every crucial turning point of social development, was characterized by different migration types which had specific consequences for different ethnic, racial, religious and language populations groups, which were part or affected by migrations waves. There is hardly another region of the world where the current situation of migrations is still considerably influenced by the past history as in the Balkans. Migrations have been a fundamental element in the history of the Balkans, accompanying its stormy events and obviously continuing to do so, even at the start of the new millennium. Early evacuations in beginning had local character to escape the barbaric onslaught. Then later especially during the Ottoman occupation of Kosova took another character being intensified even more up to mass destruction, determination of population, deportations and ethnic cleansing. Kosova was one of the countries most affected by all these. From 1844 Serbian Orthodox church together with Academie of Science of Serbia lanced the famous platform called Nacertanije for determination of albanian people which had affected in migration of albanians from their territories where one of the main objectivs.

Keywords: Migrations, albanians, ethnic cleansing, determination, Nacertanije etc.

How do small countries negotiate in a multipolar world? Formal models of small countries' negotiations under international supervision

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Abstract. In the contemporary international stage dominated by one global hegemon and multiple regional powers, it almost never happens for smaller countries to negotiate international disputes without any international supervisions. And yet, there is a scarcity of formal models capturing such kind of negotiations. We build two formal models that try to describe dispute negotiations, one between two countries under the supervision of one neutral international actor, and the other between two countries under the supervision of two international actors, each of them siding with one of the disputing parties. Then test the models with simulated data and find equilibrium points. Finally, we face those findings with evaluated equilibriums from Kosovo-Serbia negotiations (Model 1) and Armenia-Azerbaijan negotiations (Model 2). Findings would be important both to fill a theoretical gap in the existing literature and to practically inform decision makers of outcome possibilities under certain conditions.

Key security challenges in Kosovo

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Abstract. The Republic of Kosovo since February 17, 2008, when it declared its independence and created its new state, is a free, independent and sovereign state. In this context, identifying and defining the main security challenges in the Republic of Kosovo is of particular interest. The evaluation of the security sector strategic review analysis document, in relation to the comprehensive aspects of democratic institutions and contemporary organized crime, by the interviewees and respondents, identify the main threats and challenges to security in Kosovo.

The aim of this paper is to test the connection and impact that they carry in themselves, national security and its challenges in relation to transnational organized crime in Kosovo.

This paper will address the following issues: Purpose and objectives of the paper; research question; working hypothesis; analytical model and methodology; document "The security Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo"; key security challenges in Kosovo; trial of politicians and experts in both Albania and Kosovo and international experts on specific security challenges in Kosovo-comparative analysis; conclusions and recommendations.

Keywords: Kosovo, security, key security challenges, comparative analysis, strategy.

EU response to the Syrian conflict

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Abstract: The European Union is not only a large single market, it is also a common external action. This includes foreign affairs, security, defense, international trade, neighborhood policy, as well as development cooperation and humanitarian aid. However, in joint security and foreign policy, highly sovereign issues, the member states have maintained as much as possible distinct national policies. The Treaty of Lisbon entered into force, in December 2009, has been considered as significant effort to ensure better cooperation and consistency in EU foreign and security policy, but, its overall international position remains weak and other powers increasingly challenge European Union' capacity to maintain their role and to defend their interests and values in a multipolar world of geopolitical competition. The aim of this paper is to argue, that the Syrian conflict is one more proof that foreign and security policy of EU remained strangely passive and in discrepancy with its ambition for active international engagement and has shown that the EU's degree of strategic autonomy in the current international order is ultimately limited.

Keywords: EU, Policy, security, foreign, conflict, national, international

THE DELAYED KOSOVO SECURITY STRATEGY

Albatros Rexhaj, PhD cand

Behar Selimi, PhD

Abstract. In 2010, the Government of Kosovo approved the draft of Kosovo's Security Strategy. However, for reasons unknown, this draft strategy was never presented to the Assembly of Kosovo for adoption, as required by law. With the principle of comparability as a research tool, this paper proves that the 2010 draft strategy is relatively similar to the National Security Strategies of other Western Balkans countries. The authors argue that these documents, Kosovo's draft strategy included, are not a result of internal debates and analysis but rather external influence.

In the case of Kosovo, considering the fragility of the state-building process due to the failure to reach a final peace settlement with Serbia, imported strategy models are not applicable. As a young state, a comprehensive internal debate on identifying the national interests of Kosovo and potential threats to these interests is essential before any attempt to draft and adopt the Security Strategy. By drawing on two theoretical approaches, the securitization theory and the state-building theory, this paper dwells on the most effective courses of action for developing a comprehensive applicable National Security Strategy for Kosovo.

Keywords: national security, national interests, strategy, state-building, securitization.

“New regional integration initiatives for the Western Balkans as substitutes for EU accession”

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Abstract. This paper examines new initiatives for “regional integration” of Western Balkans, as an alternative to full EU integration. Three decades since the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia, ideas on its reincarnation are re-actualized. Now; within “European” label. Although since 2014 “Berlin Process” for the Western Balkans was launched as EU-WB platform for speeding their accession through regional cooperation, scholars and diplomats are discussing other alternatives to full EU accession, in the form of “regional economic integration”. According to these initiatives, they will be integrated regionally under Serbian leadership, replacing their initial EU integration with Balkans sub-integration. In October 2019 Serbia launched in Novi Sad “Balkans Mini- Schengen”, which was further discussed in Ohrid and Tirana in the same year. Due the non participation of three other countries (Kosovo, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina), that idea “slept” till mid of 2021 when Balkans troika of: Serbia, Albania and North Macedonia re-discussed it in Skopje meeting of 29 July 2021 and re-named it as “Open Balkans”. In parallel to that Serbian initiative, in the beginning of 2021 other alternatives to full membership circulated: from “free trade zone EU- WB to “differentiated integration/associated membership”. Due to status quo of EU enlargement and opposition of EU member states for accepting new members, likely for the Western Balkans will offer other alternatives to full membership, as a kind of trade integration with the block without political integration. European promises will replace European perspective which was proclaimed two decades ago. But, letting the Western Balkans out of EU will produce security risks and will challenge geostrategic interests of the whole Europe.

Keywords: EU, Western Balkans, Enlargement, Accession, EU integration, Accession’s substitutes

Serbia's action in Kosovo through espionage

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Abstract. Same as in the past Serbia is not excluding the possibility of acting in Kosovo through its elements of espionage. The presence of the state of Serbia in Kosovo, through the espionage actions has an old tradition with its base of cultivating ethnic or national hate, race and religious hate against the Albanian population of Kosovo, like in the former Serbo-Croatian-Slav kingdom, in the former communist Yugoslavia, and in the pluralist system after the 90s. This hostile approach is being developed today through ideological, political, military, and police transmission against Kosovo. The last act of Serbia, the military airplanes and helicopters fly near the border with Kosovo, after the decision of the Government of Kosovo for setting the reciprocity measure for the all vehicles with registration plates from Serbia, makes more intriguing our scientific analysis. The issue is that beside this approach, Serbia through the element of espionage can create conditions for destabilizing the Northern part of Kosovo, and there is a chance to do the same in the other places in Kosovo. This is why, in our scientific analysis we will try to explain on one hand where Kosovo is with its legal infrastructure for counterintelligence, and on the other hand are the professional resources sufficient to deconspire the Serbian espionage in Kosovo. Among other things, our main purpose of our analysis is to give light in which field of the social life, and in which actions of the active political exponents, without mentioning names, can be present the Serbian element of espionage in Kosovo. In this case, we cannot forget the fact that the espionage act, like any other country, in Kosovo is counted as illegal, as well.

Keyword: Espionage, Counterintelligence, Serbian element, etc.

Policy-making in the context of security and interethnic relations in the Western Balkans

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Abstract. A special importance in creating security, not only within the state, but also in a wider context, regional and international, is undoubtedly the policy-making. The Balkan region, and in particular the Western Balkans, has been, and continues to be, a hostage of bad policy-making for decades, both in terms of economic development and security within the region. From the provocative policy-making, from the non-separation of the politics of these states, in particular from the Serbian state, from the political mentality of the past, the region continues to be troubled even today.

The paper deals precisely with the political mentality, and the lack of political reforms to overcome the provocative policies and the patriarchal political mentality, towards the integration policies of the region in the European Union. A change of political approach, especially in Serbia, is necessary for interethnic reconciliation, and overcoming the long-standing interethnic hatreds that continue to dominate Serbian politics and the region in general. Policy-making in the Western Balkan countries must be changed to accelerate the pace of economic development and integration of the region, otherwise the region will continue to remain under the fever of unrest and uncertainty.

Keywords: Policy Making, Interethnic Relations, Western Balkans, Political Reform, etc.

Transformation of KSF and Kosovo Security in the Regional Context

Gladjola Kapaj, MSc

Abstract. The KSF is a new force, with a new mandate, and ahead of a long journey to reach the capacity of a real army. Faced with the process of transforming the KSF from a civil defense force into an army, Kosovo faces internal and external challenges. Internal challenges, among others, include building an army almost from scratch, meeting the standards of a modern army, establishing the legal framework, purchasing equipment, and training the personnel of the forces themselves. As external challenges is the fact that even if the army building is successfully completed resulting in a modern army, the protection of Kosovo's sovereignty can not be thought outside the regional context, and without becoming part of an International Alliance like that of NATO. After an analysis of the principles that states pledge to adhere to in the North Atlantic Treaty, it is noted that the main principles are as follows: states pledge to preserve freedom, common property, and their people. They are based on the principles of democracy, individual freedom, and the rule of law.

Key Words: NATO, Kosovo Security, Western Balkans, Kosovo Security Forces

State Building During Conflict in Fragile States under asymmetric warfare and its Impact on Human Security: Yemen as a Case Study

Luna Shamieh

Abstract. The situation in Yemen is complex; Yemen ruling system has been disintegrated since 1970 that has been united in 1990, the year 2011 was an era of political transition that has never brought peace, and 2015 was the beginning of the civil war. Currently, the Yemeni conflict is a combination of the failed government to address the basic needs of the citizens accompanied with high level of corruption, the insurgency of the Houthis, and the counterinsurgency led by the regional forces. This research analyzes the different interventions in Yemen that is composed of state-building initiatives driven by the international community and the counterinsurgency and peacemaking initiatives led by the regional forces. It studies the result of these interventions on human security as perceived by the Yemeni people. Thus, it helps identify the way forward according to the people on the ground.

This research is based on analyzing the International community interventions in Yemen and the perspective of Yemenis on the extent to which these interventions lead to better Human Security.

Keywords: Yemen, Insurgency, state-building, human security

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Energy Efficiency : Case of Study for an Italian Railway Station

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Abstract. The study will analyze the thermal and electrical energy consumption of the largest Italian railway stations, comparing the clustered data from yr. 2014 to yr. 2018, to evaluate the energy consumption trend in TOE, Tonnes of Oil Equivalent.

The aim will be the electrical and thermal consumption reduction, thanks to the use of the photovoltaic technology, integrated with batteries and BACS (building automation and control system).

A specific software (Termolog Design Photovoltaic and Acca Solarius PV) has been used to carry out the results; to identify improvement solutions, an algorithm made it possible to identify the best set point of integration between energy supply and production.

Keywords: Energy Efficiency, CO2 Reduction, Renewable Energy, Photovoltaic System, Eco-Sustainable Development, Green Energy, Circular Economy, Smart Mobility.

“Superbonus” 110%: the recovery passes through eco-sustainability

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Abstract. The Italian government decided to face the economic crisis consequent to the pandemic with a massive investment in the residential sector, with the so called “Superbonus 100%”. The Superbonus 110% incentive provides for the possibility of improving the insulation and systems at no cost to the homeowner and is aimed to make residential houses more efficient (in terms of energy) and safer (in terms of the seismic risk).

This work will analyzed a typical building situated in Center Italy, consisting of 30 apartments housing over 100 inhabitants. The interventions (among those granted by the incentive) will be simulated using specific software. The economic, technical and environmental benefits associated with this intervention will be assessed.

Keywords: Energy Efficiency, CO2 Reduction, Renewable Energy, Photovoltaic System, Eco-Sustainable Development, Zero Energy Building.

Can communication of uncertainties increase public participation intention? The case of decommissioning of nuclear power plants in Belgium

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Abstract. After their operational time is finished, the nuclear installations must be shut down and decommissioned. This makes decommissioning of Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) a pertinent energy-related matter since most of the nuclear reactors built during nuclear renaissance will soon reach the end of their operational life. Such regulatory matters require consultation with the public and their involvement in the decision-making process. But to what extent is the public willing to participate and how does communication of uncertainty influence this willingness?

This paper addresses these research questions by analysing data generated from a large-scale public opinion survey in Belgium (N= 1060) by using Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI). The method of this study consists of an experimental design where participants are divided into experimental or control group. The experimental group receives information about the uncertainties in addition to introduction to decommissioning, whereas the control group receives introduction to decommissioning only.

Based on the arguments of Uncertainty Reduction Theory (URT) and Uncertainty Management Theory (UMT) we hypothesize that respondents that will receive introduction about decommissioning of NPPs which contains uncertainty information, will be more likely to be willing to participate in decision-making procedures than those respondents that will receive introduction text only. However, this effect can be moderated by the impact of emotions that uncertainty communication can generate.

The findings of this study will contribute to studies on the field of energy policy by identifying the extent to which the public is willing to participate on energy-related procedures, as well as the factors that influence this participation intention.

Photoelectric effect of solar radiation on small PV systems under the influence of climatic conditions

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Abstract: The permanent potential of the sun's rays per second is 3.9×10^{26} W of photovoltaic energy, while on the surface of the earth comes energy 1367 W in one m². The efficiency of sunlight reflection is influenced by aerosol pollutants PM 10 and PM2.5 located on the surface of PV cells in the 5.5 kW system. The peak of power radiation (W_p) are exposed from 1000W / m² with clean PV cells and good climate conditions are optimal temperature of 25 ° C, sunlight passes through an air mass of 1.5 or 45 ° angle above the Global Horizontal Irradiance (GHI). The optimal angle and efficiency of the collection of sunlight in the small system 5.5 kW in one-year measurements in the case of research work is 33 °. Climatic conditions significantly affect the efficiency of electricity generation and disable generating quality. Impacts of aerosol pollution from CO₂ combustion, from the radiation measurements during the period April 2018-2021 on the surface of the solar panels were observed sticking of smog (adhesive form) and pollution of particles which have reduced the conversion of sunlight by 18% from the placement of clean panels. The photoelectric effect is important in the use of SMART technology as the basis of the kinetic theory according to innovative development trends, which in practice helps us in the transmission (collection of sunlight) of natural light based on the positions of solar soloists. The earth revolves around the sun on a slope axis, so the period between March and September is in the northern hemisphere of the earth (peak sunlight is on June 21) which receives more light exposure compared to the southern hemisphere.

Keywords: solar radiation, orientation angle, pollutant particles, photo effect, solstices.

A Treatment of Geothermal Resources

Visar Bejta

Abstract. Geothermal energy, per se, is the heat retained inside the Earth that may activate various geological occurrences in global and grand proportions. Nevertheless, at present, *geothermal energy* is utilized semantically to point out that some of the abovementioned heat may be retrieved and employed. In essence, the geothermal resources from within the Earth are prodigious.

Beyond the treatment of the geothermal resources, this writing, just like any other study, does not undermine the relevant detrimental effects. It rather attempts to emulate the previous corresponding works that expounded the historicity of the geothermal energy along with the intrinsic advantages.

Keywords: Geothermal resources, reservoir, extraction, electric power

Tidal and Wave Energy: a Viability Overview

Visar Bejta

Abstract. The global quiescent capacity of tidal energy is utterly prodigious. A potential wide-ranging output of electric power from thalassic tideway and waves — besides the inherent wind resource — is appealing as it provides, amongst other things, adequate grounds for an industrial viability analysis. Apropos, in recent years, vast improvements have been observed in the domain of tidal energy exploitation. Furthermore, economic viability is gradually gaining ground in a process that comprises considerable funding from sphere trendsetters and frontrunners. Palpable technical development, besides the favorable treatment from the communications industry, has boosted the validity of this particular renewable energy arrangement.

Keywords: Tidal stream generator, tidal energy viability, electric power generation, wave energy converters.

The calculation of appropriate surfaces for installation of solar thermal collectors and solar panels, case study city of Pristine

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Abstract: In Kosovo participation of renewable resources is very symbolic, most of the generated electricity produced from fossil fuel, a part of the energy comes from the import. Pristina is ranked among the most polluted sites and this is mainly: by transport, old power plants, and fossil fuel use as a heating fuel for winter seasons.

Therefore, the aim of this paper is the use of solar energy knowing that the average sun duration for the city of Pristine is 5.44[h], while the average horizontal irradiation is 3.79[kWh/m²] per day. In this paper, the first step is analyzing and mapping of appropriate surfaces for installation of solar thermal collectors and solar panels.

To realize the demand for sanitary hot water for the city of Pristine, need total gross surface area: 186084.5 [m²], for the number of inhabitants 210282, was taken the total of residential household in Pristine with around 38289 units, and the average number of people per house 5 occupants.

While to realize the demand for electricity for 38289 residential household with 5 members, a minimum of 191.445[MWp] is required, if we take the panel monocrystalline with 400[Wp] power, we need a total of 478613 panels with an area of 957226 [m²].

It means that to realize the demand: for electricity and sanitary hot water, from solar energy, for the city of Pristina requires total gross surface area 1143310.5[m²].

Keywords: Renewable Energy; PV; Solar Thermal Energy; Domestic Hot Water; Saving Electricity; CO₂ Reduction.

Trepça Mining and Metallurgical Complex as a catalyst for sustainable economic development in Kosovo

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Abstract. Kosovo as a country in Southeast Europe has an area of 10,877 km² and a population of about 2 million inhabitants, possesses sufficient mineral and energy potential for better future prosperity and sustainable economic development.

The data of the World Bank and local institutions from the research done and the results obtained show that the value of mineral reserves is about 1 trillion of minerals, while the value of energy reserves is about 14.5 billion t lignite.

Kosovo's mineral resources include: Pb, Zn, Cu, Sb, Sn, Bi, Cd, Co, Ag and Au, as well as trace metals, such as Ge, Ga, Se, In, etc., and their exploitation is done through the pyrometallurgical process, where in the process of obtaining these metals influences the part of energy resources, thus ensuring a sustainable mineral development.

Reports released by the World Bank and various local organizations show that Kosovo is ranked as one of the poorest countries and with the highest unemployment rate in Europe.

Therefore, a change in this situation requires a sustainable economic development, which is based on the rational use of mineral and human resources through the creation of favorable conditions not only for exploitation but also for the valorization of mineral resources, which will create a good business environment thus favoring the private sector.

From the Second World War until the end of the XX century, the Trepça Mining and Metallurgical Complex is distinguished by an optimal production of non-ferrous metals. 1 million t of Zn, about 4000 t of Ag, about 3000 t of Bi and over 10 t of Au as well as a quantity of semi-products.

It results that the Trepça mining and metallurgical complex in the former Yugoslavia was one of the main promoters of economic development, therefore the objective of this paper is that even today the mining and metallurgical complex Trepça to be one of the main promoters of economic development in Kosovo.

Keyword: Trepça, Economic development, resources, mineral, exploitation

STUDY ASPECTS FOR THE SOLAR-PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM WITH INSTALLATION CAPACITY OF 60.3 kWp

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Abstract. Today's socio-economic development is closely related to the process of electrical energy production in Kosovo. High energy consumption around the world has made reserves of fossil fuels, from which electricity is produced in most cases, increasingly scarce. The exploitation of fossil resources for energy production has left many consequences in terms of environment. This has led to the focus shifting to renewable energy sources. The preferable one seems to be solar energy, which has had a great development also for the fact that it is very environmentally friendly. Due to their great potential, photovoltaic systems will be one of the most important forms of energy in the future. In this paper, comparative statistics are provided for air pollution in Pristina, compared to other world centers such as Zagreb, Beijing, Paris, Berlin. Disturbing data extracted in real time, make us think much more seriously about our health and that of those who will come after us. A study analysis of a project with an installation capacity of 60.3kWp has also been done.

Keywords: Solar energy, production capacities, economy, etc.

Connection of new wind power plant to the electrical power system of Kosovo

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Abstract. Wind power is undergoing the fastest rate of growth of any form of electricity generation in the world. The resource potential is large; with many countries having wind regimes that could serve as a significant energy source. Ambitious goals for wind power development have been set by many countries.

Wind energy in this time is very important in the field of renewable energy for electrical production. Still, the power generated by wind turbines over time is characteristically uneven due to the unpredictable nature of their primary source of power.

This only increases the problems inherent to the integration of a great number of wind turbines into power networks (wind-farm operation, etc.) .

The power system of Kosovo is a compact and integrated structure in hierarchical aspect. It plays an important role in the process of transmission and distribution energy to the consumers. Based on this importance analysis is necessary in order to estimate the medium and long term plans of production of electric energy and development of the power generation plants. Object of study in this article is the project for connection of wind power plant to the substation in Gjilani. This article describes the simulations of the power system of Kosovo when the load in the system is maximum 50MW in order to emphasize the importance of the connections of wind power plant in Gjilani substation. Gjilani substation is an important node point with specifics of the power flow distribution. The analysis of the Kosovo electric power system by means of ETAP software and using as a reference the standards applied in Kosovo, the created models aim to justify if the plans for improvement of Kosovo grid are appropriate and what kind of changes in the voltage levels and short circuits values can be expected.

Keywords: Connection, Wind Power Plant, Voltage profile, Short Circuit t Current , Improvement, Power System, Operation

Analysis and performance of hydro generation of electricity from small hydropower plants

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Abstract: The application of the latest technology in HPPs of the Dragash region and the generation benefits with multifunctional approach enable sustainable operation of generators with full efficiency in the environment where it is part of this research. Exploitation of energy resources from renewables, particularly the utilization of hydro resources through engineering works called hydropower plants today is of particular importance not only nationwide but also wider. Electricity represents one of the most eminent and underlying sources of human activities. Energy sources are different, as are the modes, equipment and plants for its generation. Indeed the geographical position and the influence of climate conditions influence the potential of the exploitation of the generating energy in the minimal flow of water flow in the turbines by the decanters. The paper highlights the use of advanced SMART technology, the form of communication between plants installed in hydropower plants and the generating performance with some characteristics of turbines used in hydropower plants, as well as the results of efficiency analysis for small hydropower plants. Nowadays various types of turbines are used in the power system of the hydroelectric power generation type. Whereas the efficiency analysis of small and large hydropower plants depends on the design, size, and amount of water flowing into the profile in which a small power hydropower plant are generated electricity in the region of Dragash.

Keywords: energy efficiency, HPP machinery, turbine automation, regulation voltage.

Energy Efficiency in Administrative and Education Institution Buildings in Kosovo

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Abstract:Energy conditions and situation about the energy consumption in the Administrative and Education Buildings stocks in Kosovo is the aim and the objective of this study. Given that a complete renewal and refurbishment of this building stock will take about 30 years, investing in Energy Efficiency (EE) in this existing Buildings is the crucial to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. In this Study, we measured and report the EE potential and financial scenario before and after the implementation with applicable software, were we find the NPV and IRR of this building stock. Also, we obtained to produce the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) base on the Energy Rules and Polices in Republic of Kosovo. For the next 10 years is created the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund, with new institutional competencies where the municipalities would apply for the projects on EE-, especially in education and administrative buildings. The energy performance and Sustainability development of this buildings stock can be measured increasing the living conditions, environment, better health and energy savings in this building stock after the refurbishment.

Keywords. Energy Efficiency, EPC, Refurbishment, Sustainability, Energy consumption, building stock, Education Buildings and Administrative, NPV and IRR, Energy Efficiency Fund, Energy Polices.

Energy Legislation in Kosovo, analyses and application compared with EU directives, the importance for improving Energy Efficiency and Sustainability refurbishment of building stock in Kosovo

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Abstract: The European Union Directives based on the Energy Efficiency Strategy Implementations aims to achieve the objectives 2020, from Kyoto protocol directives three twenty's (20/20/20), also reducing gas emissions and pollutions. The main subject of this paper is Energy legislation based on this directive during the analyses and application in the practice, Kosovo has achieved the targets on Implementing the Legislation and Rules with EE, compared with the region states and is in the good way to realize the better conditions for improving the sustainability refurbishment of the buildings stock.

Creating the new Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund from 2019, begins to be realized the proposal projects from municipality's Building stocks especially in the public sector, those financial parameters and funds increased the Sustainability on Refurbishments of the buildings stocks in Kosovo.

During this Analyses system with legislation part on sustainability and Energy Efficiency, in Kosovo must practically implementation of energy legislation dispositions and rules, where the target and aim of this study research is achieved.

Kosovo has created the desired level or increased the capacity for the Energy Efficiency Legislation and Improvement the Sustainability of the building stock for the next five years the exception is in the national level full field to the end of 2025. Building stocks or project proposal applications from the municipalities around Kosovo, must be sample of this study improving the better conditions for living of all user's and community. Methodology used is with the comparative methodology with Quantitative hypothesis analyses for development in the local international legislation with the EE rules and implementation in the practice.

Keywords.European Union Directives, Energy legislation, Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund, Building stock, Sustainability, Improvement, strategies, hypotheses, analyses, methodology

Technical Impacts of Distributed Generation in Distribution Network, Voltage Drops

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Abstract. This paper presents the technical impacts of distributed generation in the distribution network in order to reduce the voltage drops. Input data, including the lengths, power factory, active and reactive load in each busbar of 10 kV distribution line is used to create the network model using a digital simulation and electrical network calculation. With the connection of distributed generators in the network, the need for investments in the distribution network infrastructure is reduced. When they are optimally located, the power losses and voltage drops within the distribution network are reduced and the reliability of the power supply stability is achieved. The model is used to analyze voltage drops in the last busbar of 10 kV line in the distribution network. The results show that, with the sufficient capacity of the installed distributed generator, the voltage drops in the last point of 10 kV line “Llukari” are reduced. It is seen that the distributed generation has a significant impact on reducing the voltage drops and are also successful in eliminating the bottlenecks, specifically to reduce the power losses and stabilize the electricity supply.

Keywords: Distributed generation, Distribution network, Power losses, Voltage drops.

Testing of the Oil Type Distribution Transformers

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Abstract. This paper proposes to present the testing of oil type distribution transformers in order to supply with adequate voltage for all consumers, regardless of the voltage level where they are connected. One of the main challenges of the distribution system operator remains the proper selection of the transformer, application of the modern methods of commissioning and testing them, as a necessity to provide a reliable electrical supply. With the technological advancement, has been achieved to proportionally increase the quality of transformers, contributing to the increase of the efficiency of the power system as a whole. Input data, including construction and operation principles of the transformers are used to create the testing model by discussing and analyzing the cause and consequences of the failures. Finally, based of these findings, the types of testing of transformers and their elements, create a realistic reflection of what needs to be considered when it comes to the testing of these devices. This paper will discuss the techniques and types of testing applied around the world, with special emphasis in Kosovo on testing of oil type transformers. The working methodology for the preparation of this paper is based on the practical knowledge and scientific research about worldwide experiences for the testing of oil power transformers.

Keywords: Oil type transformers, Testing of transformers, Commissioning of transformers, Types of testing.

Comparison of wind potential for Zatriq

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Abstract. Wind energy has a relatively strong potential for electricity generation in various parts of Europe and it has increasingly taken its place in the energy mix in recent years. Kosovo has limited sources of renewable energy and its energy production sector is based on fossil fuels. This may come from the policies used so far in subsidizing such resources. Such a situation emphasizes the importance of active research and efficient use of renewable energy potential. According to the analysis of meteorological data for Kosovo, it can be concluded that the country with high potential is Zatriqi. Due to the shared terrain and the allowed capacity, it can be considered as Zatriqi 1 and 2. The measurements provided are measurements from the virtual meter. In both terrains we have measurements at the same height therefore the comparison and calculation of performance will be easier. Information on wind speed interpolation at central altitude and power turns at each wind farm location are also presented. Since the difference in wind speed is quite large versus a change in altitude that is not very large, then analyzes are made regarding terrain characteristics including terrain relief features.

Keywords: wind turbines, wind energy, Zatriq, wind speed, energy efficiency

ENERGY ANALYSIS OF THERMAL COLLECTORS WITH WORKING MEDIUM WATER AND AIR FOR KOSOVO CLIMATE CONDITIONS

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Abstract. To overcome the impact on the environment and the declining source of fossil fuels, renewable energy sources must meet the growing demand for both electricity and heat. Solar thermal energy is clean and endless, suitable for being a good substitute for fossil fuels and meeting energy demands. Solar thermal collectors are a major part of solar thermal systems, there are a variety of types of solar thermal collectors which we can use depending on the conditions in which they will operate. In this study, the energy performance of the solar collector with flat plates with water and air for climatic conditions of Kosovo was performed analytically. This paper will provide a clearer picture of these two analyzes for both types of solar thermal collectors for a given location. As it is known, the main purpose of using one type of energy is to maximize its use and achieve the highest parameters of the energy used. At the end of this paper it will be clear which type of collectors with a certain working medium produce more energy and have greater efficiency given the importance of better use of solar energy and achieving maximum benefits of the collector used.

FREQUENCY CONTROL IN SMART NETWORKS FOR WIND TURBINES THROUGH FUZZY LOGIC METHOD

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Abstract. An energy system is a complex structure that includes various elements with differential dynamics. In the ideal world, power system loads are equipped with constant frequency and voltage. Under normal conditions, all synchronous generators are synchronized to avoid cross-normal voltage in voltage and current, which can lead to disconnection of areas from the network. Frequency deviation is the result of an imbalance between the load and the energy generated. The paper proposes a fuzzy logic-based controller for a wind turbine system to provide frequency support for a smart grid. The designed controller is intended to provide a dynamically adjusted drop rate depending on the local measurements of each wind turbine of a wind farm, such as the maximum power available and the amount of power reserve. The designed fuzzy controller depends on the rate of change of frequency (ROCOF) at the common coupling point (PCC). The main advantage of the proposed fuzzy controller is to provide frequency support from the turbine system connected to a smart grid. The dynamic rate of the controller is determined by the fuzzy bands taking into account the change in network frequency and available reserve power. The proposed controller is tested using Matlab software.

Keywords: Frequency regulation, fuzzy logic, frequency deviation, smart grid, renewable energy.

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Cost Oriented Control Unit for Robotic Arm Mitsubishi Move Master II

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Abstract. One of the main reasons for robotics development was always making human life easier by assisting or even replacing humans in dangerous environments. But in order to get robotics at that level, a lot of development and research was needed in order to solve the barriers and challenges that appear along the way. Solving problems, especially engineering ones usually accompanied by complex tech which is in most cases expensive to implement, and by that, a new challenge is appearing: high cost. In order to get robotics to help humans, especially in daily tasks, the cost of robotics needs to drop but without affecting its functionality, which is one of the main problems that we will try to solve or at least contribute with our research to help to solve that. In this paper we will focus on developing and implementing a control unit for an old Mitsubishi Move Master II by replacing its old and expensive control unit. For developing such a unit, we will use low-cost parts like L298N motor drive and Xtensa LX7 dual-core microprocessor as main controller. By implementing this controller not only the overall cost of the robot is dropping but also became much easier to manipulate with it.

Keywords: Low-cost, Robotic arm, Embedded systems, Xtensa LX7 dual-core.

The challenges of industrial automation in manufacturing companies in Kosovo

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Abstract. In the century in which we are living every sphere of life is moving towards automation and digitalization as well as the production of products and the creation of services. Industrial automation and the application of digital technology are opportunities but also challenges. This research was conducted in manufacturing and service companies in Kosovo. How many opportunities do automation companies give you and what challenges have they faced? Also in this research are analyzed how much knowledge companies have, for the new technologies that are applied such as: Industry 4.0, AI (artificial intelligence), ML (machine learning), 3D printer, ‘Cloud’ technology, VR (virtual reality).

Keywords: Automation, Industry 4.0, Digital technology

Errors in Distance and Angle Measurements of Ultrasonic Sensor HC-SR04

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Abstract. This project presents the measurement of distances and angles by means of Arduino Uno microcontroller and Ultrasonic Sensor HC-SR04. Accuracy on distance and angle measurements of the sensor has been investigated. The change of object distance in motion is displayed and monitoring of the change of the angle and position. Data measurements were compared with the real measurement unit of the meter to observe their deviation, 1.6% of the standard deviation is observed between real measurement and sensor data, meanwhile, at the angle data measurements were no deviation is observed.

Keywords: Measurement errors, Measurement uncertainty, Arduino Uno, Ultrasonic sensor.

Industry 4.0 in the Central and Eastern European value chains: information and communication technology services' role

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Abstract. The article compares changes in tendencies of value added flows and the places held by the Central and Eastern European economies (11 countries: Visegrad countries, Baltic States, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Romania; CEE) in global value chains (GVCs) in manufacturing, services and their subgroup – information and telecommunication (ICT) services, by relying on the trade in value added data retrieved from the OECD's Inter-Country Input-Output Database, available over the period 2005-2015. The objective of this study is to understand the role of these economies in international production linkages applying a value-added methodology. Therefore, the study discusses the role of CEE economies in global economy in terms of forms of participation of services, especially ICT services, in GVCs, including the process of 'servicification' of manufacturing. This study led to the verification of two hypotheses: 1) the position of manufacturing in GVCs has been steadily weakening; 2) services, especially ICT services, can have a positive effect on participation of CEE economies in GVCs. The first hypothesis was confirmed by most of analysed countries. The other research question turned out not to be true for all CEE countries, but most of them proved this hypothesis.

Keywords: CEE, Global value chains, Services, ICT services.

Soft wheat quality parameters evaluation by Near Infrared Spectroscopy: from field to shelf analysis

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Abstract. Near InfraRed Spectroscopy (NIRS) is a powerful tool that is widely applied in agro-food science and technology research for qualitative as well as quantitative analysis. It is one analytical technique that is taking place in this sector due to its low costs, reliability, rapidity and not invasive / non-destructive nature. NIRS along with chemometric modelling can provide accurate assessment of various grain quality attributes and the chemical composition of grain. The present work investigates the ability of using NIRS for the evaluation of different wheat quality parameters by using a portable spectroradiometer working in Visible – Short Wave InfraRed (Vis-SWIR: 350 – 2500 nm) spectral range. The potential of NIR-based techniques for predicting moisture content ($12.6 \pm 0.4 \%$), specific gravity (79.4 ± 2.7 kg/hl), protein content ($14.0 \pm 1.8 \%$), wet gluten content ($28.1 \pm 4.2 \%$), W index or Flour strength (266.3 ± 92.2) and hardness ($60.3 \pm 20.8 \%$) is explored. Present findings show the reliability of using NIRS as a quality control tool not only at laboratory scale, from the mill plant point of view (i.e. by acquiring reflectance spectra on wheat flour arranged in Petri dish), but even in on-line industrial application and shelf storage control evaluation, from the bakery plant / consumers' point of view (i.e. by acquiring reflectance spectra on wheat flour sack).

Keywords: Near Infrared Analysis, Partial Least Squares regression, Soft wheat flour, Principal Component Analysis, Quality control.

Design of Smart Device for Knee Joint

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Abstract. The relationship between people and technology is growing every day, technology assistance in transportation, technological equipment in surgery, miniature models that are informing the person about their health. Using these devices often happens to be complicated especially when it comes to older ages. The purpose of this paper is to develop a prototype that will measure the load directly from the person's knee. The device will contain several sensors that will sent to the ESP32 microcontroller, the person is informed on his mobile and it is very user-friendly. The device is built on the analysis of modeling by engineering software and has been implemented in practice, it is now capable of being used in various fields such as various sports, orthopedics, in the fields of prosthetics, etc.

Keywords: IoT, Cost oriented, Health Care, ESP32.

Development Trends of Mechatronics

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Abstract. Mechatronics is an interdisciplinary field integrating Mechanical Engineering, Electronics, and Computer Science. In this paper are presented the “face” of was changing dramatically over recent years. The complexity of devices and systems has increased dramatically, requiring a system-level approach to mechatronics design. This approach helps engineers to combine mechanical and control design, execute a test easily, and reuse algorithms within the final embedded delivery framework. This trend at system level is fueled by growing investments in the fields of medical, life sciences and renewable energy as well as developments in industrial machinery. This approach greatly improves the design process by combining best practices and technology available to streamline design, prototyping, and implementation. By splitting the design process into parallel threads, the engineers may introduce a more efficient process of creation. Improving our way of life and the goods we use is not constrained by the common fields limits. In the nearest future, mechatronics will play a major role in enhancing the reliability, protection and affordability of products. Future research will look into the negative effects of these technologies and necessary solutions to mitigate the threats.

Keywords: Mechatronic, Trends, Education, Cobots, Renewable sources.

Cost oriented image processing for mobile robots

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Abstract. Artificial intelligence is used in a lot of activities, and our study intends to add supplementary components making the system more intelligent. A mobile robotic car which follows the path while avoiding obstacles and using the implementation of image processing on artificial intelligence. The economic aspect has become a major part of the investment in technology and needs to be taken into account. Project was of low cost, and there will be no impacts for not implementing this project in the future, considering little equipment added. Hoping the results of this work will be taken into consideration for further generations of mobile robots that can be improved and smarter, as nowadays, robots are used as waiters, nurses, taxi, delivery robots. Therefore, focus will be on measuring the object from the imagesprocessin in real time taken by the camera in order to create a code which will plan a new pathway and solve any situation with parallax camera mounted in front of mobile robot car.

Keywords: Robot, Artificial intelligence, Image processing, Obstacles, measure, camera, objects, cost oriented

3D Digital Measurement of Dimensions, Displacements, and Deformations of the Parts

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Abstract. The 3D digital measurement is commonly used nowadays when parts are with complex geometry, and fast development is required. This comes also from constant technological improvements of devices like 3D scanners. However, the use of them for particular applications needs research that shows the wide range of usability. The purpose of this study has to do with the measurement of dimensions, displacements, and deformations of the parts using non-contact techniques which are elaborated with the case studies for each investigation. Base on the presented results, we see the approach of using the 3D scanning technique for several applications, including three case studies. From a general point of view, we conclude that the use of 3D digital measurement is a useful and flexible methodology for different parts, shown by the presented work. Future research should deal with improvements that are required in terms of the integrated measurement approach.

Keywords: 3D digital measurement, Dimension, Displacement, Deformation, 3D scanner.

Barriers in implementation of Lean Manufacturing Techniques in Kosovo's Industry

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Abstract. By application of Lean Manufacturing Techniques, enterprises can eliminate wastes in the manufacturing system as well improve the effectiveness of the organization. According to the literature review and author investigation, the application of Lean Manufacturing Techniques in Kosovo's enterprises is at a low level. Therefore, this investigation attempted to explore the main barriers in the implementation of Lean Manufacturing Techniques in Kosovo's Industry. Analyses have been done based on questionnaires and interviews with experts and employees in enterprises that have implemented as well as enterprises that are in process of implementation of the lean model. Several problems have been highlighted and are categorized into six groups; knowledge, management, resource, conflicts, employee and financial.

Keywords: Kosovo Manufacturing Industry, Lean Manufacturing Techniques, Small and Medium Enterprises, Barriers implementation

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MPLS protocol function analysis

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Abstract. From the beginning of network construction, the need to try to unify the network structure of ISPs has been seen. To transport different protocols, based on the OSI or TCP / IP model, it is necessary to construct different networks, which are composed of network components, which support the possibility of processing these protocols. In abstract terms, the most optimized solution is to provide a standardized infrastructure, which can transport all protocols without the need to change network components and topology. MPLS is a massive protocol in terms of its importance in complex network structures, offering the benefits of network unification. In addition to the benefit of network unification, MPLS also offers benefits such as: Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) -free core, The peer-to-peer model for MPLS VPN, Optimal traffic flow, Traffic engineering(TE) and Better IP over ATM integration. The improvement of the network structure through the implementation of MPLS has been very visible and indisputable.

Keywords: MPLS, ISP, BGP, ATM, VPN, TE, OSI, TCP/IP

Monitoring Water Level in Lake of Badovci, Prishtina with Remote Sensing & GIS

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Abstract. The present degradation of the environment as a consequence of human activities such as wastewater discharge, construction of water conservancy, tourism, mining, fisheries resource etc. is a requirement of monitoring the environment. Information on the current condition and on the dynamic changes in the environment for snappy monitoring is not simple to obtain in most of developing countries such as Kosovo. The present study provides the droughts in artificial lake of the study area, Prishtina. Exactly, the lake of Badovci (Alb: Liqeni i Badovcit). The main aim of the study is to offer a very little known and used alternative in Kosovo to monitor and evaluate changes in water level over the seasons, using WRI and NDWI time series outputs. In the research are used images from satellite Sentinel-2 which uses Visible Light, Near Infrared, and Shortwave Infrared. Taking into consideration these bands I will use WRI and NDWI based on them. According to the present study, the WRI and NDWI generated data and images which gives us valuable pieces of information about water droughts. However, the study demonstrated that the Lake of Badovci had changed from season to season, as a result of human activities and climate change as well. The water drought is visible even with naked eye, but the goal of this research is to have a cleaner image and data about the level and time of drought, also this data may be used to develop a prediction of when droughts typically occur during the seasons, enabling preventative actions against lake deterioration

Keywords: water droughts, satellite image, lakes, environmental data, change detection

The Digitalization Revolution in Dental Health Care and the Application of VR and AR

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Abstract. The digital revolution has radically changed the world of dentistry, so the digital transformation in dental medicine is based on electronic health information, also known as one of the major changes of the 21st-century digital world which is addressing the current challenges of the future in dental as well as oral health care.

This progress has been exponentially supported by the Internet of medical things (IoMT), big data and analytical algorithms, internet and communication technologies (ICT) including digital social media, augmented and virtual reality, and artificial intelligence (AI). The interplay between these sophisticated digital aspects has dramatically changed healthcare, and especially that of dental care. These received applications of technology will not only be able to direct dental (oral) health care but will facilitate the workflow, increase oral health at a fraction of the actual cost, facilitate the work of the dentist and dental support staff from their routine tasks which are also tedious. As a narrative summary of this paper, we can emphasize that the latest digitalization of dentistry that includes technological advances, limitations, challenges, and modern theoretical conceptual approaches to oral health prevention and care, especially in quality assurance, efficiency, and strategic dental care in the modern era of dentistry.

Keywords: digital dentistry transformation; augmented reality and virtual reality (AR/VR); artificial intelligence;

IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNET OF THINGS IN STEAM EDUCATION

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Abstract. Internet of Things is considered one of the most trending topic in the world of Information Technology. Such IoT technology is now widely used in various fields such as health care, transportation, electricity and education. In education, IoT technology contributes to improving learning efficiency in the class by enabling learners to interact with physical devices and providing appropriate learning content based on this interaction. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education is a curriculum in schools to improve competitiveness in science and technology development. This paper will study the influence of IoT-driven educational activities and tools like software, hardware and educational material in STEAM education. Based on the STEAM concept, this paper proposes a teaching model for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics implementing the Internet of Things and the combination of theory, practice, and innovation.

Keywords: internet of things, STEAM, innovation, education

Membership Application Subscription based

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Abstract. It's no secret: Units wanting from small businesses, both public and private, to large businesses, are facing new challenges in hiring and managing members and payments. The membership application is an application that provides businesses, associations, clubs and functional organizations looking to manage their members. A membership application is an online subscription-based business where people pay for regular access to exclusive content. Online memberships and courses have continued to grow as people are willing to pay for convenience, exclusivity, knowledge and community. They are structured in such a way as to meet the special needs of the members at a price point that they are willing to pay. These applications are critical to simplifying member-related objectives and storing the desired data. The platform enables the registration of the membership or course plane, your student data allowed you to use them at any time, view the student profile, change or update their profile. There is also an email and sms system to connect with their students. The key idea here is to ensure that the workflow is organized and to keep your human resources in good shape within the team. This paper presents in detail has an application, its importance and its role in various businesses, associations and organizations

Keywords: Application, Membership , Data , Members

Incidence matrix and some of its applications in graph theory

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Abstract. In this paper we will focus mainly on some basic concepts and definitions regarding incidence matrices and some examples of their application in graph theory. To give their clearest definition of the incidence matrix, we will first give the meaning of the incidence structure, then through it to define the incidence matrix. The structure of incidence is called the ordered triplet $S=(P,B,I)$, where $P \cap B = \emptyset$, $I \subseteq P \times B$ and P, B while, are two non-empty sets and I a relation in between them, such that $I \subseteq P \times B$. We call the elements of P community dots and we will mark them in lower case letters of, and we will call B the elements of the community blocks or lines and we will mark them in uppercase letters. Like any double bond, between two finite sets the incidence I bond of a finite structure $S=(P,B,I)$ has the bond matrix, which we call the incidence matrix. The incidence matrix A represents a reflection of $P \times B \rightarrow \{0,1\}$, that is $(p,X) \rightarrow 1$, if $p \in X$ and $(p,X) \rightarrow 0$, if $p \notin X$ and is denoted $A=a_{ij} \times b$. If G is a graph with n vertices, m edges and without self-loops. The incidence matrix A of G is an $n \times m$ matrix $A=(a_{ij})$ whose n rows correspond to the n vertices and the m columns correspond to m edges such that

$$A=a_{ij}=\begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } j\text{th edge } m_j \text{ is incident on the } i\text{th} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Incidence matrices have a great application in many fields of science such as: telecommunications, coding theory, graph theory, etc.

Keywords: Matrices, incidence, graph, rank, submatrices, cycle, Cut-SetMatrixCNN, Traffic Sign Recognition, Neural Networks, Artificial Intelligence, Data Mining, Image Classification.

Road Signs with AI powered applications

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Abstract. In this paper about Big Data we have experimented with the known neural network for image classification CNN (known as Convolutional Neural Network), where we build a model based on The German Traffic Sign Benchmark dataset and add certain configurations which include layers like convolutional, relu, pooling and fully connected layer. We continue training our model for a certain number of epochs, check the results and compare the performance by observing the values of accuracy and loss, during which time our model is improving itself through forward propagation and backpropagation, until we have a well-defined neural network that is good enough to detect features. The model accuracy we achieve is 96%. Since we achieved a good result on accuracy we continue on deploying our model on a desktop application with a simple graphical user interface which makes testing and using our model real easy and user friendly.

Keywords: CNN, Traffic Sign Recognition, Neural Networks, Artificial Intelligence, Data Mining, Image Classification.

Blockchain invoicing for government services

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Abstract. Blockchain technology is known primarily through the cryptocurrency bitcoin, but has begun to find application in other areas for both public and private services, including, but not limited to, payments, electronic voting, health, government services etc. Blockchain technology potential relay on its capability to store all transactions records and makes them available to all parties with permission to view, but no one can make unauthorized changes to them. Many government service providers have to bill the government for the services they provide, but non-standardized and unverified manual or electronic invoicing often leads to double invoicing or payment. As a result of these problems extra care and controls are needed to avoid generating double invoicing or payments. With all the added care and control, human beings can make mistakes, so the purpose of this paper is to analyze the implementation of blockchain and smart contracts for invoicing efficiently government services. The paper will also analyze several government services and authorities and determine the type of blockchain to be used. Implementing blockchain and smart contracts eliminates not only the double invoicing and payments issue, but it also can transform the process, i.e. increase the transparency of invoicing and payment of services, thus offering better audit opportunities.

Keywords: Blockchain, Invoicing, Government Services, Smart Contract

5G Network Deployment at UBT: Features, capabilities and challenges

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Abstract. In this work, we describe our experience in deploying a 5G network at UBT targeting different 5G use cases through the virtualization of the underlying infrastructure. This paper describes the features and capabilities of the 5G network followed by the description of the challenges we faced while building this network, which could require further study and will open up new research opportunities in this space.

The purpose of this deployed network is to allow students, researchers and academics to test and experiment with the features and capabilities of novel designs and solutions with very rigid technical requirements, i.e. very high bandwidth and very low latency by using network slicing and multi-access edge computing (MEC).. It helps to create a platform that would enable the customization and benchmarking of different prototypes for different use cases and scenarios.

Furthermore, this paper will highlight the intention to continue to use the network for more bandwidth-hungry applications, such as the integration of immersive technologies with 5G and the enhancement of the user experience through the immersive technologies.

Keywords: 5G SA, Immersive, AR/VR, 5G spectrum, Network Slicing, MEC

Membership Application Subscription based

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Abstract. It's no secret: Units wanting from small businesses, both public and private, to large businesses, are facing new challenges in hiring and managing members and payments. The membership application is an application that provides businesses, associations, clubs and functional organizations looking to manage their members. A membership application is an online subscription-based business where people pay for regular access to exclusive content. Online memberships and courses have continued to grow as people are willing to pay for convenience, exclusivity, knowledge and community. They are structured in such a way as to meet the special needs of the members at a price point that they are willing to pay. These applications are critical to simplifying member-related objectives and storing the desired data. The platform enables the registration of the membership or course plane, your student data allowed you to use them at any time, view the student profile, change or update their profile. There is also an email and sms system to connect with their students. The key idea here is to ensure that the workflow is organized and to keep your human resources in good shape within the team. This paper presents in detail has an application, its importance and its role in various businesses, associations and organizations.

Keywords: Application, Membership , Data , Members

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Keywords: CNN, Traffic Sign Recognition, Neural Networks, Artificial Intelligence, Data Mining, Image Classification

Blockchain invoicing for government services

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Abstract. Blockchain technology is known primarily through the cryptocurrency bitcoin, but has begun to find application in other areas for both public and private services, including, but not limited to, payments, electronic voting, health, government services etc. Blockchain technology potential relay on its capability to store all transactions records and makes them available to all parties with permission to view, but no one can make unauthorized changes to them. Many government service providers have to bill the government for the services they provide, but non-standardized and unverified manual or electronic invoicing often leads to double invoicing or payment. As a result of these problems extra care and controls are needed to avoid generating double invoicing or payments. With all the added care and control, human beings can make mistakes, so the purpose of this paper is to analyze the implementation of blockchain and smart contracts for invoicing efficiently government services. The paper will also analyze several government services and authorities and determine the type of blockchain to be used. Implementing blockchain and smart contracts eliminates not only the double invoicing and payments issue, but it also can transform the process, i.e. increase the transparency of invoicing and payment of services, thus offering better audit opportunities.

Keywords: Blockchain, Invoicing, Government Services, Smart Contract

The impact of GeoGebra on learning the concept of quadratic function

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Abstract. There are many software programs used in math, but we have noticed that the Geogebra program is more equipped for groups of different ages, it is useful for elementary math teachers and even in bachelor's undergraduate teaching. It is useful for students to teach math at each school level, it's fun and fun using GeoGebra - thus encouraging students to deepen more and more in math. The purpose of this quasi-experimental research is to show how GeoGebra can be used to learn the concept of quadratic function within the subject of mathematics at the high school level. Research will be conducted in high vocational high school visual art "Adem Kastrati" in the municipality of Gjilan with the pupils of the two tenths grade classes. One class will be the control group, while the next class will be the experimental group that will work with the GeoGebra program within the 5 week period (10 lessons from 45 minutes). For the realization of this research, research was used as a methodology with quasi experimental design.

From this research in the experimental class where GeoGebra software was used increased the interest of learners in learning compared to the control class. It has also been shown that the use of GeoGebra software has contributed to the increase of learners' learning outcomes in understanding the quadratic function.

Key words: Geogebra, quadratic function, teaching, learning.

Pneumonia detection in X-ray images using convolutional neural networks

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Abstract. Through this paper it is demonstrated the application of artificial intelligence in the field of medicine, namely that of radiology.

Pneumonia is an infectious disease that is widespread throughout the world. It is associated with disease, high mortality, and also high costs for the healthcare system. Diagnosing this disease quickly is very important to save lives.

Using Deep Learning, respectively the Convolutional Neural Networks algorithm, a model from scratch has been built to serve as a supportive CAD system (Computer-aided Detection System) for radiologists in the detection of pneumonia in chest X-Ray images. Three other models have been built using the transfer learning technique, ready-made architectures built on very large amounts of data such as ResNet from Microsoft, VGGNet from Oxford and Inception from Google.

Each model is documented, evaluated and compared. Different parameters and techniques were used in each model to achieve great classification performance. The data to train the model were taken from the set of the chest X-Ray images made public for research purposes.

The results obtained from the built classification models are good, and can be useful to many.

The best classification accuracy was achieved using the transfer learning technique where Inception was used as the base model and an accuracy of 92.7% was obtained.

Whereas from the model built from scratch an accuracy of 89.5% has been obtained.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, Convolutional Neural Networks, Medicine, Radiology, Pneumonia

Vulnerability and security and in XGS-PON and NG-PON2 technologies

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Abstract. Network security in general is attracting a great deal of attention from engineering community all over the world. Today most of the electronic equipment that we possess in our homes and offices have a degree of “smartens” and most of them require network connection to operate in full capacity. Every equipment that is connected to a network, can be subject of security breach. This fact draws great deal of attention to the vulnerability of fixed access networks with special attention towards Fiber to the Home (FTTH) technologies. The reason is simple, FTTH provides a gateway to our data and privacy and if not addressed properly this can cause a very big security issue.

In the paper, we will address main security threats of FTTH technologies in general, with particular focus being on the future FTTH technologies such as XGS-PON (10G passive optical networks) and NG-PON2 (Next generation passive optical network). We will underline and analyze the latest security updates and best practices to address this security threats that FTTH technologies face today.

Keywords: Network, Security, FTTH, XGS-PON, NG-PON2

Internet of Things in Healthcare: A Review

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Abstract . In the current era, there is a requirement of a system with connected devices, persons, time, places, and networks, which is completely incorporated in what is called as Internet of Things (IoT). IoT is developed toward making the objects smart and connectable using recent development in miniaturizing and communication technologies. IoT can change the way human being live their life by making it their more convenient and smart. IoT has wide application domains one of them is healthcare. Healthcare is one of the application domains in IoT that draws enormous interest from industry, the research community, and the public sector. The development of the IoT in Health will greatly facilitate the process of patient's diagnosis and monitoring, with small IP-based wireless sensors implemented on the patient's body, his physiological parameters, such as blood pressure and heart rate, can be monitored remotely and continuously.

Over these years a number of advanced applications based on IoT have been proposed for the convenience of patients, doctors, and caregivers in the healthcare sector. In this paper, a review of IoT usage in healthcare has been presented. This systematic literature review has been conducted to determine the main application area of IoT in healthcare, most important technologies in IoT, related monitoring devices, and applications. Forty-four relevant papers, published between 2010 and 2021, were reviewed and analyzed. The results of this research improve our knowledge about IoT technology in the health sector and also encourage innovative use cases of this new technology in the health field.

Keywords. Internet of Things, Healthcare, architecture in Healthcare, technology in Healthcare, applications in Healthcare

Application of Machine Learning in Software Testing: Survey

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Abstract. The process of testing software applications must always be repeated to achieve the desired results. Also systems today in general have grown and expanded so much that this process needs to be automated in some form. Software testing has achieved its research interest for many years now. There are developed different testing techniques that reduces human effort, and increases software quality. In meanwhile in order to make it even more attractive and productive, researchers came with novel approaches in applying Machine Learning (ML) in testing techniques. Machine learning as a branch of artificial intelligence (AI) focuses on building applications that learn from data and improve their accuracy over time without being programmed to do so. The better the algorithm, the more accurate the decisions and predictions will become as it processes more data. The focus of this paper is surveying the literature about usage of Machine Learning in Software Testing area. This survey will cover almost every stage of testing, starting from test data collection, test input generation, to test oracle and reporting.

Keywords: Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Test Automation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNET OF THINGS IN STEAM EDUCATION

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Abstract. Internet of Things is considered one of the most trending topic in the world of Information Technology. Such IoT technology is now widely used in various fields such as health care, transportation, electricity and education. In education, IoT technology contributes to improving learning efficiency in the class by enabling learners to interact with physical devices and providing appropriate learning content based on this interaction. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education is a curriculum in schools to improve competitiveness in science and technology development. This paper will study the influence of IoT-driven educational activities and tools like software, hardware and educational material in STEAM education. Based on the STEAM concept, this paper proposes a teaching model for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics implementing the Internet of Things and the combination of theory, practice, and innovation.

Keywords: internet of things, STEAM, innovation, education

Digitalization gap in academic institutions

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Abstract. The crisis caused by Covid-19 that started in February and March of 2020 in Europe, has highlighted the needs of institutions and businesses, both in public and private sectors for decentralization of business and administrative operations, and the need to embrace digital solutions. It has shown us the glaring gap in digitalization overall, and lack of digital alternatives. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo, like most other Governments in the world, had implemented preventive measures to combat the spread of the disease. These measures unfortunately had as side effects a steep drop in economic and social activities. Education was and still is at the center of attention in almost all countries in Europe and the world. Educational institutions with few exceptions weren't ready for any kind of prolonged crisis and disruption in operations. A need for legal overhaul of laws and regulations that have prevented a digital solution and put staff and students in risk needs to be considered. Digital training for both staff and students, a clear digitalization strategy is needed. In this paper the problems and possible solutions will be presented for academic\educational institutions.

Keywords: digitalization, strategy, education, covid-19

Monitoring Water Level in Lake of Badovci, Prishtina with Remote Sensing & GIS

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Abstract. The present degradation of the environment as a consequence of human activities such as wastewater discharge, construction of water conservancy, tourism, mining, fisheries resource etc. is a requirement of monitoring the environment. Information on the current condition and on the dynamic changes in the environment for snappy monitoring is not simple to obtain in most of developing countries such as Kosovo. The present study provides the droughts in artificial lake of the study area, Prishtina. Exactly, the lake of Badovci (Alb: Liqeni i Badovcit). The main aim of the study is to offer a very little known and used alternative in Kosovo to monitor and evaluate changes in water level over the seasons, using WRI and NDWI time series outputs. In the research are used images from satellite Sentinel-2 which uses Visible Light, Near Infrared, and Shortwave Infrared. Taking into consideration these bands I will use WRI and NDWI based on them. According to the present study, the WRI and NDWI generated data and images which gives us valuable pieces of information about water droughts. However, the study demonstrated that the Lake of Badovci had changed from season to season, as a result of human activities and climate change as well. The water drought is visible even with naked eye, but the goal of this research is to have a cleaner image and data about the level and time of drought, also this data may be used to develop a prediction of when droughts typically occur during the seasons, enabling preventative actions against lake deterioration.

Keywords: water droughts, satellite image, lakes, environmental data, change detection

One-Time Pad Cipher (OTP) Use Cases and Simulation Examples for Electronic Financial Transactions

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Abstract: This paper presents some applications of One-Time pad (OTP) cipher in business communications and processing the electronic financial transactions. Several simulation models created in the CrypTool, making a mention of the misuse and weaknesses if the same OTP key is used several times, are also given. Some examples of processing an electronic financial transaction through the application of the OTP are proposed.

Keywords: One-Time pad (OTP) cipher, CrypTool, multiple use of the same key, electronic financial transactions

Security and privacy in social networks- Cambridge Analytica and manipulation with data''

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Abstract. Humans are social creatures, and social interaction is very important part of life. Back in the day the social circle used to be small, family and close friends. And for the most part, it was people nearby. With the invention of communication tools such as the fax, the phone and later the internet the circle gradually grew larger and larger, and the ways of maintaining that social communication grew more complex. In the beginning if someone wanted to share something with others, they might meetup, or maybe talk on the phone, but today they will likely share that via social media.

Studies have found that about 50.64% of the world's population is using social media[1], and that in average in Facebook, one of the most famous social networks, a person has 338 friends. Because of this, the number of private data shared in social media is tremendous, and therefore the risk of those data being inadvertently shared or leaked is also very big. Social networks are ubiquitous in today's digital life. It is estimated that nowadays more than half of the world's population is using social media in one form or another. This wide reach understandably causes worries of lack of privacy, of safety for us and our data. We are going to focus more on Facebook as a concrete example of what can go wrong when social media goes awry. It being one of the oldest and largest social network websites, it has had its fair share of problems that have caused massive personal data leaks. This paper will go through the possible risks that social media usage bring about, and we'll also go through some of the big privacy scandals that have happened lately such as Cambridge Analytica. Lastly we'll see what we as a user can do to have our personal data as safe as possible.

Keywords: social network, privacy, data, security, social awareness

Development of a web application for user management

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Abstract. Our society is living in a world driven by technology. Everyone must agree with this. We made it a part of our lifestyle, we wake up using our phones and we go to sleep by scrolling down in any social media. And due to all these things, I decided to make this paper in order to discuss about an application that i made using ASP.NET Core. People use different applications every day and it seems like something basic to make one. But actually there is a blurry background in each application. An application needs a lot of ideas and time. Creativity, innovation, the design and how much the application is user- friendly make the application better and easier to use. This is what I tried to do during the development of my application. Chopin Piano FEST Prishtina, as the application itself is named, is the only classical music festival in Kosovo. It is a big festival which is very important and deserves an interactive design and a great user experience.

This festival has a big impact in our economy and society, since it gathers all the classical music

lovers. Here you can book a seat and get notified about the latest news. It also keeps you updated about the actual offers.

Keywords: User-friendly, application, classical music, festival, book a seat, register.

Chatbot in banks of Kosovo and Albania

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Abstract. Not so long ago Artificial Intelligence was only in the realm of scientific fiction. Today, it has become a reality and is growing every day more prominent in many different industries. Chatbots enable machines to mimic human conversation. This paper is an attempt to study the use of artificial intelligence and natural language processing in Albanian banks and Kosovo banks regarding the use of Albanian-speaking Chatbots and how to become a more intelligent chatbot. The data is collected from sources that are in the public domain, such as banking websites.

Keywords: IA, Chatbots, Banks, Virtual Assistant.

TCP Congestion Control Mechanisms – an Experimental Analysis and Comparison

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Abstract. The incompatibility between traffic load and network processing/communication capacities brings networks to the congestion state. This typically results in the overall network performance deterioration. Various approaches to congestion control have been proposed so far, both at the network and transport layer of networking architecture. However, there is still no such an algorithm that would overperform all the other algorithms in all of the networking scenarios. This study aims to analyze and compare the most popular traditional TCP approaches to congestion control. New Reno, Cubic, and modified SACK TCP were deployed in an OPNET- based simulated topology with varying packet delays and packet loss rate. Although expected (to some extent), SACK version has shown better performances in networks with lower packet delays. Cubic, however, performed surprisingly under the expectations as compared to two other versions, while New Reno has shown consistency along various different scenarios and implementations.

Keywords: Congestion Control, TCP, CUBIC, New Reno, SACK, OPNET

Workplace Chat Application Using Socket Programming in Python

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Abstract. A chat is a real-time communication with one or more users connected to the internet. Chat applications are very necessary at this time in a workplace to communicate employees with each other for company purposes. In Python programming, this type of communication is possible to do using the library sockets, which enables connecting two nodes on a network to communicate with each other. We represent in this paper how to build a chat application that uses a server to connects multiple users and let them communicate with each other using the TCP protocol. Threads are used for parallel programming to send and receive messages in real-time which makes this chat application very useful even if there are a lot of clients connected at the same time.

Keywords: Client, server, sockets, communication, chat application

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Analyses of draft MDP of Prishtina as process and content, vs Kosovo national Law on Spatial Planning and European Spatial Development Perspective?

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Abstract: The analyses of the future urban development of Prishtina, according to the planning documents for the city of Prishtina, is the subject of this research paper. Whether draft planning as processes and planning documents has been respecting Law on Spatial Planning 04/L, is the subject of this research paper.

Whether “City” of Prishtina has its potentials toward being resilient, smart, livable or not, is depending from the planning documents, MDP for Prishtina until the year 2029!

The methodology to be used is scanning of the Processes and Content, vs Law on Spatial Planning and its bylaws, ESDP as the main document of EU listing planning principles.

Key words: Spatial Planning legislation, Municipal Development Plan, Urban Agenda for EU, Sustainable Urban Development, resilience, mitigation, adaptation

Hotel Complex – Case study the Town of Deçan

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Abstract. The hotel industry is at the heart of the hospitality system. This comes from the oldest traditions in the history of mankind - respect for the guest, celebration of his reception and service. It organically and naturally connects restaurants, cafes, transport and excursions into a single chain of tourist and excursion services. Today, the hotel industry as a kind of economic activity involves the provision of services and the organization of short stays in hotels, motels, camps and other accommodation facilities for a fee and represents the most powerful economic system in a region or tourist center. In our country, during these last two decades, the interest for the hospitality industry, including hotel and tourist services, has steadily increased. So the main idea of the selected topic is about a very important potential of our country, tourism and the rich nature that it offers, which means that there is perspective not only now but also in the future. The main purpose of designing a modern hotel complex in the town of Deçan, lies in the fact that such complexes in a municipality of about 42 villages are missing, taking into account the picturesque nature of Deçan and the great opportunities for tourism development in an area, quite rich mountains and the proximity to the natural park Bjeshkët e Nemura (Albanian Alps), where the extension of Deçan is estimated to be at a distance of about 100 m in the air line from Bjeshkët e Nemura (Albanian Alps). This topic tries to touch on a multifunctionality of topics, important and potential, taking into account our modest possibilities as a state. Design of the Hotel Complex in the town of Deçan, which includes the Hotel building as the main building and other buildings such as mostly traditional mountain villas with small modern doses, traditional mill and stable building, which are considered as secondary buildings in this case with feature traditional and recreational, was born as a great need for this city to have a strong identification base, to walk in the course of development of mountain tourism on the one hand and the aspect of heritage on the other hand, as the town and municipality in general is distinguished with these two elements.

Keywords: *Hotel industry, hospitality, tourism, multifunctionality, national road, heritage.*

Archistructures – back to origins

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Abstract. Ultimately, we are witnessing tendencies and movements aiming to detach architecture from its Vitruvian [Vitruvius] base, mainly through violation of building's anatomy, artistic formation but above all through aberration of the structure as an essential part of any building. In doing so, we are witnessing the reversal of the Vitruvian tetrahedron – Firmitas, Utilitas, Venustas, consequently, his vertex – Architecture descends below his base, thereof strongly depreciating it. Structural skeleton is an essential part of each architecture, and if designed objectively, doesn't affect architectural function, rational respectively to the resources, original with its topology, cannot result in breach to the principal aim of each architecture: aesthetical values. It becomes integral part of the architecture, i.e., the architecture itself. It is almost certain, that each deviation from the above-mentioned principles, mainly through speculative artistic formations, not to mention the challenge of fundamental natural laws, shall bring a weak product in the most optimist of scenarios.

Keywords: number., biostructure, optimization, archistructure

Urban Regenerative Design: A Comprehensive Analysis of the Relationship Between Urban Greenspace and Child obesity

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Abstract. Urban regenerative design is a significant evolution in the concept of sustainability, which goes one step further beyond the balance point between humans and nature. As a comprehensive approach, improving public health and wellbeing is one of the main focuses of urban regenerative design. This research aims to explore whether there is a relationship between urban greenspace and child obesity using different ages and periods. The neighborhood socioeconomic status, the distance to the nearest fast food outlets as the variables that participate in this analysis. Results reveal that the variable of neighborhood socioeconomic status, fast food outlets and urban greenspace all showed a positive and statistically significant relationship with obesity in children aged 4 to 5 and 10 to 11 in time period of 2008-2011 and 2013-2016. Each model explained (R-square) more than 90% variability of obesity. Study found that children living close to the greenspace are less likely to be obese. Religious greenspace and playfields appear to have the most effect on child obesity, but this finding needs further investigation. Neighborhood socioeconomic status has a powerful influence on child obesity. Although causality needs to be confirmed, these results suggest that policymakers and urban planners may need to seriously consider the potential positive impact of the green space on child obesity when formulating policies.

Keywords: Urban regenerative design, Obesity, Urban greenspace, Food outlet, Neighborhood socioeconomic status

Benefits of digitalization of Construction permit process case study Prishtina Municipality

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Abstract. Digitalization as global approach is a process that integrate and connect information by transforming from physical to digital format. This paper aim to bring benefits of digitalization of entire process for construction permit procedures, explore methods of shaping, and redesign the process from application to final product (permit). Paper presents process of digitalization at municipality of Prishtina as pilot project and possibilities for application at other municipalities Kosovo wide that will make municipality more efficient.

Keywords: Digitalization, Application process, Construction permit, efficiency

Comparison of cultural heritage legislation in the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Croatia

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Abstract. In the Republic of Kosovo, as well as in the Republic of Croatia, numerous buildings and historical parts of cities and settlements are protected on the basis of laws and regulations governing the protection and preservation of cultural heritage. Each state, in accordance with its policies, legally protects historic buildings and historic parts of cities and settlements in order to provide better conditions for their maintenance and to witness the inherited architectural culture. Both countries incorporate into their legislation on cultural heritage provisions that prohibit the demolition, damage and replacement of protected buildings with new construction, which is a condition of international law. In this paper, a comparison of the legislation of the two countries regarding the protection, preservation and restoration of cultural heritage will be carried out in order to determine the similarities and differences of the legal framework important for planning, design and execution of works on buildings and cultural heritage of the two countries.

Keywords: cultural heritage, comparison, legislation,

Daylight in underground houses as a new form of housing

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Abstract. Natural light is very important and direct role in the process of human life. Since the creation of caves used for living, natural light has played an important role in informing the time and changing the time between day and night. It is also of great importance in the creation and use of living spaces. This paper will analyze the application and forms of providing natural light in underground houses as a new form of housing. Underground houses, are considered as ecological building, which contribute to the protection of the environment. The application and provision of natural light is quite limited based on the construction site, the typology of the underground house and the orientation as well as the geographical terrain of the construction space. The development of technology of light refraction and creation of openings helps in the application of openings and enables to illuminate the living spaces in a natural way.

Keywords: Daylight, Underground houses, living, types of openings

Overview of norms and guidelines on public housing design

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Abstract. Knowing that everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living, which includes proper housing, emerges the need and reason for creating and improve housing conditions for people with moderate or low incomes, as well as vulnerable categories. The attainment of design norms and construction of public housing mainly include more of minimum acceptability of housing conditions for dwellers and their affordability. That relates or obliges the consideration of design aspects related to public housing.

Keywords: Public Housing, Norms, Architectural Design, Standards, Dwellers

Chaotic cities of Kosovo and their Urban and Spatial Planning

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Abstract. With rapidly increased urbanization rates, cities becoming overpopulated and urban inequalities being more and more visible, Kosovo has been facing an ongoing debate about Urban and Spatial Planning of its territory. Professionals of the field and many others are questioning the current state of cities in Kosovo, such as Prishtina, Prizren, Mitrovica, Peja, and more. There are common concerns in all municipalities regarding the urban chaos, traffic jams, continuous constructions of which most illegally build in agricultural land, endless appetites for constructing high buildings, unexpected appearance of newly invented neighborhoods, ongoing ignorance towards nature, cultural and natural heritage. All this makes us question whether there is a lack of legislation, a lack of Urban and Spatial Plans of different levels, or a lack of Urban Planners, Architects, and other professionals of similar fields. Kosovo has an abundant legislative framework for Construction and Spatial Planning, a relatively consistent course of Spatial Plans for the central and local level, and a very representative educated and graduated group of Architects, Planners, Urban Planners. Moreover, Kosovo has a well-established University of Architecture, Colleges of Architecture, and Urban Planning. However, besides all the facts, today, we still live-in chaotic cities! Thus, there are three suggestive actions to be initiated to build an initial ground for re-inventing our cities towards a better quality of life. First, there is an urgent need to update and interconnect the present legislation on Spatial Planning. Second, the process of licensing Architects and Planners must be sent forth in the shortest possible time. And third, there is a pressing need to have a specialized University on Urban and Spatial Planning, with an explicit curriculum to prepare the upcoming Kosovar planners for our cities' emerging and future needs. Therefore, this paper analyzes current issues on Urban and Spatial Planning in Kosova, problems that are already visible but somehow not addressed in planning documents, future developments, and implemented projects, with or without reasons in the background.

Keywords: urban and spatial planning, chaotic cities, planning legislation, planning universities, urban and spatial planners.

Natural lighting of museums

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Abstract. One of the basic conditions for a higher efficiency of museums is the lighting of their spaces. Proper and balanced lighting helps to focus attention, to create an aesthetic connection between the observer and the work of art as well as to realize a modification to emphasize a conceptual idea. To achieve the maximum lighting needed to highlight exhibits, museums use natural light, but often also consume a lot of electricity when using artificial light. In order to reduce electricity consumption and to ensure that museum objects are authentically exhibited, most museums have begun to integrate as many natural light solutions as possible. This is being made possible as well through various advanced materials as a result of the latest technologies.

Keywords: Natural lighting, Museums, Efficiency, Exhibits, Advanced materials

Searching for Sustainable Alternatives in Transportation Systems: Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) in the Context of Organic Transportation – Case study of Vienna

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Abstract. Starting with the Industrial Revolution and establishing itself throughout XX. Century, especially in developing countries, the phenomenon of excessive and uncontrolled urbanization has brought rapid urban growth in many countries, resulting in urban sprawl and demand for motorized travel with severe environmental, social and economic consequences. In addition to being an important source of greenhouse gas emissions, urban transportation also poses a threat to health due to air and sound pollution. Traffic congestion caused by unsustainable transport systems is responsible for significant economic and efficiency costs for passenger and freight carriers. Furthermore; existing urban transportation, where not everyone can participate equally, also leads to social inequality. SUMP, in addition to providing appropriate solutions in mobility, also enables the creation of more compact and efficient urban spaces, and thus, this article calls for the adoption of this approach and application. It also highlights the role of accessibility-based urban planning in the development of sustainable cities where sustainable modes of transportation are preferred. This study evaluates the search for solutions in the context of sustainable transportation and examines the approach and application of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan in context of Organic Transportation with focus on Vienna's SUMP as a study case.

Keywords: Urban Transportation, Sustainability, Accessibility, SUMP, Organic Transportation

Illegal construction trend: multi-family apartment buildings in Pristina after 2000

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Abstract. As a result of the last conflict in Kosovo, many residential buildings were destroyed, which encouraged the migration of citizens from rural areas to urban areas. Such a phenomenon was observed in the largest cities of Kosovo, especially in Pristina. As a result of the rapid expansion, lack of planning and the relevant institutions were not fully operational, this enabled developers to increase number of illegal constructions in Pristina. This occurrence has existed in the past, but was usually expressed in rural areas, now such a phenomenon appeared even in the densest urban areas. The purpose of the paper is to research the situation of illegal constructions in Pristina with the focus of the study multi-family apartment buildings built after 2000. Through examples, the impact of illegal construction on the quality of apartment attributes will be analyzed.

Keywords: Illegal constructions, multi-family building, apartment, Pristina

Air in architecture and the evolution to the ventilated facades

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Abstract. Over the years, as the society evolved, methods of thinking in different strata of society have advanced, wherein architects and engineers with their research have increased the level of awareness in society. Regarding the way of perceiving indoor spaces, also the outdoor ones, treating them as elements besides aesthetic, as well as functional. Also turning them into masterpieces leaving their mark each with the way of presentation and first impression to the passing eye, with a stunning architecture and an extraordinary wrapping of the facades where in one way, through them they represent a form of power of aristocrats. The origin of all this is thought to be from when the mankind needed to provide a necessary shelter, to create favorable living conditions and also to be protected from climatic factors, to the evolution of the positive thought of modern architecture in these days.

Keywords: evolution, perception, trends

Housing as an Important Component in Municipal Development Plans and Zonal Maps of Municipalities in the Republic of Kosovo

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Abstract. Housing plays a key role in creating the places where people want to live - places where they want to invest in business and thus increase economic development opportunities. The right to housing is increasingly present in the framework of global policies and in the fight for human rights, sanctioned by international conventions. Treatment of Housing through Legislation and Planning documents, using zoning bonuses, which must be within the technical norms of spatial planning. This value can only be achieved if permitted by a Spatial Planning document such as the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), the Municipal Zoning Map (MZM) and the Detailed Regulatory Plan (DRP). The living space that is subsidized by the Institutions, is designated as a living space reserved for buildings which are subsidized by the Central or Local Government, in cooperation with investors and donors, which will be for low-income persons and families which will be in line with the goals, objectives, vision and strategies of the Municipal Development Plan. Government budget funds are limited, but through special housing programs, based on legislation, housing can be provided for groups of people who can not afford to solve the housing issue on their own financial means. In Kosovo there are no sources of financing with long-term loans and interest to provide housing needs by harmonizing them with households. The credit system is limited and with high interest rates (11-12%). Funding of planned projects for social housing and affordable housing will be financed mainly from the Kosovo Consolidated Budget (KCB), and partly from donors or international cooperation, through the Regional Development Programs. Knowing these and many other problems, through this paper, I will explore the methodology for affordable housing, which will aim to provide housing for all. Housing for all means dignified living conditions. Housing for everyone means enough space, the opportunity to develop a new life throughout the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.

Keywords: Housing, Legislation, special housing programs, Planning documents, zoning bonuses, technical planning norms, affordable housing.

Church in the village of Vinarci i Epërm - Mitrovica

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Abstract: From the results of the field, in every village (it is about the villages of Shala e Bajgore, Mitrovica), wherever you go, it is almost impossible not to meet toponyms and microtoponyms related to the belief of the Catholic cult in a historical past ". Among the most common toponyms and microtoponyms that we encounter are: "Church Walls", "Church Crown", "Church Brothers", "Old Church", etc. are just a few of the place names that give an overview of the existence of churches throughout the Mitrovica region and beyond.

As a result of this church we are informed about the Catholic past of the ancestors of this village and the surrounding villages.

The Church as a cultural Heritage asset is of great importance in this region and also reflects the art of construction, the ancient faith and the fanaticism to preserve the inalienable dedication of construction, even though its pilgrims had already changed direction in their faith from Christians in Islam.

Keywords: Toponym 1, church 2, art 3, architecture 4.

Beliefs and superstitions during the construction of foundation for new houses then and today

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Abstract. The man against the need to have as much living space as possible, through the construction of a new house, has also expressed a series of desires, which reinforce the social opinion, that the dwelling house solves many social problems, in the first place. But to be calmer spiritually, the person who has decided to build a new house, he continues to be influenced by some beliefs and superstitions, which have nevertheless played and continue to play an important role in Albanian society. Among these beliefs and superstitions that have accompanied the Albanian society are the slaughter of ram and in the absence of money, they slaughter turkeys and put their heads on the foundations.

In this paper, I will bring the data collected in the field in some ethnographic areas both in Albania and in Kosovo. Above all I will talk about the act of slaughtering a ram, or turkey that is associated with certain beliefs, such as the age of the ram, the turkey, sprinkling the foundations with blood, placing the head on the foundation, placing valuables in the ram or turkeys: gold rings, mirror, children's hair, cattle wool, and other beliefs during the opening ceremony of the foundations of residential buildings. The difference between the beliefs then and today, will be part of my work, understood from a social point of view.

Keywords: House foundations, Ram head, beliefs, Ram mouth, rings, mirrors, etc.

The diminishment of civil and political rights during the Covid-19 pandemic. A 'paved road' for speculative schemes on city public realm. Case study Tirana.

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Abstract. There is a direct discoverable linkage, between the diminishing of civic and political rights, and the dilatation destruction of the public realm by city rebuilding and redevelopment. On March 2020, with the Covid-19 outbreak aligned with the pandemic restrictions that entered in power, organized forms of protest and any civic actions were prohibited by law. During this period of time the city increased its density by developing hundreds of new construction sites, most of which at the outlay of public realm. Public space, in absence of citizen's presence turned into a 'facility' for the construction industry, while the city resembles to a giant construction site. Decision-making on city planning by public institutions is accompanied with lack of transparency, by impinging also the right to information. This paper aims to expose the connection between arbitrary decision-making on the city and the violation of the right to information and the right to spaces of representations.

Keywords: Public realm; Redevelopment; Densification; Public space; Covid-19; Right to the city;

A Review on the Kosovo's Challenge on Green Energy Generation and Paris Climate Agreement

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Abstract. Global warming is evident and many scientific researches prove that anthropogenic activity, through emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) is the cause. The main cause is the increase of CO₂ levels caused by human activity. Since the industrialization our world is 1°C warmer. Global community, through agreements and protocols, aims that by the end of this century to keep the temperature rise 2°C or below the average temperature of pre-industrial levels. Efforts are made to limit this rise to 1.5°C. Recent decades trends shows that by the end of 21st century the temperature rise could be 3-5°C. This would be catastrophic to the Earth average temperature with unpredicted natural disasters as consequence. In order to limit and mitigate the CO₂ emissions, developed and poor countries collaborate and come together under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to limit and adapt to climate impacts caused by anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. In 2015 in Paris, 196 countries reached and signed what is known as Paris Climate Agreement (PCA) to limit this temperature rise and set target of net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050. On the other side, in light of the PCA long-term global goals, European Union (EU) has set goal that by 2050 to reduce the emission levels of greenhouse gas emissions by 80 to 95 percent compared to 1990. The scientific consensus is that temperature rise is caused by the increase emissions of CO₂. Globally, only the electricity generation contributes with 40% to the total GHG emissions by burning fossil fuels. In Kosovo, only 5% of energy is from renewable sources, 95% is from thermal power plants (TPP) with lignite as fuel which annually emits more than 6Mt of CO₂. Although this is minuscule compared to great contributors to GHG emission, Kosovo, although not being a signatory to the UNFCCC, but having a clear European perspective should set a legal framework and commitment to align with world and EU legislation and acknowledge its responsibility to achieve the PCA objectives. This is the aim of this study.

Keywords: Kosovo, green energy, global warming, Paris Agreement

Challenges in Designing a Rehabilitation Center – Autism

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Abstract. Seeing the increase in the number of autistic children, the need to provide the necessary space for their treatment increases. Where the purpose of such centers will be to support these individuals for a better life, but this is not as easy as it may seem, because an in-depth study of autistic people is required. Architecture is the key factor which can influence the facilitation or life of children with special abilities, enabling them to integrate through the manipulation of space and surrounding elements.

The focus of this paper is to illustrate the use of seven principles - acoustics, spatial ordering, escape, separation, spaces in transition, sensory zoning, and security - as a design development tool for these individuals.

Keywords: Architecture, Autism, Design, Special Needs, Space, Zoning.

The urban and architectural environment of Galata and Pera through the descriptions of some Italian travelers between the 19th and 20th centuries

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Abstract. The aim of this paper is to present the urban and architectural environment of the cosmopolitan Istanbul's districts of Galata and Pera throughout the impressions left by some Italians travelers who spent some period in the Ottoman capital throughout the 19th and the early years of the 20th century. This historical period has been chosen and analyzed in order to show the changes and development of Istanbul in those years through several Italian 'eyes' and 'voices' who witnessed at that time some important transformations in the Ottoman culture, highlighting the coexistence of different world, such as the Turkish Muslim society and the 'Levantine world', a mixture of several cultures and religions, including Jewish and Christians. Through their detailed and accurate descriptions, many travelers witnessed the daily life of the 'Levantines', the urban environment in which they lived and the architecture they built, as well as their traditions and customs among the Muslim Turks. Following a chronological order, this paper will focus on travelers who described spaces and architecture in some areas of Istanbul such as Galata and Pera, defining and encompassing the culture of those Levantine communities.

Keywords: Galata and Pera, Levantine World, Ottoman Culture, Italian travelers, Architecture

Housing quality in the city of Berati: an analytical approach of Typology and construction

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Abstract. The city of Berati has a long urban history rooted deep down in ancient times. Different factors indicated the formation and the development of the city itself during his existence. Berati it is well known as a city which begins as a city of fortification and churches, but as the time goes by, the city in his architectural layers had saved with jealousy layered a fortune of the domestic architecture. Being part of the Ottoman Empire for almost five centuries, it is obviously that traces of the previous eras will be ‘covered’ with the Ottoman presence, evident especially in the vernacular architecture.

This article offers an insight into Ottoman era patterns appearing in the town of Berati as a marvelous example of the Ottoman era vernacular house in the Balkans.

Keywords: Berati’s Ottoman era houses, typologies, building materials, vernacular architecture

A framework for identifying safe public spaces: SAFOMETER- an index for evaluating safety

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Abstract. The right to a safe environment is a basic human right. Cities of today should consider all the possible threats that inhabitants can face in their daily lives and try to offer better surroundings. A good planning strategy addresses and emphasizes a safe environment in which we live, especially in public spaces. The first step into offering safer and better public spaces is conceptualizing a framework that would objectively assess and give us information as to which space is more or less safe than the others within one city. While many researchers consider a set of general indicators for evaluating safety in public spaces, Safometer as a framework uses an index-based evaluation method by applying different safety indicators to come up with an aggregate value of how safe a public space is. The indicators considered for the framework are grouped into two main categories: physical safe environment and psychological/emotional safety. The first consists of measuring indicators like urban fabric (street lighting, surveillance), accessibility (proximity to services/public buildings, proximity to streets with lighting, height of surrounding buildings), visual permeability, and attendance/natural surveillance. While the second focuses on subjective indicators like theft, harassment, positive vibe, diversity, safety to express personal identity, and physical hazard. This paper aims to offer a tool for analyzing and evaluating one of the essential elements of the cities' everyday experience, which is safety in public spaces, and serve as an instrument to enhance the experience of the citizens in their city and provide evidence-based information for policymakers.

Keywords: Safety, Safometer, Public Spaces, Framework, Index

Constructing collective memories through spatial transformations – the case of Macedonia square

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Abstract. Identity is the distinguishing element that differentiates and forms nature, the environment, and places. In the discipline of architecture and urban planning with identity, is understood the product that makes a place unique or what makes the spirit of the place. Skopje is one of the city living changes and metamorphosis courses. The city has undergone significant urban transformations through the communism seal, Kenzo Tange's post-earthquake master plan, and the 21st century changing project of "Skopje 2014". The last one took the city to the extreme of changes passing from modernism into baroque. This paper aims to explore identity in an architectural and urban context and the changes made in the urban forms. By using observations and specialized literature, this study aims to investigate the recent two major changes in the city of Skopje and the identity problems that the city is still facing. Thus to summarize, the start of the physical changes and social trauma will be defined and its role in the loss of identity and the effect on the urban environment.

Keywords. Identity · Spatial transformation · Macedonia square · Collective memory.

Identifying required social changes to avoid gaps in development of regenerative built environment

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Abstract. The paper is arguing the need for changes in the social aspect as the main factor of development a regenerative build environment. In discussing all scales and dimensions of a regenerative built environment, the social aspect is overlooked by architects. This paper focuses on systems thinking for social change at the local and global levels, that will have impact on creating a regenerative built environment. Although climate crises occur as a result of both internal and external factors people need to think and act locally and globally to reduce the negative impact of internal factors. The assumption about overlooked social aspect and hypotheses about social changes that will change architecture to an example of the de-carbonization of our economy are confirmed thru literature review. Rapid changes and paradigms shift towards new concepts will impact social and environmental changes toward regenerative architecture solutions. Social changes impacted by new clean technologies serve as answers to the question of which rapid changes are required in process of de-carbonization.

Keywords: Environment, changes, social, regenerative

Collective memory through architecture in the city of Prishtina

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Abstract. This research aims to focus on the topic of “collective memory”, what does collective memory mean and what are the main approaches to its use and preservation? What is the role of Architecture as a discipline in all this vicious circle of collective memory, considering as a special case study the drastic transformation in the city of Prishtina. On this occasion, the golden periods and the flourishing years of architecture in Prishtina will be presented, in order to better understanding of the genesis of Modernism in Prishtina and the socio-economic and political factors that influenced the destruction of the cultural and spiritual heritage of the city, years and architecture which represents the most extraordinary connection with the collective memory in the city of Prishtina.

Keywords: Collective Memory, Modernism, Brutalism, Pristina.

COLOR SCHEMES IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN: COLOR THEORY

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Abstract. Color theory in design is based on the color wheel, a standard circular illustration that shows the relationship between all the various colors of the spectrum. The Mansell color-order system is an American classifying system that is used as a standard for color notation in artistic, commercial, scientific and educational work. Developed by an artist, Albert Mansell, for use by artists and designers, it can be used to specify colors and show the relationships among colors. The Mansell system defines a color in terms of three qualities or attributes: hue, value and Chroma. Hue is the name for the attribute of color that defines its position on the spectrum, such as red, yellow or green. Hue is considered to be important because it is the quality of color that carries the emotional content. The second attribute of color is value, sometimes called brightness, lightness or luminosity. Saturation is the third attribute of color. It is also called intensity, purity, brilliance, or in the Mansell terminology coma. Saturation is a measure of the color content or the strength of a color. The royal Horticultural society (RHS) color charts are an English classifying for flower color. The charts show the three attributes of color: hue, brightness, and saturation or coma. Primary color schemes use the three primary colors, red, yellow and blue. They are bright and energetic, especially when used together. Monochromatic colour schemes use various values and degrees of saturation of a single hue. Analogous color schemes use colors that are next to each other on the color wheel. Seasonal changes have a great impact on color in the landscape. Many plants have significant spring or fall coloration that is quite different from other seasons.

Key words: Landscape, color theory, Mansell color system, primary colors, analogous schemes.

Paradigm Shift toward Regenerative Construction – Drivers and Barriers

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Abstract. Regenerative sustainability as an essential concept for a transformative process is slowly gaining professional attention. A necessary process of mindset shifting from the narrowed focus of considering particular aspects such as energy efficiency, renewable materials, or sustainable technology towards the creation of a self-regenerating social and ecological system is inevitable. There is evidence that regenerative sustainability has already been implemented successfully in individual projects. The goals of this research are (1) to set up the conceptual framework for regenerative sustainability principles in the built environment; (2) to investigate and identify the drivers and barriers faced during the implementation of regenerative principles in the built environment; and (3) to identify gaps in the paradigm shift towards regenerative districts and macro-level projects. A multi-stage methodology was implemented. First, an in-depth literature review was conducted aiming to understand regenerative sustainability state of the art and define the key principles. Then, quantitative data analysis was conducted aiming to identify drivers and barriers of regenerative implementation in buildings following by semi-structured interviews with the representatives of regenerative buildings or districts. The step-by-step methodology resulted in the identified drivers of applying the regenerative principles such as financial incentives; marketing and sales benefits; improved companies/investors market image and competitive market advantage; reduced building lifecycle costs/effective use of energy and resources; enhancement buildings' users' well-being; and receiving building certification. The main barriers identified were lack of knowledge and experience working with regenerative materials and technologies by employees, consultants, and construction companies and usage of the available tools that enable such constructions; overall stakeholders' culture and their resistance to changing their mindset toward a regenerative approach; inadequacy of national and international standards and legislation to address regenerative policies; and increased construction cost and time and lack of financial incentives. Ultimately, during the broad examination of the case studies, regenerative qualities served as a valuable insight to understand barriers and drivers at neighborhood and macro levels.

Keywords: regenerative sustainability; building certification; self-regenerating eco-cycles; socio-ecological system; innovative technologies; social equity; well-being; circular economy; sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Integrated Cross- border Spatial Planning

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Abstract. Strengthening integrated cross- border spatial planning will help States to combine sectorial activities and will give new inputs to cooperation between different interest groups and stake- holders through integrated inter- regional development! This process will be based on four main pillars:

- Identifying areas of cooperation and synergies
- Developing pilot actions for identifying and using good practices
- Supporting trans- national policies and efforts on environment protection and climate changes
- Rationalizing use of resources through developing concepts, networks and cooperation structures

Even this process will bring to the situation where is needed more information's and knowledge regarding new spatial challenges through integrated planning concept and also more coordination on organizational requirement's and governance. At the end this process will bring benefits for both sides, and that through some fields of action:

- Good practices on developing (planning and implementation) process through integrated strategies, programs and projects,
- Development of polycentric urban systems based on resources,
- Development of rural areas and improvement of their relationship with urban areas,
- Development of multi- modal transport systems and access to infrastructures,
- Improvement and access to knowledge and information's,
- Improvement and approach to the natural and cultural heritage,
- Economic development especially in the field of tourism.

Therefore, various involved levels and forms of cross- border spatial planning and measures to intensify this are of interest nowadays because spatial planning is most dynamic development concept in Europe providing the framework of integrated cooperation!

Key words: spatial, integrated, development, cross- border, sectorial, policy, project, practice, cooperation.

ANALYTICAL INVESTIGATION OF CONCRETE BEAMS REINFORCED WITH HYBRID GFRP/STEEL BARS

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Abstract. In this study, an investigation of the hybrid reinforcement application on concrete beams, which are reinforced with Glass FRP (Fiber Reinforced Polymer) and steel bars as longitudinal reinforcement, is presented. By using ANSYS modelling software, five concrete beams were created as 3-D models to simulate the behavior of hybrid reinforced concrete beams with GFRP/steel bars. All tested models were created with rectangular cross section with the width of 200mm and the depth of 300mm. The beams are simple supported and have a span of 2800mm. The main objective of this research is to investigate and to analyze the flexural behavior of concrete beams reinforced with FRP bars. Furthermore, the parameters as the type of material, the amount and the configuration of the rebars as longitudinal reinforcement were investigated as well.

Keywords: Simple supported beams, Hybrid Reinforcement, GFRP Bars, Ductility, Moment redistribution, ANSYS.

Analysis of the Urban Structure and Revitalization of the Vasil Andoni Street in the Historic Zone of Prishtina

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Abstract. The historical zone of Prishtina is part of the city that represents the indigenous and environmental values of the city, with a rich built heritage as residential, commercial, handicraft, religious. Unfortunately, this rich heritage is heading towards total loss from the neglect and various degradations that are taking place. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the urban structure of the historic area of Prishtina, in particular Vasil Andoni Street. Based on the results from research methodology used, comprised from analysis, comparisons, interviews, and questionnaire, the paper aims to give a concept proposal for urban revitalization of the street Vasil Andoni, that would enable for sustainable development of the area, in physical, social, economic and spatial aspect, while protecting and respecting the cultural heritage of the zone.

Keywords: Historic Zone of Prishtina, Vasil Andoni Street, Urban structure, Revitalization.

The details in traditional dwelling unit “Kulla”

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Abstract. Dealing with traditional dwelling means understanding the built circumstances in general and in particular the understanding of material and construction techniques of the formation within vernacular architecture.

The focus of the study is mainly the rural dwelling called “Kulla” that is settled in the west part of the Kosovo (that usually lie in the western part of Kosovo), respectively in the area of the Dukagjin plane. The study focuses on the dwelling details such as wall structure, eaves, material and architectural elements such as doors, windows cupboards etc . Therefore, regarding the paper as case study that has been chosen the Isniq valley, where still can be read the descriptors of a rural spatial development

Keywords: Kulla building, traditional detail, dwelling, vernacular architecture.

The quest and the necessity for Affordable Housing in post-war Kosovo: in-between planning and development models

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Abstract. Real estate experienced an unprecedented development during these two decades in post-war Kosovo. Planning has expanded the boundaries of the cities as well has allowed the development of suburbia in former agricultural lands. With all the stock of houses and apartments, most of them are not affordable for the middle class, education and health workers, public administration, etc., to mention a few. This paper examines the quest and necessity for Affordable Housing in post-war Kosovo, by constructing a framework of development through models of collaboration, investment, construction, and administration. This paper will relay in cooperative methods of similar developments in Europe and elsewhere, as well as the real policies of developing adequate, available, accessible and Affordable Housing in Kosovo through, zoning, land use policies, transportation, and the liberal policies of (foreign) investments. Finally, this paper will be scrutinized in a set of architectural solutions, suitable to make the housing affordable, including mixed-use, prefabrication and stackable modular apartments, crating well-designed, custom projects, with reasonable costs as well as ensuring profitability, within the constraints of affordability, sustainability and livability.

Keywords: affordable, housing, planning, development

The Syntax of (un)successful Space: an examination and evaluation of urban and architectural space as (un)successful social condenser – the case of Kosovo in comparison to global precedents

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Abstract. As territorial beings, we do define space, and on the other hand space influences and defines many of our activities and behaviors as individuals, communities, and societies. Why some spaces are more successful to be socially active than others, how do they integrate and connect? This paper will use Space Syntax as an analytical tool to investigate and evaluate relationships between spatial layouts and a range of social patterns in comparison to spatial patterns and models. The layouts of (especially) residential and urban spaces in Kosovo have shifted dramatically within a new set of global constraints, local politics, economics, and social and cultural changes. Hence, this paper will investigate, examine and extrapolate patterns of how space in Kosovo formed and performed within these shifts and how it stands in comparison to global precedents for its capacity to be a successful social condenser. Moreover, through evaluation of the existing patterns, this paper sets a framework for retrofitting and designing better spaces.

Keywords: Space Syntax, social, patterns, behavior

Thresholds in architecture: from symbolics to practical poetics and politics – with a reflection for a post-pandemic world

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Abstract. Human beings do produce ‘communication’ fields in order to organize space, which in the same time influences the social and cultural behavior. Thresholds remain a very primordial features with increased relevancies in contemporary societies, as symbolic, poetic, programmatic and political features, entities and tools from the scale of a state, city to the very scale of an internal space. This paper explores, categorizes, compares and elaborates the threshold in architecture - especially from traditional architecture in Kosovo - to the new digital age of virtual thresholds and cosmetic boundaries and their role of composing and configuring space within various constraints; socio-cultural customs, privacy, security, order, territoriality, status, etc., to mention few. Finally, the intention of this paper is to resonate the role of thresholds in organizing space in a post-pandemic world, where the concept of open plan is put into question by in the same time increasing the relevance of flexibility and dissolving more and more the thresholds of connecting the inside with the outside.

Keywords: thresholds, symbolics, poetics, politics

The in-between spaces: informal and formal courtyards in residential architecture in Kosovo – in-between planning, cultural and performative paradigms

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Abstract. With the advent of technology and globalization, many traditional patterns in architecture have been lost and some reframed for contemporary society. Courtyards in residential architecture are some remarkable in-between spaces with their multi-performative capacity and role such as; cultural, social, religious, climatic, to mention a few. This paper will investigate and analyze courtyards in residential architecture in Kosovo, both pre- and post-war, also their informal or organic proliferation as well as the formal and well-designed courtyards, such as atriums, patios, enclosed and inner courtyards. Through the method of field investigation and spatial analysis in terms of ratios (i.e., inside-outside; depth-height), connectivity, integration, and visibility, a set of patterns do emerge. Much more, this paper investigates the planning and building codes for their appropriateness in facilitating the development of courtyards in residential architecture as well as some design strategies and examples of how contemporary residential architecture in Kosovo can incorporate courtyard spaces for their cultural and performative versatility.

Keywords: courtyards, residential, cultural, performative

The Poetics and Politics of Ornament: a struggle for historical continuity and innovation in Kosovo

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Abstract. Ornament has always remained in the radar of attention of different disciplines, especially Art and Architecture, for its complex embodiment in socio-cultural as well as political structures of societies. This paper examines the historical development, models, influences, struggles and new perspectives of ornament in various buildings in Kosovo. Distinguishing between mere decoration and ornament, a rich palette of models and motifs is distinguished, revealing both cross-cultural influences from east and west, regional similarities and identities. The struggle for historical continuity and identity in the scope of ornament is examined in the pre- and post-war period of tectonic imitation through identification of elements and components with a tendency to create a distinguishable grammar and vocabulary. Much more, the final intention of this paper is to set a framework of creating new ornaments which resonate in the rich traditional vocabulary and take advantage of Digital Age through emerging tectonics which articulate the materials within the manufacturing and construction logic and create the poetics of expression in order to give identity through historical continuation and innovation.

Keywords: ornament, architecture, politics, poetics

Architectural Design Studio: the systematics of design processes – creativity and innovation within settled and emergent methods and strategies

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Abstract. From the founding of the Ecole de Beaux Arts, with a history of more than 350 years, considered the very first school of formal education in architecture, and with a history of more than 100 years of the Bauhaus, the Design Studio has drifted and shifted (slowly) its role to reflect paradigm shifts in education and practice. This paper examines and reveals the role of systematics of design processes of our own Design Studio, run almost for a decade at the Faculty of Architecture, within the local and global constraints in the architectural education and practice. A constant, on the way assessment, asks and pushes students for a systematic work flow in the process of creative thinking, making and braking, but in the same time asks for knowledge creation through innovation both in the process(es) and the project. The methods used in this paper are quantitative and qualitative examination and assessment of data collected during the Studio processes through years, within different themes, methods and strategies. Finally, this paper reflects also in the environment shift of running and assessing the studio during the covid-19 pandemics – the online environment – as well as the implementation of xR platform and tools (augmented and virtual reality) in the studio processes.

Keywords: Design Studio, processes, systematics, methods

Urbanization and Sustainability

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Abstract. Urbanization is undoubtedly the most important social transformation in the history of civilization. An unstoppable and most desirable phenomenon. How will we accept that transformation? It depends on the trends that characterize the city and urban forms. Urban Development Plan and Regulatory Plans, as the second phase of spatial organization, have not solved the situation in the city, on the contrary, have proved inefficient, we must mention the extent of change, degradation of urban spaces, and the problem of expropriation which presents not only difficulties in this process, but also stagnation which has a huge cost, which often costs and changes proposals and good ideas. It takes a different approach, a different practice. Between the UDP and the Regulatory Plans, there should be an Urban Plan which is preceded by the management of urban areas. With this practice, it will be possible to organize urban areas, urban and residential blocks as well as the new communication network where there will be no need for expropriations.

Keywords: city urbanization¹, land managin², expropriation³

The impact of renovation measures for higher efficiency on public buildings - Case Study "Students Center Campus Administration Building, Prishtina"

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Abstract. Energy and its use represent vital aspects of modern society. More efficient use of resources directly affects the reduction of the impact that human activity has on ecosystems. Most of the energy in the Republic of Kosovo is used for heating, household, lighting etc. In order to reduce costs and thermal losses in public buildings, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the World Bank have undertaken several projects to improve the energy efficiency of these buildings.

The purpose of this paper is to analyze such projects and the final results through qualitative and quantitative methods, coming out with conclusions and further recommendations in improving energy efficiency.

The results of the already implemented project will be compared with international standards on energy consumption, local technical regulations as well as EU regional ones. In addition to the comparisons above the return on investment of such a project is also analyzed to determine its feasibility.

The literature used consists of official MED documents, local and regional technical regulations in addition of EU standards.

Keywords : Building, energy, energetic performance, public building, intervention, assesment, proposal.

Improving mobility, urban structure and fabric through urban planning and design

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Abstract. This paper deals with mitigating existing mobility and improving urban structure and fabric through urban planning and design. Like many other European cities which have problems with pollution and noise created by unstable transport, Prishtina suffers from traffic congestion that can have negative effects on the economy, environment and image of the city. In this paper is examined the possibility of minimizing urban traffic in a part of the city of Prishtina, specifically in the neighborhood "Lakrishte" by proposing innovative methods of re-designing the existing roads and paths where public transport, bicycles and walking are essential part and priority of sustainable transport. In addition to the re-design of the road infrastructure in this paper is proposed the urban regeneration which enables and the improvement of mobility, health, microclimate of a neglected neighborhood in the city of Prishtina. This would consequently improve the living standards of the inhabitants in this area, and would simultaneously serve as a model and reference point for future developments in other neighborhoods of the city.

Keywords: Sustainable transport, re-design of road infrastructure, urban regeneration.

INVESTIGATION, STUDY AND SEISMIC HAZARD ANALYSIS FOR URBAN ZONE MONTITH

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Abstract. The general goal of earthquake engineering is identification and mitigation of seismic hazards. Seismic microzonation is the generic name for subdividing a region into individual areas having different potentials for hazardous earthquake effects, defining their specific seismic behavior in order to facilitate engineering design and land-use planning.

In seismic regions, the aspect of seismic risk must be taken into account in the first stages of projects, thus enabling the realization of a structural and quality system, within acceptable costs, satisfying the basic design requirement of a building, based on the seismic parameters of the ground.

Seismic and geophysical studies in urban areas give us the seismic parameters of how suitable the soils are for high-rise buildings.

In this scientific paper are the shows final results of the seismic investigations, seismic hazard and effects of local soil medium analysis of Urban zone Montith.

The results from the seismic hazard and site response analysis are presented through the effects upon the amplitude and frequency characteristics of expected ground motion from the future seismic activity.

Keywords: Seismology, Seismicity, Earthquake, Seismic risk

Connection and Difference between Urban Planning, Urban Design, and Urbanism

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Abstract. Since the existence of humankind, planning was among the main issues to deal with; this is because planning helps organize activities and predict the future. So in this way, urban planning, urban design, and urbanism are traditionally seen as an expert discipline with little room for 'soft' values and concerns based on feelings rather than fact. At the same time the final product of the planning process, the built environment, is a habitat for a wide variety of people with equally diverse wants and needs. The question is, how does planning incorporate the needs, wants and visions of existing and future inhabitants while at the same time raising awareness of often complex issues and wicked problems involved in urban development? If we analyze it well, every urban development period since the ancient times until today notes that all these disciplines have in common factors and differences among themselves. In these days we have different opinions from different people about this issue, so on this paper we are going to explore the variety of thinking concerning the topic based on some very good references and to try to clarify more the common things and the differences about this topic, with text, photos, diagrams, and other simplified methods, in order to have a satisfactory overview of the topic.

Keywords: urban planning, urban design, urbanism, urbanization

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CALCINED CLAY CEMENT MANUFACTURING (LC³)

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Abstract. As world population is expected to reach 9 million by 2050, infrastructural changes should be done which require huge quantity of construction material such as cement. During cement manufacturing is released up to 60 % of CO₂, consequently there is a need for alternative binders. LC³ or Limestone Calcined Clay cement is a modern cement, which consists of 50% clinker, 15% limestone, 30% calcined clay and 5% gypsum. In this case, as the clinker content is reduced, CO₂ emissions are reduced too. The LC³ technology promises a sustainable growth of economics around the world by reducing up to 40% CO₂ emissions compared to Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) at lower investment and production costs. It is a low carbon, sustainable, cost effective technology that doubles the efficiency of the existing cement factories. The increase in demand of cement in coming decades might not be reached with existing alternative binders of fly ash and GGBS, so limestone and clay are the best supplementary cementitious materials that are naturally available. In this work, the potential use of two thermally activated kaolinitic clays as pozzolanic materials coming from different deposits of Albania, is studied. Both kaolinitic clays have different chemical composition. After thermal treatment and grinding, their pozzolanic properties were studied on blended cement containing 30% of calcined clays and the results were compared with that of OPC concrete (CEM I 42.5 R). The compressive strength of the mortars was tested after 2, 7 and 28 days, concluding that the mortars containing calcined clay developed high resistance to compression, but less than that of the CEM I 42.5R. After 28 days it was seen that the mortars containing calcined clay reached approximately 80% of the control sample resistance. These results are promising but the influence of more factors such as alkaline activation of clays, kinetics of the calcination process, optimal temperature, calcination time, influence of grinding time on laboratory mills, fineness and specific surface area, as well as the mineralogical phase of the calcined clay samples, should be further studied. To conclude, based on literature data the study of calcined clays found in our country presents a good potential for the partial replacement of clinker in cement.

Keywords: LC³, Calcined clay, Ordinary Portland Cement, Pozzolanic materials.

Acknowledgement: The authors are thankful to the specialists of Cement Factory in Elbasan for their assistance during all the experiments.

Audit of Road Safety Elements in National Road N25.2 “Prishtinë – Gjiilan”

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Abstract. The research of road elements will give us a clear picture on the identification of road factor elements in the road segment of the road N-25.2 Prishtina - Gjiilan, which are then proceeded to take preventive measures in the relevant institutions.

Part of the research will be focused on the location, ie the observation and measurements of the road protection element through adequate equipment and another part of the research will be conducted by obtaining literature from reliable sources.

The aim of this research is:

- Assist in achieving the goal of a secure system by using a secure road network with self-guided routes,
- Reducing the risk of possible accidents with high probability, which may result from project defects in a road project of proposals,
- Minimize the need for repair work and physical repairs caused by road safety defects at various stages of project development, including construction,
- Reduction of costs throughout the life of the project,
- Raise awareness and contribute to the improvement of safety practices during design.

Keywords: Audit, Road, Accident, People, Vehicle.

Application of prestressing with pretension and post-tension in precast beams

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Abstract. In Nowadays, prestressed concrete finds wide application in the construction of engineering structures. Where concrete elements are subjected to mandatory stresses to gain more favorable behaviors. This can be realized by applying prestressing force with system of pre-tension and post-tension.

Analysis of precast beams elements with different sections by applying these prestressing methods, will help us to determine which method of force application is going to be more favorable for realization.

Analysis of precast beams elements for different forms of sections for two methods of prestressing, that with pretensioned and post-tension, by checking the basic condition criteria as servisability limit states, checking immediate and timedepend losses.

Where we will check, which method of applying the pre-stress force will be more suitable for a holder which is subjected to certain loads, what will be the geometric characteristics that provide the highest resistance capacity. At which stage for which method of prestressing will we have losses, which form of cable extension will be more appropriate what are the advantages of realizing one method and the other in time and economic aspect.

Keywords: Prestressing, pretension, post-tension, servisability limmit states, immediate losses, timedepend losses

Effect of chemical attack in hardened concrete

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Abstract. Concrete is largely used as construction material for agricultural buildings, which is surrounded by aggressive environment all the times, under the influence of chemical attacks which caused the overflow of food - water mixture. So, the purpose of this study was to analyze the behavior of concrete under the influence of different chemical materials during the period of exploitation.

For this reason the experiment was stimulated in laboratory conditions for adequate exposure for a short time and was studying decomposition of concrete caused by chemical fertilizers and vandex influence as a protective material from these chemical attacks.

All the research took place at laboratory and experiment was developed in two different cases, in different chemical environment, which are possible to happen in agricultural buildings. Experiment was conducted by Implication of around 8 different materials and their effects in concrete, which are the ways of protection, and experiment in laboratory in stimulation of situation of aggressive environment and in the end the analyze of results always thinking in rational way.

Key words: Concrete, chemical attack, agricultural buildings, mechanical properties.

Archistructures – back to origins

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Abstract. Ultimately, we are witnessing tendencies and movements aiming to detach architecture from its Vitruvian [Vitruvius] base, mainly through violation of building's anatomy, artistic formation but above all through aberration of the structure as an essential part of any building. In doing so, we are witnessing the reversal of the Vitruvian tetrahedron – Firmitas, Utilitas, Venustas, consequently, his vertex – Architecture descends below his base, thereof strongly depreciating it. Structural skeleton is an essential part of each architecture, and if designed objectively, doesn't affect architectural function, rational respectively to the resources, original with its topology, cannot result in breach to the principal aim of each architecture: aesthetical values. It becomes integral part of the architecture, i.e., the architecture itself. It is almost certain, that each deviation from the above-mentioned principles, mainly through speculative artistic formations, not to mention the challenge of fundamental natural laws, shall bring a weak product in the most optimist of scenarios.

Keywords: number., biostructure, optimization, archistructure

Seismic isolation – Eurocode 8 requirements

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Abstract. Sustainability and sustainable construction have become very popular lately. Though there is not a final solution to achieve it, reducing input resources/materials such as steel and concrete within a building skeleton remains a key strategy to accomplish in earthquake prone regions such as is ours. Extensive research and development have been carried out worldwide and is ongoing currently on nonconventional technologies for wind and earthquake protection of civil engineering structures. One of these approaches – seismic isolation is aimed at controlling the displacement and acceleration response of building structures and to control the damage caused by earthquake ground motion. This paper aims to give main aspects of seismic isolation design in relation to Eurocode 8 requirements.

Keywords: base isolation, seismic isolation, control, nonconventional approach

PREFABRICATED WOODEN STRUCTURE PANELS FOR USE IN THE HOUSE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Abstract. The construction industry is very competitive and it's highly innovative regarding performance, time quality and safety. There are many innovative construction methods; one of them is prefabricated construction. This method consists of producing the construction parts in the factory and then delivering and assembling them in site. This method in time has proven to be very effective, saves time and it's cost effective. Labor is highly influenced by this method. Labor is based on the factory, therefore efficiency, safety and working conditions are better. The production may be aided by computerized machines, which reduces cost, human mistakes and improves the consistency of the final product. Optimal material use is a big feature of this method as it reduces the final cost. The main focus of this paper is analyzing the construction of prefabricated wood panel houses. Design of the main supporting members made of wood and metal, member connection details, design of special members, load analysis, seismic analysis and all phases of production and machinery used will be also a part of this paper.

Keywords: Prefabrication, Innovation, Design, Passivhaus

Reinforcement of the existing structure with FRP

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Abstract. Reinforcement of existing structures is a field which includes a series of theories and issues that require knowledge, dedication and a lot of experience. The need for reinforcement of structures has arisen as a result of the high cost of their demolition and reconstruction, which have lost their bearing capacity and their usability has been limited, but it should be considered that in different cases the reinforcement reaches a very high cost. Another reason is when different facilities are required to be used in the shortest time possible, and as a result they must be reinforced, as reconstruction requires longer time to build.

Keywords: Reinforcement, Reconstruction, Bearing capacity, Usability

Road Safety Audit Elements on the ARBËN XHAFERI Highway

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Abstract. The audit and safety of road elements after the completion of the construction works of the Highway "Arbën Xhaferi", 2015, with a length of 65 km from the capital of the Republic of Kosovo - Pristina in the way to capital of Northern Macedonia - Skopje, the inauguration has been done on May 2019.

The research describes the concept of Audit of road elements on the highway "Arbën Xhaferi", which was completed before the opening, in order to finish audit of all elements on the road, that verify if the highway is safe or not. The control and evaluation was done by checking the vertical and horizontal signage, including the guardrails, fences that serves to prevent unauthorized persons and animals, lighting at interchanges (entrances and exits), curbs, manhole, bends, external and internal drainage, longitudinal and cross sections etc. Assessment and audit of safety elements on highways "Arbën Xhaferi" gives the final report that it is necessary to intervene at certain points and need to provide safety driving during. After the comments made during the audit, measures are taken to summarize them or even to intervene to change in order to have safe roadway in accordance with the required standard.

After this research:

Movement of vehicles on the highway to have the level of insurance according to relevant standards;

Horizontal and vertical signage of life at a proper level so that after the opening of highways are not needed for costs as investors are harmed in this case of the Ministry of Infrastructure;

To enable the safe driving of vehicles in atmospheric conditions when the temperatures are lower than when using the highways you have the comfort of avoiding all obstacles during the winter season;

Keywords: Audit, safety, horizontal and vertical signage, guardrails,

Investigation, Study and Seismic Hazard Analysis for Urban Zone

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Abstract. The general goal of earthquake engineering is identification and mitigation of seismic hazards. Seismic microzonation is the generic name for subdividing a region into individual areas having different potentials for hazardous earthquake effects, defining their specific seismic behavior in order to facilitate engineering design and land-use planning.

In seismic regions, the aspect of seismic risk must be taken into account in the first stages of projects, thus enabling the realization of a structural and quality system, within acceptable costs, satisfying the basic design requirement of a building, based on the seismic parameters of the ground.

Seismic and geophysical studies in urban areas give us the seismic parameters of how suitable the soils are for high-rise buildings.

In this scientific paper are the shows final results of the seismic investigations, seismic hazard and effects of local soil medium analysis of Urban zone Montith.

The results from the seismic hazard and site response analysis are presented through the effects upon the amplitude and frequency characteristics of expected ground motion from the future seismic activity.

Keywords: Seismology, Seismicity, Earthquake, Seismic risk

Behaviour of lightweight built up cold-formed steel-concrete composite beam in bending

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Abstract. Cold-formed steel-concrete composite systems are one of the most cost-effective floor systems in multi-storey buildings. Although European standards do not have standardized procedures for the design of such structural elements, research shows its extremely favourable behaviour. The paper presents the numerical parametric study on the influence of the connection between cold-formed C profiles and the influence of shear connection between steel profiles and the concrete slab. Numerical study shows that the bending resistance of composite beams composed of C profiles connected by point-based fasteners at different distances differs from the bending resistance in the case when the profiles are assumed to be fully tied. Accordingly, there is an influence of the number and arrangement of point-based fasteners between steel profiles and the degree of shear connection on the bending resistance.

Keywords: Composite beams, Cold-formed Steel Sections, Bending Resistance, Shear connection

Perlite – A solution to face the energy efficiency challenge

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Abstract. To face all these challenges and use the opportunities to perform a better insulation and long-life direction should be performed a professional study for a better improvement and performed by adequate materials.

You need to find a material that is breathable to avoid humidity inside and capable of regulating humidity (good capillary conductivity), you need good sound-absorbing properties, a material that is immaculate due to the flat surface and unassailable by parasites; incombustible in case of fire and not emit toxic fumes or vapors. You will need an insulating material that is lightweight and also waterproof and finally y with all the climate challenges you will need an ecological material. Actually a wide range of products on the building market offers a material that has all these characteristics and this is represented by expanded perlite. In this study we will present a detailed study from the properties of the material, chemical composition, actual application and future developments.

Keywords: perlite, insulation,

Experimental Study on Mechanical Behaviors of Normal Concrete compared to Steel Fiber Reinforced Concrete

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Abstract. Steel fiber reinforced concrete is a composite material which in addition to traditional constituent materials, has fibers as additional material, which are usually non-uniformly distributed and randomly oriented in the section of the element. Due to the fact that normal concrete has low tensile strength in the use of fibers in a small percentage, usually from 0.75% to 2.0% by volumetric mass of concrete, it has been observed from earlier studies that it improves the tensile strength from bending, the tensile strength, also in shear strength, controls cracking and improves ductility, also slightly increases the strength of concrete in compression. Despite the fact that some researches have already detailed the favorable qualities of steel fiber reinforced concrete (SFRC), there are very few data regarding the design and performance of this type of concrete. To get to know something more in terms of properties of steel fiber reinforced concrete, during the realization of this work we will perform some experimental tests based on European standards to understand closely how fibers affect the growth and improvement of properties of concrete with lime aggregate and local cement CEM II / BM (WL) 42.5N, applying different percentages of fibers to the volume of the concrete. The study is based on designing the Mix Design of the concrete, for the class named MR_DK_E1: C30 / 37 as one of the most widely used classes of normal concrete. To see the effect of the fibers on concrete, we will design three mixtures which in other components are similar to the first mixture "NORMAL CONCRETE" but as an additive we will add 0.75%; 1.5% respectively 2.0% of steel fiber (Romfracht) to the mass of concrete. For all mixtures, the necessary tests on the properties of wet concrete and hardened concrete will be performed, while the obtained results will be compared between the same kind, as well as an objective evaluation will be made, where some conclusions will be drawn that can serve for further studies and use in engineering practice in our country. Also, special attention will be given to the use of SFRC for constructive elements. Based on the fib Model Code 2010, we will present the guidelines for the design of structural elements with SFRC, seeing also the contribution of the fibers themselves in resistance capabilities of the cross sections to external influences.

This experimental research in relation to (SFRC) has been performed in the building materials laboratory near UBT, the Proing laboratory-Pristina and in GIM-Skopje.

Keywords: Reinforced concrete, steel fibers, strength in tensile from bending, CMOD, LOP etc.

Environmental impact of precast and cast-in-situ concrete structures: a case-study comparison based on similar supermarket facilities

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Abstract. Environmental sustainability is assuming a growing role in the strategic plans of several countries worldwide. In order to switch to more sustainable solutions in the construction field, many researchers and efforts are focusing on the material level, mainly concerning solutions aimed at partially or fully replacing the most impacting components with alternative or recycled solutions characterised by a lower carbon footprint or a higher durability, in view of a life-cycle assessment. Alongside these positive efforts, another instrument to reduce the environmental impact of construction materials, often less tackled by researchers, is reduction of material consumption by structural optimisation, often ensured by innovative technologies possibly employing high-performance materials that might even have, assuming same volume, higher impact than traditional ones. This concept is analysed in the present paper by comparing the computed environmental equivalent carbon footprint of two similar single-storey supermarket facilities, designed and built in the Po valley, Northern Italy, with different technologies: precast and cast-in-situ concrete. Having at disposal the final consumptive volume of materials employed for both buildings concerning the superstructure frame without cladding, the comparison based on Global Warming Potential (GWP) certified by material producers, computed per square metre covered, allowed to evaluate the actual impact of the structure of the two solutions. Moreover, the environmental-related benefits provided by the replacement of the most impacting components (steel and cement) with alternative environmentally friendly solutions further allows to quantify and target the most effective strategies to enhance the sustainability of structural bodies.

Keywords: Environment, precast, concrete

Retrofitting of columns in the existing structure with expanding of section with concrete jacketing and steel plates

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Abstract. This thesis aims to assess the carrying capacity of the existing structure and evaluating two methods for retrofitting of structure or its elements. The focus will be to the vertical elements, columns.

The methodology is based in the examining of the quality of the concrete for the respective columns and their actual carrying capacity.

After evaluation the carrying capacity, we will consider two methods of retrofitting as: concrete jacketing and steel plates.

The focus of this thesis is to analyze the structure the columns of which were designed to be of the concrete class C-30/37, but after the testing of concrete, the class was lower.

Based in relevant testing and analyses we will have the conclusion for each retrofitting method. In this way we have a summary of the actual state of the structure, starting from concrete class, carrying capacity and possible ways to retrofit with two methods.

Keywords: Retrofitting, Carrying capacity, concrete jacketing, Steel plates

Particle shape analysis of industrial sand using traditional and computational geometry methods

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Abstract. Silica sand is widely used as a raw material in the manufacture of building and construction products. Particle shape parameters such as sphericity and roundness were determined using both the Krumbein-Sloss diagram and the ImageJ processing algorithm. A total of 10 samples from production plants were comprehensively analyzed. Olympus SZX16 microscope was used for image acquisition. Image analysis was performed separately for each grain size fraction ranging from 0.063 mm up to 2.0 mm. The microscope images showed that there was a visible difference in color and shape between manufactured sands. For sand shape parameters, the computerized method was significantly faster and with a high probability of accuracy compared to the Krumbein-Sloss diagram method.

Keywords: sphericity, circularity, roundness, silica sand, microscopy, ImageJ

The use of cladding system as a mean to improve seismic behavior in high rise buildings

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Abstract. Earthquakes, as we all know, are one of the most serious natural disasters which have the potential to cause damage to infrastructure and livelihood facilities, therefore seismic design of the structure is very important for the behavior of the structure and its performance.

Cladding systems are those prefabricated elements that resist and transfer negligible load from other elements of the structure.

This research examines the potential for damping the seismic energy of the structure by focusing on new specific structural nodes to connect the cladding system to the frame of the main structure. If we consider the traditional connection, we can say that the joint consists of rigid connections of the cladding panels resulting in seismic design that only considers the weight of the panel itself. This means that the contribution of the cladding system to the behavior of the structure is negligible. Several studies have been conducted to study the interaction between the cladding system and the structure during seismic actions and it has been found that if we are dealing with seismic cladding design, the coating system is capable of distributing seismic energy. (Institute, 2007) It is very common in modern buildings to use cladding panels for the exterior facade. The function of these cladding panels is primarily architectural, but it also protects the interior from environmental factors. They are classified and designed as non-structural elements, and are considered as a weightless element that does not contribute to any structural function in the building. Facade design is a basic expression of architecture and therefore the design of cladding panels is mainly guided by aesthetic considerations. The materials and structure of the panel, their contours, the number and location of window openings, and the pattern of the cladding configuration are all powerful tools that architects use to determine the style of a building. In addition, cladding panels must meet several practical criteria: they must be able to transmit wind forces and their weight to the main structure; the facade should provide a first line of protection against environmental phenomena such as humidity or temperature changes; and panels must also resist environmental changes.

During an earthquake the behavior of the coating will be dictated by the cyclic interaction between the panels and the primary supporting structure, and the connections are usually subjected to three primary effects simultaneously:

- a. the forces of inertia generated by the acceleration of the panel, transmitted from the panel to the main structure through the shear force of the joints;
- b. Horizontal inter-story drift resisted by the panels resulting in horizontal shear forces at the joints.
- c. the gravity load of the panels supported by the 'bearing' joints.

In this study the focus is placed on prefabricated concrete cladding panels. Prefabricated concrete cladding is a non-structural system sensitive to seismic interstitial accelerations and their displacement (story drifts). Coating panels should be designed to withstand forces, especially in the direction of off-plane movement, and to be placed in plan with floor drifts. Currently, these important issues are quite widely addressed in design codes, leaving details in the free choice and experience of the designer.

Key words: Cladding system, non-structural element, engineering joints, seismic performance

Influencing factors in the occurrence of floods in the urban areas of Prishtina and Fushë Kosovë

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Abstract. In some urban areas of Prishtina and a large part of the city of Fushe Kosova in recent years are present frequent spates with a tendency to occur floods, especially in the lower parts of these two cities. Rapid urban development in terms of construction and road infrastructure without an adequate system for transporting and discharging the stormwater are a factor for these phenomena. Climate change also indicates a significant increase in rainfall in this region. Data from the Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosova shows that the rainfall for the period 1948-1998 was 606.3 mm while for the period 2000-2018 it is 670.2 mm in the Prishtina station. It is estimated that there are much more frequent occurrences of rain with a short duration that are having a very high intensity. Data collected shows that in 2019 for a 10 min duration the precipitation we had 19.8 mm while in 2021 the amount of precipitation was 11.94 mm. It can be found that there is a high probability that precipitation higher than 15 mm for 10 minutes will be repeated in less than 20 years. The data processed in this study also show a significant increase in construction areas while there is a decrease in green areas, especially in urban areas. This increase of construction areas in the last 20 years by over 10 km² while reducing the green areas has directly affected the occurrence of spates and in some cases floods that lasted for several days. This also directly reflects the increase in the flow coefficient and the rapid onset of the flood wave in the lower parts of Prishtina and Fushë Kosova. Influencing factors are also the dimensions and condition of the two covered rivers of Prishtina and Vellusha. The study shows that there is a high probability that the covered rivers, streams, and especially the collector of Prishtina will not withstand the amount of rainwater. The consequences will be rapid floods with significant damages. The critical part is the entrance of the covered stormwater collector of the Prishtina river, where a solution is proposed by construction of several small dams that will regulate the flow of the river Prishtina before entering the urban part

Keywords: Floods, rainfall, runoff, stormwater collector

Wastewater treatment methods in Gjakova

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Abstract: The need to have clean water for drinking and other needs, starts from early times. Being a basic need for survival, people have used various methods to purify water: by boiling it, heating it in the sun, by dipping a heated iron into it, by filtering it through sand and coarse gravel, and many other methods. All these methods, nowadays are basic so that they are based and developed every day and more in order to achieve the best water quality. Wastewater treatment is also very important, given the fact that in our country, this water has been discharged and still continues to be discharged in some places, in rivers or lakes, making the water not drinkable and unusable, but at the same time very dangerous.

In this research will be elaborated the theme of wastewater treatment methods in Gjakova. The wastewater treatment plant in Gjakova is not yet operational as it is still under construction and it is expected that the works will be completed this year. This plant is a project funded by the Swiss and German government and the municipality of Gjakova. The plant provides the following treatment methods:

1. Mechanical / primary treatment
2. Secondary treatment (Drip filters)
3. Aerobic dilution of sludge and mechanical removal of water from sludge (drainage) for 32,000 equivalent inhabitants (P.E) and for the hydraulic capacity (maximum flow) of 500 m³ / h. The project is generally divided into two components: A and B; where Component A (report) includes project implementation while Component B includes accompanying measures (for which a separate initial report will be prepared after the service starts).

The main pipeline collects the wastewater of collectors I and II and forwards that water to the new ITUZ site. The collector passes through a wasteland south of the last town houses, crosses the Krena River through a bridge and then crosses several agricultural fields before reaching the new ITUZ location.

As ITUZ in Gjakova is a high capacity plant, details will be elaborated regarding what is foreseen in this project:

- Replacement / construction of main sewers;
- Rehabilitation works of the sewerage network;
- Disconnection of fecal sewage from the atmospheric sewage network;
- Construction of a main sewerage pipeline up to the envisaged wastewater treatment plant;
- Construction of overpass structures and bridge for the main pipeline.

RAILWAY NETWORK AND ITS CONNECTING FACILITIES IN KOSOVO (1874-2021)

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Abstract. The railway network presents a special communication function, which keeps humanity closer. The first developments of the railway network in Kosovo date back to 1874 when the first train entered this area from Thessaloniki through Skopje. This paper aims to provide some data generated during the years 2020-2021 regarding the railway network in Kosovo and its connecting facilities. Construction of railway lines, stations, tunnels, bridges, watersheds, protective walls, canals for surface water drainage has an average lifespan of 92 years. The total length of the railway network is 336.68 km, in which are built 23 tunnels with a total length of 9789.5 m. 26.1% of them are of medium depth, while 73.9% are of shallow depth from the ground surface. 66.07% of the railway lines are active, while 33.42% are non-functional.

Keywords: Railway network, Kosovo, Stations, Tunnels

Analysis and Design of Structural Elements for a Closed Swimming Pool Structure. Study of the Connection with Bolts

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Abstract. The topic of this thesis is the analysis and dimensioning of peculiar elements of a wooden structure, respectively the detailed design of the joints of the structural elements to the level for implementation. At the starting stages, the structure was selected to be made of wood, which served as a base model for further treatment of elements with interest for this analysis.

Material type for structural elements is defined based on the specific properties of the wood. The main constructive elements consist of laminated wood and the other constituent elements consist of solid wood. The joints in the roof and walls of the structure are made of steel.

The possibilities offered by the laminated wood for the design of structures with more complex character in physical aspect, as well as its attribute as the only material that can reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere, gives this material an advantage to be selected compared to other materials. After analysis, dimensioning and treatment of the joints of the structure, it is important that all the structural elements resist the loads acting on the structure, enabling the durability and functionality during its lifespan!

Wastewater treatment plants – wastewater reuse and preventive measure

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Abstract. Pollution is an issue that the construction industry cannot ignore. The main types of pollution you need to be aware of are air, water and noise. If you don't put precautionary measures in place to manage harmful waste, it can directly affect site employees and people living nearby. Wastewater effluent entering the lake poses an immediate health risk to those using it as a drinking-water source. This document also includes performance indicators to satisfy the suitability of the recycled water (treated wastewater) for the required use by considering a number of parameters related to environmental, personnel, physical and operational indicators. The proposed indicators comply in general with the quality standards that are in force in most European countries considering also the 2006 WHO guidelines for safe water reuse. It is crucial to underline that each wastewater treatment plant is unique and the operation of a particular process should always be based on its specific performance and response to the control technique applied. This may require the process to be run outside the typical range of the operating parameters presented in this document.

Keywords: Major types of pollutants, sources and effects, point and nonpoint sources. Primary and Secondary Sewage Treatment

ANALYSIS AND APPLICATION OF THE COBIAX SYSTEM IN KOSOVO

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Abstract. Cobiax tile is a new technology which has met the requirements for the creation lighter and environmentally sustainable slabs as well as increasing the distance between the two axes and the more rational use of building spaces. This system also has an impact in terms of stability and will also help to overcome many problems with the usual systems of high-rise buildings that have a higher cost compared to the Cobiax system. This paper analyzes using this system is being applied in Kosovo based on the fact that the elements of this system are now produced in Kosovo, what are the advantages and disadvantages of this system in the cases calculated and implemented in this system in Kosovo, the problems of vibrations in solid slabs that occurred for simple reasons from various shocks that occur in buildings and other problems related to the calculation, implementation and use of surfaces performed with other systems and the difference between the systems applying Cobiax-in- Technology based on the creation of cavities in the slab using a spherical void shaper. One of the main reasons that leads to the frequent use of this system in Kosovo, is the cheaper cost, almost 35% cheaper than other massive systems. The reduction of vertical elements makes the system much more flexible in behavior and allows better organization in architecture for each object. This paper also deals with the basic literature and a general description and history of Cobiax tile, the types of Cobiax tiles and how Cobiax is made in the country, a brief explanation with the design method which is quite similar to flat tiles and a simple design procedure using tables, types of structures that can use this system effectively as well as system advantages and disadvantages. Availability of components and suitability with local construction equipment and workforce, finally a comparison between this system and traditional tile systems currently in use. Also some case analyzes calculated and used and applied in various facilities in Kosovo, at the end are given the basic results and conclusions which are taken from the paper. The results focus on the advantages of Cobiax and some of the limitations and disadvantages which were noticed through this study.

Keywords: Cobiax , System, slab, Kosovo , calculation

Analysis Urban transport line N-4 [Matiqan - Gërmi], in Prishtina

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Abstract. The urban transport system in Prishtina faces many shortcomings; hence it is very urgent for this service to receive proper attention especially in road infrastructure. Therefore, this paper analyzes potential improvement sections of the infrastructure elements of line number 4 which connects two suburban parts of Prishtina [Matiqan and Gërmi]. A number of issues have been identified including the crossroad between the Isa Kastrati Street and Xheladin Hana, a crossroads which, from the field analysis, is out of engineering standards [turning radius, width ...], and does not meet the conditions for the development of urban transport. For traffic safety and proper functioning of bus traffic various propositions have been presented which include; redesigning the crossing platforms with the cabin which differs from the pedestrian movement path, adjusting the seats for passengers to increase the capacity of the seats, increasing the maintenance capacities of stops and more.

Keywords: Road Infrastructure, Signaling, Commodity, Road-stops, Road safety

Irrigation rates and hydromodule in the new conditions in Albania

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Abstract: In order to make the best possible planning and to get the highest possible production, plants should be provided with the optimal amount of water. This amount depends mainly on the type of plant, pedological characteristics of the soil, hydrological conditions of the area and geographical position.

Before the '90s in Albania, calculations for irrigation rates for different cultures were made by determining the Evapotranspiration with the methods Blaney - Criddle, Thornthwaite and Quijano, with Blaney – Criddle being the most used method.

After '90s, the structure and types of plants that were planted before were changed, but also we have a change in the amount of rainfall during the vegetation period.

This paper consists of the definition of Evapotranspiration using the FAO Penman-Monteith method for Albania for different cultures and soils.

The results of this work serve for a better planning of water resources, given that the trend of atmospheric precipitation is declining.

Keywords: Hydromodule, Evapotranspiration, Rainfall, Irrigation

The Architecture and Engineering Behind Seismic Characteristics of Buildings

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Abstract. Earthquakes are a category of natural phenomena, which occur in certain seismic areas with varying frequency and strength and depending on the force of action cause material and human's damages. Damage reduction depends on the applicable parameters in relation to constructions / buildings:

- Quality of constructions / buildings

In relation to this parameter, there are some geographical conditions / location and its position, geological / pedology and foundation, architectural / building model and flooring as well as design and engineering standards / building materials and technology.

The correlation of various factors with the stability of buildings under seismic action, is still a process that preoccupies not only experts in the field but also beyond, taking into account the fact that seismic effects are both in the natural environment and in the environment built inseparably.

Therefore, the topics of this paper are the analysis and findings in the relationship between the architectural and engineering parameters of the building related to the design phase:

- Structural simplicity, uniformity and symmetry
- Resistance and stiffness in two directions, in torsion and diaphragm
- Location conditions and suitable foundations
- As well as the parameters of the building related to the quality phase of works and maintenance:
 - Construction quality
 - Quality of materials
 - Quality of applied technology

In order to through the good correlation of these parameters within the whole building, to contribute in terms of sustainability of constructions / buildings and reducing the rate of damage and other associated costs.

Keywords: seismic, buildings, architecture, engineering, resistance, damage, parameters, quality.

Calculation of measurement uncertainty

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Abstract. Calculation of measurement uncertainty is the basis of measurements, tests in calibration laboratories, tests and their calibration, tests reports. Calculation of measurement uncertainty is one of the basic requirements of the international standard ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, on the metrological traceability of measurements. Calculation of measurement uncertainty has a direct impact on the development of trade and technology, the production and marketing of certain products in the measurement chain with a high degree of accuracy. The measurement uncertainty is calculated and defined as a value, accompanied by the result of a measurement, a test that is characterized by the distribution of values that can reasonably describe a measurement.

Keywords: Standard, Uncertainty, Error, Deviation, Traceability

Comparison of methods in calculating the bearing capacity of the foundation

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Abstract. When we build buildings we often encounter shallow foundations because it is more economical and easier to build than on deep foundations, this will be a mistake that will create high risk for the building itself and the community in general.

The main purpose of this paper is to compare the bearing capacity calculation methods proposed by different authors and design geotechnical Eurocodes. To achieve the purpose of the study, Terzaghi (1943), Meyerhof (1963), Eurocode EC-7 (1996/2004) taking into account the analysis of physical-mechanical parameters for calculating the bearing capacity of the foundation where the placement of loads is foreseen where defined depth of finite D_f .

The bearing capacity factor of the foundation, geomechanical analysis and equations are presented in this paper. The most important conclusion in this paper is that the bearing capacity of the soil depends very much on the method used and the parameters of soil hardness such as the internal friction angle ϕ cohesion C and the modulus of soil compaction E_s .

Keywords: Comparative methods, bearing capacity, mechanical parameters.

Cost Management of Business-Residential Complex

Mentor: Prof.Ass.Dr. Izet IBRAHIMI ,

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Abstract. Cost management is the most complex part of project management and construction management in general. In fact, construction cost management is a management strategy of the company, which aims at effectiveness, efficiency and generally optimization of the construction process, through an innovation and continuous improvement of quality and services. Cost management of a construction project is the most complex part of project management and construction management in general. It is a complete management of the whole process, which includes; cost estimation (process, which approximates the requirements of monetary resources to complete the project activity), budgeting (which summarizes the cost estimates for individual activities or work package, in order to design basic reference costs) and cost control (as a project status monitoring process to mature project budgets and manage changes from base reference cost). The model applied so far for cost management in Kosovo has been at a modest level, therefore we insist that this model cost management model and other management practices brought by this master thesis to be taken as basic data for integration of data from cost management, holistic quality management and project management in general.

In this master thesis, the evaluation of the costs of the project "business-residential Muratori" was detailed, including data on: evaluation and analysis of activities and timelines, justification and distribution of resources, technologies and money, the quality of work, products and services, selection of contractors, purchase of materials, execution of additional works, improvement of defects, etc. Such an evaluation method is based on three evaluation models, as; (i) that of a rough estimate based on capacity (eg, number of premises, number of apartments, etc.) and size of facility (area m^2 , volume m^3); (ii) evaluation according to the elements or functional matrix of the working groups (eg construction site, preparatory works, earthworks, masonry works, installations, etc.), and (iii) the parametric model (using formulas that link the costs of one or more independent variables and parameters that significantly affect the total construction cost, the values of which constitute the total cost structure and overall quality management.

Based on research in the literature and those in the workshop where the project "business-residential Muratori" was being developed in Pristina, after compiling a diagram of activities, evaluation and classification of costs, through discretionary, quantitative and qualitative methods with combinations of statistical analysis and the graphic data processing was done on the basis of which we classified and estimated the costs for all time points, as well as we identified the key performance indicators of the project. Cost management according to this research approach in addition to guaranteeing a successful quality management system, it provides practical tools for setting goals and measuring their flow, and above all guarantees top leadership, market and customer focus, focus on human resources and workforce empowerment, as well as organizational performance results. Also using as key indicator; cost change (NK), change from plan (PO), cost performance indicator (PIK) and plan performance indicator (PIP), which are in fact determinants not only of project value but also of balancing and distribution of human resources, technical as well as materials, for each part of the working package and parts of the project, as well as finally the tools for total quality control as one of the guarantors of being competitive in the market.

By integrating and combining mathematical, economic and engineering concepts, also referring to indicators; cost, time, quality, safety, scope and functionality, as the six determinants of the value of this construction project this management model will serve as a basis for the development of similar construction projects. The study data would be useful to management science and construction professionals for accurate cost design, progress of physical projects, design of activity time diagrams, cash flow movement, allocation of required resources and calculation of deadlines, and for this reason we insist that this thesis be a useful guide for the scientific community and especially for professionals who would be committed to putting the quality of products in direct proportion to the values spent.

Keywords: project, cost management, evaluation, quality, control.

Environmental impact of precast and cast-in-situ concrete structures: a case-study comparison based on similar supermarket facilities

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Abstract. Environmental sustainability is assuming a growing role in the strategic plans of several countries worldwide. In order to switch to more sustainable solutions in the construction field, many researchers and efforts are focusing on the material level, mainly concerning solutions aimed at partially or fully replacing the most impacting components with alternative or recycled solutions characterised by a lower carbon footprint or a higher durability, in view of a life-cycle assessment. Alongside these positive efforts, another instrument to reduce the environmental impact of construction materials, often less tackled by researchers, is reduction of material consumption by structural optimisation, often ensured by innovative technologies possibly employing high-performance materials that might even have, assuming same volume, higher impact than traditional ones. This concept is analysed in the present paper by comparing the computed environmental equivalent carbon footprint of two similar single-storey supermarket facilities, designed and built in the Po valley, Northern Italy, with different technologies: precast and cast-in-situ concrete. Having at disposal the final consumptive volume of materials employed for both buildings concerning the superstructure frame without cladding, the comparison based on Global Warming Potential (GWP) certified by material producers, computed per square metre covered, allowed to evaluate the actual impact of the structure of the two solutions. Moreover, the environmental-related benefits provided by the replacement of the most impacting components (steel and cement) with alternative environmentally friendly solutions further allows to quantify and target the most effective strategies to enhance the sustainability of structural bodies.

Mitigation of wind-induced vibrations in high-rise dryassembled precast concrete residential tower buildings

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Abstract. Dry assembled precast concrete is currently trending for the construction of low- and medium-rise residential buildings, especially in countries requesting high construction volumes in limited time. Recently, dry-assembled precast technology was investigated to be applied for the construction of high-rise buildings, too. The structures of two 100m tall residential towers were recently designed on the basis of either wall or frame precast construction systems, both resulting subject to high wind-induced accelerations. The paper numerically investigates the efficiency of the installation of Tuned Mass Dampers (TMDs) in mitigating the wind-induced vibrational response and the associated accelerations of the benchmark buildings through a parametric analysis. The analysis encompasses different values of wind velocity, slab mass and building size. Moreover, different distribution of TMDs are considered, from one bulk device positioned at the top to smaller devices distributed along the height of the buildings.

Keywords: Tuned Mass Dampers, Dampers, precast concrete, vibrations, high-rise, concrete

Geovisualization of water quality in the artificial lake in Mitrovica, Kosova

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Abstract. Continuous monitoring of surface water is very important. An environmental aspect are surface waters whose quality should be monitored. Thus, policymakers are often faced with a basic question: "Are the surface waters suitable for human and animal life, or are there issues that need to be addressed?" In order to answer in this question, a methodology has been adapted for the purpose of monitoring the Artificial Lake in Mitrovica, Kosova. Therefore, this study provides an overview of water assessment in this lake, applying monitoring indices such as "Heavy Metal Pollution Index (HPI)", "Metal Index (MI)" and Geographic Information System (GIS). Primary data were collected in three time series continuously in monitoring stations. For this purpose, six samples were collected at monitoring stations in order to analyze the water quality in the Artificial Lake due to the presence of heavy metals (As, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, Zn and Cd). A number of thematic serial maps have been generated in order to assess the spatial and temporal extent of water quality.

The results of the study show that in general the water quality in the Artificial Lake in Mitrovica is critical, or the pollution is higher than allowed.

Keywords: Geovisualization, Monitoring, Artificial Lake, Spatial resolution, GIS.

Solution of foundation for bridge over Istog river according to existing site soil conditions: Case studies from the site during execution of works

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Abstract. The purpose of this paper is to show experience and efforts to solve real site problem for proper foundation of bridge structure over Istog River in Zallq village, Burim municipality. Authors of this paper was involved in execution of works for construction of bridge and while facing with real site conditions of soil had to find proper solution for foundation. For this purpose, additional geotechnical investigations have been carried out which have shown that the foundation should be made on piles, the top of which is supported on the coal layer which is encountered at a depth of about 14.00 [m] from the current terrain. The paper describes the activities done for the re-design and execution of works that have presented a special challenge and one of the aims of the paper is to show the importance of professional approach and engineering judgment in achieving appropriate technical solutions to projects.

Keywords: Foundation over piles, large soil deformations, bearing capacity of the soil, very plastic clay, coal.

The impact of the subgrade (soil) consolidation process in values of internal forces during the analysis of the beam on elastic foundation

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Abstract. Calculation of beams on elastic foundation is a part of the static of the structures in which the existing methods are still far from being answered in many problems that arise in the engineering practice. The size and distribution of the reactive pressures from the subgrade depend on the properties of the soil, the stiffness of the foundation, the stiffness of structure upon the foundation, the size and the position of the load which is transferred from the foundation to the subgrade, the depth of the foundation, etc. The problem of distributing reactive pressures of the subgrade in the continuum mechanics is known as the “beam on elastic foundation” or “the contact problem with the elasticity theory”. This problem is still part of the research of many scientists. On this paper is presented the impact of the subgrade consolidation process on the subgrade reaction coefficient values, the distribution of reactive pressures, and the increase of internal forces during the analysis of the beam on elastic foundation, using Winkler’s model as one of the most suitable models for dealing with this problem.

Keywords: Subgrade, beam, foundation, elastic foundation, reactive pressures, Winkler model.

Challenges in Civil engineering education

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Sustainable bio-based composites

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Determination of the Drinking Water Quality Based on Diatoms

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Abstract - Diatoms are a major group of algae, specifically microalgae, found in the oceans, waterways and soils of the world. The purpose of this research has been the analysis of the composition of diatomaceous algae, and based on this the biological quality of water in eight periphyton samples, collected at different sampling points, starting from the open channel coming from the river Ibri to the interior of the biggest drinking water treatment plant in Shkabaj (Northern Kosovo). Based on the constituent structure of the periphyton, the nutrient diatom index (TDI) was calculated and the biological quality of the water was classified according to Rott et al. (1999). The number of species is seen to be variable in relation to the sampling points. TDI fluctuates from to 3.3, relatively high for the nutritional status of the waters. As a result, the quality of the eight sampling points varied from the eutrophic level (before entering the water channel, in the middle of the water channel, at the exit of the water channel, and inside the factory at the pre-treatment location) to oligotrophic level at the end of the treatment stage. This quality generally belongs to the waters that are polluted with many nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), it is thought that in such waters the values of total phosphorus range from 30-100 µg / l to over 650 µg / l. The obtained results indicate an adequate water treatment, and in terms of biological monitoring, the water we have analyzed does not pose a potential risk to human health.

Keywords: Diatoms, Water, Trophic Diatom Index (TDI), Periphyton, Eutrophication, Oligotrophication

OPTIMIZING FARM MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF SMART AGRICULTURE AND THE IMPACT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract. Population growth, shrinking agricultural land areas, changing land use of agricultural lands, global warming, food shortages are the biggest challenges facing sustainable development worldwide. According to the growth trend, FAO reported that the world population would be reached 9.73 billion by 2050, and the increase will continue to reach 11.2 billion by 2100 Based on this challenge, the purpose of the study is to analyze the application and results of smart agriculture in addition to traditional production in different countries to recommend good practices. Analytical and comparative methods have been used, through research of the latest research activities, both in the form of research projects and scientific literature, whenever the results achieved so far, and the challenges still open, as technical as well as non-technical, and then look at existing and future solutions to overcome those barriers. Based on the findings Smart agriculture is based primarily on three platforms, namely science, innovation, and space technologies. Applied science on yield projections and probability maps for diseases and disasters based on a dense network of weather and climate data will optimally allow the cultivation of crops. Space technology can make agriculture more profitable for the farmer even in small parcels through improving soil quality, reducing the waste of water during irrigation, and sharing agricultural information with farmers. The technology will introduce innovations such as the use of drones in agriculture, precision processing in plants, utilizing efficiently all types of energy like smart wind and solar energy, artificial intelligence-based application of robotics. Smart agriculture is the future of the food production sector as well as novel processes to confirm the food safety of the world.

Keywords: smart agriculture, innovation, sustainable development, food safety, food product

Quality assessment and testing for antibiotic residues in milk in Sharr municipality

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Abstract. Sharr region is known for the development of the livestock sector, especially in the production of milk from sheep and cows. The aim of the study was to evaluate the main parameters of cow's milk at the 4 collection points (CP) of this region. The estimated parameters were: pH, dry matter, proteins, lactose, fat, density and residue of antibiotics. The highest pH content of 6.81 was found at CP3, the lowest 6.65 at CP2. The highest dry matter value of 9.31% was at CP4, the lowest at 8.87% at CP2 and 3. The lowest protein, lactose and fat content for all samples varied from 3.19%, 4.82% and 3.45% at CP2, the highest content by 3.43%, 5.31% and 3.87% at the CP1. Density values ranged from the lowest 1.029 g / cm³, the highest 1.031 g/cm³. In all samples analyzed no residue of antibiotics in fresh milk was found

Keywords: milk quality, physico-chemical parameters, residue of antibiotics in milk

Antioxidants and antimicrobial capacity of Albanian natural plum and cherry juice

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Abstract. Fruit juices contain a significant number of biologically active compounds with a beneficial effect on human health. The aim of this study was the description of some quality characteristics of plum and cherry based juice. The total phenolic content was determined by means of UV-VIS spectrophotometry using the Folin Ciocalteu method and the antioxidant activity was estimated through their ability to scavenge 2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl free radical (DPPH). Furthermore, fruit juices were screened for antimicrobial activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative strains represented by *Bacillus pumilus* and *Serratia plymuthica*. The tested bacteria were inoculated on LB medium, containing different amounts (V/V) of the two juices (sterilized by filtration) to obtain a final concentration of ca. 5×10^5 cell/ml. The results implied that both fruit juices were important natural sources of bioactive components with high antioxidant capacity. The antibacterial action results showed similar effects against *Bacillus pumilus* from both fruit juices. On the contrary, no negative effects were recorded for *Serratia plymuthica*. However, the medium pH diminution caused by the cherry juice was more evident than that of plum juice. This would confirm that the inhibition of *Bacillus* growth was caused by pH rather than by an antimicrobial compound.

Keywords: Antioxidants, plum and cherry juice, UV-VIS spectrophotometry

DETERMINATION OF PHYSICAL-CHEMICAL PARAMETERS AND CONTROL POLLUTION IN THE WATER OF KAMENICA

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Abstract. The individual and economical need for the water is increased together with the social development, improvement of living conditions, and increasing of the number of residents on our planet. The human being is used only to taking things from nature not to contribute to "nature". However human egoism in report with nature and the vital environment, which is exploited without control and without any care, can destroy the entire ecosystems. All of this is returned to humans and seen in their life and health. This paper aims are to analyze and determine physical-chemical and pollution control parameters, like pH, conductivity, chlorides, nitrites, ammonia, and Mn. Water samples were taken in the water sources in the waters of Kamenica. Determination of analyzed parameters was done using pH-meter. The conductivity of water was done using a conduct meter (Mettler Toledo Seven Compact ph./conductivity), chlorides with titrimetric standard methods (Mohr's method, Wetzel 1972 40). Determination of control pollution parameters: NO₂, and Mn was done using UV-VIS spectroscopy using Agilent-8453, NH₃ was done using WTW photoLab S12.

Key Words: Water, Region of Kamenica, Pollution, Chemical Parameters. `

Evaluation of some chemical, physical, microbiological and antibiotic residues parameters of goat milk as a raw material for the production of goat cheese

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Abstract. Goat's milk as a raw material for industrial cheese production must meet the criteria for chemical, physical, biological and antibiotic residues parameters. The study included 22 samples of fresh goat milk during the 22 days of June where one sample was representative of the amount of 1000 liters of milk produced by 900 goats on 7 commercial farms. The average results for all 22 samples for chemical parameters were: fat 3.09%, protein 3.10%, lactose 3.43%, dry residue 13.12%; for physical parameters: total acidity 19.81 °T, PH 6.51, density 1.028g/cm³; for biological parameters: Tot. aerobic microorg. - 2.04×10^4 cfu / gr, E. Coli – lack, Enterobacteria $> 300 \times 10^2$ cfu / gr, Staph. Coag. + lack, for antibiotic residues lack. The results for chemical, physical, microbiological and antibiotic parameters of fresh goat milk from 7 commercial farms are within the legal norms as it is also conditioned by cheese processing factories.

Keywords: goats, milk, samples, parameters.

Consumer awareness about food packaging elements, with focus on labeling

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Abstract. Food packaging has a great importance for the quality and safety of food products. Through its elements, packaging gives consumers access to have an overview about that product, one of them is the labeling of products which is an element where it offers a lot of information starting from the content of the products to its expiration date. The purpose of this paper is to show how much consumers read food labels, how much age, gender and education influence this perception. Data were obtained from the responses of 230 respondents from a closed questionnaire. For data analysis, will be used the SPSS program, where the dependent variable will be the product label, while the independent variables will be age, gender and education.

Keywords: Food package, labeling, consumer knowledge

Brewing with Unmalted Cereals: impact on the physical and chemical properties of Wort and Beer

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Abstract. The malt in Brewery is mainly used as a source of fermentable carbohydrates, however recently it is increasingly being replaced with raw or unmalted cereals in order to reduce costs. This study aims to analyze the impact of using corn grist as a surrogate on the physical chemical properties of wort and beer. The study was conducted in real production conditions in the "Birra Peja" company using 30% corn grist as raw material for production. During this study it was found that corn resulted in a better utilization of the raw material and lower utilization of Hops. No significant differences were observed in the apparent extract, the apparent degree of fermentation and in the beer bitterness, while there was a significant influence on the pH values and the total polyphenols in the beer.

Keywords: beer, malt, corn grist, fermentation

The impact of industries and gastronomy on quality parameters of river Lumbardhi i Pejës

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Abstract. The research work for a period of one month was the aim of presenting the current conditions of the river water in terms of quality analyses specifically in Lumëbardhi of Peja. In Peja, is evident the lack of strict and professional water protection. The aim of this research work was to divide the region in four different areas and to take samples from them and to do comparisons between them. The first sample as a reference point was taken near the place where water was not in interactions with human activities (M1). The second sample was taken along the flow in parts after discharging the treatment waters of activities of hotel and production industries (M2). Then the third sample was taken near areas where there are some tourism activities(M3), and the fourth sample (M4) was also taken at the exit of the city after discharging all atmospheric and urban treatment waters. The results of the analysis of the samples taken will present the current state of the river in terms of quality and the possibility of use for irrigation. From the samples taken at certain places along the course of the River, have been analyzed several physico-chemical parameters and macro-pollutants microbiology parameters.

Keywords: Water quality, Lumëbardhi river, public health

Consumer awareness about food packaging elements, with focus on labeling

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Abstract. Food packaging has a great importance for the quality and safety of food products. Through its elements, packaging gives consumers access to have an overview about that product, one of them is the labeling of products which is an element where it offers a lot of information starting from the content of the products to its expiration date. The purpose of this paper is to show how much consumers read food labels, how much age, gender and education influence this perception. Data were obtained from the responses of 230 respondents from a closed questionnaire. For data analysis, will be used the SPSS program, where the dependent variable will be the product label, while the independent variables will be age, gender and education.

Keywords: Food package, labeling, consumer knowledge

The impact of GLOBAL GAP implementation and relation to Kosovo farms

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Abstract. Global GAP, it's a standard that is related directly with food quality. It has very important linkage with environment protection, consumer protection and labour protection. Certified products with Global GAP, passes through different control and specially those related to pesticide use. The aim of this research study was to assess the extent of changes in management system, workers welfare, production technologies and the potential of selling the products through commercial networks and to foreign markets. Global GAP implementation in Kosovo has started 7 years ago, with very few numbers of certified farms. Today number of farmers/processors certifying with GAP is increasing with high rate, due to the huge potential market for export. Currently there are between 30 individual farmers and processors with (group certification) involved in the certification scheme. This research was conducted in 2021 in territory of Kosova, where farmers are located in different municipalities/villages where 100 farms were studied.

The research results show that for the implementation of the GLOBAL standard G.A.P. in most farms the managerial change of quality has been made. Also to implement the standards it was necessary to change the infrastructure to improve the conditions of workers, the way of storing pesticides and fertilizers. Implementation of GLOBAL G.A.P. has increased the chances for all producers to trade products in foreign markets, especially those of the EU.

Key words: standard, GLOBAL GAP

A STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO FROM PAST TO PRESENT

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Abstract. The Republic of Kosovo has declared its independence on February 17, 2008, with a total area of 10,877 km² and a population of nearly 2 million. Approximately 68.3% of the economy of the Republic of Kosovo consists of services, 14.1% of agriculture, 9.6% of industry and 8% of construction sectors. Although the land is fertile, most farms are small and inactive. Agricultural production pattern and irrigation techniques are not suitable for technology. Most of the agricultural land is privately operated, with wheat, maize and grapes being important agricultural products. Management plans for many of the country's natural resources are still under preparation. This also applies to environmental issues such as air quality, agricultural production, and freshwater resources, which have a direct impact on the solution of political, social and economic problems in Kosovo and the pace of development. Therefore, it is important to create a data bank by revealing the environmental problems in the country from the past to the present by the relevant official institutions and universities. At the same time, taking into account the factors of global warming and drought, which are one of the biggest problems of the century we live in, a good planning for the future, increasing scientific knowledge will ensure that the plans to be made will be more accurate and efficient, and will accelerate the development in the Republic of Kosovo with future-oriented economic and environmentally friendly practices.

Keywords, environment, land, freshwater, agriculture.

Analysis of Anthocyanins in cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas* L.)

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Abstract. This study aimed to determine and analyze the total anthocyanin content in extracts from cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas* L.). The fresh fruits of cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas* L.) were extracted with the solvent of EtOH 96% /0.1% HCl (1:1, ratio) at room temperature for 4 h in the dark. The extraction process was an important step in the isolation and identification of anthocyanins. For this purpose, the total anthocyanin contents in cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas* L.) fruits was performed with a variety of pH and analyzed by UV-Vis Spectroscopy. The results showed that the total anthocyanin content (expressed as cyanidin-3-glucoside) in the extract was 146.12 to 328.2 mg/100g total anthocyanin of dry material. All statistical analysis was performed using the MS Excel program and SPSS 22.0 statistics software.

Keywords: Anthocyanins, Extract, cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas* L.), UV-Vis Spectroscopy

FATTENING OF SHARR X WYRTEMBERG LAMBS F-2 GENERATE AFTER SUCKLING PERIOD (3-6 MONTHS)

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Abstract: The study aims to provide information on how the crossbreeding of Sharr x Wirtemberg (F-1) breed sheep with the German merit of the Wirtemberg breed of meat production direction increases the body weight of Sharr X Virtembeg breed lambs (F-2) in extensive breeding (pasture) after the suckling phase (3-6 months). The procedure for increasing the body weight of Sharr x Virtemberg lambs was preceded by the crossing of the Sharr x Virtemberg (F-1) metis sheep with Merinos Wirtemberg giving the F-2 generation. Based on experimental data the male lambs have higher body weight compare with female lambs while the twins have even lower growth. The male lambs Sharr x Wyrtemberg (F-2) in conditions where breeding was done in pasture conditions have shown greater body growth compared to female lambs and twins (male or female).

Keywords: Lambs, crossbreeding, sharr, wirtemberg, twins

Qualitative and microbiological analysis of water in the river "Lumbardhi" of Peja and its impact on the health of residents

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Abstract. The research work for a period of one month was the aim of presenting the current conditions of the river water in terms of quality and microbiology, specifically in Lumëbardhi of Peja. In Peja, is evident the lack of strict and professional water protection, and Lumëbardhi is each one of the main suppliers of drinking water to the city of Peja. The strategy was to divide the region in four different areas and to take samples from them and to do comparisons between them. The first sample as a reference point was taken near the place where water is supplied for the use of population (M1). The second sample was taken near areas where there are activities of hotel and tourism businesses (M2). Then the third sample was taken along the flow in the body passes through the city after discharging the treatment waters of some neighborhoods (M3), and the fourth sample (M4) was also taken at the exit of the city after discharging all atmospheric and urban treatment waters. The results of the analysis of the samples taken will present the current state of the river in terms of quality and the possibility of use. From the samples taken at certain places along the course of the River, have been analyzed several physico-chemical parameters, macro-pollutants and microbiological analyses.

Keywords: Water quality, Parameters, Sample analysis

The extractives content soluble in ethanol-benzene of turkey oak (*Quercus cerris* L.) and Hungarian Oak (*Quercus Frainetto* Ten)

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Abstract: There are many types of oak in Albania, but the species that have the greater spread and the largest area are: oak (*Quercus cerris* L.) and Hungarian oak (*Quercus frainetto* Ten.). The oak wood can be used in some fields and this because of its chemical and physical nature. The study was carried out in six sites along longitudinal gradient. Three stem discs from the bole R1, middle R2 and top R3 of the stem were taken from each tree. The extraction apparatus consisted of a soxhlet extractor and the extraction was conducted for five hours at the rate of approximately six siphonings per hour (25 siphonings in total). About Oak trees (*Q. cerris* L.), from all studied stations, the average values for the content of soluble extraction in alcohol / benzene (in base washers R1), Middle Ea / b (%) = $5.22 \pm 1.41\%$. The Hungarian oak trees (*Q. frainetto* Ten.), from all studied stations, the average values for the content of soluble extraction in alcohol / benzene (in base washers R1), Middle Ea/ b (%) = $6.26 \pm 1.7\%$.

Keywords: Wood extractives, Soxhlet extractor, *Quercus cerris*, Oak tree.

Antioxidants and antimicrobial capacity of Albanian natural plum and cherry juice

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Abstract. Fruit juices contain a significant number of biologically active compounds with a beneficial effect on human health. The aim of this study was the description of some quality characteristics of plum and cherry based juice. The Total phenolic content was determined by means of UV-VIS spectrophotometry using the Folin Ciocalteou method and the antioxidant activity was estimated through their ability to scavenge 2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl free radical (DPPH). Furthermore, fruit juices were screened for antimicrobial activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative strains represented by *Bacillus pumilus* and *Serratia plymuthica*. The tested bacteria were inoculated on LB medium, containing different amounts (V/V) of the two juices (sterilized by filtration) to obtain a final concentration of ca. 5×10^5 cell/ml. The results implied that both fruit juices were important natural sources of bioactive components with high antioxidant capacity. The antibacterial action results showed similar effects against *Bacillus pumilus* from both fruit juices. On the contrary, no negative effects were recorded for *Serratia plymuthica*. However, the medium pH diminution caused by the cherry juice was more evident than that of plum juice. This would confirm that the inhibition of *Bacillus* growth was caused by pH rather than by an antimicrobial compound.

Keywords: Antioxidants, plum and cherry juice, UV-VIS spectrophotometry

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROFIT FROM SOME BIO-SOURCES DERIVING FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SYSTEM

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Abstract. Finding new sources potentially used for the renewable and alternative energy production, it is nowadays a normal trend for meeting ends of the increasing necessity of the society for the energy consumption.

In this context, our group of chemical engineering has been focused in the last decade for performing a queue of studies employing experimental tests and computer simulations, as well.

Firstly, we have studied the possibility of using the wastes from the agro-food activity, aiming to profit biogas employing the mesophilic and thermophilic procedures of the anaerobic digestion technique. We have got very optimistic results, showing a good perspective of balancing the energy demand in the rural areas, with the heat energy produced from these wastes. On the other hand, it has been tested the possibility of using the other sources of waste organic discharges from different industrial activities, starting with waste food, waste paper, waste plastic, waste rubber (tire), waste cooking oils, etc.

This study examines residue materials utilization for the energy production and heat, as well. The local potential of each option to reduce carbon emission depends on a number of factors such as the quality of waste chosen as a feedstock, pretreatment method to be used, conversion route, processing technology, its maturity and possibility to improve, in total efficiency.

The main subject of this work has also been the liquid discharges as wastewater especially from the dairy and meat processing industry (slaughter houses) around the country. Very promising results we have got also through testing in the laboratory set-up, but we have also found a reasonable compliance through computer modeling and simulation employing sophisticated commercial software, such as ASPEN PLUS, HYSYS, PRO II, SuperPro Designer, CHEMCAD, PROSIM etc.

At the end of each package of waste materials and their treatment methodology used, we have carried out a full procedure for the plant design and economic analysis for the feasibility study and sensitivity analysis.

Keywords: Bio-resources, food residues, industrial and public wastewater, renewable energy

Microbiological analysis in waters of river Mirusha (Kosovo) during spring season of 2015 year

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Abstract: Industrialization and urbanization have degraded natural resources globally. Main objective of this study is to estimate the quality of water, of the river Mirusha (Gjilan, Kosovo during spring season 2015 year, through the microbiological analysis. River Mirusha located in south-east part of Kosovo, who pass through the city Gjilan. Samples for microbiological analyses are collected in three localities along the river. Microbiological analyzed parameters are: Heterotrophic bacteria, Total coliform bacteria, SS (Salmonella and Shigella), Streptococcus faecalis and Fungi. According to the bacteriological analysis show that waters of river are polluted microbiologically. The river section examined during this investigation, demonstrate the river water belongs to the second class of quality.

Keywords: Microbiological, river1, Mirusha 2, analysis, water Gjilan3., Kosovo4.

Nutrient Management and Rate of Biostimulant on Hybrid Glutinous Corn

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Abstract: This study aimed to determine the yield performance of Hybrid glutinous corn in response to nutrient management and rate of bio stimulant. It was conducted at Canalum, Nangka, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental from January 2019 to July 2019. The study was laid out using split plot design with three (3) replications. Treatments differences were determined using the Least Significant Different (LSD) test. Results showed that growth and yield parameters differed significantly with independent effects between factors employed. Hybrid glutinous corn applied with different nutrient management differs significantly on parameters used. Treatments applied with 50% organic + 50% in-organic fertilizers got a significant effect on ear height. Meanwhile, treatment with 100% in-organic fertilizer came in next and obtained almost the same or uniformed results with the aforementioned treatment. Finally, treatment applied with 100% organic fertilizer acquired the lowest mean average and always acquired a non-significantly lesser compared from the above-mentioned treatments. Hybrid glutinous corn applied with three (3) different levels of megafol differed significantly. At 120ml/16 liters of water of megafol 80ml/16 liters of water of megafol sprayed per hectare there were significant effect on the weight per ear compared to 40ml/16 liters of water of megafol per hectare. All parameters showed that no interaction effect was observed between nutrient management and levels of megafol to the yield performance of hybrid glutinous corn.

Keywords: nutrient management, bio stimulant, hybrid glutinous corn, Philippines

Determination the Dynamics of Occurrence of *Scolytus Rugulosus* on Fruit Orchards in Junik Region _ Kosovo

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Abstract. Top Fruit crops represent important economic activity in the Junik area, in Western Kosovo. An ever-expanding young industry faces with stresses caused by *Scolytus Rugulosus* (Shothole borer), an insect-pest which damages various parts of the fruit trees. This study was carried out to determine the dynamics of the pest fly in Top Fruit plantations with Apple, Sweet Cherry, and Sour Cherry crops. A passive sampling method was implemented with the use of Ethanol traps for trapping insects. The counting of trapped insects was done on daily basis. Temperature and air humidity in the study area were measured too. First adults were detected in the second week of March while the maximum emerge was in April month. At temperatures of 18-20°C the presence of adult insect increases, however, in late March and early April when temperatures have dropped below zero during the night and went up to + 7°C during the day, a significant number of adult insects were trapped too.

Keywords: *Scolytus Rugulosus*, Apple, Sweet Cherry, Sour Cherry, Junik.

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Distribution and bio-morphological diversity of oregano plant in some ecological zones in Kosovo

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Abstract: This study is focused in three zones (Kacanik, Hani Elezit and Istok) spreader at altitudes from 375 to 1001 m over the sea level. Referring to the surveys it is observed that distribution of the plant varies from one area to another. The largest plant coverage is observed in the area of Kacanik with 50-60 %.. Initially, three points in each zone were determined to take samples for measurements and assessment in order to cover the whole width of the possible morphological variation. In each site of the zone were taken three points by 10 plants. For the bio-morphological studied features were performed correlation analysis for 9 couple of traits. This study is very important, because it creates a good basis to start with cultivation of the best oregano plant populations, identified for their bio-morphological and chemical features.

Key words: distribution, diversity correlation, analysis, zone.

Decorative effects of annual plants (*Petunia hybrida* L. and *Begonia semperflorens* L.) in urban environments

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Abstract. The purpose of our work was the study of characteristics of flowering stage, decorative values and used annual plant (*Petunia hybrida* and *Begonia semperflorens* cultivars as integral components in landscape architecture and urban design in Kosovo. Bedding plants can be annuals, biennials or perennials. Annuals are plants which are grown from seed, produce flowers and seed and die in one growing season. Annual plants with their seemingly infinite variety of flower color and plant form fit into almost any landscape situation. During the 2018-2019 period, the subjects of the research in our experimental field two bedding plants with three cultivars have been studied. The experimental design was 'randomized block' with four replications and 300 plants for each variety. Distance of planting was 25 x 20 cm. The growth period of the plants in urban landscape design were studied from May to October. For all cultivars the blooming begins in May. There exist different number of flowers (2-3) per plant. The number of flowers per plant begins to increase in June and the highest is achieved at the cultivar *Begonia* 'Charm Red' and cultivar *Petunia* 'Million Bells'. The studied cultivars have an impact on urban landscape architecture, achieving the maximum aesthetic appearance, with beautiful colors (leaves, flowers) at homes or in urban environments. Bedding plants have manifested high decorative values in urban landscape under the Kosovo climate condition. For a good architecture of the urban landscape, the studied cultivars of *petunia* and *Begonia*, should be included in the hedge planting structure. In the Republic of Kosovo there is an increased the tendency for environmental regulation with different ornamental plants, in parallel with the expansion of urban centers, large cities, new houses, residential areas.

Keywords: Annual plants, urban environments, aesthetic, horticulture, *petunia*, *begonia*

Detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* Bacteria in Raw Milk Samples in the Prizren Region According to the "Hytech Slide" Method

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Abstract. *Listeria monocytogenes* and other *Listeria* species, which are very common in nature, are pathogenic microorganisms for humans and many animal species. This microorganism is highly resistant to external conditions such as heat, pH and salt and can survive for years under environmental conditions. In this study, the presence and prevalence of *Listeria monocytogenes* was investigated in 10 samples of raw cow milk purchased from street markets in central Prizren. The presence of *L. monocytogenes* was detected using the Hytech Slide method in *L. monocytogenes* was detected in 80% (8/10) of the 10 milk samples analyzed. The results of the research revealed that raw milk sold in the street markets in the center of Prizren can be a source of pollution with *L. monocytogenes* and pose a potential threat to public health.

Keywords: *Listeria monocytogenes*, raw milk, hytech slide.

Comparison of physic-chemical parameters of urban and industrial water discharges in the Lumbardh River

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Abstract. The purpose of this project is to assess the dynamics of pollution of the Lumbardh River from urban and industrial discharge water at intervals of April and September 2020. Urban discharge water and especially the food production industries are one of the main surface water pollutants. The growth of inhabited centers and their industrialization has been associated with increased pollution in aquatic environments, discharge of urban, agricultural and industrial liquid waste without any prior treatment are the main source of surface water pollution in our country. Rivers today have become collectors of all urban and industrial discharges. Controlling the degree of pollution and identifying the main pollutants that are caused is of particular importance for recognizing the situation and taking measures to protect or rehabilitate aquatic environments, and to protect public health. April and September 2020 were taken as points of assessment of the physico-chemical event in our work and the location of the source of Lumbardh L1 Prevall was analyzed, then we have the monitoring point L₂, Sredska and L₃, urban, food industrial area and point L₄ in Vlashnje. We have analyzed some physico-chemical parameters such as: Concentrations of total suspended materials, Chemical need for oxygen, Biochemical need for oxygen, and Total organic carbon. In this project the evaluation is made of the above mentioned parameters where it explains that from the results obtained from the analysis which were done at the Hydrometeorological Institute in Prishtina it presents that we have a significant pollution of the river Lumbardh in these intervals and especially in September from these pollutants and in our opinion this comes as a result of minimizing surface water inflows.

Keywords: SDM (Suspended Dissolved Materials), CNO (Chemical Need for Oxygen), NBO₅ (Biological Need for Oxygen), TOC (Total Organic Carbon)

Calculation of measurement uncertainty

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Abstract. Calculation of measurement uncertainty is the basis of measurements, tests in calibration laboratories, tests and their calibration, tests reports. Calculation of measurement uncertainty is one of the basic requirements of the international standard ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, on the metrological traceability of measurements. Calculation of measurement uncertainty has a direct impact on the development of trade and technology, the production and marketing of certain products in the measurement chain with a high degree of accuracy. The measurement uncertainty is calculated and defined as a value, accompanied by the result of a measurement, a test that is characterized by the distribution of values that can reasonably describe a measurement.

Keywords: Standard, Uncertainty, Error, Deviation, Traceability

The effects of growing technologies on plant growth and yield of cucumber (*Cucumis sativum* L.) under common open field conditions

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Abstract. The objective of the study was to evaluate the effects of growing technologies on plant growth and yield of gherkins (*Cucumis sativum* L) under common open field conditions. The experiment was carried out at farmer's field in Shipol, Mitrovica municipality of Kosovo. Two different growing technologies trellising (TS) and without trellising system (WTS) were applied for gherkin cultivar Dirigent F1. The effects of different growing technologies on growth parameters, yield, and chemical content of harvested fruits were estimated under common open field conditions. The results of the experimental data revealed that the application of the trellising system (TS) recorded significantly the highest vine length, more number of leaves per plant, number of fruits, and highest fruit yield. . No significant differences exist between the two applied growing technology on the chemical content of harvested fruits.

Keywords: *Gherkins*, Trellising system, yield, and growth parameters

Effect and of the Cera Carnaubae and Euphorbia Cerifera Cerawaxes in the Synthesization of Lipsticks Natural

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Abstract. The use of cosmetic products for various reasons dates back a long time ago. From the use of different oils to treat wounds, to the use of naturally pigmented stones to color the eyes and the lips, using cosmetics has been known to humanity for a very long time. Unfortunately, in the last few years with the increase in consumer demand, the number of ingredients in cosmetic products has also increased. From various preservatives to the use of substances containing heavy toxic metals, it is necessary to know what kind of products we expose our body to. This thesis will elaborate in more detail various formulations for Lipsticks based on the use of natural products only. Lipsticks based only on oils and waxes without the addition of various preservatives or harsh chemicals, to increase the shelf life or the properties of the product. Bearing in mind that Oils and Waxes in general have unique properties, and therefore the final products show a lot of similarities with their main ingredients, including the shelf life and the healing properties such as those of the oils that were used in the formulations. Furthermore, this thesis will bring to knowledge the effect of combining different plant and animal based waxes such as **Cera Flava** (BeesWax), **Cera Carnaubae** (Carnauba Wax) and **Euphorbia Cerifera Cera** (Candelilla Wax) in different amounts and formulations, which differ to a considerable degree in their physical and chemical properties. Through a detailed and thorough analysis of the physical and chemical properties of the synthesised Lipsticks such as: the melting point, hardness test, pH value, solubility, stability in different temperatures, shelf life, IR spectra interpretation and TLC (Thin Layer Chromatography), the effect of natural products in the synthesization of the lipsticks will be determined and discussed.

Keywords: natural lipsticks, waxes, lipids, cosmetics industry.

Assessment of Microbiological Quality of Minced Meat Product in Prizren Region

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Abstract. The Prizren region is the most touristic region in Kosovo. Based on the high consumption of minced meat and its product in these region we have realized this study. The aim of this study was determination of the microbiological quality of minced meat and its product in the Prizren region. During the sampling period 20 samples were taken at five sampling points over two days at intervals before 72h. Quality is monitored by determining microbiological and physico-chemical parameters such as: mesophilic aerobic bacteria, E. coli, pH and temperature. The parameter values were higher in point 5 of sampling, especially in the samples of the first day of sampling, as a result of hygienic conditions during processing, packaging, adding spices, but also from the contact with equipment surface.

Keywords: Prizren region, Mesophilic aerobic bacteria, E. coli, Minced meat product

Quality assessment and testing for antibiotic residues in milk in Sharr municipality

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Abstract. Sharr region is known for the development of the livestock sector, especially in the production of milk from sheep and cows. The aim of the study was to evaluate the main parameters of cow's milk at the 4 collection points (CP) of this region. The estimated parameters were: pH, dry matter, proteins, lactose, fat, density and residue of antibiotics. The highest pH content of 6.81 was found at CP3, the lowest 6.65 at CP2. The highest dry matter value of 9.31% was at CP4, the lowest at 8.87% at CP2 and 3. The lowest protein, lactose and fat content for all samples varied from 3.19%, 4.82% and 3.45% at CP2, the highest content by 3.43%, 5.31% and 3.87% at the CP1. Density values ranged from the lowest 1.029 g / cm³, the highest 1.031 g/cm³. In all samples analyzed no residue of antibiotics in fresh milk was found.

Keywords: milk quality, physico-chemical parameters, residue of antibiotics in milk.

The impact of GLOBAL GAP implementation and relation to Kosovo farms

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Abstract. Global GAP, it's a standard that is related directly with food quality. It has very important linkage with environment protection, consumer protection and labour protection. Certified products with Global GAP, passes through different control and specially those related to pesticide use. The aim of this research study was to assess the extent of changes in management system, workers welfare, production technologies and the potential of selling the products through commercial networks and to foreign markets. Global GAP implementation in Kosovo has started 7 years ago, with very few numbers of certified farms. Today number of farmers/processors certifying with GAP is increasing with high rate, due to the huge potential market for export. Currently there are between 30 individual farmers and processors with (group certification) involved in the certification scheme. This research was conducted in 2021 in territory of Kosova, where farmers are located in different municipalities/villages where 100 farms were studied.

The research results show that for the implementation of the GLOBAL standard G.A.P. in most farms the managerial change of quality has been made. Also to implement the standards it was necessary to change the infrastructure to improve the conditions of workers, the way of storing pesticides and fertilizers. Implementation of GLOBAL G.A.P. has increased the chances for all producers to trade products in foreign markets, especially those of the EU.

Key words: standard, GLOBAL GAP

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Impact of Covid-19 on Digitalization paces of Pharmaceutical Industry

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Abstract. Covid-19 has accelerated the need to shift more rapidly into the e-health era. But the digitalization has been a prompt thematic in the last decade if we talk about the pharmaceutical industry. Between the dematerialization of transactions that have taken place for more than 15 years and the "urbanization" which disrupts a whole range of service activities, there are digital opportunities for the industry that enable the most committed and relevant companies to achieve decisive competitive advantages. When it comes to the pharmaceutical industry, digitalization is not yet fully achieved. To face and overpass the several current issues aroused by the pandemic, the pharmaceutical industry must regain a new dynamic through the new opportunities offered by the digital channel. In this regard, this paper aims to analyze and set a picture of the digital transformation within the pharmaceutical industry in the new post-pandemic world, thus analyzing its opportunities and challenges. The paper implements a systematic literature review analysis, focusing on the last decade of research before and post-pandemic, objectively focusing primarily on the mainstream pharmaceutical industry only. The study found that the digital transformation of the pharmaceutical industry is lagging behind other industries because of a departure hampered by the traditional culture of this industry and by the regulatory context to the contrary. Nonetheless, COVID-19 opened new possibilities and made digitalization more than an option a necessity for the new pandemic world. The research recommendation highlight that each company will need to consider how its businesses are set to be affected by the digital changes underway and then chart its own course accordingly. A better understanding of what digital success looks like will help companies get to their destination: improved innovation and commercial models for pharma companies and better care for patients.

Keywords: Pharmaceutical industry, digital transformation, digital strategies, healthcare, patients.

Distribution of Trifolium genus (Fabaceae family) in Some Villages of Istogu Municipality

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Abstract. The object of the research was Trifolium genus. The aim was to establish the presence of species of this genus in some villages of Istogu Municipality (Trubuhoc, Prekallë and Saradran). The plant samples were collected and dried in newspapers for the purpose of further determination. In these three villages was established the presence of the following species: Trifolium pratense L., Trifolium repens L., Trifolium incarnatum L., Trifolium dubium Sibth. and Trifolium striatum L. It was concluded that Trifolium pratense L. and Trifolium repens L., were more cosmopolite species and their presence was established in all three villages.

Kew words: Distribution, Trifolium, Istog

Total content of phenolics and flavonoids in selected medicinal plants from Kosovo

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Abstract. The objective of this study was to determine the total content of phenolics and flavonoids in water and methanolic extracts in selected medicinal plants such as *Betula pendula*, *Betula pubescens*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Verbascum thapsus*, *Equisetum arvense* and *Sambucus nigra*, collected in different localities in Kosovo. The total phenolic content (TPC) was estimated spectrophotometrically using Folin Ciocalteu method and was expressed as mg of gallic acid equivalents/g dry weight of sample (mgGAE/gDW). Total flavonoid content (TFC) was measured by aluminium chloride colorimetric assay and was expressed as mg of catechin equivalents/g dry weight of sample (mgCE/gDW). The TPC ranged from 5.26±0.05 (*Equisetum arvense*) to 33.14±0.13 mgGAE/gDW (*Sambucus nigra*) in water extract and 16.85±0.27 (*Equisetum arvense*) to 38.95±0.15 mgGAE/gDW (*Betula pendula*) in methanolic extract. The TFC ranged from 0.09±0.01 (*Verbascum thapsus*) to 1.57±0.01 mgCE/gDW (*Trifolium pratense*) in water extract and from 0.25±0.02 (*Verbascum thapsus*) to 1.36±0.02 mgCE/gDW (*Trifolium pratense*) in methanolic extract. In *Equisetum arvense* herba was observed the largest difference of TPC and TFC between the water extract (8.26±0.05 mg GAE/g and 0.25±0.01 mg CE/g) and methanolic extract (16.85±0.27 mg GAE/mg and 1.15±0.08 mg CE/g), respectively.

Keywords: phenolics, flavonoids, medicinal plants, methanolic extract, water extract

Studies on factors affecting drug treatment compliance in patients with rheumatoid arthritis

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Abstract. Low adherence to the prescribed treatments is significantly prevalent in clinical practice, especially in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis disease. In general, the causes of non-compliance with the prescribed therapy are quite complex. The main purpose of this study was to determine the level of self-reported compliance with treatment, as well as to identify the factors that contribute to this level using as a representative sample patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

This study has a quantitative descriptive approach, in which 20 patients diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis aged 18-70+years participated. Using the Compliance Questionnaire for Rheumatology (CQR19) and the Beliefs about Medicines Questionnaire (BMQ), information about the disease and treatment was assessed by referring to socio-demographic variables and disease duration, patients' beliefs in drug treatment and self-reported compliance with treatment.

From the results of the study it was concluded that the self-reported compliance rate with treatment was 66.4% among respondents with rheumatoid arthritis, reflecting the percentage of patients who reported that they always take their medications exactly as prescribed.

The most commonly reported reasons for non-compliance were concerns about the side effects of medications and fears of their long-term effects.

Keywords: Drug compliance, rheumatoid arthritis, treatment, side effects.

Synthesis and structural characterization of some new substituted chalcone derivatives starting from 4-nitrobenzaldehyde

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Abstract. Chalcones are a group of plant-derived polyphenolic compounds belonging to the flavonoids family. The aims of this study were the synthesis and structural characterization of some new substituted chalcone derivatives starting from 4-nitrobenzaldehyde.

The Claisen-Schmidt condensation was used for the synthesis of chalcone derivatives but the conventional Claisen-Schmidt condensation procedure for the synthesis of substituted chalcones was occasionally modified.

The obtained syntheses were analyzed by measuring the melting points, recrystallizing them, performing chromatography and recording the IR spectra. Melting point values ranged from 101.6 °C to 244.6 °C, while the retention factor values ranged from 0.37 to 0.93. By interpreting the IR spectra we have confirmed the presence of functional groups, for example the groups -NO₂, -OH, -OCH₃, C-Cl and C-Br.

The results obtained from this study showed that the obtained chalcones are the required chalcones.

Keywords: chalcone, flavonoid, 4-nitrobenzaldehyde, Claisen-Schmidt condensation.

Hospitalized patients with Covid-19 in General Hospital - Pejë and the impact of the anti-Covid vaccine

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Abstract. This research project was implemented within the General Hospital of Peja to deliver results to patients infected with Covid-19 who have been hospitalized, deaths, whether they have been vaccinated or not, also receiving results that if so, with which of the doses they have been vaccinated and statistical comparison with deaths in persons who have not received any vaccination dose. The research was based on quantitative methodology based on obtaining existing data through daily reports from ward physicians and officials from the hospital directorate. The data obtained were processed through software applications and graphs were compiled. Hospital of Peja reached the maximum peak of hospitalizations on 5 and 6 September. After this date, the decline of the peak has started. The vast majority of hospitalized persons and deaths resulted unvaccinated. Deaths are observed more in advanced ages, which also had an increase in deaths of vaccinated persons with two doses. The time that has elapsed since receiving the vaccine and secondary diseases, are factors that should be taken into account. Also, delta wave does not seem to spare even young age groups, even death. This indicates that vaccination would significantly reduce hospitalizations and deaths in any possible future waves.

Keywords: Covid Hospitalizations, Covid Deaths, General Hospital Pejë, anti-Covid Vaccine.

Distribution of total phenols and flavonoids in flowers and leaves of *Sambucus nigra* from Kosovo

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Abstract. *Sambucus nigra* is very popular medicinal plant widely used in many parts of the world in herbal medicine and kitchen. Almost every part of this plant has some usages and have been well known due to their extraordinary properties. Total phenolic content (TPC) and total flavonoid content (TFC) were determined in methanolic extracts of flowers and leaves of *Sambucus nigra* collected in eleven different localities in Kosovo. The TPC in methanolic extract of flower and leaf was expressed as mg of gallic acid equivalents/g dry weight of sample (mg GAE/g DW) and ranged from 30.78±0.18 (SN9-FL) to 48.59±0.31 mg GAE/g DW (SN7-FL) and from 25.55±0.28 (SN9-LE) to 48.80±0.18 mg GAE/g DW (SN8-LE), respectively. The TFC of these extracts was expressed as mg of quercetine equivalents/g dry weight of sample (mg QE/g DW) and ranged from 1.18±0.12 (SN9-FL) to 8.29±0.10 mg QE/g DW (SN11-FL) for the flower and from 1.61±0.09 (SN9-LE) to 6.81±0.67 mg QE/g DW (SN7-LE) for the leaf.

Keywords: *Sambucus nigra*, flower, leaf, phenolics, flavonoids, methanolic extract

Preventing OTC drug abuse - new challenges for the pharmacist community in pandemic crisis

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Abstract. The use of OTC drugs as a form of self-medication remains one of the most delicate issues which requires special attention in terms of the impact that irrational use of these drugs may have. During the pandemic crisis the consumption of these drugs has increased considerably and this increases the possibility of abuse of these drugs. The role of pharmacists in preventing these abuses is quite large. This study is a review of the barriers encountered in addressing this issue as well as the new strategies that pharmacists should follow for more efficient management to minimize the consequences.

Keywords: OTC drugs, abuse, pandemic crisis, preventing.

Interactions between drugs in patients with chronic polytherapy

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Abstract. Studies carried out in different countries have shown an increase in the occurrence of drug interactions, especially in elderly patients. Physiological changes, alterations in homeostatic regulation and diseases modify pharmacokinetics and drug response in older patients. This presentation gives a reflection on polytherapy and interactions between drugs based on scientific literature. Main objective of topics focuses on analysis and evaluation of interactions between drugs in patients with chronic polytherapy and how much attention is paid by healthcare professionals, especially by doctors and pharmacists. Based on this statistical analysis, the results showed that there was a considerable number of interactions between drugs, so in 100 analysed patients were reported 24 major interactions, 292 moderate, 54 minor, and in 9 patients there was no interactions between drugs that they use. Major interactions are highly clinically significant, those combination of drugs should be avoided and replaced with other drug.

Keywords: Polytherapy, drug interactions, major, moderate, minor

Employability of the Graduates of the Faculties of Pharmacy

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Abstract. Graduates of the Faculties of Pharmacy have a strong multidisciplinary education which includes subjects like medicinal chemistry, biochemistry, pharmacology and other important ones. Thus, they can pursue several different job opportunities. Positions in community or hospital pharmacies, basic and clinical research, careers in pharmaceutical companies and clinical research organization (CRO) related to clinical monitoring, pharmacovigilance, regulatory affairs, quality assurance, manufacturing, etc will be briefly described in this presentation.

Keywords: Graduates of the Faculties of Pharmacy, employability.

Identification of high-performance anodic memristors by combinatorial screening in hafnium-tantalum library

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Abstract. The metal-oxide- semiconductor technology (CMOS) has already reached its limits in terms of scaling, power consumption and processing speed. With this regard, the development of novel memory systems is vital. Memristive devices are scalable alternatives in the next generation of electronics showing non-volatile properties. Valve metals such as Hf and Ta are high- κ dielectric materials used for metal-insulator- metal architectures with the memory concept based on the resistive switching due to the nano-dimensional conductive filaments (CFs) formation inside of the insulating oxide. The aim of this study was to investigate the memristive behavior of devices based on pure Hf, Ta and their alloys which were sputtered as bottom electrodes onto the Si wafer. The total compositional spread of Hf-Ta library was ranging from 5 to 92 at.% Hf. The insulating layer with the thickness up to 20 nm was fabricated via simple, inexpensive and fast electrochemical anodization process. Hence, a high number of memristors was finalized by patterning Pt top electrodes. Electrical properties of devices were screened with 1 at.% resolution using self-developed Gantry robot revealing three different compositional zones with specific memory characteristics. The switching mechanism was confirmed by depth profile investigation by XPS and imaging of CFs by HRTEM. Nanofilaments differed in size, shape and position in the oxide for the devices based on Hf, Ta or their alloys. The produced memristors have shown remarkable improvement in their performance which may lead towards the development of defect engineered memristors applicable for artificial neural networks.

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Keywords: thin films, anodic oxides, valve metals, memristors

Phenotypic and allelic variations of blood types at different time and spatial intervals

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Abstract. In the human population blood types are different which are due to time, space and evolutionary processes. During this research, we used a questionnaire to collect material for the groups. The sample in this paper includes a total of 2529 individuals from six settlements as follows: Prishtina-752, Lipjan -534, Gjakova-436, Peja-184, Ferizaj-338 and in Prizren-285. Knowing that their antigens in the human population react selectively to the antigen of viruses and bacteria, which cause various diseases, we will investigate their correlation with blood types. Thus, in this research we have some cases of diseases which are related to blood types. All this data is recorded in the data evaluation software. Mathematical-statistical methods were used to obtain these results. To visually observe the cases we have used the method of digital genealogical coding of adjectives which play the role of genes.

Keywords: frequency, blood type, allele, phenotype.

Pharmacists recommendation for herbal preparations with secretolytic and antitussive action

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Abstract. Herbal medicines with expectorant and antitussive action have an important role in therapy and are prescribed by doctors and recommended by pharmacists. The study was based on a questionnaire on the use of expectorant and antitussive syrups. This study included 128 pharmacists and 116 pharmacy technicians from 157 pharmacies operating in the Prishtina region. The answer format included multiple-choice questions, in which participants were asked to choose the most reasonable answer for them in the given list of options. 71.8% of pharmacists claim that naturally occurring syrups acting on the respiratory tract are prescribed by a doctor. Depending on the type of cough antitussive or expectorant prescribed by doctors, pharmacists claim that 82.8% expectorant syrups are prescribed, while 17.2% are antitussive. Syrups with antitussive or expectorant action for children are 100% recommended with plant extracts, and for adults 92.2% with plant extracts and with synthetic substances are recommended 7.8%. Reasons for recommending syrups with natural products by the pharmacist (71.4%) and pharmaceutical technician (81.9%) are due to few side effects. In addition to herbal syrups with antitussive and expectorant action, pharmacists or pharmaceutical technicians recommend the use of herbal teas with the same action according to the patient's need.

Keywords: pharmacists, pharmaceutical technicians, herbal expectorant, herbal antitussive.

Immunotherapy in childhood acute lymphoblastic Leukemia

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Abstract. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) is known as a heterogeneous disease. The progress is possible to make in understanding of biological mechanism who play pivotal role in the development of therapies. Here I will try to summarize the current and future possibilities of management of adult and children ALL. Many inhibitors are used to inhibit tyrosine kinase, chimeric antigen receptor and gene therapy for cure of ALL. The FDA has approved a number of drugs for treatment of children who are sick from ALL. Currently, is known that long term of survival is achieved in more than 50% of patients with B-ALL, 50-60% T-ALL, and 80% mature ALL. In era of precision medicine, the future is based in using of less cytotoxic and based and more target agents.

Keywords: acute lymphoblastic leukemia, clinical features, chemotherapy, immunotherapy

Anti-sars-Coronavirus treatment based on molecular interaction

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Abstract. SARS-CoV-2 belongs the family betacoronavirus in Coronaviridae; it is known to have single strand RNA which is enveloped. The first case is reported late2019 in China. From there it is circulate around the world, causing the COVID-19 pandemic situation with higher fatality rates. At the beginner of April 2021 SARS-CoV-2 has infected more than 130 million people and led to 2.84 million death. There are several strategies for cure of SARS-CoV-2 infection, to date the number of drugs who are used for treatment is increased depends of these drugs are used alone or in combination form. FDA has approved remedesivir who have the ability to neutralized antibodies, although clinical effects were controversial. Here we discuss for development of new strategies for therapeutic reason in patients infected by SARS-CoV-2.

Keywords: SARS-CoV-2, replication, human proteins, small and large molecules

Most prescribed penicillin types in the Family Medical Center GP in Istog during January – December 2020

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Abstract. Penicillins are very large number of bactericidal medicaments that even after decades of being used remains the most important used and less toxic anti micobiotics.

Needless to say that inventing Penicillin is one of the biggest events in the world of modern medicine. Penicillins have made an outstanding impact on lives of millions of people since being invented.

They continue to be used widely and we find them being prescribed from doctors for their patients.

Reason: This is an descriptive investigation that tries to explain the facts about the situation at present for the amount of the penicillin being prescribed at Medical Primary Care Centres.

Investigation took place at the Family Primary Care Centre in Istog and the gathering information was used from prime sources like documents and the protocol of medical visits of patients for the period from January to December 2020.

Model of investigation is descriptive and wants to present facts about prescribed penicillin and its most used varieties. Investigation took place at a Family primary care centre in The Valley of Istog and there have been used documents and protocols of medical visits for the period of January to December 2020.

Therefore the reason for this investigation is presenting the amount of penicillin being prescribed and ways of medication prescribed (intramuscular, intravenous or oral). Also the investigation presents the number of patients that took penicillin for each month during 2020 divided in gender in regards to taking penicillin.

During this study 185 patients have been analysed in total for using different types of penicillin. They have been divided in gender and analysed and it has been noted that the higher number of penicillin users were males about 97 patients or 52,4% and female users were about 87 patients or 47.6%.

They have been analysed also in percentages how many have had different ways of administering, types of most prescribed penicillin every month and there was a presentation in a charts about the most prescribed medication from penicillin group and divided by ways of administration like oral or intramuscular. From 185 patients that we had for analytic purposes it has been analysed the way of administrating the medication were it has been prescribed for 113 patients or 61.1 % and it has been advised to take it via intramuscular way.

Keywords: Penicillins, patients, route of use, intramuscular.

Determination of Physico-Chemical Analysis of Milk from Three Different Regions

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Abstract. One of the primary foods for human health is milk and dairy products. In dairy industry measuring the quality of milk is crucial for procesing and production of dairy products. Determination of milk quality is done through physico-chemical analysis. Out of 70 milk samples were analyzed from the region of Malisheva, Rugova and Skenderaj. The average fat results in order were 3.98%, 4.06% and 3.92% respectively, the average pH results in order were 7.12, 7.17 and 7.09 respectively. The results of physico-chemical analyzes can be used for various reasons such as milk payment and is of great importance in the processing of milk into dairy products.

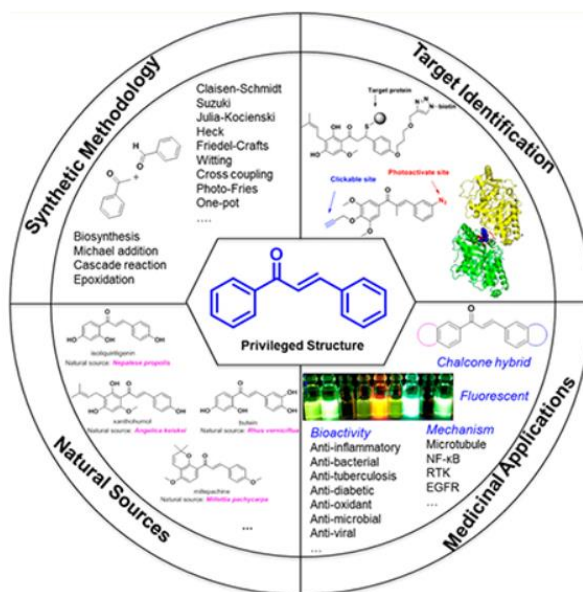
Keywords: Milk, Physical, Chemical.

Chalcone synthesis, properties and medicinal applications

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Abstract. Chalcones belong to the flavonoids family which constitutes one of the main classes of heterocyclic compounds found in nature. The aim of this study is the synthesis and structural characterization of some new substituted 1,3-diphenyl-2-propen-1-one derivatives. We have synthesized a series of simple chalcones derivatives through the Claisen-Schmidt condensation method, briefly, we have explained the methods and catalysts used in the synthesis of chalcones. The synthesized compounds are characterized by several analyzes, recrystallizing them, measuring melting points, by thin layer chromatography and recording of IR spectra. Melting point values ranged from 105.35°C to 156°C, while retention factor values ranged from 0.8 to 0.95. By interpreting the IR spectra we have confirmed the presence of functional groups, for example the groups -NO₂, -OCH₃, C-Cl. The results obtained from this study showed that the chalcones obtained are the chalcones required.



Keywords: chalcone, flavonoid, 1,3-diphenyl-2-propen-1-one, thin layer chromatography, Claisen-Schmidt condensation.

Internal Audit as a Management Tool in Pharmaceutical Industry

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Abstract. The internal audit is an important control function within a pharmaceutical industry. It ensures a thorough analyses and evaluation of the company activities and informs the management on the effectiveness of the company quality controls of their processes and products. These audits ensure compliance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) requirements. A well designed checklist is a key tool to assist in conducting an internal audit. It consists of several series of questions that will help verifying if the control system maintains GMP compliance and to find and address any violations or critical items. Although, internal audit is not a regulation requirement, the information obtained from it, can play a valuable role in production, process performance and quality monitoring as outlined in ICH Q10.

Keywords: Internal audit, GMP, checklist, quality control.

Evaluation a renal function of patients with Medication-overuse headache (MOH)

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Abstract. Excessive drug use causes Medication-overuse headache (MOH) which can be manifested of chronic daily headaches, occurring monthly 15 or more days, when the medicament is used redundantly for more than three months. Recent studies concerning the epidemiology of drug-induced disorders suggest that increased risk of nephrotoxicity appears in a group of patients who abuse NSAIDs. The aim is to confirm the early phase of nephrotoxicity in patients with (MOH), were treated with NSAIDs in combination with other drugs (analgesics, triptans and antidepressants) and compared patients treated only with Diclofenac, Piroxicam, Ketoprofen, Paracetamol, Ibuprofen and Celecoxib, Besides conventional markers of renal functioning (serum/urine creatinine determined by Jaffe methods, enzymatic assay for urea serum). Immunoturbidimetric assay for determination of urinary albumin, microalbuminuria and β_2 -microglobulin will be used. Significant glomerular and tubular damage has been reported, and patients on combination therapy with NSAIDs and other drugs (analgesics, triptans, and antidepressants) have seen more glomerular changes than patients treated with NSAID monotherapy.

Keywords: Medication-overuse headache, Nephrotoxicity, Nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs.

Effect of the Cera Carnaubae and Euphorbia Cerifera Cera waxes in the Synthesization of Natural Lipsticks

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Abstract. The use of cosmetic products for various reasons dates back a long time ago. From the use of different oils to treat wounds, to the use of naturally pigmented stones to color the eyes and the lips, using cosmetics has been known to humanity for a very long time. Unfortunately, in the last few years with the increase in consumer demand, the number of ingredients in cosmetic products has also increased. From various preservatives to the use of substances containing toxic heavy metals, it is necessary to know what kind of products we expose our body to. This work will elaborate in more detail various formulations for lipsticks based on the use of natural products only, without the addition of various preservatives or harsh chemicals, to increase the shelf life or the properties of the product. Bearing in mind that Oils and Waxes in general have unique but yet similar properties, the final products showed a lot of similarities in their experimental results. Furthermore this work will bring to knowledge the effect of combining plant based waxes such as **Cera Carnaubae** (Carnauba Wax) and **Euphorbia Cerifera Cera** (Candelilla Wax) and animal based waxes such as **Cera Flava** (BeesWax), in different amounts and formulations. To this particular subject the results showed that lipstick formulations that contained the plant based waxes (Candelilla Wax) and (Carnauba Wax) as their main ingredients, showed a weaker resistance during the hardness test due to the brittle consistency of the two waxes, therefore resulting with the lowest breaking point at 1.06 N, whereas the formulations that contained the animal based wax (Bees Wax) showed better results during the hardness test due to the more elastic, rubbery consistency of the wax, therefore resulting with the highest breaking point at 3.25 N. The pH values of the natural lipsticks were shown to be slightly more acidic, with values between 5.5-7, whereas the reference pH value of the industrial lipsticks was ≈ 7.5 . In conclusion, through a detailed and thorough analysis of the physical and chemical properties of the lipsticks, this work will determine and discuss the effect of natural products in the synthesization of lipsticks.

Keywords: natural lipsticks, waxes, lipids, cosmetics industry.

Salix alba - medicinal benefit and phytoremediation potential

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Abstract: Analgesic, antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, anti-rheumatic, antiseptic and astringent are some of known effects of willow bark of *Salix alba*, that makes it useful in treatment of some health conditions. Considering these effects, willow bark has been used in preparation of pharmaceutical formulations to treat many different types of pain, including back pain, toothache, menstrual cramps and rheumatic pains. Except this, willow bark potential to accumulate large quantities of toxic metals/metalloids has been proven. Transfer factor of significant importance based on obtained data, is observed in the following order zinc > copper > cadmium > nickel. The highest value of transfer factor for zinc from soil to willow bark ranged from 0.07 to 0.8, for copper ranged between 0.06 and 0.47, for cadmium to 0.2, and for nickel to 0.11. Research data has shown that the uptake of cadmium in the willow is in proportion with soil concentration.

Keyword: willow bark, transfer factor, metal uptake, phytoremediation

Testing the direct compaction properties of ground plant material to make a solid pharmaceutical form from mountain tea

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Abstract. *Sideritis scardica* and *Sideritis raeseri* (mountain tea) are widely utilized in Mediterranean traditional medicine in the form of either a decoction or infusion. The aim of this study is preparation of a solid pharmaceutical form from mountain tea. Testing the direct compaction properties of aerial part plant material (homogenized samples from flower, leaf and stem) the direct compaction properties of ground plant material above ground tea using a roller compactor, without the addition of solvents and other excipients as a binder, showed very weak compaction properties, and it was impossible to obtain good quality of ribbon and granules, primarily due to the uneven size of the crushed mass and hence the problematic flow. This is due to the specific morphological structure and the presence of a large number of mechanical fibers in the form of trichomes in mountain tea.

Keywords: mountain tea, compaction, roller compactor, trichomes.

10th International Conference

Chapter: Integrated Design

IC-ID

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Identifying the Role of Design in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: A Systematic Literature Review.

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Abstract. Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) was defined by UNESCO in the early 2000s as practices, expressions, knowledge, representations, skills, materials and spaces that communities, groups and in some cases individuals define as part of their cultural heritage. Communities, through their interaction with their environment, nature and history constantly refabricate ICH. Therefore, transmitted from generation to generation, ICH carries a sense of identity and continuity, which contributes to human creativity and cultural diversity in the era of growing globalization. The cultural capital encompassed by ICH is a powerful driver for sustainable development and also a potential source for design innovation. In many cases the relationship between design and ICH is bidirectional. Design exploits values carried by ICH and also intervenes in it to contribute safeguarding. As a part of ongoing research focusing on identifying how the design discipline contributes to safeguarding ICH, this paper presents intersections of cultural heritage and design research with a systematic literature review carried out using the SCOPUS database. Using the keywords “design” and “intangible cultural heritage” the research retrieved 239 articles published in English between years 2005 and 2020. The literature review indicates that among five distinct ICH categories coined by UNESCO, a significant number of articles specifically focus on design interventions targeting “knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts”. Reviewed articles fall into four categories of safeguarding (i) expanding the knowledge base, (ii) increasing the awareness and use of ICH, (iii) engaging holistic approaches for the sustainability of ICH, (iv) contributing to economic sustainability of ICH practitioners. Correspondingly, design interventions identified in the articles fall in six distinct categories: (i) using design research for creating new knowledge, (ii) utilizing digital technologies for safeguarding of ICH, (iii) developing novel processes for ICH and design (iv) designing products, services and spaces to increase awareness of ICH, (v) safeguarding of ICH at a city and region level, (vi) incorporating ICH for marketable products and services. The article presents several examples to further elaborate how design incorporates values and elements of ICH for the market.

Keywords: Intangible cultural heritage, Design, Product design

The Impact of Product Design on Circular Economy

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Abstract. This research paper analyses and discusses the role and the impact of interior design on circular economy. Economic growth is strongly related to the utilization of all kinds of earth's resources. Therefore, the process of resources depletion is becoming overwhelming and almost unmanageable. Today's model of linear economics can be seen as the main driver of this phenomenon, and it implies the need for a model that uses less raw materials and production of waste into the environment, and by creating closed loops of production and consumption. In this regard we assume that product design in general, and interior design in particular may play a positive role in contributing the development and implementation of circular economy. Consequently, the main goal of the research is to determine the impact of interior design on the circular economy. The deductive approach is used to data and analyses. Qualitative methods are applied in order to test the research hypotheses. The primary data are collected throughout a survey, and analyzed using the statistical analyses software, while secondary data are mainly collected from online sources.

Keywords: Product design, interior, circular economy, creativity, cost

The Impact of Design Industry on the Economy: an empirical study

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Abstract. This article aims to analyze and discuss the impact of the design industry on the economy. The research methodology relay on empirical approach by observing the measured performance of many global companies from the design industry. Performance measured by the productivity indicator is calculated as a statistical average of financial output of design companies. Our assumption is that design industry has a significant impact on the economy, and that the impact has increased steadily in the last decade. In this case, some of the factors that have played an important role in increasing the performance of design companies have been identified. The focus goes on digital technologies and creativity expressed in research and development investment as key factors.

Keywords: Design industry, economy, productivity, performance, digital technologies, creativity.

Designing the Visual Identity, A Case Study

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Abstract.By researching ballet, how it is perceived by artists, partners and most importantly its audience. Reviewing these findings and deriving from them an updated understanding of values and mission.

An identity, which is based on these essential principles a more direct "voice" that is more capable of presenting artistic vision. Visual identity not only parks the physique and technique of dancers, but also its commitment to sampling and engaging with the city, as well as a national and global audience. The new Ballet logo combines design elements. The result combines the spirit of modern choreography with the tradition of classical ballet. The main elements of visual identity.

Logo. A logo is a visual representation and a graphic symbol and identity. ...

Fonts And Typography. ...

Photos And Images.

Key words: Logo, fonts, photos and images.

Bodrum Gulet as a Vessel for Sustainable Tourism: The Birth of the First Bodrum Gulet and its Evolution from Fishing Boat to Complete Product-Service System

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Abstract. The Bodrum Gulet is a specific type of wooden sailing yacht destined for blue water cruising and charter. The first example of the concept designed ground-up for tourism, was built nearly 55 years ago in Bodrum and has instantly proven success. The gulets were continuously developed by entrepreneurs in all possible size and variations in order to fit alternating customer needs. The original product identity has been preserved which turned it into a cultural heritage item. The Bodrum Gulet concept has successfully evolved into a complex, sustainable product-service system with thousands of examples in business, called “The Blue Voyage”. The business is generating a vast range of job opportunities for people both on water and on the ground, producing several hundred million USD income yearly. The Blue Voyage business is a low environmental impact high profit business model which has also been adopted in various geographies like Dalmatia and Greece. This paper analyzes the qualitative and physical characteristics of more than 400 gulets in operation and classifies 27 distinct types. It also aims to discuss the challenges the business is facing in various fields, such as developing new design for changing customer needs, educating qualified boatbuilders, keeping a low environmental impact and natural protection of the business geography, in order to remain competitive and generate sustainable economic growth for the region in the next decades.

Keywords: Bodrum Gulet, Yacht Design, Tangible Cultural Heritage, Vernacular Boat Building, Culture Tourism, Sustainable Economic Growth.

Preserving Green Public Spaces Through Artistic Action: OnTop Residency, A Case Study

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Abstract. This paper investigates the methods of preserving green public spaces through artistic actions. It will focus on the project entitled “On Top Residency” created by Fatmir Mustafa - Karlo, which utilizes unused space in the property in the outskirts of Prishtina, specifically a hill in Butovc, along Kavaja Street. Special focus will be given to artistic occupation as means towards caring for the environment through artistic and cultural activities. The rationale for choosing the land lot 09136-0, in Butovc, for this art initiative will be discussed in detail. An exploration into the phenomenon of dwindling public spaces, especially green ones, as a result of the construction of apartment buildings, luxury villas, as well as gated communities, will be central to the presentation. Furthermore, we will focus on discussing an increase in inequality resulting from unchecked and unrestricted urbanization practices, as well as how art could be used to raise awareness against the commercialization of public spaces. Finally, we will focus on the ways in which “On Top Residency” aims to preserve, promote, and make better use of public spaces through art.

Keywords: artistic action, public spaces, green spaces, art, contemporary art, artistic occupation, nature, public art, curation, artworks.

Choice Architecture: Using “Nudge Theory” to Increase Productivity and Decrease Procrastination in Arts and Design Students, A Case Study

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Abstract. This paper investigates the educational methods used in teaching arts and design at the university level in Kosovo. It investigates several practices and expectations of the students as they relate to practices in Kosovo. Historically, as is common with many educational systems from the former Eastern block, the students follow lectures and then they undergo various examinations to be graded. What is peculiar, and different from the other educational systems, such as the one in the United States, is that the students have the ability to re-take the exam during different exam terms. Our paper argues that this approach increases procrastination and stifles learning. As a solution, we recommend the abolishment of this system and switching to one more in line with the U.S. practice, where if a student fails a class they can repeat it the next semester from the beginning (rather than indefinitely postponing taking the exams). Furthermore, we propose a switch from an exam-based system towards a discussion and project-based coursework. Our rationale is based on the concepts of “choice architecture” and “nudge theory” — restricting options or significantly changing incentives — through which we aim to incentivize the students towards completing their coursework on time. In simple words, we propose removing choice in order to change behavior. We argue that this practice would not only make the students work harder, increase their productivity, instill healthy time-management skills, increase their soft skills, but also make them better students and professionals in their respective fields.

Keywords: art, design, education, students, behavioral sciences, behavioral economics, nudge theory, choice architecture theory, restricting options, changing incentives, education methods, exam terms.

The Evaluation of Home from the Beginning of the Pandemics

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Abstract. From the beginning of covid-19 pandemic, big revolution happened in human beings lifestyle. The total closing effects hit human and their physical spaces radically. Our houses were evaluated to workplaces, drawing areas, restaurants, gyms and many other functions. These changes were abundant in various forms with full closure, quarantine, half closure and hour difference and it was observed that they would continue to abound. The fact that living spaces are being so multifunctional for the first time in history has led us to rethink the change in interior design projects and especially residential projects. In this study we aimed to solve residential interior problems by analyzing the effects of pandemics at our living areas. We examined 20 Ubt 5th semester interior design students home evaluations from the beginning of pandemics with their own drawings. This study is going to give us problems which are going to make us think about solutions and more multifunctionality for the future home interiors.

Keywords: Pandemic, quarantine, interior design, physical space, multifunctionality

10th International Conference

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” Fashion Settled/ Unsettled “

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Abstract. Fashion is about change and about challenging the status quo which at present is uncertain. Citizens and fashion professionals are questioning the frivolous approach to fashion and exploring ways in which fashion can contribute to driving change- not only ecologically but socially and politically.

Historically, political and leading figures in society have long understood the power of fashion and they used it to convey status, values, and affiliations, just as the people have used it to protest or approve certain matters, both socially and politically.

Fashion as a sincere expression of our external identity regardless of climatic conditions / season, social status, position in society / profession, has been an expression or reflection of a fundamental human need to decorate and promote oneself, but nowadays it has also become a tool to put forward statements, to protest and/or to approve. It is an aesthetic way of expression, it can represent a lifestyle and is multi-faceted. Historical overview of fashion statements by the political figures, by the people and also by the more famous celebrities will be discussed. Furthermore, the impact of everyday fashion items will be illustrated using creative visuals.

Key words: fashion, change, political, social, history, identity, creative

'The importance of theatrical costumes in Kosovo'

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Abstract. Costume is one of the most important means of visual communication in terms of characters on stage. In addition to costumes, accessories are a very important tool to reflect the mood, profession, status, age, gender, culture and character for the audience. Accessories include pieces such as: bags, hats, jewelry, socks, shoes, and more. On stage, during a theatrical performance, emotions are expressed through costume and scenography. In order to achieve this successfully, and for maximum effect, the costume designer must be in close contact with the director and the actors during all the stages of the design process and also during the construction of the costumes. The purpose of this study is to discuss the importance given to costume design in theatrical performances performed in Kosovo. Also to understand how satisfied the directors and actors are with these costumes, as well as how the costume designers are professionally trained in this process. Furthermore assessments are made by conducting surveys and interviews with theater actors, directors and costume designers in Kosovo. The National Theater of Kosovo was established on October 2, 1946 in Prizren. The theater moved to Pristina, Kosovo's capital, a few months after it was first founded.

Keywords: Costume design, theater, accessories, costumes, director, actor, scenography.

Colour Coordination as a Powerful Design Tool

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Abstract A color is one of the first elements to communicate the message behind the design. The color can sway thinking, change actions, and cause reactions. It can be used to attract attention, to organize the content, to emphasize the elements, to evoke emotions and to help a design look aesthetically pleasing. The selection of the color palette in the design is of high importance and should not be neglected for the only reason that color remains a powerful tool for creating customer-centric products. Color experiments are crucial in design because a poor selection of color palettes may lose the identity of the design.

Fashion Trend - COVID 19

Pranvera Boshnjaku

Abstract. Ms. Pranvera Boshnjaku who was born and raised in Gjakova emigrated to the United States 30 years ago. She was a successful Financial Economist who worked in a variety of roles in the financial industry and economic development for 24 years. Due to corporate restructuring in her last company Pranvera lost her position and was in a process of interviewing with other companies in her field when the pandemic hit the United States of America back in March 2020.

The COVID19 situation in U.S. hospitals was very dire and lack of PPE for essential workers became the main topic in the news. Pranvera took action and answered the call for help and started sewing surgical masks to meet that emergent need. Who knew that a skill she learned watching her beloved grandpa sew in Gjakova as a little girl, would come handy so many years later and help protect thousands of US doctors and staff during the worse global pandemic of our lifetime.

What started as a solo sewing project for Pranvera became a full-fledged humanitarian initiative - Sew for Health Initiative which attracted 40 volunteers from Washington-DC area. Together they produced and donated thousands of premium quality surgical masks to 28 hospitals in 15 states across America. Her activity got so much attention and was featured on major US TV stations encouraging others to create similar initiatives to help first responders who needed PPE Supplies.

Once the PPE humanitarian mission in the US was over, she came to Kosovo to visit her family and while here, together with incredible designers/artisans she designed and produced over 80+ fashion mask designs to compliment different styles including street style, edgy mask, classy and luxury masks for special occasions. All the masks were handmade with a lot of love to add some beauty and perfectly complement women's wardrobes.

A new brand was born. PRANVE currently offers its designer masks to USA market www.pranve.com.

This is an inspiring story of someone who used her long lost passion for humanitarian causes which later led to a career change from financial economist to fashion entrepreneur.

'The reflection of fashion represents the strength and courage of the female figure'

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Abstract .Fashion professionals are constantly highlighting the female figure, very often with a frivolous approach, exploring the use of trendy materials. Historically, the female figure has reflected in the power that expresses emotion, and the same time with the beauty combined boldly. Styling as an identity despite the historical stages, the female figure was able to kneel by covering or revealing the emphasis of her body lines, which connect deeply with the rib lines remain the most beautiful part of her figure. Her “Goddess at the Front” identity remains eternally emblematic for all time, providing us with inspiration not to stray from the reflection of power within the elements of the figure.

Keywords: fashion, strength, change, identity

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Necessity of reforming the legal framework for local elections in the Republic of Kosovo

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Author correspondent Dr.sc. Mervete Shala¹⁰

ABSTRACT: This paper will address the legal framework for local elections and the need for legal reform to ensure electoral equality in local elections in the Republic of Kosovo. When we analyse the Law (No. 03 / L-072) on Local Elections in Kosovo and compare it with the provisions of the Law (No. 03 / L-073) on General Elections we can notice substantial differences during the voting of candidates for the Municipal Assembly and those for the Assembly of Kosovo.

The two distinctive features set out in Article 7 of the Law (No. 03 / L-072) on Local Elections are: The voter does not have a preferential vote as opposed to the General Election (only one candidate votes on the candidate list) and the list holder is not subject to voting (the vote cast for the political entity is considered as a vote for the first candidate on the list). This creates inequality in the electoral race within the list and secondly stifles internal competition within the same party. For this it is recommended to change the provision which favours the holder of the list compared to the other candidates on the list. It is proposed that with the new provision the holder of the list is also subject to the electoral race as an equal participant with the other candidates within the list. If only the vote for the party is marked on the ballot paper, the vote for the political entity should be counted. The vote cast for the political entity to be considered as a vote for women candidates in the list of candidates of the political entity. In this way, the gender quota of 30% defined by law is more easily met.

The methodology used in this paper is based on the method of collection and analysis of primary and secondary data, the method of legal analysis (analysis of the legal framework for elections and reports of election results) and the comparative method.

Keywords: Electoral law, electoral equality, local elections, list holder, electoral reform

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Social care, welfare, rights and security of citizens in Kosovo

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Abstract. The harmonization of Kosovo legislation with the international one regulates the institutional life and security of the citizens in Kosovo. To this end, the country's legislature in coordination with the executive and judiciary supported by international and local associations aim to meet the shortcomings of normal life and conditions for all social categories. Institutional control and the contribution of the media in the emergence of deviant phenomena makes the institutions not calm down in the face of legal obligations for the needs of citizens. The commitment to find modalities for meeting the demands of the citizens makes the line ministries in coordination with the relevant municipal directorates closer to the citizen for a dignified life. In addition to socio-economic well-being, general security is a primary obligation for local institutions which in cooperation with citizens are considered the key to the success of a democratic society. Freedom of personality strengthens the freedom of the collectivity, while informing about the flows of socio-economic change is mandatory, while public and commercial media in addition to the social ones contribute to the common good. The better the cooperation between institutions and citizens, this is the argument of a democratic society, where elected people consider themselves not privileged, but servants of the citizens.

Keywords: Institutions, media, social change, citizens, welfare.

Kosovo and the EU Stabilization and Association Agreement

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Abstract. The purpose of this research paper is to analyse the impact of the EU Stabilization and Association Agreement (“SAA”) in Kosovo. This agreement was signed between Kosovo and the European Union (“EU”) on 27 October 2015. The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy at that time, Federica Mogherini, signed the agreement on behalf of the EU and noted that a new phase was opened for the relationship between the two and prosperity and stability would be improved significantly. On the other hand, Commissioner Johannes Hahn indicated that a milestone has been reached, and SAA will enable Kosovo to achieve the necessary reforms in creating investment opportunities. He also mentioned that the agreement will bring sustainable economic growth to Kosovo, in particular increase employment for the youth. The negotiations lasted for approximately three years, and the SAA entered into force in early 2016. The SAA covers numerous sectors in Kosovo, and enforces a contractual relationship with mutual obligations, with focus on certain principles entangling the single market of the EU. Free trade with European Standards in state aid, competition and intellectual property, and assistance in implementation of relevant reforms are all part of the SAA. In addition, political coordination and cooperation in education, energy, justice and environment, among other sectors, are all included in the agreement. The Republic of Kosovo has fostered its overall development enormously, taking into account its previous complex conflicts, even though there is still room for improvement. The progression process is continuously functioning as a result of the work done by international actors and improvement of political will in Kosovo. With the help of numerous international organizations, such as the European Union, Kosovo seeks to integrate itself into such organizations. This is most likely the only path to make improve the overall situation.

Keywords: EU Stabilization and Association Agreement, Kosovo, reforms, current state of affairs

LEGAL TREATMENT OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND ROLE INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT ARBITRATION THROUGH THE PRISM OF KOSOVO

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Abstract. The main purpose of this study is the legal treatment of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Republic of Kosovo and in the countries of the region, as well as the role of International Investment Arbitration, with a specific reference to an analysis of the positive effects FDI and the problems faced by foreign investors. Global trends show that competition for FDI inflows is particularly strong among developing countries, as it represents an important source of foreign capital and with a positive impact on the host economy. FDI can facilitate rapid economic growth in developing countries by increasing investment and by transferring experience, technology and know-how from developed countries. The need for investors to feel confident in their investments has prompted national governments to take steps to their more investor-friendly laws and regulations. Many of them have adopted investor protection legislation and entered into bilateral and multilateral investment treaties. As investments have increased worldwide, so have arbitrations to resolve investor-state disputes. The obvious alternative to litigation in local courts is the provision of international arbitration. Foreign investment contracts are the means through which investments are made.

Key words: FDI, UNCTAD, ICSID, International Arbitration, global trends, economic growth.

Ownership Role of Intellectual Property in Kosovo

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Abstract. For about two decades in the Republic of Kosovo, attention has been paid to Intellectual Property, which is developing to a newer and more modern stage, according to European and International Intellectual Property Law and its rights. Even Kosovo based on the SAA criteria and integration process is developing in many dimensions of this area of law, which has drafted a series of laws and bylaws that guarantee the rights of IP in Kosovo and their protection. Also, in their support, State Institutional Structures have been created which legitimize and protect the Intellectual Property and scientific creativity of Kosovo. Another point of view during this research will bring the property role that IP currently has in Kosovo, as well as the perspectives that this field has in the future. Under the influence of innovations in this field of law and in cooperation with the law enforcement structures of Kosovo, the property worldview of IP is increasing day by day and also the society is becoming aware of its property values. Referring to the relations that the business world in Kosovo creates legitimacy and protection of Intellectual Property easily is distinguished that this type of ownership it's often treated as a property guarantee in various civil trial proceedings by the Kosovo Judiciary. Another aspect of great interest is the internationalized property-IP ratio, which serves as an indicator of the development and impact on Kosovo's import-export trade exchanges where the ownership role and protection of IP rights are a much greater support for Kosovo's international business, as well as a guarantee for its economic development. Like other movable and immovable properties in Kosovo, Intellectual Property has its impact and every day more and more gets the attention of the community in assessing its property, but also the respect of rights against foreign creations that find commercial and vital use in Kosovo.

Keywords: Intellectual Property, Ownership, Property Role, Legal Basis, Institutions.

EU legislation on Water quality management wastewater reuse and preventive measure

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Abstract. Water security is the overarching goal of water management, including leveraging productive aspects of water for human well-being, livelihoods, environment and socio-economic development, and the management of destructive impacts of water such as floods, droughts, pollution to protect societies, economy and the environment. While water is a central issue in water security, it is increasingly clear that this goes beyond single sector single issue topics and it percolates into all parts of society and economy. It is not sufficient to allocate scarce resources and clean up pollution. Pollution is an issue that we cannot ignore. The main types of pollution you need to be aware of are air, water and noise. If you don't put precautionary measures in place to manage harmful waste, it can directly affect site employees and people living nearby. Water Security is about building a water secure future for the people, the economy and the environment in the face of global challenges. It places water management, services delivery and water risk management in the broader context of the country's development path and is therefore aimed at a broader dialogue on future pathways and how water may constrain or leverage opportunities. Wastewater effluent entering the lake poses an immediate health risk to those using it as a drinking-water source. This document also includes performance indicators to satisfy the suitability of the recycled water (treated wastewater) for the required use by considering a number of parameters related to environmental, personnel, physical and operational indicators. The proposed indicators comply in general with the quality standards that are in force in most European countries considering also the 2006 WHO guidelines for safe water reuse. It is crucial to underline that each wastewater treatment plant is unique and the operation of a particular process should always be based on its specific performance and response to the control technique applied. This may require the process to be run outside the typical range of the operating parameters presented in this document. Kosovo has the combined factors of low water resources availability, low storage and poor implementation of water resources management functions. Because demand has been suppressed and people have grown accustomed to low level of service, this situation has been manageable, but will not be so for longer as climate changes, society and economy develop and with environmental values remaining in flashing red.

Keywords: Major types of pollutants, EU legislation on water quality management,

European Small Claims Procedure, Importance And Characteristics

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Abstract. One of the objectives of the European Community is to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market which is planned to be done by eliminating obstacles to the good functioning of civil proceedings.

As a result, uniform procedures with the same legal effect and relevance in all EU member states became necessary. The European small claims procedure is one of the first stages toward future civil procedural law unification within the European Union. Although, now we have the ELI/UNIDROIT Model European Rules of Civil Procedure as a major project on the field of civil law, the EU small claims procedure is important for its independent and stand-alone character.

The purpose of this research is to provide a critical analysis of the European small claims procedure and the Regulation (EC) no 861/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council, its characteristics, the relevance and application so far in a comparative approach.

Keywords: European civil procedure, civil procedure, small claims, EU Regulation.

Necessity of reforming the legal framework for local elections in the Republic of Kosovo

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Abstract. This paper will address the legal framework for local elections and the need for legal reform to ensure electoral equality in local elections in the Republic of Kosovo. When we analyse the Law (No. 03 / L-072) on Local Elections in Kosovo and compare it with the provisions of the Law (No. 03 / L-073) on General Elections we can notice substantial differences during the voting of candidates for the Municipal Assembly and those for the Assembly of Kosovo.

The two distinctive features set out in Article 7 of the Law (No. 03 / L-072) on Local Elections are: The voter does not have a preferential vote as opposed to the General Election (only one candidate votes on the candidate list) and the list holder is not subject to voting (the vote cast for the political entity is considered as a vote for the first candidate on the list). This creates inequality in the electoral race within the list and secondly stifles internal competition within the same party. For this it is recommended to change the provision which favours the holder of the list compared to the other candidates on the list. It is proposed that with the new provision the holder of the list is also subject to the electoral race as an equal participant with the other candidates within the list. If only the vote for the party is marked on the ballot paper, the vote for the political entity should be counted. The vote cast for the political entity to be considered as a vote for women candidates in the list of candidates of the political entity. In this way, the gender quota of 30% defined by law is more easily met.

The methodology used in this paper is based on the method of collection and analysis of primary and secondary data, the method of legal analysis (analysis of the legal framework for elections and reports of election results) and the comparative method.

Keywords: Electoral law, electoral equality, local elections, list holder, electoral reform

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REGULATORY CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS IN KOSOVO

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Abstract. Purpose – The purpose of this paper is to highlight the regulatory challenges of achieving sustainable buildings in Kosovo. The present paper focuses on regulatory challenges viewed from the perspective of construction industry experts in achieving sustainable buildings.

Design/methodology/approach – The present study uses a qualitative research method and semi-structured interviews as a research instrument. The present study interviews around 20 experts of property management, architecture, civil engineering and sustainability.

Findings – The study finds that lack of government commitment is not problematic in implementing sustainable buildings, but it is the availability of funds, lack of knowledge and lack of experience of the construction industry. The study further finds that the implementation of sustainable buildings should be supported by adequate sustainable urban plans and local infrastructure and new supportive zoning requirements. Finally, the study finds that the lack of sustainability standards and requirements included in the Comprehensive Building Code of Kosovo is a very important challenge that should be pursued further by regulators in Kosovo.

Research limitations/implications – The present study has great implications for the society and construction industry because it shows to the regulatory challenges that municipal and central authorities must address to nurture the construction of sustainable buildings in Kosovo.

Originality/value – The study is the first qualitative study about the perception of construction professionals in Kosovo, regarding the regulatory challenges of sustainable buildings in Kosovo.

Keywords: regulatory challenges, Sustainable buildings, Adaptability, Kosovo

Comparative Review Of Construction Law And Building Regulations Affecting Property Markets In Kosovo And Selected European Countries

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Abstract. Purpose: The purpose of this study is to examine the similarities and differences between legislation of Kosovo and selected European countries that regulate the construction laws in Kosovo that affect the property markets in Kosovo and other selected countries.

Design/methodology/approach: The present study uses comparative analysis of laws that provide for restrictions in construction laws that affect the property markets and cost of real estate in Kosovo and selected European countries housing supply, and consequentially housing prices in Kosovo and Slovenia.

Findings: The present study finds many similarities and differences in restrictions provided for by respective construction laws and building regulations in Kosovo and selected European countries that affect the property markets and cost of housing.

Originality

The present study contributes to the body of literature because it provides evidence of similarities and differences between respective legal restrictions of Kosovo and selected European countries that affect the property markets and cost of real estate.

Keywords: building regulations, effect, property markets, comparative analysis, Kosovo, selected European countries

ROLE AND OPERATIVE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURES DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN KOSOVO

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Abstract. The application of forensic procedures during the process of investigating organized crime in Kosovo requires a deeper empirical study and broader research of the scientific literature than has been done so far. The failure of many organized crime cases in the courts of Kosovo and the small and acquittal sentences are real indications that the application of criminal proceedings is not properly implemented in practice. The data provided through the empirical research of this paper show that non-compliance with criminal procedures marks a decrease in efficiency and a significant increase in organized crime cases.

Through this research we aim to identify possible factors that affect the growth of the phenomenon of crime and the reflection of institutions dealing with the prevention and combating of crime. According to the observation the author suspects that the starting point of criminal proceedings regardless of the degree of probability is extremely important for the fight against crime, especially the fight against modern forms characterized by a high degree of organization, professionalism, specialization and secrecy.

This paper reflects the detailed theoretical research of the scientific literature by various local and foreign authors and experts who have written about forensic procedures, research and analysis of theoretical and practical data on the meaning and importance of applying forensic procedures in detection. of organized crime in Kosovo are of particular importance to investigators of organized crime in the future.

The effectiveness of forensic procedures in order to detect organized crime in Kosovo should be closely related to criminalistics, criminology and criminal policy, the implementation of forensic procedures should in principle aim to return the basis of suspicion to the highest level of suspicion. This activity begins with the appearance of the basis of suspicion or the highest form of suspicion in the form of orientation and elimination indications. The same activity consists of forensic control and processing. The content and strategy of these activities determine their further course, as well as condition the range of rules of forensic science in a specific case based on the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as well as other provisions of laws and bylaws. The strategy and tactics of these activities are dictated by the type of criminal offense.

Keywords: Criminal proceedings, organized crime, crime fighting, crime detection.

The principle of legality in international criminal law

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Abstract. The Latin formulation "nullum crimen, nulla poena sine lege" is a principle in criminal law. This generally accepted principle of legality means that no one can be punished for a conduct without it being provided by law as a punishable offense. This principle has a guaranteeing function in the protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens and the realization of the rule of law.

The dominant worldview is that now in international criminal law, instead of the principle "nullum crimen sine lege", it is enough to respect the principle "nullum crimen sine iure". This is based on the fact that international criminal law will not be directly applied, but must first be included in domestic criminal law.

The newest doctrine starts from the fact that we should not insist literally on the law, but on some adequate international legal act (nullum crimen sine actu). In fact, this would imply the need to adopt an international criminal code (despite its name), which in reality cannot be expected to be adopted in the near future. The adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court is a step in this direction.

In the continuation of this paper, we will examine the main conditions that must be met by future international legislation dedicated to the effective implementation of the principle of legality in international criminal law.

Keywords: International criminal law, principle of legality, rule of law

Attracting FDI through dispute resolution mechanisms

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Abstract. Attracting Foreign Direct Investments is of crucial importance in particular for countries under development. Such attraction plays a key role in the economic development. Many countries introduce legislative changes in order to make the environment more attractive for foreign investors.

Kosovo legislation in force provides for flexible opportunities for foreign investors to address dispute resolution. This paper focuses on the existing legislation for dispute resolution for foreign investors and aims to address the question whether such mechanisms are useful for attracting foreign investors. In addition, the paper also analyses practices from different countries in the region to identify best practices in attracting foreign investors through dispute resolution mechanisms.

Keywords: dispute resolution, state, investor, foreign direct investments.

Environmental laws for nature protection: law on national parks in Republic of Kosovo

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Abstract. According to law NO. 04/L - 087 for the National Park "Sharri", includes an area of 53,469 ha. and lies in the territory of the municipalities: Kaçanik, Shtërpce, Suhareka, Prizren and Dragash, within the boundaries defined by this law. Kosovo has new environmental legislation, created mainly during the last decade. This legislation is generally focused on alignment with EU standards because it relies on the same principles as European environmental. The number of protected nature areas in Kosovo in 2017 is 184 and includes an area of 126,119.29 ha or 11.56 % of Kosovo's total surface area. Within these areas there are: 19 Strict Nature Reserves, 156 Nature Monuments. The largest surface area of protected areas consists of National Parks such as: "Bjeshkët e Nemuna" and "Sharri" Nature Park, "Pashtrik Mountain and Lake Vermica", Protected Landscapes "Germia" and Natural Monument of Special Importance "Ujëvarat e Mirushës". Because of the geographical position and climate conditions, as well as the historical development of flora and vegetation, Kosovo is a very rich region of species, among which a large number of them are endemic, steno-endemic and relict plants. According to law NO. 04/L - 086 for the National Park "Bjeshket e Nemuna" includes an area of 62,488 ha. and lies in the territory of the municipalities: Gjakova, Junik, Deçan, Peja and Istog within the boundaries defined by this law.

Key words: Law of nature, national parks, Kosovo, National park Shari

Defending child marriages in Kosovo or children from underage marriages

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Abstract. According to the Law no. 2004/32 Family Law of Kosovo, child marriages are allowed for people from 16 to 18 years old, under the existence of specific circumstances of the case evaluated by the court. Underage marriages have been classified an exclusion from the rule of marriages, in specific circumstances, which have to be reasonable. Referring to Article 50 (3) of the Constitution of Kosovo, all actions related to children, undertaken by either public or private institutions, shall be in the best interest of the children. The law enforcement in Kosovo has create a supportive climate, which also is disputable if can be considered in the best interest of a child.

The European Convention of Human Rights stipulates that from of marriageable age, a man and a woman have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws, governing the exercise of this right. Also, Resolution 1468 (2005) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe regulates this situation by underlining Article 12 of the ECHR, according to which the exercise of the right to enter into marriage is governed by national law.

During the last decades, many countries in Europe have banned child marriages as in Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, as well as in the Scandinavian countries Denmark, Norway and Sweden after a fifteen years debate. What about the civil society and especially the Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo, this is considered an issue that influence to the level of education and women empowerment, in the country the level of illegal marriages, domestic violence, child death, leading to join the trend in other countries. The aim of the paper is to analyse the both fronts from the perspective of the social conditions and statistics in Kosovo, and also arguing on our opinion that this issue requires differentiated appliance. In relation to this, will be analysed the Federal Court of Germany in the decision of 14 November 2018, case no. XII ZB 292/16, which in its argument refuses such an absolute prohibition.

The questions that will be addressed in the paper are if Kosovo needs to attend to the trend of banning persons under 18 years old. Which are arguments that support the actual solution and how will be treated the marriages that are bounded abroad the countries that do not allow them and the enforcement of the same for all.

Keywords: underage marriage, law enforcement, Kosovo, future regulation

Energy Legislation in Kosovo, analyses and application compared with EU directives, importance for improving Energy Efficiency and Sustainability refurbishment of building stock in Kosovo

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Abstract: The European Union Directives based on the Energy Efficiency Strategy Implementations aims to achieve the objectives 2020, from Kyoto protocol directives three twenty's (20/20/20), also reducing gas emissions and pollutions. The main subject of this paper is Energy legislation based on this directive during the analyses and application in the practice, Kosovo has achieved the targets on Implementing the Legislation and Rules with EE, compared with the region states and is in the good way to realize the better conditions for improving the sustainability refurbishment of the buildings stock. Creating the new Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund from 2019, begins to be realized the proposal projects from municipality's Building stocks especially in the public sector, those financial parameters and funds increased the Sustainability on Refurbishments of the buildings stocks in Kosovo.

During this Analyses system with legislation part on sustainability and Energy Efficiency, in Kosovo must practically implementation of energy legislation dispositions and rules, where the target and aim of this study research is achieved.

Kosovo has created the desired level or increased the capacity for the Energy Efficiency Legislation and Improvement the Sustainability of the building stock for the next five years the exception is in the national level full field to the end of 2025. Building stocks or project proposal applications from the municipalities around Kosovo, must be sample of this study improving the better conditions for living of all user's and community. Methodology used is with the comparative methodology with Quantitative hypothesis analyses for development in the local international legislation with the EE rules and implementation in the practice.

Key words: EUD, Energy legislation, KEEF, Building stock, Sustainability, Improvement, strategies, hypotheses, analyses, RCM.

Confiscation of assets with criminal origin as a form of fight against organized crime in Kosovo

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Abstract. Confiscation of assets with criminal origin represents one of the greatest challenges for the rule of law, especially in the countries undergoing transition, it nevertheless represents an indispensable contemporary step and a way to destroy the financial power of criminal groups.

In this paper among others I will treat the necessity of confiscation of assets that have criminal origin as a form of fight and prevention of organized crime, the legal provisions that regulate this process and the initiative for a special law in Kosovo.

In addition, as a part of this paper, I will include the official data on confiscation of assets that have criminal origin in Kosovo, the problems and challenges that were faced by institutions of Republic of Kosovo in implementation of this process.

Thus far Kosovo has failed to confiscate assets with criminal and unjustifiable origin also due to the corrupt criminal law system in Kosovo.

Taking into account the low degree of confiscation of assets with criminal origin and the continuous scandals in the justice system, the vetting process is indispensable for cleaning of judicial, prosecution system as well as Kosovo Police.

Key words: Confiscation of assets, criminal origin, organized crime, asset confiscation.

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THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPETITION LAW IN RELATION TO COOPERATION BETWEEN COMPETITORS

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Abstract. The impact of COVID-19 on the functioning of the economy may attract companies to cooperate with their competitors, by becoming partners in so-called "cartels" in order to overcome the difficulties created by the circumstances caused by COVID-19. In this context, it is important for companies to know what they can or cannot do to deal with the current crisis from the perspective of competition law. EU Competition Law (and Kosovo Competition Law) prohibits cooperation between competitors that restricts free and effective competition. In particular, collaborations leading to price fixing, production limitation or capacity reduction are extremely harmful and severely penalized. An important question to consider is whether the COVID-19 crisis has affected, to make an exception to the application of the Competition Law. Specifically, the competition authorities have applied a softer view to possible anti-competitive practices in the context of COVID-19. This is the main question that has been raised in this paper. From the analysis of the legislation and the approach of the competition authorities at the end of this paper it has been concluded that the Competition Law although not at the same level has continued to be applied during COVID-19.

Keywords: Covid-19, competition law, cartels, collaborations, companies, competitors.

“New regional integration initiatives: a substitute for EU accession?”

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Abstract. This paper examines the new initiatives for “regional integration” of Western Balkans, as an alternative to full EU integration. Three decades since the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia, ideas on its reincarnation are re-actualized. Now; within “European” label. Recently scholars and diplomats are discussing alternatives for full EU accession of the countries from the Western Balkans, in the form of “regional economic integration”. They will be integrated regionally under Serbian dominance and replace their EU integration with Balkans sub-integration. In October 2019 Serbia launched in Novi Sad his project of “Balkans Mini- Schengen”, which was further discussed in Ohrid and Tirana in the same year. Due the non participation of three other countries (Kosovo, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina), that idea “slept” till mid of 2021 when Balkans troika of: Serbia, Albania and North Macedonia re-discussed it. In parallel to that Serbian initiative, in the beginning of 2021 other alternatives to full membership circulated: from “associated membership” till free trade zone EU- WB. A proposal for substitution of full accession of the countries of the Western Balkans with only their participation in EU single market was sent in March this year. EC welcomed it, and Slovenian Presidency will push forward that project trough Serbia as leader of that regional alternative to EU integration. Based on status quo of EU enlargement and opposition of EU member states for accepting new members, for six countries of the Western Balkans will be offered just a kind of trade integration with the block without political integration. They will be allowed to be part of EU single market but not full EU members.

Keywords: The European Union, EU Accession, Western Balkans, Balkans Mini-Schengen, regional market.

GOVERNMENT FORMATION PROCESS ACCORDING TO KOSOVO CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

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Abstract. In this paper, the authors critically analyze the constitutional basis of the formation of the government of Kosovo after the elections and after the motion of no confidence. Proportional electoral system, extreme party pluralism and normative framework are the main factors that complicate the process of forming the government. Leaving aside the first two factors, which despite efforts to change them have not changed, the authors claim that the constitutional basis, after the interpretations and decisions of the Constitutional Court, has undergone both procedural and substantive changes. With these changes — although still controversial — the process of forming a government has been clarified and facilitated.

Based on the doctrinal legal research, in this paper are defined and critically interpreted the relevant constitutional provisions, but also the judgments of the Constitutional Court relating to the constitutional basis and factors in the process of forming and dismissing the government, as well as subsequent situations. The fact that constitutional judgments can be reinterpreted and in function of current political nomenclatures, makes the situation appear unstable in the future. Therefore, we consider that the amendment of the constitution is the best guarantee for the prevention of political and constitutional crises, in the case of the creation of the executive power after the elections, or even to support full parliamentary mandates.

Given that in many countries the process of forming a government is regulated by constitutional conventions or even parliamentary rules, and not by the constitution, we believe that this paper aims to be a contribution to the enrichment of constitutional practices of forming governments, and therefore of constitutional comparative law.

Keywords: formation of the government, Constitution of Kosovo, Constitutional Court, constitutional crisis, President, Prime Minister.

LEGAL REGULATION OF CRYPTOCURRENCIES

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Abstract. This paper reflects the aspect of legal regulation of cryptocurrencies. Undoubtedly, the revolution in information technology has also been reflected in finance through efforts consisting of creating an entire industry that aims to surpass traditional finance and include cryptocurrencies as a pandemonium of traditional financial instruments. A defining feature of cryptocurrencies is that they are usually not issued by any central authority, making them theoretically immune from government interference or manipulation. The future of cryptocurrencies is still uncertain. Debates in scientific and business circles take place between skeptics who see the cryptocurrencies as speculative financial instruments and optimists who see such future of financial transactions as a viable solution. Today, Bitcoin is an integral part of debates in global financial circles. Many institutional investors are increasingly interested in investing in cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin. There are serious speculations that a digital cryptocurrency like Bitcoin could replace gold as a safe haven. Skeptics like to point out that the volatility of bitcoin makes this impossible.

All these attitudes regarding the future of cryptocurrencies should be observed from a very important aspect, and that their legal regulation. Therefore, this paper we will try to present the comparative aspects of legal regulation of cryptocurrencies in various legislations globally.

Key words: Cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, block chains, legal aspects, money laundering.

DEVIANT BEHAVIOR OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

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Abstract. The paper researches the causes of deviant behaviors in juvenile delinquents as perpetrators of criminal offenses in terms of sociological and biological factors. The paper is based thematically and essentially on the theoretical conceptions of this problem in the field of criminology. Understanding juvenile delinquency clearly highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to assess the causes of such criminal behavior, therefore the purpose of this paper is to identify socio-biological factors that motivate juveniles to commit criminal offenses. The defined object of research requires the use of different methods and scientific knowledge from many scientific disciplines, in particular, the paper will use theoretical analysis methods, comparative methods and the unity of inductive-deductive methods. The paper contributes to the existing scientific literature, especially in the field of criminology, moreover, will reflect on the intention to undertake new researches through which we would go to the new indicators on the factors of deviant behavior in juvenile delinquents as perpetrators of criminal offenses from the socio-biological aspect.

Keywords: Juvenile, delinquent, deviant behavior, recidivism, sociological factors, biological factors.

The Western Balkans and possible alternatives to accelerating EU membership

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Abstract. "The future of the Balkans lies within the European Union" - this is the central sentence of the European Council conclusions adopted at the Thessaloniki Summit in 2003. Today, almost two decades later, the Western Balkans are even further away from that goal. After mass membership in 2004, then Bulgaria and Romania in 2007, and finally Croatia in 2013, the EU obviously looks tired. Montenegro has entered the twelve years tenth year of negotiations, and the results are still halfway through. Serbia is experiencing the same fate. And other Western Balkan countries have been on "waiting tracks" for decades.

Fulfillment of basic conditions for membership such as - stable democratic institutions, rule of law, respect for human and minority rights, functioning market economy, competitive capacities, etc. - seems to be stagnant. In much of the Western Balkans economies have remained underdeveloped, dependent on aid, loans and remittances, and prone to high levels of state intervention.

No new memberships are expected to occur in the near future. All this creates depression in the region with many accompanying risks. In these conditions, the region should think about possible alternatives for speeding up the integration process, which would not be in conflict with the existing compatibility of the European integration process. Could it be the European Economic Area, assisted by the Berlin Process, Open Balkans (Mini-Schengen), CEFTA, etc.?

During this paper we will use especially the methods of analysis, synthesis, comparison and history.

Keywords: Western Balkans, Integration, European Economic Area

Village law in Turkey with recent changes

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Abstract. The political power paved the way for the transformation of villages into neighbourhoods with the Metropolitan Law enacted in 2004. All villages within the borders of the Metropolitan Province became neighbourhoods with this change and the neighbourhood was added to their names instead of the village. Villages were made parishes, but this change brought with it great controversy because the status of the village and the status of the neighbourhood contained very different economic and legal differences. With this change, already declining agricultural and livestock activities were further reduced. Seeing this, the political power has now taken the first step of quietly returning from this practice, and the regulation on the status of villages in the bag Law No. 7254 was published in the Official Gazette dated October 16, 2020. According to this regulation, villages and settlements that have been converted into neighbourhoods associated with metropolitan cities can move to the status of rural neighbourhood's, provided that they apply. But neither the opposition nor its interlocutors knew about such an important event. In this article, the village law concerning village or rural areas is discussed within the framework of the new amendments and its positive and negative aspects are examined in the context of the cause-and effect relationship.

KeyWords : Rural areas, village act, neighbourhood, rural neighbourhood, Turkey

Unlawful regulations in the Turkish academic incentive system

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Abstract. The beginning of generally qualified academic incentive applications in Turkey is mainly as far as the TÜBİTAK Turkey-Based International Scientific Publications Incentive Program (UBYT) dated 1993. This program was supported by the development grant implementation of 1995 and the regulation “Academic Evaluation and Quality Control in Higher Education Institutions” was enacted in 2002. In 2005, the “Higher Education Academic Evaluation and Quality Improvement Commission” was established. After this date the development allowance has been amended 7 times until 2014 by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

The law enacted on November 14, 2014 and the regulation enacted in 2015, the “**Academic Incentive Regulation**”, which entered into academic life, have brought with it many controversies. For academic incentive, separate regulations were issued for the first two years, no different regulations were issued in 2017; assessments were made for 2017 according to regulation issued at the end of 2016. In 2018, the system was again updated by the Council of Ministers on 14 May 2018 with the academic incentive Regulation No 2018/11834.

The rates and contributions initially proposed in the incentive scoring calculations were amended again in accordance with the President's Decree No. 2043 dated 16.01.2020 published in the Official Gazette No. 31011 dated 17.01.2020.

Both the 2018 and 2019 regulations reforming the academic incentive system have caused both legal and economic and ethical polemics.

This study specifically aims to examine the problematic changes in terms of time and conditions in 2018 and 2019, and to question where the system is going.

KeyWords : Academic incentive system, Turkey, legal, juridical, managerial, economical and ethic controversies

State Aid rules in Kosovo: the need for approximation with EU *acquis*

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Abstract. Provided in the EU Treaty (Arts 107-109 TFEU) and applied in the EU institutional level and the EU Member States, the State Aid rules are also provided as criteria to be achieved for the WB by being included as parts of the respective Stabilization and Association Agreements (SAAs) signed between the EU and each of Western Balkan (WB) countries. In this regard, the SAA between EU and Kosovo has provided the relevant provisions for Kosovo to be properly implemented in the national legislation. The respective SAA provision (Arts. 74, 75) have outlined certain requirements to be achieved such as: it requires Kosovo to refrain from providing state aid (Art 75(1)) SAA; the authorities are required to assess the state aid measures based of the criteria deriving from the article 107 TFEU (Art 75(2)) SAA; the Kosovo authorities are required to gradually approximate the national legislation with the EU *Acquis* (Art 74(2)) SAA; Kosovo should have/ establish an operationally independent authority entrusted with powers necessary for the full application of state aid (Art 75(5)) SAA; Kosovo should also establish/ create an inventory of aid schemes and align such aid schemes with the respective criteria and state aid rules (Art 75(6)) SAA.

Therefore, this article will be focused on highlighting the existing legal shortcomings and gaps in the Kosovo legislation (the Law on State Aid and other respective bylaws) and to identify the measures to be taken in order to complete its aligned legal base in this field with the EU *acquis*. Performing the approximation of legislation and taking the respective measures in the above mentioned state aid components would properly address the challenging issues towards fulfilling the respective EU requirements provided in the SAA.

Keywords: State Aid Rules, EU Law, Western Balkans, Stabilization and Association Agreements

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LOCAL ELECTIONS IN KOSOVO, A SET THEORETIC MODEL OF EXPLANATION

MEHDI SEJDIU ¹⁴

Abstract. In the 2014 local elections in Kosovo many mainstream parties lost ‘partisan’ municipalities they have governed for 14 years. This disruptive election exhibited the high electoral volatility in the country, rather than the expected consolidation of the party system. Using the Qualitative Comparative Analysis this paper tests the configurations of conditions under which governing mayors of 2014, gained or lost votes in the subsequent elections in 2017. With the standard analysis we tested the variables of new/old parties, mayor popularity, voter turn-out, kept promises and municipality performances. The findings show that old incumbent parties with bad performance were more likely to lose votes in the local elections of 2017. The voting behavior of the Kosovar electorate in these elections is best explained by the rational-choice model of voting.

Keywords: Local Elections, Kosovo, QCA

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Democratic stability of pluralist societies

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Abstract. The motivation for this paper is to try and explore the topic of pluralistic complex societies and democracy. The pluralist version of John Sudeham Furnival, which defines pluralist societies as societies where individuals are geographically mixed but avoid social contact with each other and that such societies are incompatible with democracy, motivated me to stay and explore the topic. I would also like to emphasize the stability of such a society, i.e. the moderate effect of overlapping membership. Namely, majority rule and the political model of government-versus-opposition implies democracy and hence the theses of which model of political governance should be applied in multiethnic plural societies.

Namely, I do intend to point out the views and opinions of various authors who have written on this topic and as a synthesis to draw conclusions about the moderate political (democratic) stability of the pluralist societies.

Keywords: pluralism, multiculturalism, democracy, political stability, multi-ethnicity

Challenges and benefits of the European "Green Agenda" for participating countries

Dr. Sc. Xhemail Çupi ¹
Dr.Sc. Shpendim Oxha ²

The summits and agreements of the Western Balkan leaders precede the European Union Summit for the Western Balkans held in Zagreb (May 2020), where an Economic and Financial Plan approved by the European Commission was concluded. All this was the starting point of the "European Green Deal", which aims to make Europe's economy sustainable and climate-neutral by 2050. Beyond the political aspect, the "Berlin Process", as the forerunner of the summits, envisaged regional cooperation within the energy community for Southeast Europe, especially in terms of energy security, energy efficiency goals and climate protection. This cooperation is confirmed by the Sofia agreement (2019), which among other things approves the action plan for a common market in the region and the so-called "Green Agenda" where the emphasis falls on the field of environmental protection. Especially at the last Summit held in Tirana (June, 2021), through the European Commissioner for Enlargement, Oliver Varhelyi came the financial plan of 30 billion euros (9 billion euros in grants and 21 billion euros in loans), a key instrument that will help the countries of the Western Balkans recover in a post-pandemic era and work on socio-economic resilience.

In this paper through comparative analysis will be highlighted the main challenges in the implementation of the agreement and its benefits by the participating states, concluding that to facilitate this process and make the benefit of these agreements more effective, a national plan should be drafted for the implementation of the "Green Agenda" and to form a body both within the state and interstate, which would coordinate the processes related to the implementation of the agenda.

Keywords: Green Agenda; Environmental protection; Summits; Western Balkan

The Impact of Diaspora on Local Economic Development in Post-COVID-19

Dr. Sc. Xhemail Çupi ¹

Dr.Sc. Fisnik Muça ²

Abstract. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, many companies were forced to work remotely. Although many people lost their jobs, this mode of operation has been profitable for some others because it has enabled them to be employed and generate income. The rapid development of technology and digitalization, seem to affect New Normal because remote work will be needed as never before, which is an excellent opportunity for overseas jobs. Call Centers, which operate in Debar (North Macedonia) for more than a decade, have developed their work uninterrupted during the time of the pandemic and have not fired employees. These Call Centers, which are an idea and investment of the US migrants from Debar, with the employment of over 350 workers, have influenced the local economic development and beyond. This research, through interviews with managers of these companies and conducting focus groups with their employees, aims to highlight the role and importance of these overseas companies in local economic development, thus being a model for other countries as well, where the diaspora claims to have a positive influence in the country of origin.

Keywords: Covid-19; Digitalization; Economic Development; Diaspora; Debar.

The return of the left in Kosovo politics and the possibility of changes amid international ingerence

Victoria Perino Rosa

Abstract. Besides the changes in the international position of Kosovo after the end of the war in 1999, the international-led efforts to transform the social-economic environment in post-war Kosovo reflected in domestic politics. In the last two decades, political science analysis have pointed out that as a result of international ingerence the left-wing in Kosovo has faced years of stagnation. After the 2021 elections, when Albin Kurti was elected Prime Minister and his party, Vetëvendosje! (LVV), was perceived as a growing force in Kosovo politics, many have argued that the left is again an important player in Kosovo politics, which brings the possibility of changes in the country. However, the first months of the government reveals that the expected animosities faced challenges, especially regarding the relations with internationals. Considering the described scenario, the aim of this paper is to discuss the left-wing politics in Kosovo since the end of the war in 1999. From interviews, parties and social movements declarations and documents, as well as using journalistic sources, our aim is to answer the following question: given the current international status of Kosovo and its perceived pro-Western orientation, the newly emerged left represents a possibility of consolidating a new agenda for the country? We argue that, given the international position of Kosovo, the left agenda is constrained by international conditions. The paper is divided into two sections. In the first place, the author discusses the consolidation of left-wing movements and its agendas in post-war Kosovo from a historical approach. The second section proceeds to discuss the current relations among the left and the other parties and social movements, as well as the relations with internationals. We expect to contribute to understanding how international ingerence has been affecting the left's movements and agendas in Kosovo politics.

Key-words: Kosovo politics, left-wing, International Relations.

Risk Management in case of international threat

Samire Sadiku, Arian Kadriu, Hajdi Xhixha

Abstract. Nowadays, wherever you go, whether in Dublin or Hong Kong, some of the constant topics of conversation between business people are inevitably linked to the Covid 19; elections in the Netherlands, France and Germany; President Biden and his security and U.S. policies; as well as for South Korean presidential blaming. It is interesting that developed countries, which are traditionally associated with political stability, are becoming new sources of volatility and uncertainty that concern businesses, especially those in emerging markets.

Globalization is undoubtedly a contributing factor. It has fostered greater connectivity, enabling people, goods and services to move freely while improving the quality of life, especially for people in the developing world. However, globalization has also provoked reactions from those who have lagged behind, urging populist leaders in the West to back down and defend what they believe is in their national interest. Thus, growing nationalism in the economy and ideology in the West, along with various ardent nationalist brands raised by political leaders in Russia, China, the Philippines, and Turkey, have sparked concerns about possible trade wars, stock market clashes, and of currencies, territorial disputes and military conflicts.

Key Words: Security, Threats, Nationalism, Conflicts, Economy

The use of force against civil aircraft-intruders: international legal aspects

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Abstract. This research is devoted to a comprehensive study of international legal problems of combating acts of unlawful use of civil aircrafts. It is focused on the problems that the world community faces in regulating the procedures for taking coercive measures against violating aircraft. The law-making experience of individual states is studied in order to use it to fill-in the existing gaps in international law in this area. The urgency of this problem is associated with the emergence of a new global threat from terrorist organizations, expressed in the use of civil aircraft as weapons for the destruction of objects on the territory of states and peoples' extermination. The necessity of adopting universal international legal norms governing the actions of states to prevent and suppress acts of inappropriate use of civil aircraft is proven. This research uses qualitative methodology. The analyses are given through the description of the case-studies and critical thinking on the solutions given to them. The moment of special interest for study and research are the International Conventions, on which member states air-traffic have often been violated, as a result of the incompatibility of international law with international interests of these states. In this research, some proposals were developed regarding the adoption of new international legal norms that establish specific grounds and procedures for the use of force (weapons and military equipment), and for the timely suppression of acts of misuse of civil aviation.

Keywords: misuse of civil aviation, international air law, use of force against aircraft-intruder.

Subsidizing fiscal policy in support of the agricultural sector- The case of Kosovo

Mjellma Bujupi

Abstract. The paper analyzes the impact of subsidies, in the form of direct payments in the agricultural sector in Kosovo. The analysis is made more complete by data on production, exports and imports, which are taken as a basis from 2014-2018.

Given the fact that Kosovo has high potential in agricultural development, it is very important to analyze this sector and this is done through the OLS regression model with the Stata program.

The paper uses data from secondary sources such as the Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development as well as other local and international sources which provide data on agricultural subsidies based on production, exports and imports.

Based on the findings of the paper, it is shown that production is a very important factor in which subsidies have an impact. So, of all the other factors taken for analysis, subsidies have the greatest impact on output growth. Agricultural subsidies are a very important tool in increasing production as they indirectly affect the reduction of imports of agricultural products. In line with the findings of the paper, the paper suggests that subsidies should serve as a mechanism in increasing production and reducing imports.

Keywords: Agriculture, Subsidies, Production, Export, Import, Kosovo

THE IMPORTANCE OF TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION IN THE CONCEPTION OF CIVIL AND TERRITORIAL DEFENSE

Mentor Tahiri

Abstract. Territories are human social creations. Although the notion of territoriality alone, just like a use of it in various languages, may differ in some very wider sense, also the specific forms that it takes are enormously varied. There is a difference in the importance and the attitude toward the territory and territoriality between literate societies and those of oral societies. It is understandable since there are strongly dissimilar forms of social life and different kinds of communicative practices.

Not just for issues regarding the political or economic importance, but also for civil and military defense purposes, territoriality has always been an important issue of mankind. Above all, territory in relation to human possession is an achievement and result of various historical, soc-economic, military and political processes. Again, territoriality and territorial organization, is much more than a strategy for control of space, it is actually one the primary bases for developing the concept or even a doctrine of civil and territorial defense.

The proper organization, which takes into account the possible or hypothetical situations of an attack by a foreign force, or by a destructive internal force, allows the adequate use of human resources, as the main pillar in the resistance to the invasion of the country. Various examples shows that in order to be a successful nation in this regard, it is not only the size or configuration of the terrain that is important, but above all it is the knowledge and the way of organizing the defense according to territory.

The Civil and Territorial defence as a concept is focused on small, lightly armed units prepared for actions on a familiar local terrain. In the example of Ex Yugoslavia, such defence forces contributed to the founding of the respective armies of the newly independent states that emerged after the disintegration of Yugoslavia. This includes the Armies of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia which conducted their first battles without being transformed into the Army. In the early stages of the war, resistance was much more efficient and successful in those territories where civil defense and territorial defense had been previously at a higher level of seriousness and organization.

Keywords: Territory, Territorial, Civil, Defense, Organization, Military, Concept, Doctrine.

Social security in the Balkans – measures for future development

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Abstract. Social security is one of the main sectors of state security - a mechanism for meeting human needs and providing protection against social risks. Thus, social security supports state development and social cohesion, affects social justice, and maintains social peace. Therefore, it is a fundamental component of ensuring the stability of the state on a sustainable basis. This article examines social security system development in Balkan states from a historical, economic, political, sociological, and security perspective. The theoretical framework for this research includes concepts of human needs, national security, and social security. The research questions are: “What are the challenges for social security in the Balkan states and Balkan region? What are the measures that should be implemented for the future advancement of social security? The research findings point out critical challenges for social security in Balkan states regarding the development and implementation of social policy, functioning of social welfare, pension system, and health care system. The measures for future development of the Balkan security will be discussed based on analyzing the conceptual model of a sustainable state social security system.

Keyword: social security, national security, Balkans, human needs, social cohesion

The consociational model of democracy in Kosovo in comparison to other regional and international cases

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This paper analyses in a critical manner the consociational model of democracy in post-war Kosovo since 1999.

In doing so, it uses as conceptual tools all four characteristics of the consociational model: (1) grand coalition, (2) cultural autonomy, (3) proportionality and (4) minority veto (Lijphart, 2008). The first part addresses in detail the theoretical aspect of the consociational model, in comparison to other alternative theoretical models (e.g., idea/model of ethnic partition of Horowitz 1985).

The second part outlines the concrete results and failures within this process. Ultimately, it will also depict the advantages and shortcomings of the consociational model of democracy promoted in post-war Kosovo. It will also try to locate eventual parallels with other neighbouring countries (e.g., Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia) and also wider at the international level.

The paper ends with summarising the key findings and their potential links with scholarly debates on the models and practices of democracy.

Short bio: Labinot Greiçevci is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Political Science at the UBT College and Executive Director at the Research Institute of Development and European Affairs (RIDEA), Kosovo.

Balkan leaders plans vs European Union plans! The case of Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia

Ines Stasa ¹ Ada Guven ²

Abstract. Recent debate on the Western Balkans countries lies upon the project of Mini Schengen, whose perspective is yet to be seen in the light of its success and/or failure. Public opinion is far from knowing in-depth the concrete stepping stones of this highly advertised project by leaders of Albania, Serbia and North Macedonia, but highly contested by the Kosovo one. The main concern is on how is to be implemented a joint effort for reconciliation and strong economic relationships in a deep divided political context? In the framework of a persistent rejection of opening accession talks with Albania and North Macedonia; political discourse of the Albanian PM against the European Union policy on the Western Balkans; European Union efforts on the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, are all parts of a Balkan puzzle that have the tendency to seem like Balkan leadership has other plans from the European Union establishment. In this research article will be used qualitative data in a comparative case studies on Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia. Mini Schengen will be analysed on the projection whether it may result in a good neighboring policy within the contested and divided experimental political boundaries of the Western Balkan countries.

Keywords: Mini Schengen project, Edi Rama, Albin Kurti, Zoran Zaev, reconciliation, good neighboring.

The Trump Effect on US Public Diplomacy: Results from Survey Experiments in Three “Swing” Countries between the EU and Russia

Henry E. Hale and Ridvan E. Peshkopia

Abstract. Can the election of new national leaders significantly impact a country’s image abroad? This is frequently assumed but rarely actually tested, leaving us with little knowledge about the nature of any such effects. We address this question by investigating the possible impact of Donald Trump’s election as president in the United States, widely interpreted as a popular rejection of traditional US foreign policy, on attitudes toward the US abroad. We do so through two novel experiments, each conducted in three EU-aspiring countries at a time when Russia has been actively trying to pry countries in the region from US sway. Enhancing its standing in such regions is thus a significant concern for the US in its broader strategy of resisting Russian influence. The states we choose also feature useful variation in longstanding attitudes toward the US that help us identify potential geopolitical interaction effects: One historically with pro-US majority sentiment (Albania), another with strong recent anti-US sentiment (Serbia), and one split between the two ethnic groups dominant in these two countries (Kosovo). Confirming fears of his opponents in the US, we find that Trump’s election significantly damaged American standing in Albania, not only depressing US favorability there but also leading Albanians to be more likely to back the EU over the US in the event of a disagreement between these two entities. American standing was actually enhanced in Serbia, however. Effects in Kosovo break down similarly along its Albanian-Serbian ethnic divide. The deleterious effect in Albania would seem to outweigh the positive effect in Serbia, which is a substantively small improvement in favorability that does not extend to preferring the US over the EU if forced to choose.

Pragmatic Peacebuilding: A New Paradigm for Postconflict Efforts toward Peace

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Abstract.Peacebuilding failures have sparked calls for alternative ways toward sustaining peace. In practice, peacebuilding has always been hybrid combinations of ideology, interest, capacity and resources. Academic criticism of liberal peacebuilding, most often proposed utilizing local actors but not their institutional and cultural practices. Few advocated pragmatic peacebuilding in a systematic approach, in part because outside funders generally did not support radical departures from democratization and capitalism. This essay proposes a new peacebuilding paradigm, which explicitly advocates that local practices, including illiberal ones, deserve attention, given that three decades of the UN's formulations have rarely sustained peace. We try to conceptualize pragmatic peacebuilding as a context-driven approach that seeks to implement alternatives to democratization as a prong in peacebuilding, where a country has no experience and have clear alternative preferences for ordering political conflict. Unlike other peacebuilding paradigms, ideology is chosen by local actors, even illiberal ones. Different from other paradigms, the ideology of pragmatic peacebuilding is specified by local actors and attempts to optimize their goals. We try to carve a paradigmatic space for pragmatic peacebuilding by analyzing its ontological, epistemological and practical differences with other peacebuilding paradigms, and then present a series of agenda setting topics to conceptualize, operationalize and hypothesize pragmatic peacebuilding efforts.

The Taliban as a Phenomenon of International Relations: Strategic views on the level of international security

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Abstract. With the advent of Taliban power in Afghanistan, the global political and security order look like to be more unstable. The United States, the EU and Russia have taken a wait-and-see attitude, that uncertainty contributes to the development of many scenarios, which show the need to be studied and analyzed. The authors of the article propose to look at the Taliban as a phenomenon of international relations and assess the significance of this phenomenon for the forecast of the political situation in other region. According to the term "regional security complex" of B.Buzan, it consists the existence of regional subsystems as objects of security analysis and offers an analytical framework for considering these subsystems. The theory of the regional security complex can be considered as a matrix for regional studies and makes it possible to link this study with:

- the situation within the States of the region; - relations among states and other actors in the region;
- relations between neighboring regions;
- interaction of regional dynamics with powers of the global level.

The authors of this paper use qualitative methodology, analyzing current situations in interior and external policy of Taleban new state.

Ukrainian-East European relations from the point of view of the Intermarium and the Vishegrad-4 countries

Földvári, Sándor

Abstract. What is the place of the “renitent” Hungary regarding the Europe-oriented alliances, such as the Intermarium and the V-4 countries? What is the place of Ukraine, regarding to these alliances? Which kind of perspectives can be maintained as reality? – The “Intermarium” alliance, that is, the wide cooperation of the countries from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea, it is a good way, and the only possible way, to form a strong block against the Russian imperialism. A special attention is to be paid on the cooperation of the Vishegrad-4 countries: Poland, Slovakia, Czech and Hungary. The capital of great amount, recently concentrated in the hands of Ukrainian oligarchs, may be and must be invested in the European Union, too, mainly in the Vishegrad-4 countries. The great Poland, large Ukraine, and the small but active countries as Slovakia, then counting with Lithuania, too, as a possible ally for an East Block within the EU – they may form a strong and determined block. As for Poland, it is the only country can resist the Russian imperialism, with its measure and military forces; however, the Polish right-wing policy is a weakening factor. But we must distinguish between the Polish and Hungarian right-wings. While the Polish policy never will lead its country to the friendship of Russia, the Hungarian right-wing policy is a Russophile, Putin-friend diplomacy – thus the Hungarian right-wing is more dangerous than the Polish. — According to a Russian politologist, Orbán has connections to the “Moscovian-clan” of the KGB; nevertheless, the illiberal Hungarian authoritarian regime serves as a useful card at the hands of Putin. Russia cannot exist without aggressive expansion. The Russian imperialism is the essential phenomenon of the Russian regime. How to make Russia stop? When Russia can see that there is the border, there is the “red line” it cannot step over. Russia must realize on a strict way, “this is the border and you, Russia, must not step over this line because it is the border of your power”.

Testing Okun's Law: Evidence from the Western Balkan Countries

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Abstract. Sustainable economic growth and reducing the unemployment rate stood at the heart of each economic policy. Despite controversial discussions among scholars, Okun's Law remains a valid tool for measuring the relationship between economic growth and the unemployment rate. The study covers the six Western Balkan (WB) countries using quarterly data on unemployment and economic growth from 2005 to 2019. The Ordinary Least Square, Vector Autoregressive Model, Granger Causality Test, and Impulse Response Function were used to obtain the results. The findings show that GDP has no influence on the unemployment rate in the case of six Western Balkan countries. From the policy perspective, the outcomes of this study provide valuable indications for the policymakers in WB countries on the importance of economic growth in reducing the unemployment rate.

Keywords: unemployment rate, economic growth, Okun's Law, Western Balkan countries.

Features of the electoral process of compulsory voting in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic by the analysis of social media content of the Twitter (using the example of the elections in the Province of Misiones of the Argentine Republic in 2021)

Ekatarina Marmilova

Abstract. The aim of the research is to study the features of the electoral process with compulsory voting in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (using the example of the elections in the Province of Misiones of the Argentine Republic in 2021). The research method is a social media content analytics of the Twitter. The research revealed that the COVID-19 elections in the Province of Misiones of the Argentine Republic in 2021 were held with high adherence to protocols in different municipalities. The biosafety operation was introduced. In the context of the coronavirus pandemic, some voters, under certain conditions, could not participate in the compulsory voting, there was uncertainty about how many people would go to vote. Thus, the elections have suffered from the impact of the coronavirus, and compulsory voting has become questionable, since in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, people have additional reasons to refuse to participate in it.

Key Words: Covid-19, Pandemic, Argentine, Elections

ELECTIONS IN CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 BY THE MONITOR OF THE BLOGS IN SEPTEMBER 2021 IN RUSSIA AND ABOARD

Ekatarina Marmilova

Abstract: Covid-19 is part of the topic for blogging. The aim of the article is to identify of changes of organization and conduct of elections in connection with of the COVID-19 pandemic by the monitor of the blogs in September 2021 in Russia and aboard. To write this article, we used monitoring social media Brand24. In September 2021, 18.3% of all election blogs mention Covid-19. The conduct of elections during the COVID-19 period required addressing the wider use of electronic voting and voting by mail. Elections during the COVID-19 period are held with strict measures against COVID-19. Political parties and candidates have limited meetings with their voters, and voter campaigning has become an online format. The following issues appeared on the agenda: 1) on attracting voters to polling stations in the context of COVID-19; 2) voter participation in elections with COVID-19 symptoms; 3) reducing the ecological footprint of elections by developing policies to effectively prevent and reduce the generation of waste, including waste associated with COVID-19.

Key words: electoral process, COVID-19 pandemic, blogging

Security in community with the focus on rural crime in the Republic of Kosovo

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Abstract. Community security issues involve a host of challenges for the Republic of Kosovo in general, as well as for state mechanisms in particular. Security is affected by criminal acts in the field of community safety to the problems of functioning of relevant mechanisms in this field. In addition to the weak economy and other social factors in post-modern society, social media has an extremely large impact on shaping public opinion. This factor often causes social division / hatred, or even a threat to Kosovo's society and national security. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to analyze and discuss the impact of factors in increasing crime in rural areas and what impact have they produced in Kosovo society? The framework for the study is the approach of preventing violent crime and its growth in rural areas. The method chosen for the analysis of relevant literature, documents and statistics is qualitative content analysis. After applying this method, the results are significant in several ways. The first is that a good part of the perpetrators of these criminal offenses are convicted or still active, two have an extremely large number of criminal offenses. Third is that their impact on society's perceptions has a negative effect on the attitude of young people towards opposing beliefs and / or other non-Albanian ethnicities in Kosovo. And fourth, the wealth of some of them realized by illegal activities and promoted on social networks, unfortunately seems attractive to many young people. Therefore, the importance of this paper lies in providing a complete overview of the situation of monitoring and analysis of statistical data in the Republic of Kosovo as a basis for understanding the problems of the spread of rural crime.

Keywords: Kosovo, Criminality, Society, Rural, Security

UBT - Human Rights and Security

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Abstract. Human rights are universal rights and states have an obligation to protect them and to provide guarantees to their citizens.

The right to security from crime, domestic violence, interpersonal or social violence is not expressly protected under the international system of human rights law or international conventions. However, the right to such protection may be derived from the obligations of States to ensure the security of the individual, as defined in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” Also in the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, Article 22 in paragraphs 2 and 3 stipulates: “The Republic of Kosovo protects and guarantees the fundamental human rights and freedoms, provided in this Constitution. It is the duty of everyone to respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

States under the ECHR have an obligation to take appropriate measures to protect individuals from the spread of Covid-19 and the avoidable infection and from suffering its consequences. These obligations arise from Articles 2 (Right to life), 3 (Protection from inhuman and degrading treatment) and 8 (Right to respect for private and family life).

The basic right to life is treated not infrequently in all countries of the world, however in times of pandemics this right was violated even more, especially in cases of domestic violence.

The closure within the four walls in pandemic times was another reason for the increase in violence in fragile families and at the same time to seriously endanger human life.

Kosovo and countries in the region such as northern Macedonia, Albania, etc. were no exception in these cases, so our topic is precisely about human rights and safety of life during the pandemic.

The world is going through a severe period of global pandemic by covid 19. This has led to a significant number of women especially in the whole globe as a result of isolation suffer constant violence, and at the same time have lost their lives. .

Domestic violence as highlighted above in Articles 2, 3 has shown that domestic abuses against women and children have increased. States are obliged to take measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and punish acts of violence committed by individuals. These obligations to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and punish may arise from Articles 2 and 3 of also from Article 8 when acts between individuals are not strict enough to engage Articles 2 or 3, but when they violate the moral, physical or personal integrity of the person. According to Article 8 States have a duty to protect the physical and moral integrity of an individual from being violated by private persons.

This positive task appears especially when it comes to protecting vulnerable individuals and includes the protection of women and children against domestic abuse. Forms of abuse or injury which may promote protection under Article 8 include acts which violate personal integrity which do not interfere physical violence or threat to life. States have positive obligations to establish and effectively implement a system that punishes all forms of domestic violence and abuse against women and children.

Some such fatalities will be dealt with in the broader context of the pandemic, as well as the actions taken by the European Court of Human Rights in protecting the lives of these victims.

Keywords: pandemic, ECHR, Victims, domestic violence, human rights and security.

Kosovo's foreign policy and NATO membership: opportunities and challenges

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Abstract. The background of this study is related to the strategic orientation of Kosovo, the Euro-Atlantic, respectively the union and integration in political, economic and military organization of North Atlantic. A research question that will be asked, and that we will try to answer in this research is: "What are the opportunities and what are the challenges that Kosovo may have until full membership in NATO?"

A challenge that still remains a concern of societies in transition, especially the Kosovar which is and traumatized in general, taking into the consideration the past of these fragile territories, after the wars in the Balkans, remains the main challenge of creating the public institutions, capacities within institutions, making an important contribution to the best possible advancement within the democratic system of government, to its role in the good in general and to the security sector in all its dimensions, in particular to fulfill this mission.

Kosovo non-governmental and governmental institutions have worked to initiate cooperation and integration with NATO, trying to establish official communication between Kosovo institutions and NATO, to start the process of Kosovo's integration into the Alliance. Already, Kosovo has begun to participate in humanitarian missions in various countries around the world, invited by NATO itself. Kosovo was also part of the exercise, "Defender Europe - 2021", invited specially by the United States.

The methodology used in this research is mainly related to the descriptive but also analytical method, the current factual situation, and what awaits us as a country in the future towards NATO.

The data obtained from official institutions, whether those of Kosovo or NATO, but also scientific research, will serve us to analyze and reach final conclusions or findings. Normally, these findings will give us an answer to the question posed above.

Key words: foreign policy, integration, Kosovo, NATO, opportunities, challenges.

CYBER CRIME, THREAT TO THE SECURITY SYSTEMS OF THE WESTERN BALKANS

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Abstract. The main priority of the Cyber Defense Strategy will be the treatment of cyberspace as an operational domain in order to be organized, trained and equipped with tools, so that the MoD / Armed Forces can act on the potential of cyberspace. for the protection of interconnection and information systems. Its main goal is to provide guidance, coherence and focus, for a comprehensive approach, to develop military capabilities in cyberspace over the next three years. Relevant Structural Communication and Information Systems (ISMS) structures of the MoD / Armed Forces work actively to provide secure infrastructure for these systems, through organization, allocation of appropriate resources, good overall conditions and effective measures. These structures integrate security and forces in the information infrastructure to protect the activity of the MoD and the Armed Forces as well as all users of these systems. The Cyber Security Strategy will be consistent with the requirements that are constantly placed in this area and will respect all the principles set out in conventions, international agreements, initiatives to be taken, with the aim of protecting and preventing interference or damage to the Systems. Liaison and Information (SNI). The Internet and mobile devices have created and run a greater risk by being exposed to cybercrime. Today there is an underground market, invisible, easily accessible on the Internet, for buying and selling information and marketing of tools for cybercrime. Criminals are taking advantage of this opportunity more and more.

Key Words: Cyber Crime, Defense, Armed Forces, Criminals

Implications of Turkey's Politicized Kin-community-making in the Balkans: Transitive Turkish Identity in North Macedonia

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Abstract. Direct contact and communication with kin abroad has become one of the characteristic features of Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi, AKP) period's foreign policy that is driven by domestic politics. In this period, instrumentalization of religion in kin politics and extraterritorial authoritarian practices by using a civilizational belonging (Islamic civilization) and a transnational historical memory (Ottoman legacy) are causing Turkey to take its place among post-imperial kin-states. Since the early 2010s, Turkish so-called soft power in the Balkans has markedly shifted from charitable undertaking policies of the early 90s and 2000s towards political ambitions of the ruling regime at numerous fronts. These include import of politics with the intense political polarization from Turkey to its kin communities in the sovereign states and employment of Turkish state institutions to intervene in the ethno-politics in ethnically divided nations. In this respect, this article builds on how the religious-oriented and political polarization export from the kin-state affects the national identity of a kin-minority in ethnically divided society. This article aims to take a brief look at the perception of transitive Turkishness in North Macedonia, which emerged as a result of Turkey's transnational identity policies, in the context of Rogers Brubaker's well-known triadic nexus.

Keywords: Kin-politics, Turkey, North Macedonia, National Identity, Kin-state, Political Polarization.

The gap between the legal framework and social order in addressing property rights for Kosovo women

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Abstract. The main purpose of this paper is to identify in more detail the factors that influence the creation of a gender gap for the right to inherit property. The focus falls on factors such as the legal framework and social norms, where one of these factors has managed to bring stagnation in the social, economic and intellectual development of the entire Kosovo state and especially appearing to affect women to a large extent. A more detailed and in-depth explanation and understanding of why this space is being created and the discrepancy between the legal framework (perfectly drafted) and social norms (terribly wrong) are the main points on which the whole structure of this paper is based. The hypothesis raised in this paper is based on the data of the questionnaire designed by the authors and consists of 10 questions. Questionnaires were chosen for this research because they are a reliable and fast method to gather information from many respondents in an efficient way. Respondents' attitudes regarding property inheritance contain questions that try to extract data from them what are their attitudes regarding property inheritance in general by focusing more on defining the value system of Kosovar society. This paper concludes that our society has managed to prove that social-traditional norms are significantly stronger than legal ones. The constitution and the law, in other words the entire legal framework, provide equal opportunities for men and women in property rights.

Keywords: Property rights, property inheritance, women's rights, gender equality, the constitution, Kosovo transformation society

Unemployed, uncompliant, and unhappy – impact of COVID19 in the Western Balkans

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Abstract. The subject of this study seeks to analyse national differences in Covid-19 in relation to on labour market performance and their effects on life satisfaction. We contribute to the literature by studying whether job loss or fear of it from the Covid-19 lockdown is related to lack of compliance with recommendations from government authorities for the case of the countries in the Western Balkan, and whether this makes people unhappier. The unique setting of Covid-19 fits with the characteristics of a large-scale, quasi-natural experiment: conformation with a homogeneous set of behaviours for an uncertain length of time was required for almost everybody in the population. However, people differ in terms of personal health risk, i.e. medical conditions more prone for fatal Covid-19 effects, or close networks health risk, i.e. family and/or work community requirements. Exploiting a novel nationally representative database for the Western Balkans countries, we run within country estimations to look whether job insecurity and job loss from Covid-19 predicts self-reported individual compliance during the more pronounced stage of the 2020 lockdown. We use these results to estimate their effects on happiness. We carry out a cross-national comparison with the small set of countries in the Western Balkans, a region which reported low levels of happiness in 2016 compared to the East- and West-European Union countries. Our findings suggest that (fear of) losing of own employment or that of a family member/friend increases the propensity for non-compliance rules in general and intentions to vaccinate in particular. As expected, job insecurity or job loss makes one less happy for all the Western Balkans countries but distinctions in institutional setting and pandemic management are significant in explaining country differences.

Keywords: Covid-19, life satisfaction, well-being, post-communist, western Balkans

You can go your own way: How transit-country migration attitudes are influenced by European Union ideals

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Abstract. Balkan countries aspiring to membership in the European Union (EU) typically provide the region with soft border control, housing or repulsing migrants who had hoped to reach Western Europe. These policies can be unpopular domestically, especially compared to the third option of ignoring migrants and letting them travel on their way. To justify providing such migration management, transit-country governments attribute their policy choices to a combination of European values and mandates imposed by European organizations. Do their constituents respond to such externalized attributions of responsibility? Relying on cellphone samples collected using random digit dialing (RDD) in Albania and Kosovo during winter 2018-19, we test whether reminding respondents of EU expectations actually sways transit-country public opinion. We find that an EU-oriented framing does increase Balkan support for pro-refugee policies somewhat, but does not necessarily increase the relative willingness to house the migrants. If anything, an EU message sympathetic toward refugees can increase the temptation to let migrants travel on their way, accentuating the oft-noted underlying tension between perceived European security interests and the EU's publicized ideals.

The Level of student participation in decision-making processes in Kosovo Universities: Comparative study between the University of Prishtina and the University of Business and Technology

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Abstract. During the last decade in the education system of Kosovo there has been an increase in demands for increased student representation in the decision-making processes of universities. During the last decade, efforts have been made for the concept of joint leadership to be implemented by Kosovar universities (public and private). This can be justified by the fact that students are the primary actors influenced by these decisions and consequently they should be held accountable for these decisions. To see how effective the work of these bodies has been, this paper aims to analyze research and elaborate, at what level is the degree of real participation of students in decision making? Particular focus will be on comparing this degree between public (UP) and private (UBT) universities. To collect this data, the research tool used is the descriptive questionnaire with qualitative access, which contains 11 closed-ended questions. The target focus group of this study were UP and UBT students. The samples of selection were second year students, regardless of their field of study. The sampling method used is the probability sample, more precisely the random sample, which was attended by 168 students. The findings showed that student participation is regulated according to legal provisions and relevant documents. However, these documents do not specify exactly in which areas of activity students have the right to be part of the decision-making process.

Keywords: student participation, private-public university, Kosovo, join leadership, decision-making process

Explaining political affinities in Kosovo: Socio-demographics, issue articulation and ideology

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Abstract. This article expands on a previous study presented two years ago at the International Conference in Political Science and International Relations (IC-PSIR) that examined main cleavages in Kosovo from a historical perspective and was based mainly on administrative data. This article now answers questions such as: What are the socio-demographic bases of the main blocs of political parties, how do blocs of parties interact with and articulate issues relevant or relating to the supporting socio-demographic groups, how do ideological orientations match with party support and how do parties shape ideological formation. Using novel survey data, the study sheds light on the dynamic political change and, from this perspective, on the content of democratisation.

Keywords: Cleavages, socio-demographics, ideology, issues, articulation, change.

THE ROLE OF DIPLOMACY TO END THE WAR IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA 1992-1995

Ramiz Ismajli and Adnan Sogojeva

Abstract. Numerous diplomats have arrived in the troubled Balkans since the wars began in the early 90s. Equipped with diplomatic knowledge and a multi-disciplinary education, they nevertheless returned defeated. This was the fate of the diplomacy of Lord Carrington, Cutileiro, Vance, Owen, Stoltenberg. It turned out that they were unprepared for the Balkan "cuisine" of unresolved situations, as well as especially unprepared to face the irresponsibility for the given word. The dictator in Belgrade had a deceptive "charm" and repeatedly managed to block Western diplomacy. Most of the diplomats who faced him, with or without intent, gave him extra time to enable him to carry out his plans. As his armies and militias carried out ethnic cleansing, and by destroying everything they were drawing the boundaries of a "pure" ethnic state, he was maneuvering as a peacekeeper and deftly easily managed to impose himself excessive self-confidence. The unprepared diplomacy and the bluff of political actors, were fatal combination for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Finally, the situation changed in the second part of 1995, when a military balance was more or less giving the result on the military ground. Bosnian Government forces with the assistance of Croatian forces (from Croatia also) were imposing a great pressure to international community while seriously threatening to put Banja Luka under their control. On the other side, the US diplomacy started to be more involved. A final agreement was signed in Dayton, Ohio by creating two territorial entities and by dividing the territory of the country on pre-decided proportion of 51-49. Only the question of Brcko remained unclear.

Keywords: Diplomacy, Proposal, Ethnic, Entity, War, Agreement, Territory.

Effective instruments in Combating Corruption in conflict and post-conflict countries

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Abstract. The international community is carrying out development programs to rebuild and capacitate post-conflict countries. However, in many cases these development initiatives are ineffective, inefficient not sufficient. Above all, these initiatives are not able to fight the escalating level of corruption. One main approach to use in these cases

A common approach to tackling corruption is to improve through the development of regulation and law enforcement tools. Based on research in post conflict countries and the new “responsible innovation” model we are developing; we offer a new approach that shows a way out of the corruption trap. This approach creates conditions of innovation and economic developments that hinders the chance of corruption. The two instruments we have developed are the application of the responsible innovation model in the field of developments financed from public funds and international aid, as well as the establishment of so-called virtual economic zones. Both instruments are based on modularization and their application in harmony with each other can cause a quantum leap in the development of the economy and society of a given post-conflict country. The condition for the immanent application of the instruments is given by our exploration of the basic nature and specific features of corruption in post-conflict countries.

Keywords: post-conflict countries, economic development, quantum leap, responsible innovation, virtual economic zone, corruption, modularization.

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Pandemic election campaign in Kosovo

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This paper will address the communication of political candidates in the race for the elections of October 17, 2021 for the local level. The law on the prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still in force in Kosovo, obliged political parties to organize a campaign without large political rallies, and for this, the political parties carried the campaign in the online media and on television. This was an innovation in terms of the positive sides of presenting the programs of political parties, but it also had a negative side. This is because many candidates did not get a decent presentation. Therefore, from what was said above, we will carry out the work which will be brought through concrete examples of political parties and candidates for mayor about the presentation of political programs and platforms. We will see how they used social networks. This paper will be based on the empirical and general analysis method.

Keywords: Kosovo, politicians, facebook, social networks, media, campaigns, municipal elections.

The ideology of narrative in Kadare stories

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Abstract: In Albanian literature the ideology of narrative has not developed in their life. The literature of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries' Albanian literature was with religious mission and function. So, viewed from the ideological aspect of its existence during the National Renaissance or Romanticism has been for freedom and to develop human rights. At the beginning of the 60' was a turning point for our literature in Albanian literature and it's the first foremost an ideology. Kadare as the author, after the 60's with his point of creative for Albanian literature has image and creative for dictatorial regime. The author or the Kadare during this time he has explodes with his iron borders and with his publication "The General" he has achieved the recognition of Albanian literature.

Key words: The ideology of narrative, Albanian literature, Ismail Kadare.

Freedom of speech - Social media

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Abstract. Free expression of opinion on social networks, or electronic and print media, is unfortunately resulting in physical violence and threats in Kosovo. Journalists and media workers are the ones who are suffering the most. Why are all these attacks and threats against journalists happening? Do we really have freedom of speech in Kosovo? These are among the issues that this research will cover. The findings of this paper will reveal how many cases of threats are registered in Kosovo ?. How many cases of threats have been resolved by justice institutions? To conduct this research, we relied on scientific research methods, and based on local and international literature. The research includes cases of threats in 2020, and January - February 2021.

Freedom of speech - Social media: internet, media, Kosovo, information

Hate Speech in Albanian Political Communication

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Abstract. In the Cambridge Dictionary, hate speech is defined as "public speech that expresses hatred or encourages violence against a person or group based on something such as race, religion, politics, sex or sexual orientation". Hate speech "is usually thought to involve communicating hostility or contempt for an individual or group because of a characteristic group such as race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, political influence or sexual orientation." In fact, this paper, contrary to the above definition, will address the language of hatred in Albanian political communication, the way in which the leaders of political parties in Albania express themselves against each other, as a way to hit and discredit the political opponent but also for to defend themselves when their interests and those of the political group they represent are affected or violated. Knowing that political communication to some extent determines the political identity of everyone who becomes part of politics, then we will need to analyze the position and protection that each political actor makes and how much hate speech is the dominant factor in this communicative situation. Through the method of discourse analysis, we will try to analyze and deconstruct the approach that this form of expression is articulated and the impact it has on the political opponent and consequently (especially in the period of the election campaign) on the supporting electorate of each party.

Keywords: political communication, hate speccing, influence, electorate, political opponent.

Media and war: Vietnam and Afghanistan

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Abstract. The U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, held two press conferences after a visit to the war fronts in the peak of the Vietnam War, one under Tan Son Nhut Airport and the other after arriving in the country, at Andrews Air Force Base. In both he expressed optimism for victory. He told the president the truth. But it took eight days for the New York Times and the Washington Post to publish secret documents, known as the Pentagon Papers, which presented the truth that the American leadership knew about the Vietnam War. This was the report of the American and world media with a war in a distant country. In August 2021, the Americans are withdrawing from the same distant land, Afghanistan and the media are covering the whole mess at Kabul airport, the lifeline for all who are trying to flee the country. Even the death of hopeless people, who seek salvation by being caught in the wheels of overcrowded planes. Everything, in real time!

Keywords: Media, war, Vietnam, Afghanistan

The challenges of distance learning on a higher education level in Kosovo – case study

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Abstract. Virtual learning, also known as distance learning has changed many parts of teaching and learning in recent years as a form of high-level "academic communication". This model of teaching as a form of academic communication has marked encouraging results in countries in transition that apply for many years. The education system continues to be a challenge these countries such as in Kosovo, and the education system is forced to apply this form of teaching after the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic in March 2020. Kosovo's borders were closed as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic on March 13, 2020, while the UBT Higher Education Institution started teaching online on March 16, 2020, in Kosovo and even more in the regions. The purpose of the study is to more realistically reflect the organization of distance learning, the challenges, the effects on the activity of lessons and students, as well as the communication and follow-up of teachers-students and the realization of more effective curriculum now in isolation and social distance academic objectives of UBT College. The main objective of the paper was that there were instruments that we applied to learn how to influence distance learning but also the performance of students' academic staff during this period of social distance and the teaching process in this way and application for the first time in Kosovo university education.

Key words: information, media, the public, citizens, respondents

Cultural news position in Kosovo's media

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Abstract. Cultural developments in our country are gaining momentum day by day while bringing a contemporary professional spirit, and fortunately are occupying a special place in the international arena. This shows an extraordinary devotion by your artists, seriousness, and above all and most importantly, professionalism. The film industry it self or the "7th Art" has proven it self to us in recent years with their achievements at international festivals and the prestigious awards they have brought. Not just the film, but also so many exhibitions, events, have a huge impact in the development of culture in our country. But low media coverage of cultural activities remains a concern. In addition, in the regular program schemes, cultural activities occupy the last sections in the informative editions, and unfortunately, some informative editions don't even include culture section at all. Where as in online media mainly dominate showbiz news rather than cultural news. It's a clear indication how media orients the audience by feeding them with completely unnecessary information or within formation from which a reader has no benefits. Through this research we'll try to highlight the causes and reasons of such a phenomenon in our media.

Keywords: news, culture, movie, exhibitions, Kosovo and online media

Ethics and legislation in Kosova: Why a legislation for media? Media Laws and Regulations in Kosova

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Abstract: Topic: Ethics and legislation in Kosova: Why a legislation for media? Media Laws and Regulations in Kosova. In order to have a clearer picture of ethics and responsibilities of print media and electronic media, online media in particular, there is a need to have a good insight of legislation in place and its implementation. Legislation and ethics are interlinked with one another, therefore having a good knowledge of ethics and the way it works in practice keeps us away from the authority of legislation. However, apart from the code of ethics, regulations and its principles, media are regulated by legislation, too. The laws in place regulating media are principally aimed to protect media and journalists from eventual violations. These laws are not designed to damage the privacy of any individual, just as not to violate the rights of government officials, victims, witnesses, etc. In ideal circumstances, the media should not be a subject of formal and legislation acts, however the situations when a certain journalist reports unprofessionally or intentionally damages a person, it should be sanctioned by law for as long as it is stipulated in the criminal code. In principle, I believe that the role of journalists and media in their professional activities is to observe the standards of ethics, provisions of the codes and core principles, which are there to support us in day-to-day work. This conference will address issues related to media laws and regulations in Kosova, such as: The Code of Print Media (CPM); The Code of Conduct for Media During Elections; The Law on Radio Television of Kosova (Public Broadcaster); The Civil Law Against Defamation and Insult; The Law on Independent Media Commission; The Law on Copyright and Related Rights; The Law on Cinematography.

Keywords: Legislation, ethics, functioning, regulations, sanctions.

The role of newspapers in raising the political and national consciousness of Albanians in the last phase of the Albanian National Revival

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Abstract: Among the important factors that directly contributed to the political and national awareness are the newspapers as a means of communication. Political instability during the years 1876-1881 contributed to the transformation of the network of activists into networks of readers. With the development of publications and the opening of the first schools, circles or networks of readers gradually began to form. The first newspapers were created by members of the first network of Albanian activists, such as Thimi Mitko, Anastas Koulouioti, Jeronim De Rada, the Frashëri brothers, etc. The distribution of the first newspapers took place precisely in the middle of this network. The Albanian press and the ideas he conveyed spread little by little in a wider circle. In this period the newspapers were not only few, but also short-lived. The Albanian press in this period is characterized by the treatment of problems of a political and ethnic nature by Albanians in the Ottoman Empire. In this paper a special focus will have the newspapers during the period of the last phase of the Albanian National Revival with a focus during the years 1876-1912. The focus will be on various newspapers published during the aforementioned period, such as "Lalbanese d Italia", "Pellazgu", "Albania", "Drita", "Kombi", "Bashkimi i Kombit" etc. The paper touches on the period when Albanian activists in the political field pass from the idea of autonomy to the idea of creating an Albanian state. The paper deals with the issue of transforming the network of activities of Albanianism in the circles of readers. Special attention will be paid to newspapers as instruments for constructing an Albanian nation. So, the object of treatment will be the role of the newspapers of the time in the patriotic education of the Albanian citizen.

Keywords: Press, political awareness, political propaganda, Albanian national issue

A minority channel within a public broadcaster: The case of RTK2

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Abstract: A special TV channel in Serbian language within the public broadcaster in Kosovo was set up as a political condition. Decisions were taken during the period of defining the political status of Kosovo and despite the opposite views of the parties involved: Albanian and Serbian political factors, journalists from both communities and international actors. In 2012, Law on Radio Television of Kosovo, laid up the foundation for RTK2, as an integral part of public media, but with a greater autonomy comparing to other channels. This paper focuses RTK2 editorial policy, by using the discourse analyses as the main method. Paper concludes that the content is oriented toward Serbian minority in Kosovo, but it also reflects the complexity, confusion and the lack of political clarity for Kosovo Serbs, who find themselves in midst of tense relations between Kosovo and Serbia.

Key words: RTK2, editorial policy, minority program, Kosovo

Independence and credibility of the media - with special emphasis on the Kosovo media

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Abstract: Given that the global media according to Milazim Krasniqi, (Krasniqi M., 2017, p. 14) are and are becoming powerful businesses with a tendency to dominate the entire information and entertainment space, the media as institutions, dealing with collection and information processing, which, then distributed to citizens have created a space of their own and have gathered around themselves followers and readers. In Kosovo, from 1999 and onwards, are published twelve printed daily newspapers, only four of which, still exist. Regarding the audiovisual media, there are three national television stations, among them, one is a public television station with four channels and four of them are private television stations (KTV, RTV 21, Klan Kosova, and TV7). Besides these televisions, there are also local television stations, a Public Radio (RTK with two programs) and many other local radios. From a survey of over 350 respondents from all regions of Kosovo, aged 19-35 years, regarding to the question "What do they consider media?", it came out that 256 of them or 70% answered "everything that informs", while 63 or 17% answered that they "consider only television as media that informs". 15 or 4% said that they consider newspapers as media. 30 or 8% consider portals as media and only 1% consider radio as media. In this context, credibility in the media is this: 280 or 76.6% responded that they trust radio televisions. 48 or 13% responded that they trust the print journalism, newspapers and magazines. Other part responded that they trust portals. When it comes to selecting one media, respondents said that they receive information from almost all media, but there lead portals with 236 respondents, followed by TV stations with 100 respondents and others are informed by newspapers and other media.

Key words: information, media, the public, citizens, respondents

Does communication of uncertainty influence people's emotions and public participation intention?

A psychophysiological study

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Abstract. Communication is a crucial aspect of life. Nowadays, when we are surrounded by risk and uncertainty, communication helps the receivers of the information make informed judgments and decisions. Until now, a lot of attention has been paid to risk communication and its effects. However, research on uncertainty communication still remains scarce. This research addresses the impact that uncertainty communication can have on emotions and participation intention. To test this, we focus on the case of decommissioning of nuclear installations. Decommissioning of nuclear installations is now a pertinent energy-related matter since most of the nuclear reactors built during nuclear renaissance will soon need to be shut down due to their limited operational lifetime. The method of this study consists of a 2x2 experimental design where we divide participants (N=137) in 2 groups, namely 1) participants that are experienced/knowledgeable with the topic of decommissioning and 2) participants that have little to no knowledge/experience with decommissioning. Each of these two groups are then further divided into experimental or control group. The experimental group receives information about the uncertainties in addition to introduction to decommissioning, whereas the control group receives introduction to decommissioning only. Data is collected by asking the respondents to fill in a survey in the lab's computer while keeping a Galvanic Skin Response (GSR) device on their hands during the whole survey. This device measures the skin conductivity and heart rate variability as a measurement of participants' emotional reaction towards different stimuli. This way, we can test the impact of uncertainty communication on participation intention by analyzing their survey answers. In addition, we can also measure the impact of uncertainty communication on participants' emotional arousal by using the GSR device for measuring the psychophysiological reaction. The findings of this study will contribute to scientific literature on the impact of uncertainty communication on public participation intention and emotional arousal. Given that until now the most studies analyzing the impact of uncertainty communication on feelings and emotions have been based on self-assessment scales, this study will contribute by using for the first time the psychophysiological measurement of emotional reaction towards uncertainty communication.

Key words: Uncertainty; emotions; participation intention.

The role of public relations in higher education institutions in Kosovo

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Abstract. Public relations is a way of conveying the message to the public, with the sole purpose of influencing its opinion. Various institutions, organizations or companies use public relations tools and techniques to communicate effectively with customers, employees, investors and the community in order to show case their products and services. This paper aims to investigate the role of public relations in higher education institutions, marketing strategies used in relation to the public, as well as the way of promotion and the impact that promotion has through the public relations offices of higher education institutions. In function of this goal will be done the analysis of some institutions of higher education and the way of developing their communication with the public in a certain period, which will serve in the elaboration of the topic.

Keywords: Public relations, higher education institutions, communications, opinion, strategy, promotion

10th International Conference

Chapter: Education and Development

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Methodological approach in teaching English language in elementary school through action research

Luljeta Bajrami –Shala

Researcher for innovation and comparative studies in Kosovo Pedagogical Institute

Abstract. Currently teaching English language, is becoming a complex task, which viewed from today's perspective, requires teacher's multidimensional skills, to be involved in the teaching of foreign languages. Given that by learning a foreign language, teachers teach children "different" aspects to any culture and help students to better understand their perspective not only cultural, but also the view of almost any person else in society. It is a fact that the teaching of foreign languages is inseparable element intertwined with culture and learning as much knowledge of cultures and social boost national awareness. Teaching English language was a subject in primary school from 5th grade and that changed on 2005 that started from third grade of elementary school, provided with Kosovo Curriculum. At that time, we faced with many challenges especially with youngest students and teachers that used to teach oldest students and have a different approach. The reform has continued with the reviewed and approved the New Kosovo Curriculum Framework, and from 2016 is a subject from the first grade. Teachers who has teaches English in third grade, had different qualifications and training. A large number of them, especially in villages, were unqualified to teach English classes in third grade, or were only with an English language course and are not trained for the methodological approach to teach English. While a number of other English teachers are qualified but are not trained for methodological approach to work with this age of children and consequently burdening students in different learning situations. These aspects were part of our research. We decided to do this action research on methodological approaches with English teachers in some primary schools, from villages and cities in Kosovo. The idea for such an approach was concern about the methods used in teaching English as a second foreign language in elementary school, especially based on the request of the New Kosovo Curriculum to be taught a foreign language from the first grade in elementary school. They were conducted two workshops with English teachers, which was introduced Action Research methodology, new approaches for teaching foreign language and discussed possibilities for piloting, seven schools were selected which conducted research into action with their students in third grade. This proposal was supported by English teachers in the schools proposed to develop research in action, and also had the support of their school principals. During the entire process, from data collection to the end of the report, we act together, because we shared tasks and each was committed to perform with high responsibility, and always working closely with school teachers and principals. From this research we got:

- A clear picture regarding the methodological approach to the teaching of English language in elementary school, third grade.
- Set up capacities of teachers in the methodological approach to teaching English.
- To promote the philosophy of Action Research in our schools. The second workshop was held after three months, which were invited principals and teachers of schools that were not part of the first workshop and teachers conducted action research in their schools, in order to present the results achieved and experiences transferred to colleagues in other schools.

After publishing the study report we have worked on a training program in methodological approach with three modules, 1: Methodological approach to English language teaching through action research, 2: Interactive methods in learning English language and 3: Multiple Intelligences in English Language Learning. And this training program was accredited from 2014 and implemented with English teachers in Kosovo. And also reaccredited on 2021 from MESI.

Keywords: English, teaching, learning, action research, teaching practice, teachers and pupils.

Classroom 3.0 as a new framework to support teaching and learning in Kosovo Education

Edmond Hajrizi¹, Alma V. Lama²

Education reforms are constantly being discussed in Kosovo. Given the timing of the Covid pandemic and its impact on the lives of our students, we as an educational and innovative institution have been thinking about how to ensure that our teaching continues to develop students' competencies so our students become life-long learners.

Introducing Classroom 3.0 will move education from a general framework of learning, toward a collaborative and creative framework of learning to support teaching and learning in Kosovo education system and at the same time, embrace opportunities for self-directed learning.

Keywords: Classroom 3.0, framework, teaching, learning

How Microsoft Is Empowering Developers

David Ortinau
Microsoft.com

Abstract. Microsoft is enabling companies around the world to build cloud powered desktop, mobile, and web applications. The product roadmap and vision for how this takes place is through the next generations of Visual Studio and .NET SDKs as the fastest and most productive that Microsoft has ever created, and are only weeks away from being publicly available for all.

Through this paper, we will share the challenges of understanding culture, language and communication, regional and global market needs and more, together with more surprising and interesting lessons learned and what has worked well to improve his capacity to serve global community of software innovators.

Keywords: applications, Microsoft, challenges,

Founder of the Tales of Strays Campaign

Margarita Kosior

Abstract. The aim of this session is to demonstrate how teachers and students can fight for causes close to their hearts. This will be done on the example of the Tales of Strays Campaign which I have started to fight for the welfare of companion animals and to improve the plight of strays worldwide. During my presentation I will present the three pillars of my Tales of Strays Campaign: storytelling, teaching and materials writing, aiming to encourage teachers to either join the campaign or to fight for a cause they are passionate about through their lessons. In terms of storytelling, I will demonstrate how stories can be used to inspire young learners to fight for a social cause, but also to improve their English and develop their 21st century skills at the same time. I will focus on activities which can be used both face-to-face and online. The Tales of Strays campaign is about raising awareness and empowering the youngest people on earth through stories on the topics such responsible pet ownership or companion animals well-being, accompanied by numerous free activities and resources. Moving on, I will explain how by inviting teachers to contribute a lesson plan to the Tales of Strays annual publication, I engage them in the campaign and develop a network of like minded professionals willing to share ideas with others. Each year, the compilation of those lesson plans is made available for free to anyone interested. And since no matter how creative and engaging teaching materials are, they would not make much of a difference in the world if it were not for the inspiring teachers willing to use them with their students. Since the lesson plans included in each compilation provide detailed Teacher's guide and ready-to-use materials, they can be used by both experienced and less-experienced educators.

"Love's the meaning of the universe": On Franz Werfel's German Translation of Verdi's Opera *Simon Boccanegra*

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Abstract. The German Verdi renaissance movement of the 1920s and 1930s is closely linked to the Austrian writer and poet Franz Werfel. At the beginning of the 20th century, most of the composer's earlier works had sunk into oblivion, with only a handful of his operas, such as *Rigoletto* and *Aida*, being regularly performed.

Particularly in German-speaking countries, Verdi's operatic works were overshadowed by Wagner's musical dramas, and often disparagingly referred to as "organ grinder's music". Werfel, who since his youth had been an ardent admirer of Verdi, started championing the composer's cause in the 1920s by publishing a biographical novel, as well as a German edition of Verdi's letters. Furthermore, and most importantly, he translated three of the composer's lesser known operas, thus inaugurating the Verdi renaissance on German and, subsequently, international stages.

This paper examines the translation of *Simon Boccanegra*, the second opera in Werfel's triad, which premiered in Vienna in 1930. Special emphasis is placed on the textual reworking of the central council chamber scene, where Boito's original words "E vo gridando pace" are replaced by "Liebe ist Sinn der Welten" ("Love's the meaning of the universe"), a formulation most likely inspired by the Romantic poet Novalis. It also highlights the performance history of Werfel's translation, which led to the opera's "re-importation" to Italy and, finally, its international revival and inclusion in today's repertoire.

Keywords: renaissance, Verdi's letter, repertoire

UTILIZATION OF THE SCORING RUBRICS BY THE SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN ASSESSING STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE IN MATHEMATICS: BASIS FOR AN ACTION PLAN

Susie D. Ramirez

Abstract The use of the scoring rubrics is considered an effective method to measure the effectiveness of instruction and appraisal of the learning outcomes in Mathematics. The researcher used the descriptive research using the survey type in the gathering of data. There were 26 secondary school Mathematics Teachers in the entire Tanjay City Schools Division. The main findings of the study revealed that projects and group activities were most utilized for scoring rubrics. The same findings of the study revealed that projects, outputs, group activities, problem solving and portfolio were “always” used. School administrators “always” extended assistance to the secondary school teachers except on the checking of lesson plan on a daily basis and in providing budget under MOOE for instructional purpose which they have “never done”. They “sometimes” provided suggestions on Form 178 with regard to the use of instructional materials in Mathematics. With regard to problems that confronted the teachers in teaching Mathematics, over-size class ranked 1, while teaching overload was ranked 6. They proposed measures to improve the students’ learning in Mathematics. Of the 6 measures, drill is ranked 1, while oral presentation ranked 5.

"Love's the meaning of the universe": On Franz Werfel's German Translation of Verdi's Opera *Simon Boccanegra*

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TRIBU BUKIDNON SOCIO-CULTURAL PRACTICES FOR INSTRUCTION: A DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Dr. Abgel L. Lalamonan Dr. Severina P. Velos

Cebu Technological University- Moalboal Campus

Abstract. This study gleaned the socio-cultural practices of Tribu Bukidnon of the Indigenous Peoples during the S.Y. 2017-2018 in Bayawan City, Negros Oriental. The descriptive survey, qualitative-quantitative and ethnographic method of research was used in the interpretation of data. In view of the foregoing, the study gleaned to determine the profile of the respondents, their socio-cultural practices, extent of learner's manifestation in the classroom, the teaching strategies used by the teacher, learner's performance level in MAKABAYAN, the extent of support they received from, parents, teacher and administrator and significant relationship between the learner's performance and classroom manifestation. Generally, the results of the study revealed that the learners with the highs regards of some the socio-cultural practices, their behavior in the classroom are very positive, with regards to the support of the parents, teacher and administrator are very high, as to the learner performance in MAKABAYAN generally satisfactory performance. The result of this is the implementation of instructional development plan.

Keywords: indigenous people, socio-cultural practices, teaching strategy and behavior, Bayawan City Negros Oriental

Toys Made from Recyclable Materials in Teaching Fluid Mechanics

Jose Mari B. Acabal

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the effectiveness of toys made from recyclable materials in teaching fluid mechanics. It also intended to measure the extent of interest and understanding of the students toward physics lessons and experiments that use toys in explaining the concepts specifically in Archimedes' principle, Pascal's law, and Bernoulli's principle. The respondents of this study are the grade 12 students of Panciao High School during the school year 2019– 2020. The researcher utilized the experimental method of research and employed validated questionnaires that identified the performance of students and measured their attitudes toward physics lessons and experiments. The statistical tools used in this study included weighted mean, t-test for dependent and independent data, and standard deviation. The study revealed that there was an increase of performance after students utilized the different toys of the different topics in fluid mechanics. It was also found out that the two different toys for each topic have the same impact to the students' post-test performances. Students enjoy the activities of the different topics of fluid mechanics because of the utilization of the different toys. Moreover, there is no significant relationship between the level of interest of the 6 groups of students utilizing 6 different localized toys and their respective post-test performances. In general, the toys made from recyclable materials in teaching fluid mechanics are effective in improving the conceptual understanding of the students, thus improving their performance.

Keywords: Toys, Fluid mechanics, Archimedes' principle, Pascal's law, Bernoulli's principle.

The Use of Multimodal Instructional Materials in Teaching Science

Juvilyn L. Quillao

Abstract. The aim of the study is to find out whether multimodal instruction is an effective strategy to develop the students' retention skills on the important concepts of Science. The multimodal instructional materials used in the study were slide presentations, videos, and interactive games. The respondents of this study were the 113 Grade 7 students of Pinalubngan National High School, Pinalubngan, Tayasan, Negros Oriental. This study made use of descriptive and experimental methods with a validated instrument. The study revealed the following findings: (1) the pretest results of the three groups did not meet the expectation of having developed the required knowledge and skills to aid understanding of the science concepts taught; (2) the post test results of the same groups revealed that there was an increase of students' performance; (3) a significant difference occurred between the pretest and post test results of the students, however a big difference of the ratings can be observed on the groups using slide presentation and the other group using videos. The data revealed that presentations and videos are more effective compared to the interactive games specified in this study.

Keywords: multimodal instructional materials, presentation, videos, interactive games

The Teacher Induction Program: Status, Concerns and Proposals

Charl Nezza Z. Bambo

Abstract. The aim of this thesis is to identify the perceptions of the newly hired public school teachers towards the implementation of the Teacher Induction Program (TIP) in the public secondary and elementary schools in the City Division of Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental. These teachers have been in the service for the past five years. To achieve the purpose of the study, the researcher utilized the descriptive survey method using a self-made questionnaire to answer following problems: 1) What is the extent of the implementation of the Teacher Induction Program (TIP) in the area of management; content/topics; and relevance of topics?; 2) What is the extent of the implementation of the content/topics as perceived by the facilitators?; and 3) What are the problems encountered in the implementation of the Teacher Induction Program? There were 112 respondents of this study which included 70 new teachers from the public secondary schools, 34 new teachers from public elementary schools and 8 facilitators from the city division. On the basis of the research findings, it is therefore concluded that the Teacher Induction Program in the Division of Dumaguete City was well implemented with minimal recommendations. Nevertheless, since the training was done on a limited period, a school-based training is hereby recommended as a follow-up of what the teacher inductees learned at TIP for a start.

Keywords: Teacher Induction Program

THE INFLUENCE OF PERSONALITY TYPES OF GRADE TEN STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

JENNY ROSE S. SUMAGAYSAY ROULLETTE P. CORDEVILLA

Abstract. The study aimed to investigate the effect of home environment to student personality and student personality to the academic achievement of Grade Ten students in Paniabonan High School, Mabinay District II, Division of Negros Oriental. It specifically aimed to show the profile/home environment of the respondents in terms of parents' occupation, birth order, family size, family type and family income; academic achievement; and personality type. It further sought to determine the relationship of the personality types and academic achievement; and profile/home environment and personality types of the respondents. The study utilized one hundred thirty eight Grade 10 students as respondents. Descriptive-correlation design was employed in the study construing mainly personality types to be related to academic achievement. Students' profile/home environment was also construed to have a relationship with personality types. Percentage, mean, chi-square and Pearson's contingency coefficient were the statistical tools used in the study. Significant findings showed that in terms of parents' occupation, majority of the respondents' parents are working as laborers and/or any servicing jobs. Their parents' occupations are classified as blue-collar jobs. When it comes to birth order, most of the Grade 10 students are middle children in their family. Also, majority of the respondents have small family size (1 to 3 siblings) only. Majority of the students have nuclear type of family. Majority of the respondents belong to the poverty level. A number of Grade 10 students belong to "Approaching Proficiency" level in terms of their academic achievement. Respondents whose dominant personality type falls on agreeableness outnumbered the personality types such as conscientiousness, extraversion, emotional stability/neuroticism and openness, respectively. In general, the study revealed that there is a low degree of relationship between personality type and academic achievement. This means that personality type is not a strong determinant of students' academic achievement. Furthermore, home environment in terms of fathers' occupation, birth order and birth size has a low association to students' personality types. This connotes that the jobs of the fathers, the position of a child in the family and the size of the family somehow affect the personality type of a person. Keywords: personality types, home environment, academic achievement.

The Extent of Use of the MTB-MLE in Teaching Grade 3 Mathematics and Its Effect on the Performance of the Pupils

Maricris D. Uayan CRISTINA P. CALISANG

Abstract. The study aimed to identify the extent of use of the MTB-MLE in teaching Grade III Mathematics and its perceived effect on the performance of the pupils. The school covered in this study was Ayungon District's Public Elementary Schools. Respondents were the 38 teachers handling Grade 3 classes. The following statistical tools were used in the analysis of data: frequency, percentage, weighted mean, Cronbach's α (alpha) and Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient. Findings revealed that majority of the teachers handling mathematics were non-master's degree holder and most of them have been teaching for 6- 10 years and all of them have attended relevant trainings in K to 12 instruction. Moreover, most of the pupils obtained a "Fairly Satisfactory" grade in Math in the second grading period. It was also found that a "very weak" relationship exists between the extent of use of MTB-MLE practices in teaching Mathematics in the following areas: teacher practices in using the language, instructional materials, strategies in teaching mathematics, assessment and evaluation and parents' involvement in relevant activities with their academic performance. Furthermore, it was found that there is a weak relationship between the teachers' profile and the extent of use of MTB-MLE in teaching Mathematics. In general, a relationship was found "very weak" between the use of MTBMLE in teaching Mathematics and its perceived effect on pupils' academic performance.

Keywords: Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education, Language of Instruction, strategies, practice.

The Extent of Use of Concrete-Representational-Abstract (CRA) Model in Mathematics

Nelsa Gallo-Toong, EdD. MARIA CHONA Z. FUTALAN

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the extent of use of CRA model in Mathematics. The schools covered by this study were the 5 secondary schools in the Division of Negros Occidental of School Year 2015 – 2016. There were 267 Grade 8 students who were taken as respondents of the study. The study was descriptive and correlational in nature. The research utilized mean, weighted mean and Pearson Product- Moment Coefficient of Correlation. The study revealed that the extent of teachers' use of CRA model in addition and subtraction of integers, multiplication and division of integers, polynomials, linear equations in one unknown, factoring, addition of rational numbers, algebraic word problem and angles as perceived by the students was "high". Likewise, the study further revealed that the academic performance of more or less one-fourth of the students in Mathematics was in the "developing" level.

Keywords: Concrete-Representational-Abstract, academic performance.

Teachers' Professional Competencies and Their Proficiency in the Core Subjects

ADDAM T. ESTOSE MARIA CHONA Z. FUTALAN

Abstract. The study aimed to determine the teachers' professional competencies and their proficiency in the core subjects. Sixty eight (68) teachers were chosen as respondents. This study made use of the descriptivecorrelational research design. It also utilized percent, weighted mean, and Pearson product moment coefficient as statistical tools. Data disclosed that the proficiency level of teachers in English, Science and Mathematics is moderate. However, the teachers' proficiency level in written expression under the English subject is classified as low. The professional competency level of teachers is generally in the outstanding category. The study also found the following: (a) moderate and significant relationship between the teachers' position and two areas in Science (predicting and communicating); (b) moderate, negative and significant relationship between the teachers' level of professional competence in the area of innovation and their proficiency level in Science; (c) moderate, negative and significant relationship between the teachers' level of professional competence in the area of self-management and their proficiency level in Mathematics; (d) moderate, positive and significant relationship between the teachers' level of professional competence in the area of written communication and their proficiency level in Mathematics.

Keywords: proficiency level, structure, written expression, professional competency.

Teachers' Performance on the Classroom Observation Tool – Result-Based Performance Management System Indicators: Basis for Intervention Plan

MIRAJEAN S. MAMIGO

Abstract. This study aimed to identify the teachers' performance on the Classroom Observation Tool – ResultBased Performance Management System (COT-RPMS). The respondents of this study were the Teachers I to III of the 18 public elementary schools in the Division of Dumaguete City. A systematic sampling was done and there were a total of 174 respondents. The survey was descriptive and correlational in nature. It utilized percentage, mean μ , weighted mean ($w\bar{x}$) and Spearman rank correlation coefficient as statistical tools. The study revealed that the teachers are generally performing “very satisfactorily” or are in the “consolidating” level in all the indicators set by the COT-RPMS as rated by their school heads. However, teachers perceived that they are just in the “satisfactory” or “applying” level in the aspect of content knowledge and pedagogy. Furthermore, a significant relationship existed between the teachers' COT and IPCRF performances ($p = 0.027 < \alpha = 0.05$). This implies that the performance of the teachers as stated in the performance rating is consistent to the performance that they exhibit in the classroom. Moreover, there is no significant relationship between the teachers' profile and their performances based on the COT-RPMS and IPCRF (all p -values $> \alpha = 0.05$). This connotes that regardless of their age, sex, number of years in teaching and educational attainment, their profile does not vary and is not associated to their performance.

Keywords: Classroom Observation Tool, Result-Based Performance Management, Individual Performance Commitment and Review For.

Teachers' Dominant Mode of Thinking Preference: Its Relationship to Their Performance Ratings

Sherry Mae Arce-Tabilon, Maria Chona Z. Futralan

Abstract. This study aimed to determine teachers' dominant mode of thinking preference in relation to their performance rating. The respondents of the study were the elementary and high school teachers of Cluster 4, Bayawan City Division. The research was descriptive and correlational in nature. The study utilized percentage, mean, weighted mean, and the Pearson's Contingency Coefficient. The study revealed that most of the teachers are married, baccalaureate degree holders only and female. The extent of the teachers' thinking strengths based on analytical, sequential, interpersonal and imaginative thinking is "very high" in the different modes of thinking preferences. A big percentage of the teachers are analytical thinkers, one-fourth of them are interpersonal thinkers and another one-fourth are imaginative thinkers. In addition, majority of the teachers have a "very satisfactory" performance rating. Teachers' performance rating is not associated with their dominant mode of thinking preference. In terms of educational attainment, teachers who are baccalaureate degree holders are more sequential compared to teachers with master's degree units. However, the latter have higher imaginative strength than the former. Married teachers have higher sequential, interpersonal, and imaginative strengths than single teachers. Lastly, female teachers are more sequential than male teachers.

Keywords: thinking preference, analytical thinking, sequential thinking, interpersonal thinking, analytical thinking.

Students' Interest on the Use of the Sine/Cosine Apparatu as an Instructional Material

Marissa L. Cabug

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the effectiveness of the sine/cosine apparatus as an inexpensive instructional material in teaching the laws of sine and cosine. It also intended to measure the extent of interest of the students in engaging themselves in activities using the sine/cosine apparatus. The respondents of this study were the Grade 10 Students of Sampiniton Provincial Community High School enrolled during the school year 2018-2019. The researcher utilized the descriptive method of research. It also used a researcher-made questionnaire for measuring the performance and interest of the students. The statistical tools used in this study included accuracy, mean, weighted mean, and Spearman Rho. The study revealed that there is an increase in performance after the students engaged in the activities using the sine/cosine apparatus. It was also found that the extent of interest of the students was very high. As a matter of fact, their interest served as a determinant of their performance. The result of the experiment also showed reliable and acceptable accuracy. In addition, a moderate relationship was identified between the students' interest in the use of the sine/cosine apparatus and their performance.

Keywords: Sine/Cosine apparatus, performance, interest

STUDENTS' EXTENT OF UTILIZATION OF ORAL ENGLISH IN RELATION TO THEIR READING LEVEL

MARIALOS C. QUITAY

Abstract. The main objective of this study was to find out if there was a significant relationship between students' extent of utilization of oral English in relation to their reading level. The study employed a descriptive and correlation design. It utilized frequency distribution, chi-square, weighted mean, and percentage. A sample size of 182 consisting of 91 boys and 91 girls was drawn from the population of 333 Grade VIII students of Sta. Catalina National High School using the systematic sampling technique. Data were gathered from two sources: a) questionnaire on the students' profile and another questionnaire on the students' extent of utilization of oral English in school and at home, and b) the Oral Reading Verification (ORV) were conducted to all respondents. The respondents of this study were assessed according to their reading level. Word recognition and comprehension were the specific skills verified in the respondents. Quadrant A is the first level, Quadrant B is the second level, Quadrant C is the third level and Quadrant D is the fourth level, and for students who cannot read or syllabic readers are considered "non-readers". Based on the data gathered, it can be deduced that majority of the Grade VIII students are on the prescribed age of 14 considering the entrant of 6 years old for grade I pupils. The study showed that 58.79% of the respondents belong to a family with a monthly family income of Php4,999.00 and below. This reflected that the respondents' families are within the poverty line with their parents who have attained significantly low education level. Of the 182 respondents, the most number of 84 or 46.15 % of respondents' fathers have only completed certain elementary level. The same result is also reflected by 78 or 42.82 % of the respondents' mothers. It can be inferred that parents' educational background affects monthly family income. Based on the collected data, the study revealed that the respondents "seldom" utilized oral English in school and at home. These findings further revealed that there was indeed significant relationships between the respondents' reading level and the extent of utilization of oral English in school. Moreover, this study showed that in some areas of the respondents' profile like monthly family income and parents' educational background had no significant relationships on the respondents' reading level. Furthermore, age and sex influenced the respondents' reading level as well as their extent of utilization of oral English.

SCHOOL HEADS' OPCR VIS-À-VIS TEACHERS' IPCR: AN ASSESSMENT ON PERSONNEL PROFILE AND JOB PERFORMANCE

Sheena Mae T. Comighud, EdD / Joseph I. Buquiran, MAEd / Barry Jay A.
Graciadas, EdD

Abstract. The study determined the relationship between the school heads' extent of performance management on OPCR-KRAs vis-à-vis the teachers' level of employee engagement on IPCR-KRAs as an assessment of personnel profile and job performance conducted in the 30 Public Elementary Schools of Bayawan City Division for SY 2018-2019. It made use of the descriptive-correlational research design. The survey instruments respectively covered the School Heads' OPCR and Teachers' IPCR five Key Result Areas (KRAs). The respondents were the 30 school heads and 30 teachers' league presidents for the OPCR as well as 90 teachers for the IPCR. It utilized percentage, weighted mean, mean, mann whitney u test, kruskall-wallis test, and spearman rank correlation coefficient. The salient findings revealed that school heads' performance management on OPCR was "very high" while the teachers' employee engagement on IPCR was "high" as perceived by the school heads and "very high" as assessed by the teachers. The job performance ratings of both the school heads and the teachers based on the RPMS-OPCR-IPCR were at "very satisfactory" levels. There is no significant relationship between the school heads' performance management and office job performance while strong and significant relationship was found between the teachers' engagement and individual job performance. There is also a significant difference on the performance management and employee engagement when respondents are grouped according to educational attainment, level of seminars attended, and position held. Finally, findings reveal no significant relationship between the school heads' performance management on OPCR and the teachers' employee engagement on IPCR.

Keywords: performance management, employee engagement, school heads' OPCR, teachers' IPCR, job performance, Department of Education

SCHOOL HEADS' OPCR VIS-À-VIS TEACHERS' IPCR: AN ASSESSMENT ON PERSONNEL PROFILE AND JOB PERFORMANCE

Sheena Mae T. Comighud, EdD / Joseph I. Buquiran, MAEd / Barry Jay A.
Graciadas, EdD

Abstract. The study determined the relationship between the school heads' extent of performance management on OPCR-KRAs vis-à-vis the teachers' level of employee engagement on IPCR-KRAs as an assessment of personnel profile and job performance conducted in the 30 Public Elementary Schools of Bayawan City Division for SY 2018-2019. It made use of the descriptive-correlational research design. The survey instruments respectively covered the School Heads' OPCR and Teachers' IPCR five Key Result Areas (KRAs). The respondents were the 30 school heads and 30 teachers' league presidents for the OPCR as well as 90 teachers for the IPCR. It utilized percentage, weighted mean, mean, mann whitney u test, kruskal-wallis test, and spearman rank correlation coefficient. The salient findings revealed that school heads' performance management on OPCR was "very high" while the teachers' employee engagement on IPCR was "high" as perceived by the school heads and "very high" as assessed by the teachers. The job performance ratings of both the school heads and the teachers based on the RPMS-OPCR-IPCR were at "very satisfactory" levels. There is no significant relationship between the school heads' performance management and office job performance while strong and significant relationship was found between the teachers' engagement and individual job performance. There is also a significant difference on the performance management and employee engagement when respondents are grouped according to educational attainment, level of seminars attended, and position held. Finally, findings reveal no significant relationship between the school heads' performance management on OPCR and the teachers' employee engagement on IPCR.

Keywords: performance management, employee engagement, school heads' OPCR, teachers' IPCR, job performance, Department of Education

SCHOOL BASED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

GERLIE T. AUSAN, MAEd / SHEENA MAE T. COMIGHUD, EdD

Abstract. The main purpose of the descriptive research study was to determine the School-Based Management (SBM) practices on leadership and governance of school heads as conducted in the Public Secondary Schools of DepEd-Bayawan City, Negros Oriental, Philippines involving 21 school heads and 194 teacher respondents.

This study utilized adopted survey questions from a School-Based Management (SBM) Practices on Leadership and Governance Dimensions. The Survey Questionnaire made use of validated 25 leadership indicators and 20 governance indicators using a 5 point Likert Scale. The questionnaire underwent a pilot testing to 30 non-respondent schools of Basay District, Basay, Negros Oriental. The coefficient of reliability using Cronbach's alpha was 0.734 which means that the questionnaire is acceptable.

Findings revealed the composite mean of the following: Extent of leadership practices of school heads as perceived by the school heads was 4.27 (very evident) and governance practices was 4.01 (much evident), and extent of leadership practices of school heads as perceived by the teachers was 4.38 (very evident), and governance was 4.43 (very evident). It also revealed that there was no significant difference in the extent of leadership and governance practices of school heads when grouped according to their own profiles as well as when grouped according to school profiles. Thus, there is a significant relationship between the school head's governance practices as perceived by the teacher and by that of the school heads' themselves.

It is recommended that school heads should continue their good practices in leading the school at the same time aim to increase the school performance. In order to continually improve an Action Plan has been developed to hone more the leadership and governance skills of school heads and for effective School Based Management (SBM) implementation.

Reading Interest Contingencies of High School Students

LOUNISA C. CATARMAN

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the extent of influence of the reading interest contingencies of high school students in relation to their reading comprehension skills. It utilized the descriptive-correlational research design. Data were gathered through survey and reading comprehension test to 230 respondents. The study showed that students did not meet the expectations required of them of their reading comprehension skills. The reading interest contingencies (attitude, intention, and subjective norms) were assessed to have high influence on students' reading interest. Findings also revealed that there was a significant relationship between the students' reading interest contingencies and their reading comprehension skills. However, the degree of relationship was weak which means that the three reading interest contingencies were not strong predictors of their comprehension skills. Moreover, a significant relationship was found between students' profile (sex and family monthly income) and their over-all reading comprehension skills. However, the degree of relationship was weak which implied that the profile variable of the students slightly contributed to the reading comprehension skills. Meanwhile, the mean percentage score indicated in sex revealed that female students had a slightly higher level of reading comprehension skills compared to male. Finally, the data revealed that the sex of the students was not significantly related to their over-all reading interest contingencies. This implied that male and female students had more or less the same reading interest. On the other hand, the family monthly income of the students was significantly and directly related to the over-all reading interest contingencies. However, the degree of relationship was weak which means that their income slightly predicted their over-all reading interest contingencies.

Keywords: reading interest contingencies, reading comprehension skill

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE GRADE 2 TEACHERS IN THE DIVISION OF DUMAGUETE CITY IN TEACHING MATHEMATICS USING MOTHER TONGUE: A BASIS FOR AN ACTION PLAN

SOFIA A. TUNDAG

Abstract. The study aimed to identify the problems encountered by Grade 1 Mathematics teachers in teaching Mathematics using the Mother Tongue as a medium of instruction in the schools of Division of Dumaguete City and their relationship to class academic performance of the pupils. The survey was descriptive and correlational in nature. It utilized frequency distribution, percentage, mean, weighted mean, and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. Majority of the teachers are non-master's degree holders and have been in the teaching profession for a longer time. Most of them attended the indicated seminar-workshops related to the K-12 instruction. The teachers encountered a —seriousl problem in the translation of Mathematical concepts or language in the Mother tongue and had a —moderatel problem in the utilization of effective questioning skill and in giving of exercises and activities. Moreover, they faced a —slightl problem in the utilization of effective reacting technique. The findings disclosed that the class academic performance of the pupils is in the —approaching proficiencyl level. There is a —slightl negative relationship between the extent of problems encountered by the teachers in the translation of the Mathematical concepts and the class academic performance of the pupils. There is also a —slightl negative relationship between the number of relevant trainings attended by the teachers and the following variables: utilization of effective questioning skill, utilization of effective reacting technique and giving exercises and activities. Moreover, the study showed that there is a —slightl negative relationship between the educational attainment of the teachers and the following variables: utilization of effective reacting technique and giving of exercises and activities. It is, therefore, recommended that: 1. Teachers upgrade their skills in managing classroom instruction by pursuing further studies and attend more training focusing on the translation of the content of the Mathematics competencies in the Mother tongue. 2. Teachers, in coordination with the School Head, Public Schools District Supervisor, and Education Program Supervisor for Mathematics, formulate varied exercises activities in the Mother Tongue so as to enhance learning.

Keywords: Mother Tongue, Translation of Mathematical Concepts, Question and Reaction Technique

Principals' Leadership Styles and the Extent of Instructional Technical Assistance Provided to Teachers

CRISTY M. JABONILLO

Abstract. This study sought to determine the principals' leadership styles and the extent of instructional technical assistance provided to teachers in terms of teaching and learning, curriculum implementation, learning environment, and instructional materials enhancement. 192 teachers from 11 secondary schools were chosen to take part in the survey conducted. The study utilized descriptive- correlation method and employed weighted mean, and Spearman rank correlation coefficient. Results of the study revealed that principals manifest supportive and participative leadership styles to a very high extent while directive and achievement-oriented leadership styles to a high extent only. The instructional technical assistance of the principals to their teachers is high in the following areas: teaching and learning, school curriculum implementation, learning environment and IMs enhancement. There is a strong relationship between the four principals' leadership styles and their delivery of technical assistance to teachers.

Keywords: leadership styles, instructional technical assistance

Personal Journey of CPE-Graduate Science Teachers: A Phenomenological Inquiry

ANNE RUTHZL VILLANUEVA-BINALAYO

Abstract. This research study is a qualitative investigation that specifically applies phenomenology to explore the lived experience of CPE-Graduate Science Teachers. Data were collected through personal interviews with eight (8) participants using open-ended questions. A 9th participant was chosen to validate repetition of responses and confirm the presence of data saturation. Colaizzi's method was used for data analysis. After a thorough analysis of the transcripts, three (3) emergent themes and eleven (11) clustered themes have emerged to capture the participants' lived experience: "Better Working Benefits," "Proximity to Family," "Teaching Beyond Area of Expertise," "Dearth of Learning Resources," "Different Strokes for Different Folks," "Deficient Training Ground," "Coping through Trainings," "Love for Work," "Socialization and Support," "Touch of Joy," and "Core Values Yearned." The study concluded that participants' reasons for changing their careers are to attain stability and receive enough compensation without being away from their families. They have also faced different problems when they entered into the teaching profession such as teaching beyond their area of expertise, insufficient learning resources and dealing with different learners. However, they have also done some adjustments to cope with these challenges by doing research, asking help from colleagues and attending seminars and trainings. Lastly, the participants have learned to love and find joy in their profession. Fulfillment then followed after they became committed to their profession and were able to touch and change the lives of their students.

Keywords: Lived Experience, CPE-Graduate Science Teachers, Shifting Work Direction, Growth and Opportunities in Teaching, Commitment and Fulfillment in Teaching, Non-Education Graduate Teachers.

EFFECT OF PROJECT BASED LEARNING ON THE READING SKILLS

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Abstract. The topic was selected to probe the effectiveness of project based learning on the reading skills of the students. In this qualitative research, the prime objective was to determine that whether students can become autonomous learners through project based learning and does it improves their reading skills effectively. Literature review conducts a meticulous investigation of the research in the same area. Research of this write up has designed a case study to proceed.

The data was collected through census sampling that enabled the researcher to have detailed. The students were engaged in their projects. The results proves that project based learning not only improved their literacy skills but also made them inquisitive and independent learners. Therefore, many surveys and studies conducted before, have proven the findings of this study similar to the one conducted now and also highlights the scope of the study.

Keywords. Autonomous learners, Independent learners, literacy Skills, Project Based Learning Qualitative research.

Multi-media Utilization in Teaching-Learning Process

Nathalie Jane I. Duya, MAEd

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the utilization of multi-media in teaching learning process in Manalongon Nicolas N. Lajot Central School, Sta. Catalina District I, involving 95 respondents of 46 male and 49 female, using the whole population of Grade V during the SY 2017-2018. This study is a descriptive design as the main data gathering instrument. The modified questionnaire was based on the questionnaire of Demetrio Catid. Since this was a modified questionnaire, the trial run was conducted in Mabuhay Elementary School, to find out the internal reliability and consistency of the items the researcher used cronbach alpha. The questionnaire was divided into two parts. Part one was the respondent's demographic profile and part two was the areas of multi-media utilization in teaching-learning process. The study utilized the frequency distribution, percentage, weighted mean and composite mean for the statistical treatment. Findings revealed the following: The composite mean obtained in the following areas were: learner's motivation 3.56 (Very Helpful), learner's cognition 3.49 (Very Helpful), learner's interaction 3.44 (Very Helpful), the learner's engagement 3.22 (Very Helpful). Recommendations included the following: that the teachers must be computer literate; that multimedia be used frequently in teaching to encourage learners to be active in the class, that the school must have enough computer units and a skilled personnel to maintain and secure the technological devices prey from vandals, performance.

Keywords: Multi-media, Utilization, Teaching-Learning Process, Philippines

Motivational Factors in Relation to Teachers' Performance

Mavic G. Sala

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the motivational factors that influence teachers' job performance. The data pertain to the motivational factors that influence teachers' motivation which in turn affects their performance. These factors are categorized as existence needs, relatedness needs, and growth needs. The respondents of the study are the teachers of Bacong District, Division of Negros Oriental during the school year 2016 – 2017. The study utilized the descriptive-correlational method of research in the sense that it attempted to determine the motivational factors and their relationship to teachers' job performance. The study made use of a researcher-made questionnaire that determined the extent to which the motivational factors influence teachers' performance. The statistical tools used for the treatment of data are Frequency Distribution and Percentage, weighted mean and Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient. The following are the salient finding of the study. Majority of the teachers in Bacong District are female, on their prime of life, have advanced professionally, occupy Teacher 2 plantilla position, and with considerable years of teaching experience. Teachers' performance based on the RPMS is "Very Satisfactory". Teachers are "Very Highly Motivated" by the motivational factors relative to existence needs, relatedness needs and growth needs. The extent to which teachers are motivated by the motivational factors is significantly related to their job performance. Teachers' profile in terms of sex, educational qualification and teaching experience is significantly related to their job performance based on the RPMS, however, in relation to the extent to which teachers are motivated by the motivational factors, teachers' profile was found to be insignificant. In general, it was concluded that the higher is teachers' motivation, the better is their job performance.

Keywords: motivational factors, job performance.

Challenges of the Albanian Students from Kosovo in Translating Albanian Idioms into English

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Abstract. Idioms are a field not properly studied to date in Kosovo. Thus, a lot of effort is required for some issues, if not all, regarding idioms are shed light on and explained. One very important issue worth mentioning is also the challenges of the Albanian students from Kosovo in translating Albanian idioms into English. This is understood better when we take into account the fact that it all is correlated with the culture of the people whose language one tries to understand completely, in our case with the Albanian and English culture. Therefore, the paper in question will clarify the challenges the Albanian students from Kosovo face in translating Albanian idioms into English. More or less, it is based on the doctoral dissertation carried out by Suhodolli, M. in 2020 with idioms. The results of this paper will also be based on this thesis; therefore, it does not represent any plagiarism whatsoever.

Keywords: Idioms, challenges, teaching, learning, culture

Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on development and research of students in Kosovo

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Abstract. The object of this research will be to identify and explain the impact that the global pandemic Covid-19 has had on the development and scientific progress of students in the Republic of Kosovo.

To achieve this objective, we will conduct a questionnaire to a sample of 1000 subjects, who will be students of different fields and different Universities in Kosovo, from which we will collect the necessary data.

The collected data will be processed to achieve the overall results and conclusions of the research.

The theoretical basis literature will also be used, which will be more in the field of psychology and scientific practice, to see and interpret more accurately the psychological and personal factors that have developed as a result of the presence of Covid-19, which have the opportunity to directly influence the progress and scientific development of students during this period.

Keywords: Study, pandemic, research progress, students, scientific research etj.

Locally Made Apparatus in Teaching Law of Acceleration and Projectile Motion

JESSIE MAE C. GAINSAN

Abstract. The study sought to determine the performance of students when the two localized apparatus, linear motion track and projectile launcher, were utilized. It also sought to determine the level of interest of students when the apparatuses were used. The respondents were the 105 students of Bugay National High School, School Year 2019–2020. The researcher utilized the descriptive method. The researcher also used validated questionnaires that measured the level of interest of students. The statistical tools applied in the study were percent error, mean, weighted mean, Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient, and standard deviation. The result of the study showed that the pre-test performance of the students did not exceed the passing standard of the Department of Education, and their post-test performances were all in satisfactory levels. The marked improvement of their performance was attributed from the utilization of locally made apparatuses. Moreover, the level of interest among students on the utilization of localized linear motion track and projectile motion were very high.

Keywords: Localized apparatus, Level of interest of students, Law of acceleration, Projectile motion

Localized Apparatuses in Teaching Electrical Conductivity of Aqueous Solutions

Nieva Jun I. Duya, MAE

Abstract. The study sought to determine as to which among the three proposed apparatuses namely: localized aqueous solution lamp, localized aqueous solution mini fan and localized aqueous solution Ferris wheel best demonstrated electrical conductivity of aqueous solutions and its effectiveness. It also sought to find out the perception of students when these localized apparatuses have been utilized in the activity. The respondents of this study were the 123 Grade 7 students of Pantao National High School, school year 2018-2019. The researcher utilized the descriptive method. The researcher also used validated questionnaires that measured the performance and perception of the students. The statistical tool used in the study includes, mean, t-test for independent data, weighted mean, Spearman rank correlation coefficient and ANOVA. The result of the study indicated that the posttest performance of the students did not meet expectation whereas, their pretest performance was generally in satisfactory level. The marked improvement of their performance was attributed from the utilization of locally made apparatuses. Moreover, the study revealed that the three apparatuses had different effects among the students where, localized aqueous solution lamp had better effect on students, while localized aqueous solution mini fan was as good as miniature Ferris wheel. Further, the extent of perception among students on the utilization of localized apparatuses in terms of motivation, cognition and interaction was high.

Keywords: Localized apparatus, perception of students, and electrical conductivity of aqueous solutions

Localized Apparatus in Teaching Geometrical Optics

ANDREW NIFF E. BALBON

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the performance of the students about the basic concepts of geometrical optics before and after participating in the localized apparatus demonstrations and experiments. The respondents that demonstrate the set-up and who will answer the pretest and posttest are the grade 11 students from the Senior High School class of Sampiniton Provincial Community High School. The researcher utilized the quasi-experimental design, pretest–posttest design, in the study. Wherein, learners were randomly assigned to either (1) experimental or (2) control group. Both groups were pretested for the independent variable. The experimental group received the treatment where they performed the activity using the localized apparatus in teaching geometrical optics. Both groups were post tested to examine the effects of manipulating the independent variable on the dependent variable. The study revealed that localized apparatus used in the experiment is both accurate and consistent in demonstrating the concepts on geometrical optics. Furthermore, there is a significant difference between the pretest and posttest performances of the students in all the topics on the concepts of geometrical optics. The study revealed that the localized apparatus is effective in improving the performance of the students on the concepts of geometrical optics.

Keywords: Localized apparatus, geometrical optics, students' performance

Literacy Intervention Strategies for Increasing Kindergarteners' Letter Sound Fluency and Word Recognition: A Proposed Intervention

Alfredo E. Sapequeña, Jr., MAEd

Abstract. This research sought to determine the effectiveness of the following proposed literacy intervention strategies: perfect match, fluency letter wheel, letter flash, familiar word readings, word relay, and fast match in increasing letter sound fluency and word recognition among kinder pupils enrolled in Manggolod Elementary School of Sta. Catalina District III. Forty-two (42) respondents were equally distributed among three groups based on their level of intelligence per academic grades from first to second quarter. The study utilized the standardized Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) as the tool in determining the pre-test and post-test performance of the kinder pupils. The researcher prepared 3 different intervention strategies for letter sound fluency and 3 different intervention strategies for word recognition and administered them to the pupils. To check on the effectiveness of the strategies, a post-test was conducted using EGRA. Results were statistically treated using percentage, weighted mean, t-test for independent data and t-test for dependent data. It was found out that pre-test and post-test performance of the kinder pupils in letter sound fluency and word recognition was generally within satisfactory level. Post-test performance in letter sound fluency and word recognition was also remarkable. There was a significant difference between their pre-test and post-test performance in letter sound fluency word recognition intervention activities. Hence, it is recommended that other schools would use the strategies proposed in this study so to compare the findings of this study.

Keywords: Literacy intervention strategies, Letter sound fluency, Word recognition

Level of Stress Experienced by Teachers, Extent of Utilization of Coping Strategies and Extent of Their Wellness

MARIA GLORIA A. PUNTERO

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the level of stress experienced by teachers, the extent of utilization of coping strategies, and the extent of their wellness. The respondents came from 18 public elementary schools comprising the city division of Dumaguete for School Year 2018-2019. Some 142 teachers were taken in as respondents. The study was descriptive and correlational in nature. It utilized the frequency distribution, percentage, weighted mean, and the Pearson r and Chi-square for statistical analysis. Data of the study revealed that the respondents are “Mildly Stressed” with individual and organizational stressors, and “Slightly Stressed” with environmental stressors. On the other hand, teachers were found to have a “high” extent of utilization on the stress’ coping strategies, and also revealed a “high” extent of wellness. Furthermore, findings in this study disclosed that the teachers’ level of stress experienced has a “weak” degree of relationship with their coping strategies, namely: time management, lifestyle management technique, physiological technique, and support seeking, while a “Negligible” connection is indicated on the cognitive technique. In addition, data revealed a “Negligible” relationship between the teachers’ level of stress experienced and the extent of their wellness was found on the following wellness variables, namely; emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual. Meanwhile, a “weak” bond is established on physical wellness. Lastly, the relationship between the teachers’ extent of wellness and their profile in terms of: sex, age, educational attainment and family income showed “Negligible” results.

Keywords: Stressors, Burnout, Coping Strategies, Wellness

Leadership Dimensions and Schools' Culture Behavior: Basis for a Program Design

QUEENIE E. BUTALID

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the leadership dimensions practiced by the school heads and the school culture behavior of the schools of Dauin and Zamboanguita Districts , Division of Negros Oriental. Descriptive - correlational method of research was utilized. The respondents of the study are the school heads and teachers of the aforementioned districts. School heads were measured in terms of their leadership dimension. On the part of the teachers, they were assessed the school culture behavior in terms of professional collaboration , affiliative collegiality and self-efficacy / self-determination. To determine the school heads dimension and the school culture behavior , weighted mean ($w\bar{x}$) was utilized and to measure the degree of relationship between variables chi-square (χ^2) was used. Result of the data revealed that majority of the school heads practiced the transformational leadership dimension at a “Very High” extent. Teachers perceived their schools’ culture behavior in terms of professional collaboration , affiliative collegiality , and self- efficiency to be “High”. Significant relationship was found between the school heads’ leadership dimension and the school culture behavior. School heads profile in terms of age , supervisory experience , educational qualification and relevant trainings is significantly related to the leadership dimension practiced, while sex and marital status were found not significant.

Keyword: Leadership dimensions , transformational , transactional , schools culture behaviour

Leadership Behavior and Its Impact on Teachers’ Work Engagement and Performance: A Basis for Capability Building Program

Marialos Cortez-Quitay, EdD

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the leadership behavior exhibited by secondary school heads and its impact on teachers’ work engagement and performance of which results served as basis in the formulation of a capability building program designed to improve teachers’ work engagement and performance. The study made use of the descriptive – correlational research design. With reference to the measurement of school heads’ leadership behavior, a standardized questionnaire developed by Robert J. House was utilized. As to teachers’ work engagement, the researcher used Utrecht Work Engagement Scale (UWES) developed by Schaufeli and Bakker. The respondents of the study were the 47 secondary school heads and 270 teachers of the Third Congressional District. The school heads were taken universally while the teachers were subjected to sampling. The study utilized percentage, weighted mean, Pearson r, and chi-square for its statistical treatment. The findings revealed that teachers’ performance based on the RPMS – IPCRF is “Very Satisfactory”. School heads exhibited the leadership behavior in terms of supportive, participative, and achievement – oriented at a “High” extent except the directive style, which they exhibited at a “Very High” extent. Secondary school heads are more on the directive style of leadership behavior. Teachers’ work engagement is “Very High”. School heads’ leadership behavior is significantly related to teachers’ work engagement and performance. Teacher’s sex and educational qualification are significantly related to their work engagement while teachers’ performance is significantly related to their civil status and educational qualification. Educational qualification was found to be consistently related to teachers’ work engagement and performance.

Keywords: leadership behavior, work engagement, performance

INTERTEXTUALITY IN LITERARY CREATIONS FOR CHILDREN BY THE WRITER ODHISE GRILLO

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Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to elaborate the dimensions and intertextual aspects on examples of children's creations by the writer Odhise Grillo. Initially the paper will focus on the specifics of intertextuality as a theory and then the typologies applied on concrete examples from the children's literature. The literature work of Odhise Grillo will be analysed by distinguishing the time of beginning of the theory from the time of the phenomenon of intertextuality. It means that the examples will be analyzed synchronously and diachronically. Thus, emphasized will be the intertextual relations and techniques that dominate in concrete literature work and Genette's typology will be applied.

Keywords: intertextuality, textual transformations, Odhise Grillo, children's literature.

Intervention Materials: A Tool in Improving Students' Academic Performance

Marian Grace M. Sinco, MAEd , Maria Chona Z. Futralan, PhD

Abstract. This study aimed to develop and use teacher-made instructional materials otherwise known as Strategic Intervention Materials (SIMs), and investigated the impact of these intervention materials in teaching the identified least learned concepts in Science VI namely: Circulatory System, Nervous System and Respiratory System. The study was a mixed method research which utilized an explanatory sequential design where quantitative data collection and analysis occurs first, followed by a qualitative data collection and analysis. It was revealed that there was a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test performance of the students. The utilization of the SIMs is an effective intervention that made students obtained better scores in the posttest.

Keywords: SIMs, Circulatory System, Nervous System and Respiratory System.

Internal Stakeholders' Knowledge and Attitude towards Inclusive Education

Nelsa G. To-ong, EdD Maria Chona Z. Futralan, Ph.D ; Roullette P. Cordevilla, EdD ; Cristina P. Calisang, EdD ; Jaymar T. Umbac, EdD

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the extent of knowledge and the level of attitude of the internal stakeholders towards inclusive education. The respondents of this study consisted of 5 school heads, 130 teachers, and 150 randomly selected students in the secondary schools in the district of Hinoba-an, Division of Negros Occidental. The researcher utilized the descriptive-correlational method of research. She also used a validated researcher-made questionnaire for measuring knowledge and attitude of the internal stakeholders. The statistical tools used in this study were weighted mean and Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient. The study revealed that the internal stakeholders have very high extent of knowledge towards inclusive education. The school heads and teachers have positive level of attitude while the students have a very positive level of attitude towards inclusive education in terms of their beliefs and feelings. In terms of actions, the level of attitude of the school heads and students is very positive while the teachers have a positive level of attitude. In addition, there is a strong relationship between the internal stakeholders' extent of knowledge and their level of attitude towards inclusive education. Likewise, there is a strong relationship between the school heads' educational attainment and their (a) extent of knowledge and (b) level of attitude towards inclusive education.

Keywords: inclusive education, internal stakeholders, knowledge, attitudes

Interactive Simulations in Understanding Concepts of Electricity

Judelyn Jayme-Dionson

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the effectiveness of computer-based interactive simulations in learning of the basic concepts of electricity. It also intended to measure the students' attitudes toward Physics lessons and experiments before and after being exposed in activities involving computer-based technology. The respondents of this study are the Grade 8 students of Nagbinlod High School during the school year 2018-2019. The researcher utilized descriptive-correlational method of research and employed validated questionnaires that identified performance of students and measured their attitudes toward Physics lessons and experiments. The statistical tools used in this study included mean, t-test for dependent data, weighted mean and Mann-Whitney U Test. The study revealed that there was an increase of performance after students are being involved in activities using computer-based simulations. It was also found out that the attitudes of students toward Physics lessons and experiments increased after being exposed to interactive simulation activities. Moreover, there was a significant relationship between the post-test results of students and their attitudes toward Physics lessons in the topic "resistance in a wire".

Keywords: Computer-based interactive simulations, performance, attitude

GOAL SETTING, MONITORING AND FEEDBACKING PRACTICES AS PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS

Sheena Mae T. Comighud, EdD, Maria Chona Z. Futralan, PhD, Roullette P.
Cordevilla, EdD, Cristina P. Calisang, EdD, Jaymar T. Umbac, EdD

Abstract. This paper examined the extent of school heads' implementation of the Results-based Performance Management System (RPMS) as performance management mechanism in the Department of Education (DepEd). It focused on the 61 school heads and 271 teaching personnel of Bayawan City Division, Negros Oriental, Philippines for SY 2018-2019. It utilized the descriptive, comparative, and correlational methods of research in the sense that the extent of school heads' implementation of goal setting, monitoring and feedbacking practices was surveyed and the results were related to teachers' job performance. The extent of implementation of the RPMS was measured in terms of the following phases: a) planning and commitment, b) monitoring and coaching, c) review and evaluation, and d) rewards and developmental planning. The study used a researcher-made questionnaire divided into three parts, namely: 1) profile of the respondents, 2) extent of implementation of the RPMS, and 3) job performance of the teachers. It revealed that there is a very high extent of goal setting, monitoring and feedbacking practices as respectively assessed by both the school heads and teachers in all RPMS areas: a) planning and commitment ($\bar{w}=4.49$ and $\bar{w}=4.47$), b) monitoring and coaching ($\bar{w}=4.43$ and $\bar{w}=4.44$), c) review and evaluation ($\bar{w}=4.43$ and $\bar{w}=4.47$), and d) rewards and developmental planning ($\bar{w}=4.38$ and $\bar{w}=4.45$). There were also significant difference shown in the extent of school heads' performance management mechanisms and teachers' job performances when the former and the latter are respectively grouped according to their profile items as to length of experience, educational attainment and position held. It concluded that there is a strong and significant relationship between the extent of performance management mechanisms and teachers' job performance as all the values of r_s fall in the "strong relationship" categories with an overall rating of 0.712 and computed p-values less than the 0.05 level of significance.

Keywords: Extent of Implementation, Performance Management Mechanisms, Results-based Performance Management System, Teachers' Job Performance, Department of Education

Functionality of the DRRMP of Negros Oriental and Its Impact to the Community

Mavic Gayomale-Sala, EdD

Abstract. This study aimed to assess the functionality of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan and its impact on selected municipalities of Negros Oriental. The study made use of the descriptive-correlational research design. The questionnaire covered the four thematic areas of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan, namely: Prevention and Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Rehabilitation and Recovery. The respondents of the study were the 130 local DRRM council members and 130 selected community members. The study utilized weighted mean, Pearson r, t-test, and ANOVA. The salient findings revealed that the DRRM council perceived the extent of functionality of the DRRMP to be “Very High” while the community members perceived it to be only as “High.” The community members also rated the extent of impact of the DRRMP on the municipalities to be “High.” A significant relationship was found between the extent of functionality of the DRRMP and its impact on the municipality. Municipality’s income and DRRMP budgetary allocation have no association as to the extent of functionality of the DRRMP. There is a significant difference in the perception of the DRRM council members and the community members as to the functionality of the DRRMP. The profile of the DRRM council members in terms of age, relevant trainings and experience as DRRM member could account to the differences in their perceptions. As a result of the study, an action plan was recommended for implementation to enhance the functionality of the DRRM.

Keywords: Functionality, DRRM, Impact, Disaster

Nutrient Management and Rate of Biostimulant on Hybrid Glutinous Corn

Arnold N. Arevalo

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the yield performance of Hybrid glutinous corn in response to nutrient management and rate of biostimulant. It was conducted at Canalum, Nangka, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental from January 2019 to July 2019. The study was laid out using split plot design with three (3) replications. Treatments differences were determined using the Least Significant Different (LSD) test. Results showed that growth and yield parameters differed significantly with independent effects between factors employed. Hybrid glutinous corn applied with different nutrient management differs significantly on parameters used. Treatments applied with 50% organic + 50% in-organic fertilizers got a significant effect on ear height. Meanwhile, treatment with 100% in-organic fertilizer came in next and obtained almost the same or uniformed results with the aforementioned treatment. Finally, treatment applied with 100% organic fertilizer acquired the lowest mean average and always acquired a non-significantly lesser compared from the above mentioned treatments. Hybrid glutinous corn applied with three (3) different levels of megafol differed significantly. At 120ml/16 liters of water of megafol 80ml/16 liters of water of megafol sprayed per hectare there were significant effect on the weight per ear compared to 40ml/16 liters of water of megafol per hectare. All parameters showed that no interaction effect was observed between nutrient management and levels of megafol to the yield performance of hybrid glutinous corn.

Keywords: nutrient management, biostimulant, hybrid glutinous corn, Philippines

Flipped Classroom Approach in Teaching Sequences

EFREN M. BALDADO

Abstract. This study aimed to investigate the effectiveness of flipped classroom approach in teaching sequences. Also, it envisioned to find out the students' extent of perceptions in the utilization of the flipped classroom approach. The respondents of this study were the 46 Grade 10 students. This study used quasi-experimental method and employed a validated instrument. The data indicated that the pre-test performance of the students was failing while their post-test performance was in the very satisfactory level. The increase in their posttest performance was attributed to the use of flipped classroom approach. Meanwhile, the students' extent of perception of the flipped classroom approach in terms of understanding the concepts, engagement, and enjoyment was high.

Keywords: flipped classroom approach, arithmetic and geometric sequence, perception of students

Factors Affecting Academic Performance of Grade III Pupils Caniogan Valley Elementary School, Sta. Catalina South District

Armentano, Juneth G.

Abstract. The study determined the internal and external factors affecting the academic performance of the Grade III pupils in Caniogan Valley Elementary School, Sta. Catalina South District. This study utilized all the thirty-nine pupils of the school. Academic performance in all subject areas are poor. Intellectual and environmental factor has the highest influence in their academic performance and the physical factors show the lowest among others. There is a positive relationship between the pupil factors and this academic performance. The low performance of the pupils is associated with the pupils factors. The proposed action plan be reviewed and implemented.

Extent of Teachers' Classroom Management Practices In Relation to Pupils' Performance

Mirajaen B. Salvoro

Abstract . This study aimed to identify the extent of classroom management of the teachers in relation to pupils' performance. The schools covered by this study were the 3 private schools and 3 public schools in the Division of Dumaguete City. There were 114 respondents in the public schools and 146 respondents in the private schools. The survey was descriptive and correlational in nature. It percentage, mean μ , weighted mean μ and Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient. It was found out that the teachers' classroom management both in the public and in terms of behavioral and time managements shows no difference since they fall on the same description which is "high". However, it was also revealed that in terms of physical environment management, the public school teachers got a "high" rating compare to that "moderate" rating of the private schools.

Keywords: Classroom management practice

Extent of Influence of Motivating Factors Towards Learning Mathematics on Pupils' Academic Performance

MARIA GLORIA A. PUNTERO

Abstract. This study determined the extent of influence of motivating factors towards learning Mathematics on pupils' academic performance. The pupils studied were from Cantil-e Elementary School in the Division of Dumaguete City for School Year 2016-2017. Some 73 Grade Five Pupils were taken in as respondents. The study was descriptive in nature. It utilized the percentage, mean, and the Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient for the statistical analysis. The study revealed that the following motivational factors are moderately related with the pupils' academic performance: performance goal, achievement goal, and learning environment stimulation. On the other hand, the pupils' academic performance was found to have a "Weak" degree of relationship with self-efficacy, active learning strategies and Mathematics learning value. Findings of this study also revealed that the pupils' profile has a "Weak" degree of relationship to the overall motivating factors. Also, the study found a "Moderate" degree of relationship between the extent of influence of motivating factors towards learning Mathematics and the pupils' academic performance.

Keywords: Motivation Factors, Learning Mathematics, Mathematics Performance

Learning English as a Foreign Language: The Role of Gender Differences in Personality, Learning Style, and Motivation

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Abstract. Lately, the topic of learners' differences and how that affects students' academic performance has arisen the curiosity of many scholars in the field of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learning. Motivation, students' personality, learning styles, and types of learners have continuously been examined. Moreover, the correlation between the above-mentioned factors and success in learning a foreign language has been taken into consideration and it has been claimed that individuals differ from one another in the aspect of how they learn the language (Dulay et al., 1982; Ellis, 2004; Altunel, 2015). As students have individual learning styles, personalities and motivation, the main aim of this paper was on examining gender differences in learning style preferences and students' motivation to learn EFL. The idea that male and female students have various personalities, learning styles, and motivation was shown to be substantial in the analysis. Thus, it is intended that the findings will contribute to EFL research on learning styles, and that the study's findings would have practical implications for students and EFL teachers.

Keywords: EFL learning, learning styles, motivation, personality, gender differences

Student Motivation and Engagement during Online Classes in public schools of Prishtina

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Abstract. The closure of educational facilities as a result of preventive measures against the spread of Covid-19 has affected the education system in the world. Like never before, the traditional classes were switched to online ones in Prishtina. The need to rearrange teaching to distance or online format was seen as a priority, in order for students not to stop learning and getting educated. Students' motivation and engagement are crucial for an effective online classroom. The data was collected via two questionnaires and an observation list. This research has been conducted at three different schools in Prishtina, "Hasan Prishtina", "Mitrush Kuteli" and "Asim Vokshi". Students provided answers to 80 questionnaires, and teachers provided answers to 13 questionnaires. There is also an observation list conducted in one class of each school during an online lesson. The questionnaires have been designed to get an idea of what motivates and engages the students in a web environment. This study identifies various methods, strategies, and websites that can be used during online classes in order to motivate and engage 5th grade students during online classes. Next, the study investigates the relationship between the teacher and educational technology, as well. The results of the research questions were mixed.

Keywords: Motivation, Engagement, Elementary school, Online teaching, Students, Teachers.

New Reading of Shakespeare's Cross – Dressed Characters

PhDc Emilija Kraguevska
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Abstract. This work concentrates on how Shakespeare represented his female characters in different historical contexts starting from the early modern period in England when they were created for the first time until the contemporary Western world where we 'meet' them as they staged over and over again. My research also tries to challenge some of the suppositions that immediately create our efforts to apprehend Shakespeare's female characters historically. Many critics of Shakespeare have been dealing with his female characters, especially we witness that effective scholarly work in this last three decades, however, in my opinion it is time to reassess, reexamine and reevaluate the stories that this work has created. In this paper I will try to show both the feminist and historicist prospect to these questions, in order to be able to demonstrate that even though femininity on the Renaissance stage was invariably a show to be played, the lack of women does not annihilate the positive comments his female characters evoked from women or deprive their opportunities as roles for feminist allocation. Finally, I would like to emphasize that our own understanding of Shakespeare's female characters is modified not only by the expanded tradition of Shakespearean scholarship, but as well as by our experiences in our present history; the contemporary world where we live. These two facts model our appreciation of Shakespeare's female characters regardless of the fact whether we study them in academy, read them privately, or see them at the theatre or at screen. Each of these traditions will need feminist intervention in the twenty-first century in order to get a contemporary understanding of Shakespeare's female characters that were created a few centuries ago, as I have mentioned above are still subject of an intense debate.

Keywords: women, cross-dressing, feminism, reexamination.

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS' COMPETENCY LEVEL IN RELATION TO TEACHERS AND PUPILS' PERFORMANCE

JAYMAR TINIO UMBAC

Abstract. The study aimed to determine the competency level of Grade VI teachers of the Division of Dumaguete City based on the National Competency-Based Teacher Standard (NCBTS) and its relationship to their school's performance based on the Performance Evaluation System (PES) and the National Achievement Test (NAT) during the school year 2013 – 2014. Result of which served as basis in the formulation of an in-service training program. The study is descriptive and correlational in nature. It utilized frequency distribution, percentage, weighted mean, and Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient for its statistical treatment of data. The investigation made use of the TSNA tool anchored on the National Competency-Based Teacher Standard (NCBTS) framework set by the Department of Education. It contains seven (7) integrated domains for effective teaching which are: Domain 1 – Social Regard for Learning; Domain 2 – Learning Environment; Domain 3 – Diversity of Learners; Domain 4 – Curriculum; Domain 5 – Planning, Assessing and Reporting; Domain 6 – Community Linkages; and Domain 7 – Personal Growth and Professional Development. Each domain has its corresponding strands and each strand has performance indicators. It contains clusters of knowledge, skills, and attitudes (KSA's) specific to particular competency indicators. The following are the salient findings of the study: Majority of the Grade VI teachers are female, middle-aged, have earned units in the Master's Program, occupy Teacher III Plantilla Position, with considerable length of teaching experience, but have inadequate trainings. Teachers' competency level based on the National Competency-Based Teacher Standard (NCBTS) falls on the "Satisfactory" level. Pupils' performance based on the National Achievement Test (NAT) falls short from the targeted national mean standard of 75 percent. Teachers' performance in the Performance Evaluation System (PES) is revealed to be "Very Satisfactory".

Teachers' competency level based on the NCBTS Domains is significantly related to their performance in the PES except for Domain 2 pertaining to Learning Environment which was proven to be insignificant. However, in relation to the Grade VI pupils' NAT performance, Domain 3 and 4 referring to Diversity of Learners and the Curriculum are the only domains proven to be significant. Teachers' profile in terms of sex, educational qualification, position held and relevant trainings were proven to be significantly related to their competency level. However, in relation to their performance, educational qualification, position held and relevant trainings remained to be significant. On the other hand, teachers' profile in terms of position held and teaching experience were proven to be significant in relation to pupils' NAT performance. In general, it was concluded that the higher the competency of teachers, the better is their job performance.

Effectiveness of the Teacher Induction Program

GERALDINE M. ABRASADO, EdD

Abstract. The study aimed to determine the effectiveness of the Teacher Induction Program(TIP) to enhance novice teachers in their task as teachers as stipulated in the different domains of the Philippine Professional Standards for Teachers(PPST). The study made use of the descriptive-correlational research design. The respondents of the study were the novice teachers and school heads of the Division of Dumaguete City. With reference to the measurement of the TIP effectiveness on novice teachers, a researcher-made questionnaire modified from the PPST was utilized. Documentary analysis for teachers' performance was used. The study utilized weighted, t-test, Pearson r and chi-square for its statistical tool. The findings of the study revealed that novice teachers' perception as to the extent of effectiveness of the Teacher Induction Program is "Moderate", while school head perceived the effectiveness of the program to be "High". Novice teachers and school heads differ significantly in their perception as to the extent of effectiveness of the Teacher Induction Program. Novice teachers' performance based on the RPMS-IPCRF is "Very Satisfactory". There is a significant relationship between the extent of effectiveness of the Teacher Induction Program on novice teachers and their performance. Novice teachers' performance is not significantly related to their profile. As an output of the study, an action plan to enhance TIP implementation was recommended.

Keywords: Teacher Induction Program, Novice Teachers, effectiveness

Interrelation of Mathematics within the STEM

Duli Pillana

Abstract. Methodically inspecting mathematics in STEM educational programs participates with a percentage of twenty five percent. Interaction of mathematics in science, technology, and engineering is inevitable. Science, technology, and engineering acquire tools of mathematics to observe, describe and predict natural phenomena. Science pays a huge attention to natural phenomena that surrounds us; in addition, mathematics comes up with the structures and logical relationships to its scope. Technology uses mathematics extensively; in general, mathematics is a powerful tool to find any solution in technology. Engineering is based on scientific concepts to sketch, plan, or design a construction. Engineering uses mathematics throughout any workflow in its domain. Application of mathematics in real world situations does not require the necessary use of engineering, science, or technology. Mathematics is less dependent on other subjects, as a result, mathematics participates in STEM educational programs with a greater percentage than twenty five percent. Nevertheless, combining four subjects on analyzing a natural phenomena generates high quality results with a higher accuracy.

Keywords: Science, technology, engineering, mathematics, mathematical science, interaction.

The importance of the teacher-student relationship and the effect of students' learning

Author: Dr. Sc. Diana Sejdiu Shala|
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Abstract. The teaching process is one of the most complex and sensitive processes in terms of education. It includes many areas through which this process can function. To create a better and more efficient learning process, relations must first be formed between the two key subjects of the process, the teacher and the student. A healthy relationship between these subjects is the main step in creating an ideal learning process. In particular, when students are exposed to positive emotional stimuli, they are better able to reproduce newly learned information (Nielson & Lorber, 2009). It provides a safe environment and confidence work and perform without pressure. When the classroom in which teaching takes place is a safe and supportive environment, students are more motivated and stimulated to learn and actively collaborate with teachers and peers. Thus, the role of the teacher is essential to them. Knowing that the relationship between teachers and students affects the way learning develops in the classroom, the quality of students, and their motivation to learn, this study will focus on the importance of the teacher-student relationship and the impact of this relationship on the learning process. Furthermore, these supportive relationships with teachers can play an important developmental role during the transition periods of education. This study also explains the impact of the teacher-student relationship on the work of the teacher and the achievement of his goals. By providing specific and empirical evidence, the results of the study help identify factors related to teacher-student interactions and confirm the importance of this relationship.

Keywords: teacher-student relationships, emotional support, classroom management, motivation, classroom environment, learning strategy, lesson organization

Content-Based Instruction vs. Task Based Instruction: Effects on Students' Syntactic Ability

TEOFAN C. GALLOSA

Abstract. This study aimed to determine the effectiveness of content-based instruction and task-based instruction to students' syntactic ability. Specifically, the following topics were used to suffice the aim of this study: (1) Punctuation, (2) Inverted Word Order Sentence, (3) Interjection, (4) Capitalization and (5) Adverb. The respondents of this study were the Grade 9 students from both Humility and Generosity sections of Foundation Preparatory Academy. Moreover, a pre-test and post-test design method was used in this study. Furthermore, the researcher utilized a self-made test to determine the performance of the students under task-based instruction and content-based instruction. It was presented to a panel of experts and was validated. Moreover, a dry run of this test was conducted to further check its reliability and validity. The result of the study revealed that the students performed fairly satisfactorily in their pre-test, while satisfactorily in their post-test. It was also found out that there is a difference in the pre-test and post-test performances of the students after they were exposed to content-based instruction and task-based instruction. Finally, it was manifested that both contentbased instruction and taskbased instruction were effective in developing students' syntactic ability.

Keywords: Content-based instruction, task-based instruction , syntactic ability, effective

Competency Level of Secondary School Administrators and Their Administrative Performance: Basis for a Training Program in School Management

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Abstract. This study sought to identify the competency level of secondary School Administrators and their administrative performance which a basis for a training program in school management. There were 10 districts included in this study under the Division of Bayawan City. The total number of respondents consisted of 26 school administrators and 260 teachers. The study was a combination of descriptive and correlational research. The statistical tools used were percentage, mean μ , weighted mean μ and Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient. The study revealed that majority of the school heads' performance evaluation coming from their Key Result areas (KRA) were very satisfactory. The study also found out that there is a significant relationship between the school administrators' competency level (in all areas) and their performance based on RPMS. The data also reflect that all the values of rare classified to be in the moderate category.

Keywords: competency level, performance based, technical assistance, Strategic Intervention Materials, Least LeaOrgan Systems

Competency Level of Grade Six Teachers Based on Performance Evaluation Scorecard in Relation to Division Unified Testing Program (DUTP) Result

Hyacinth Joy Chiu-Espetacion

Abstract. The study identified the competency level of grade six teachers based on performance evaluation scored and its relation to pupil's Division Unified Testing Program (DUTP) result. The study was descriptive correlational in nature. The statistical tools used were the following: percentage, weighted mean μ , mean, spearman rank correlation coefficient, and Point-Biserial Correlation. The study found out that majority of the grade six teachers was female who are either young or old. Most of them have MA units and have been teaching for at least a year to ten years. The study revealed that majority of the grade six teachers were in the outstanding level based on their performance evaluation scorecard. The study also indicated that majority of the grade six pupils performed at the "beginning" level based on their DUTP result. The study also indicated that there is a low/slight relationship between the grade six teachers' competency level based on the performance evaluation scored and their pupil's Division Unified Testing Program (DUTP) result. However, Teachers' profile has a negligible relationship to their levels of competence.

Keywords: Competency Level, Performance Evaluation Scorecard, Division Unified Testing program

Comparative Study of Learners from Multi-grade Class and Learners from Mono-Grade Class

KRIS IVAN P. BACANE CRISTINA P. CALISANG

Abstract. The multi- grade system has been in the Philippine education for quite sometime. The multigrade program was launched as a systematic and viable means of meeting the goal and providing education basic education for all. Hence ,this study aimed to compare the level of self-efficacy between the learners from the multi-grade classes and mono-grade classes of the District of Jimalalud, Division of Negros Oriental. Adopting the questionnaire formulated by Albert Bandura: Children Self-Efficacy, a total of 53 multi-grade learners were being compared to selected 130 monograde learners. The results revealed that Multi-grade learners' self-efficacy for selfregulated learning has a moderate relationship with their academic performances in English, Math and overall performance. Meanwhile, their self-assertive efficacy has a moderate relationship with their performances in English and Science subjects. Moreover, mono-grade learners' self-efficacy for selfregulated learning had a moderate relationship with their performances in English, Math, Science and overall performance. Furthermore, mono-grade learners' self-regulatory self-efficacy had a moderate relationship with their performances in English, Math, Science and overall performance. There is a difference in the perception of the learners in some areas of self-efficacy when they were grouped according to their class. First, is the multigrade and mono-grade learners' self-efficacy in enlisting social resources, secondly, self-efficacy for self-regulated learning, leisure time skills and extracurricular activities, and social self-efficacy.

Keywords: multi-grade, mono-grade, single class, learners self-efficacy

CHILD-FRIENDLY SCHOOL SYSTEM ON THE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE: CFSS PROGRAM MODEL

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Abstract: In 2008, Bayawan City Division started the implementation of the Child-Friendly School System and aspires to encourage the participation of children in school and community, enhances their health and well-being, assures safe and protective spaces for children, promotes enrolment and completion, ensures children's high academic achievement and success, raises teacher's morale and motivation and mobilizes community support for education. The researcher was therefore interested in conducting a study to assess the operation of a child-friendly school in the secondary schools of Bayawan City Division. This research utilized the descriptive-correlational design. It identifies and describes behaviors of the participants. Correlation research intends in determining the variables' relationships and allows forecasting future events based from the present knowledge. The execution of the System for the Child-Friendly School of Bayawan City Division is successful in all twenty-six secondary schools. The school performance on the operation of the child-friendly school structure in terms of cohorts participation rate, cohorts survival rate, and the cohorts completion rate is outstanding while cohorts retention rate and cohorts repetition rate is very low. The level of implementation of the child-friendly school system in Bayawan City Division is well-implemented. The stakeholders have realized the importance of school facilities, interest, and attendance of students, complete family and the wise use of modern gadgets in the implementation of the child-friendly school system. Therefore it is recommended that; Bayawan City Division may conduct an annual dental check-up for all students and cater to dental needs, there must be a one to one ratio of textbook per student to increase the capacity of learning among students, there should have a list of students enrolled and not enrolled in the current year, as to make some interventions and programs for those who are not enrolled in formal education and design a child friendly school system model focusing on the least implemented areas.

Ke

ywords: child-friendly, children, community, school, performance, education, success

Bukidnon-Magahat Learners' Plight: Factors Affecting Learning Academic Performance

Ma. Nova Joy R. Alcueres

Abstract. This study aimed to identify the factors that influences indigenous learners academic performance. A population of 139 indigenous learners from grades 4-6 were the research respondents in the public schools in the Division of Bayawan City. This research utilized the DescriptiveCorrelational method and statistical tools were used to answer the specific problems. Results revealed that indigenous learners showed a high extent on their individual, instructional, and socio-cultural perceived factors. Moreover, the data indicated that the academic performance of the respondents on the core subjects such as English, Science, and Mathematics is "Fairly Satisfactory" on the first quarter and satisfactory level during the second quarter. Lastly, there is strong relationship between the individual factors like study habits, academic self-concept, and confidence in academic life on their academic performance. While they are on moderate relationship in their interest. A very weak relationship on instructional factors, and moderate extent on parental support.

Keywords: Indigenous learners, individual factors, instructional factors, socio-cultural factors, academic performance

BEHIND THE READING PROGRAM: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY ON TEACHERS' CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIC READING INTERVENTIONS TO HELP STRUGGLING READERS

SHEENA B. BALDEVARONA, MAEd

Abstract. This phenomenological study aims to explore the lived experiences of reading teachers about their challenges in handling struggling readers and the strategic reading interventions they use to help them. The data were collected from five (5) participants through personal interviews using open-ended questions. All responses were recorded for transcription using cellular phone. In terms of data analysis, Colaizzi's method was used. After a thorough analysis of the transcripts, the following three (3) themes emerged to capture their lived experience: patience, time, and instructional management are of essence, parents should be involved, and varied approaches and methods are necessary. The study concluded that the lived experiences of the reading teachers are crucial and varied. With time and dedication being invested, things like budget of work and instructional management are partly affected. As a strategic reading intervention, teachers believe that parents should be greatly involved. They also find various reading interventions effective because gradual improvements were observed from their struggling readers. Considering these findings, it is recommended that the explored lived experiences be considered as a basis for reading teachers, school heads, district supervisors, students, and future researchers to assess the appropriate seminars and trainings that the teachers needed to attend to regarding the difficulties they encounter.

Keywords: Lived experience, Reading teachers, Challenges, Strategic reading interventions, Gradual improvement, Seminars, Trainings

An Analysis of Pupils' Division Unified Testing Program (DUTP) Results in Selected Core Subjects: A Basis for Improved Classroom Instruction

Eden Joy F. Gantalao, Maria Chona Z. Futralan

Abstract. This study aimed to analyze the Division Unified Testing Program (DUTP) Results of the Grade-VI pupils in Banaybanay Elementary School in English, Science, and Mathematics. The descriptive-correlational design was used in this study. The researcher utilized index of difficulty, percentage, mean, and Pearson Product Moment Coefficient of Correlation. The study revealed that majority of the pupils are female. The pupils' first grading period performance in English is in the "developing" level and in the "approaching proficiency" level for both Science and Mathematics. It further showed that the pupils' DUTP performance in English and in Science is in the "developing" level and in "approaching proficiency" level in Mathematics. Moreover, the following proportions of items in the DUTP examinations were found to be difficult: one-fourth of the items in English, more than half of the items in Mathematics, and almost half of the items in Science. Furthermore, there was a "high" relationship between the first grading and DUTP performance of the pupils in English as well as in Science. A "marked" relationship was also noted in Mathematics. Lastly, a substantial difference was revealed between the performance of the male and female pupils in the following areas: English and Science in the first grading period; and English in the DUTP examination in favor of the female pupils. The study has the following recommendations:

1. Since the pupils were in the "developing" level in English (both in the first grading and DUTP performance), the teachers should consider the item analysis results. Items that were classified as difficult should be stressed more in classroom discussion.
2. Inasmuch as there were numerous difficult items in Mathematics and Science during the DUTP examination, a well-planned tutorial session should be organized by the teachers. This activity should be done a month before the said examination.
3. The male pupils should be encouraged to participate more in classroom discussion. During class activities, they should be paired with female pupils who excel in class.
4. The supervisors should ensure that the items included in the DUTP examination go through an item analysis.

Keywords: Division Unified Testing Program (DUTP), Core Subjects, Classroom Instruction

An Evaluation of ESP Textbooks Used in Kosovo Higher Education

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Abstract. English for specific purposes must be an essential subject of the curriculum in universities as it adjusts specific linguistic and communicative needs of students with particular attention to the context they will use in their profession.

Kosovo is still in its infancy in the use of ESP, therefore it will be good to form a right consensus of the use of English for Specific Purposes in higher education.

It must be an essential theme to introduce English courses to students who aspire to take up bachelor's degree in Kosovo. This study's purpose is to review the evaluation of ESP courses in higher education together with the ESP textbooks conducted by EFL teachers in Kosovo and to clarify their perception of the strengths and weaknesses of teaching materials.

This study will help syllabus designers, teachers and educational authorities to evaluate published textbooks to improve the quality and realize new ways of teaching materials.

Keywords: ESP (English for Specific Purposes) EFL(English as a Foreign Language), Teachers, Higher Education

Advantages and Disadvantages of Open Classroom Instruction: A Basis for an Improvement in its Implementation

GERALDINE S. MARTINEZ

Abstract. This study aimed to identify the advantages and disadvantages of open classroom instruction as perceived by the pupil-respondents', teacher-respondents', and parent respondents as a basis for improving in the implementation of the open classroom instruction program at the ABC Learning Center. There were 38 teachers who served as the respondents to this study. The survey was descriptive and correlational in nature. It utilized percentage, weighted mean μ , and Pearson ProductMoment Correlation Coefficient. Majority of the teachers in ABC Learning Center are 31 years old and above, baccalaureate degree holders, and only one of with a master's degree. It was also found out in this research that the extent of perception of the advantages of open classroom has "very low" correlation with age, sex, and number of days of trainings attended; and a "slight" correlation with highest educational attainment of the teacher respondents. Furthermore, the extent of perception of the disadvantages of open classroom has "very low" correlation with age, sex, highest educational attainment, and number of days of trainings attended. It was found out that the extent of perception of the teachers, students and parents on the advantages of open classroom is generally high and their extent of perception of the disadvantages of the open classroom is generally low.

Keywords: open classroom, open education

“Teaching Grammar through Communicative Language Teaching, A Study of Teachers Perceptions and Classroom Experiences”

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Abstract. As learners learn a foreign language at school, it is very important to clarify the issue of the teaching grammar in the Communicative language teaching classroom: the use of grammar instructions in the classroom, the focus on the communication process. Since most of the learners have to confront with the language, two things can occur: they might either get motivated by the grammar involved in the classroom, or become less eager to continue studying using it. This study compares the positive and negative influences of grammar usage in communicative language teaching. While learning a foreign language, learners encounter many difficulties that reduce their motivation and interest, but on the other hand there are many beneficial causes when comparing the fact on what happens when a student does not acquire the language properly by appropriate grammar use in the classroom and what happens when they do acquire language properly. This study also will discover teachers' strategies usage in the lesson, if teachers help learners to acquire the foreign language properly, how teachers motivate learners during the lesson and if teachers focus in grammar skills or teaching strategies. This case study outcomes present valuable information to the teachers and future researches; hence there is a limited number of studies in this field.

Keywords: grammar, CLT, students, teachers, methods.

Addressing School Sanitation and Hygienic Problems

BARRY JAY A. GRACIADAS, MARIA CHONA Z. FUTALAN

Abstract. This study aimed to address the problems encountered by schools in maintaining sanitation and hygienic practices and the extent of these practices. The descriptive and correlational designs were used in the study. The research utilized percentage, weighted mean and Spearman rank correlation coefficient in treating the data. The study revealed that school encountered high extent of problems in the area of Food handling while moderate on the following areas; personal hygienic practices, environmental safety, waste segregation and maintenance and use of school health facilities. The extent of practices is high in waste segregation and environmental safety while moderate in areas of food handling, personal hygienic practices and maintenance and use of school health facilities. The degree of relationship between the problems encountered in maintaining school sanitation and hygienic practices and the extent of these practices is “moderate”. The result also revealed that there is a difference in problems encountered by school in maintaining sanitation and hygienic practices when grouped according to their nutritional status. Schools with less than 8% of wasted and severely wasted pupils and schools with more than 8% of wasted and severely wasted pupils encountered different extent of problem in food handling; similar in waste segregation and the same level of problems in personal hygiene, environmental safety and maintenance of school health facilities.

Keywords: Sanitation, Hygiene, Practices

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE ATTRIBUTES

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Abstract. This study examined the academic performance attributes of the selected grade six pupils of the identified public elementary schools of SDO-Bayawan City. It employed descriptive method. A questionnaire was used to generate data that measured the variables. It was administered to the respondents and the answers generated were tabulated and analyzed. Based on the findings of the study, it can be concluded that the academic performance of the grade six pupils was at satisfactory level. It is recommended that the proposed programs, activities, and projects can be adopted by the public elementary schools of Bayawan City Division.

Keywords: academic performance attributes, descriptive method

Difficulties in solving word problems by using linear equations with one variable in 6th and 7th graders in lower secondary school

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Abstract. Pupils' difficulties in modeling word problems and errors in solving them are the main reasons for researching this topic. In this non-experimental - correlational study, we assessed the relationship between difficulties in solving word problems and their causes. Participants were 6th and 7th graders of the private school "The British School of Kosovo" in Kosovo. The result showed that pupils do have difficulties when solving word problems. When they were asked to transform word problems into mathematical equations, 41.25% gave correct answers. In contrast, 73% of pupils performed better where only the procedural solution of equations was required. This result suggests that pupils can execute basic math operations but cannot apply them to a word problem solution, mainly because of their inability to convert them into mathematical symbols. With this difficulty in the initial step, pupils cannot continue further, leading to unsuccessful task solving.

Keywords: Word-Problems, Equations, Transforming, Modeling, Difficulties.

Utilization of Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) in Relation to Students' Academic Performance

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Abstract. This research used the descriptive method to determine the extent of utilization of Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) in relation to Students' Academic Performance in the Public Elementary Schools of Bayawan City Division, Negros Oriental for SY 2018-2019. The quantitative data were gathered from 68 teachers' league presidents and 68 school heads. Also, the researcher conducted a survey questionnaire. Descriptive method was used in this study. The statistical tools used in the analysis of the data were percentage, mean, weighted mean, and spearman rank correlation coefficient. The study found out that the extent of utilization of the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) as perceived by the teachers' league presidents and school heads was "high" in terms of the following aspects: (a) school operations and development; (b) teachers' welfare and development and (c) students' welfare and development. In addition, it was also found out that the level of students' academic performance is at a "very satisfactory" level. Lastly, findings revealed that there is a significant relationship between the extent of utilization of the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) and students' academic performance.

Qualitative Impact Assessment of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program in a Central Philippine Community

Dr. Abgel L. Lalamonan¹ and Dr. Sheena Mae T. Comighud²

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Abstract. This study utilizes the narratives of beneficiaries in the evaluation of a conditional cash transfer program. Guided by the theory that narratives bridges the objectives of the program and its impact, these narratives contain the themes describing both ends. Moreover, most of the participatory assessments did not utilize beneficiaries' narratives in the evaluation process. The utilization of narratives was done through the participatory approach. This study demonstrates that assessment of projects through narratives is feasible. It is found out that beneficiaries adopt an eclectic stance in their participation and acceptance of activities implemented by the program.

Keywords: impact assessment, qualitative assessment, conditional cash transfer, Philippines

EFFECT OF PROJECT BASED LEARNING ON THE READING SKILLS

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Abstract. The topic was selected to probe the effectiveness of project based learning on the reading skills of the students. In this qualitative research, the prime objective was to determine that whether students can become autonomous learners through project based learning and does it improves their reading skills effectively. Literature review conducts a meticulous investigation of the research in the same area. Research of this write up has designed a case study to proceed.

The data was collected through census sampling that enabled the researcher to have detailed. The students were engaged in their projects. The results proves that project based learning not only improved their literacy skills but also made them inquisitive and independent learners. Therefore, many surveys and studies conducted before, have proven the findings of this study similar to the one conducted now and also highlights the scope of the study.

Motivation In Relation To Teachers' Performance

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Abstract. This research used the descriptive-correlational method to determine the level of motivation in relation to teachers' performance. The quantitative data were gathered from 89 teachers of District 6, Bayawan City Division, Negros Oriental for SY 2018-2019. Also, the researcher conducted a survey questionnaire. Descriptive-correlational method was used in this study. The statistical tools used in the analysis of the data were percentage, mean, weighted mean, and spearman rank correlation coefficient. The study found out that the level of motivation as perceived by the teachers was "very high" in terms of the following aspects: (a) existence needs; (b) relatedness; and (c) growth needs. In addition, it was also found out that the level of teachers' job performance is at a "very satisfactory" level. Moreover, there is no significant difference in the level of teachers' motivation when they are grouped and compared according to variables of age, sex and length of service, however, variables on highest educational attainment and average monthly income are found to be significant. Lastly, the relationship between the level of teachers' motivation and the level of teachers' job performance is found to be insignificant.

Qualitative Impact Assessment of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program in a Central Philippine Community

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Abstract. This study utilizes the narratives of beneficiaries in the evaluation of a conditional cash transfer program. Guided by the theory that narratives bridges the objectives of the program and its impact, these narratives contain the themes describing both ends. Moreover, most of the participatory assessments did not utilize beneficiaries' narratives in the evaluation process. The utilization of narratives was done through the participatory approach. This study demonstrates that assessment of projects through narratives is feasible. It is found out that beneficiaries adopt an eclectic stance in their participation and acceptance of activities implemented by the program.

Keywords: impact assessment, qualitative assessment, conditional cash transfer, Philippines

Looking at the Perceived Benefits of Feeding Program in the Eyes of the Stakeholders

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Abstract. The study focused on the effects of school-based feeding program in the eyes of the stakeholders conducted on March 2019 to grades 1 to 6 beneficiary pupils, selected teachers, SBFP In-Charge and School Head of Mansagomayon Elementary School, District 4 of Sta. Catalina, Division of Negros Oriental. A descriptive design was used in this study which deemed appropriate in the context of this study since the researcher will describe the effectiveness of the SBFP as employed in the research locale. Additionally, Key informant interview with the selected representatives of the identified groups of stakeholders was conducted to provide qualitative support to the claims of the study. Since this study used the KII as the principal mode of data gathering among the participants, a semi structure interview guide was used. The said interview shall be composed of 7-10 questions that were patterned to achieve the objectives of this research conduct. However, the researcher has the leeway to ask a follow up questions given the goal of the research is not yet clarified to the respondents.

Meanwhile, the secondary data such as the baseline and endline data of the respondents' nutritional status were taken from the Nutrition Coordinator of the school. Mean and t-test was used to analyze the data.

Results revealed that the nutritional status of the pupils were below normal despite of the efforts in giving supplement and dietary assistance of the school through the conduct of feeding program hence the very purpose of the program in providing complete meals and enhancing the nutrition of these pupils were not thoroughly achieved.

The mean of pupils' baseline and end line data shows a highly significant difference on the baseline and endline data results for the pupils' BMI with a P-value of 0.000 and t-value of -3.570. This implies that the results of the BMI of the pupil beneficiaries differ significantly before and after the 120 days feeding program. This means that there was a change and movement in the nutritional status of the pupils as the program was implemented.

Level of Science Achievement: Basis for the Production of Strategic Intervention Materials (SIMs)

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Abstract. This research used the descriptive method to determine the level of Science Achievement of Grade VI Pupils: Basis for Production of Strategic Intervention Materials in Bayawan City East Central School, Bayawan City Division during the SY 2019-2020. The quantitative data were gathered from 134 pupils of Bayawan City East Central School, Bayawan City Division during the SY 2019-2020. Also, the researcher conducted a survey questionnaire. Descriptive method was used in this study. The statistical tools used in the analysis of the data were percentage, frequency, mean, weighted mean, and z-test. The study found out that the level of Science Achievement of Grade VI Learners of the Least Learned Organ Systems in terms of the Circulatory System, Respiratory System, and Excretory System were at low mastery level while for the Nervous System, the learners were moving towards mastery stage. Based on the given findings, it served as a basis for the production of Strategic Intervention Materials (SIM) in the different Least Learned Organ Systems namely Circulatory System, Respiratory System, Nervous System, and Excretory System in order to increase the level of learners' achievement in Science subject.

Keywords: Science Achievement, Strategic Intervention Materials, Least Learned Organ System

Instructional Supervision and Performance Evaluation: A Correlation of Factors

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Abstract. The study aimed to determine the correlation between instructional supervision and performance evaluation in the Public Elementary Schools of Bayawan City Division. The survey was descriptive and correlational in nature. It utilized the percentage, mean, weighted mean, and spearman rank correlation coefficient. The study found out that the extent of implementation of instructional supervision as perceived by the experienced teachers was “very high” in terms of the following aspects: (a) concept and purpose of instructional supervision; (b) planning and preparations for instructional supervision; and (c) organization and implementation of instructional supervision; (d) dialogue and discussion in post-instructional supervision; and (e) satisfaction with and evaluation of instructional supervision. Likewise, the extent of implementation of instructional supervision as perceived by the novice teachers was also “very high” based on how they rated their instructional supervisors in terms of the first three areas. In addition, a moderate relationship was found to exist between the teachers’ job performance evaluation and the extent of implementation of instructional supervision in the following aspects: (a) concept and purpose of instructional supervision; (b) planning and preparations for instructional supervision; and (c) satisfaction with and evaluation of instructional supervision.

Keywords: Instructional Supervision, Job Performance Evaluation, Correlation Study

Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Development and Research of Students in Kosovo

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Abstract: The object of this research will be to identify and explain the impact that the global pandemic Covid-19 has had on the development and scientific progress of students in the Republic of Kosovo.

To achieve this objective, we will conduct a questionnaire to a sample of 1000 subjects, who will be students of different fields and different Universities in Kosovo, from which we will collect the necessary data.

The collected data will be processed to achieve the overall results and conclusions of the research.

The theoretical basis literature will also be used, which will be more in the field of psychology and scientific practice, to see and interpret more accurately the psychological and personal factors that have developed as a result of the presence of Covid-19, which have the opportunity to directly influence the progress and scientific development of students during this period.

Keywords: Study, pandemic, research progress, students, scientific research etj

Factors on Memory Retention: Effect to Students' Academic Performance

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Abstract. This paper examined the factors contributory to memory retention affecting the academic performance in Mathematics of Grade 7 students of Kalumboyan High School, Bayawan City Division for SY 2019–2020. The study made use of the descriptive-correlational research design. The questionnaire covered five areas: motivational practices and experiences, goal setting and accomplishments, personalized learning, teaching strategies and learning activities, and educational resources and learning devices. The respondents of the study were the 160 Grade 7 students. The study utilized percentage, mean, weighted mean, and Spearman's rank correlation coefficient. The salient findings revealed that the extent of students' perception on factors contributory to memory retention were "high" in terms of motivational practices and experiences, goal setting and accomplishments, and personalized learning, while they perceived the use of teaching strategies and learning activities and the utilization of educational resources and learning devices to be "very high". Moreover, the overall academic performance rating of the students in Mathematics is at a fairly satisfactory level. Also, it can be concluded that the extent to which students perceived the factors contributory to memory retention is "very high" and has a moderate and significant relationship to their academic performance in mathematics.

Keywords: Memory retention, Academic performance, Effect, Mathematics

Interrelation of Mathematics within the STEM

Duli Pillana

Abstract. Methodically inspecting mathematics in STEM educational programs participates with a percentage of twenty five percent. Interaction of mathematics in science, technology, and engineering is inevitable. Science, technology, and engineering acquire tools of mathematics to observe, describe and predict natural phenomena. Science pays a huge attention to natural phenomena that surrounds us; in addition, mathematics comes up with the structures and logical relationships to its scope. Technology uses mathematics extensively; in general, mathematics is a powerful tool to find any solution in technology. Engineering is based on scientific concepts to sketch, plan, or design a construction. Engineering uses mathematics throughout any workflow in its domain. Application of mathematics in real world situations does not require the necessary use of engineering, science, or technology. Mathematics is less dependent on other subjects, as a result, mathematics participates in STEM educational programs with a greater percentage than twenty five percent. Nevertheless, combining four subjects on analyzing a natural phenomena generates high quality results with a higher accuracy.

Key Words: Science, technology, engineering, mathematics, mathematical science, interaction.

Awareness and Implementation of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Practices

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Abstract. This research used the descriptive-correlational method to determine the level of respondents' awareness and extent of implementation of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Practices in District 2, Bayawan City Division, Negros Oriental, Philippines for SY 2018-2019 in terms of the areas of segregation, reduce, reuse, recycle, and disposal. The quantitative data were gathered from 81 teachers and 189 students. Also, a survey questionnaire was utilized by the researcher. The statistical tools used in the analysis of the data were weighted mean, mean, and spearman rank correlation. The results revealed that the level of respondents' awareness on SWM Practices as both perceived by the teachers and students were very high and the extent of implementation of these practices were very great. In addition to this, a significant relationship was noted between the levels of awareness and extents of implementation of SWM Practices. It can be concluded that the level of awareness greatly influenced the extent of implementation of SWM Practices by the teachers and students in District 2, Bayawan City Division.

Keywords: Solid Waste Management (SWM) Practices, Level of Awareness, Extent of Implementation

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ÇABEJ'S COMPARATIVE VIEW OF THE PLACE OF ALBANIAN LANGUAGE IN THE BOSOM OF INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND PARTIAL CONCORDANCES

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Abstract: For Albanian studies, it is important to look into the degree of closeness that connects it with the sister languages. The student of Bopp, August Schleicher, places Albanian close to Greek and Latin and summarizes all three with the name: 'The couple of the Pelasgian family' but later scholars like Kamarda and Stier saw that this theory was not correct.

So Albanian does not have any special closeness with these two languages and it seems that Albanian is close to Indo-European sister languages. Albanian represents isoglosses, through the method of comparison with the Baltic-Slavic languages, Indo-Germanic languages, Celts-Albanian, Armenian-Albanian concordances, etc. According to Çabej, Indo-European languages are divided into centum (western) and satem (eastern) and as the criterion they have the treatment of palatal gutturals (k, g). Albanian presents these palatals changed into interdental spirals, k to th, then g to dh, as well as to the occlusive d, compare lat. *Acidus* (pronounce *akidus*) *shq.athët*, latin, *gener*, albanian-*dhëndër*, lithuanian - *zhentas*, old slavic, *zets* lat – *hiems*, alb. *dimër*. In the northern Indo-European languages the short O is opened in an A, while in the south it is preserved as O. Bopp and Meyer noticed that albanian goes with the first group. Compare in this sense : Latin, *noxnoctis*, Irish - *innocht* 'tonight', but alb. is *natë*, *litnaktis*, german - *night*. lat- *os*, *ossis.gr* – *osteon*. alb. – *asht*, *eshtra* (bones). So this is how we manage to understand and judge historically the correspondences between different Indo-European languages.

Key words: Albanian language, Indo-European languages, sister languages, centum, satem;

On some variations of the appearance of primordial elements in the work of Dritëro Agolli.

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Abstract: "National consciousness is one of the main factors for the formation of the poetic consciousness of a people at a certain historical stage. Even this stabilized poetic consciousness is not rigid but historically different, advancing the complex of means of expression and creatively utilizing the literary experiences of other peoples. More clearly than in all cultivated arts the national poetic consciousness appears in folklore. The national consciousness of the writer is also expressed in his connection, with his people, with his history, with the problems posed by time and contemporary reality". (Agolli, 1980: 20). In other words, this work makes us reason that who better than folklore, elements derived from it, can express primordialism, especially in the work of Dritëro Agolli, which seems to have been born from the mother clay.

Also this paper, through the discourse analysis will make us understand that the main heroes, die in the end to defend their ideal, to legitimize national identity, thus fulfilling a mission as heroic as well as national and ideological and where each of them there is a primordial death, of which these elements (primordial) are quite conspicuous. Through the combination of a quantitative and a qualitative approach we will give an overview of the emergence of these primordial elements and their contribution to the creation of the personal identity of the heroes to move to the national one.

Keywords: variable, primordial, Dritëro Agolli, discourse analysis, personal (national) identity.

Perceptions of Project Based Learning on Promoting 21st Century Skills and Learning Motivation in the Course of English as a Professional Language at UBT (University for Business and Technology)

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Abstract. Students' learning style has undergone drastic changes throughout decades due to different factors such as globalization and advanced digital technology. Similarly, teachers' teaching style needs to be addressed continuously in order to contribute to a successful process of teaching-learning in general. Therefore, the skills that students should acquire from schools are not limited merely to the subject knowledge. They need to be equipped with the so-called 21st century skills. To address such need and to demonstrate how successful the suggested approach may be, a study was conducted with a group of first year students, in the course of English as a Professional Language at UBT. The research aimed to examine students' motivation in learning English through PBL and their perceptions on the impact of PBL in acquiring 21st century skills, namely collaboration, communication, creativity, critical thinking, digital literacy and presentation skills.

Findings suggest that PBL is perceived as an effective way of acquiring such skills as learning English and enhancing 21st century skills. This calls for action and suggests that such method may become a practice in the English language course.

Keywords: Project Based Learning, learning style, teaching style, English as a Professional Language, 21st century skills.

Distance Learning in the Times of Covid-19 – Kosovar Teacher's Perspective

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Abstract. Distance learning is a complex process of teaching and learning, which massively began to be used during the global pandemic COVID-19 throughout the world, which since March has become indispensable in Kosovo as well. These online classes created a situation that was not stable for the education system in Kosovo and showed major educational challenges but also some benefits that teachers had from this experience.

The purpose of this research is to look in more detail at the challenges and opportunities of distance learning from the perspective of teachers. From a questionnaire distributed to 52 English teachers, data were extracted on the challenges and benefits of distance learning. The final analysis shows that despite the challenges, teachers were satisfied with the distance learning process and address the variety of technological tools, as well as the opportunity to try new teaching methods as main benefits. Meanwhile, the participants see the lack of students' access to technology that prevents them from developing their lessons properly as the major challenge during distance learning in COVID-19.

Keywords: distance learning, teacher, challenges, benefits, COVID-19

Leadership Dimensions and Schools' Culture Behavior: Basis for a Program Design

QUEENIE E. BUTALID

Abstract: This study aimed to determine the leadership dimensions practiced by the school heads and the school culture behavior of the schools of Dauin and Zamboanguita Districts , Division of Negros Oriental. Descriptive - correlational method of research was utilized. The respondents of the study are the school heads and teachers of the aforementioned districts. School heads were measured in terms of their leadership dimension. On the part of the teachers, they were assessed the school culture behavior in terms of professional collaboration , affiliative collegiality and self-efficacy / self-determination. To determine the school heads dimension and the school culture behavior , weighted mean ($w\bar{x}$) was utilized and to measure the degree of relationship between variables chi-square (χ^2) was used. Result of the data revealed that majority of the school heads practiced the transformational leadership dimension at a "Very High" extent. Teachers perceived their schools' culture behavior in terms of professional collaboration , affiliative collegiality , and self- efficiency to be "High". Significant relationship was found between the school heads' leadership dimension and the school culture behavior. School heads profile in terms of age , supervisory experience , educational qualification and relevant trainings is significantly related to the leadership dimension practiced, while sex and marital status were found not significant.

Keyword: Leadership dimensions , transformational , transactional , schools culture behaviour

Intercultural communication, part of chain in Integrating Culture in Foreign Language Learning The Cultural Iceberg Analogy

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Abstract: When teaching a foreign language it is associated simply with grammar, syntax, phonetics, and it will not give learners real insights of the manners and lives of the people whose language they hope to speak.

Learners will have it easier to learn another language if teachers try to incorporate the culture within. It will be more entertaining as well as interesting for both parties. The following paper will try to discuss the Cultural phenomenon in acquiring a foreign language through the Ice Berg method, which will be broken down into its levels. The author will introduce the elements of a culture using the 3P model (Perspectives, Practices, and Products) focusing mainly in the Albanian language / culture acquisition.

The methodology is mainly a research and comparison of cultures and does not use statistical data.

Key Words: Culture, Language, 3Ps, Iceberg method,

Reflections on Indian Casino Gaming: Can the Subaltern Speak or Win through a Slot Machine?

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Abstract: This paper looks into the controversial debates revolving around casinos on Native American Reservations. Gambling on Native Indian reservations is a fairly recent phenomenon dating from the 80s. The National Indian Gaming Association was founded in 1985 as a non-profit organization of 168 tribes with the aim of protecting and preserving “the general welfare of tribes striving for self-sufficiency through gaming enterprises in Indian country.”¹⁵ As such, gaming on native land raised a number of complex questions, ranging from legal issues to cultural tensions which excelled with surrounding communities. However, gaming on Native American land created a new image of the otherwise unimaginable “rich Indian” and it thus shook the firm grounds on which cultural myths about Native Americans stood. Gaming on native land has therefore disturbed the two most dominant perceptions about Natives – that of the inferior, savage, oppressed on the one hand, and the noble savage, natural, spiritual on the other. The paper will refer to several anthropological studies on gaming on Native American land, primarily using Eve Darian-Smith’s study, comparing it to the prevalent imagery of Natives and the contemporary stereotypes (especially those portrayed through Hollywood) still associated with them. This paper looks at this issue through the lenses of Spivak’s questions of the (in)ability of the subaltern to speak. If Spivak calls for a radical action on the part of those who have the passion yet have either no access to revision or else they can only speak and be recognized in as far as they are oppressed, the questions to be posed is where do Native Americans stand? Can they revise history through gaming on reservations or do they speak again only through the oppression of the corporate, capitalist world of slot machines and lottery?

Key words: casino, gambling, Native American gaming, Native American land, subaltern

¹⁵ <https://www.indiangaming.org/about>

"Love's the meaning of the universe": On Franz Werfel's German Translation of Verdi's Opera *Simon Boccanegra*

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Abstract. The German Verdi renaissance movement of the 1920s and 1930s is closely linked to the Austrian writer and poet Franz Werfel. At the beginning of the 20th century, most of the composer's earlier works had sunk into oblivion, with only a handful of his operas, such as *Rigoletto* and *Aida*, being regularly performed.

Particularly in German-speaking countries, Verdi's operatic works were overshadowed by Wagner's musical dramas, and often disparagingly referred to as "organ grinder's music". Werfel, who since his youth had been an ardent admirer of Verdi, started championing the composer's cause in the 1920s by publishing a biographical novel, as well as a German edition of Verdi's letters. Furthermore, and most importantly, he translated three of the composer's lesser known operas, thus inaugurating the Verdi renaissance on German and, subsequently, international stages.

This paper examines the translation of *Simon Boccanegra*, the second opera in Werfel's triad, which premiered in Vienna in 1930. Special emphasis is placed on the textual reworking of the central council chamber scene, where Boito's original words "E vo gridando pace" are replaced by "Liebe ist Sinn der Welten" ("Love's the meaning of the universe"), a formulation most likely inspired by the Romantic poet Novalis. It also highlights the performance history of Werfel's translation, which led to the opera's "re-importation" to Italy and, finally, its international revival and inclusion in today's repertoire.

Keywords: renaissance, Verdi's letter, repertoire

THE IMPACT OF SONGS AND FILMS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF LISTENING SKILLS

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Abstract. This study regards the role of films and songs in English language teaching. The aim of the study was to investigate how films and songs can be used as resources in the improvement of listening skills in the English language. Moreover, this study tried to highlight the value of songs and films as teaching tools and to provide evidence that students would benefit from the addition of songs and films without changing the basic type of material covered.

110 students of a primary school and a language school were instructed for a whole term and tested every month for the purposes of this study. The addition of films and songs in the experimental groups revealed significant improvement compared to the control groups. We suggest that language teachers can and should use songs and films as part of their classroom teaching plan.

Keywords: EFL learning, listening skills, film, songs, motivation

INTERTEXTUALITY IN LITERARY CREATIONS FOR CHILDREN BY THE WRITER ODHISE GRILLO

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Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to elaborate the dimensions and intertextual aspects on examples of children's creations by the writer Odhise Grillo. Initially the paper will focus on the specifics of intertextuality as a theory and then the typologies applied on concrete examples from the children's literature. The literature work of Odhise Grillo will be analysed by distinguishing the time of beginning of the theory from the time of the phenomenon of intertextuality. It means that the examples will be analyzed synchronously and diachronically. Thus, emphasized will be the intertextual relations and techniques that dominate in concrete literature work and Genette's typology will be applied.

Keywords: intertextuality, textual transformations, Odhise Grillo, children's literature.

HUBRIS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Abstract. As one of the major elements of a tragedy, the tragic hero is a very complex world in itself. Tragic hero is the protagonist of the play, who ends tragically as a result of his/her own error or mistake, which is known as Hamartia, first used by Aristotle in his Poetics. Very often, the greatest fault is the pride, or excessive pride of the hero, or according to Aristotle, Hubris, and It helps the development of the plot and the downfall of the hero; Some of the greatest examples of Hubris in English literature will be presented in this paper, like Ahab in Moby Dick, Dr. Faustus, Frankenstein, King Lear, Macbeth, Jay Gatsby, Santiago in Old Man and the Sea, etc. These characters are adorned with the excessive pride or Hubris which takes them towards their downfall, and we see their– the suffering, losing the power, hurting others around them, etc. As it is seen, this paper gives a reflection and an overview of how much hubris is presented in English literature and the importance it has for the development of the story. However, the most important thing is to see the self-destructive power of excessive pride, how it leads these heroes towards their downfall, and eventually to their tragic end.

Key words: Hubris, Pride, Literature, Tragic heroes, error.

Learning English as a Foreign Language: The Role of Gender Differences in Personality, Learning Style, and Motivation

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Abstract. Lately, the topic of learners' differences and how that affects students' academic performance has arisen the curiosity of many scholars in the field of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learning. Motivation, students' personality, learning styles, and types of learners have continuously been examined. Moreover, the correlation between the above-mentioned factors and success in learning a foreign language has been taken into consideration and it has been claimed that individuals differ from one another in the aspect of how they learn the language (Dulay et al., 1982; Ellis, 2004; Altunel, 2015). As students have individual learning styles, personalities and motivation, the main aim of this paper was on examining gender differences in learning style preferences and students' motivation to learn EFL. The idea that male and female students have various personalities, learning styles, and motivation was shown to be substantial in the analysis. Thus, it is intended that the findings will contribute to EFL research on learning styles, and that the study's findings would have practical implications for students and EFL teachers.

Keywords: EFL learning, learning styles, motivation, personality, gender differences

Revenge and the Answer to the Question "Who's there?"

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Abstract. Revenge is a subject that characterizes Renaissance tragedy and Elizabethan drama and depicts the fragility of the rule of law during the period of the setting of the play. One of the questions to be addressed in this paper is why the topic on revenge is important to us and how it is related to the nowadays debate. Revenge remains a subject that questions the existence and challenges the rule of law institutions even in the context of the modern world. Therefore, the theme of revenge bangs hard and seeks to be explored. The reign of Queen Elizabeth is pretty much identified in literature with the Shakespeare's plays and traditionally it denotes "a revival of classical antiquity" (Singh, 2009) which originally began in Italy with Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio and Michelangelo. The identity of the avenger is crucial in understanding the motive behind each murder that takes place because of revenge. Therefore, finding the answer to the question "Who's there?" is of utmost importance in resolving the mystery behind the series of tragedies that occur within the play of Hamlet.

Key words: revenge, murder, ghost, question, blood feud, throne, mother's love, jealousy

Graphic novels “*Wrinkles*” and “*Special Exit*”- a comparative study

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Abstract. The article examines a comparative as well as contrastive analysis of graphic novels: “*Wrinkles*” and “*Special Exits*”, which consist of similarities in style, theme, and point of view, as well as the overall portrayal of main characters, Emilio and Rachel. Besides that those two graphic novels have so many similarities; they also have their differences. The first difference is the assisted care vs. home care; *Wrinkles* shows the life of the main character Emilio, with Alzheimer's in an assisted care centre, and the other novel portrays the life experience at home. Next parallel pertains to the parent-child relationship; *Wrinkles* begins with the admission of Emilio to assisted care upon the demand of his son, while, *Special Exits* portrays the relationship between a mother and daughter, as the mother's struggling with disease, the daughter is always ready to help. Moreover, it concludes that both novels convey a message that elderly people should be cared off and respected for what they were in the past, despite disparities in the elderly care system.

Keywords: Old age, aging, family care, assisted centre, Alzheimer's, graphic novels.

Challenges in Language Planning and Policies in the Western Balkans

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Abstract. The language policies in the Western world are closely related to administrative planning procedures which allow pragmatic application of expected procedures and responsibilities. Unfortunately, this is not the case in the Western Balkans. Based on the Socio-Historic practices, the language planning and policies are often a political and human rights issue. The right to speak, get educated and get serviced by the public servants in your own ethnic language was an issue that was prolonged in the region. The status of Albanian language in Kosovo drastically improved after the independence and in Macedonia this is an ongoing process that requires strong efforts from the political system and language planners.

This paper aims to explore language planning policies in the Western Balkans from the legal but also linguistic perspective. Although it should be strictly an administrative matter often it becomes a sensitive political and a source of ethnic tension.

Languages are not considered only as a tool for communication but often should be considered as modes for expressing national, regional or local identities. In this regard language planning should not only be seen as a policy matter but also a source for revitalization of cultural values, semantic and linguistic esthetic values etc.

This paper will reflect upon the policies and approaches that need to be promoted in order to see language planning as an asset for further development and cooperation in the region in the time of globalization.

Keywords: Language planning, Western Balkans, human rights, language revitalization.

Multilingualism, a Challenge for Macedonian Institutions

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Abstract. Our state is going through a language revolution, namely new languages are trying to find their path into use after this state being redefined as multiethnic after the conflict. This paper aims at finding out how much is the language law implemented concerning languages of different ethnicities on the institutions on websites. The paper outlines the language composition of the Republic of North Macedonia and briefly elaborates the Law on the Language spoken by at least 20% of the Citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Law on the Inspectorate for the Use of Languages. Another interesting issue is the desk-research done concerning the use of languages, based on the data on website translations, which are expressed statistically. Surprisingly, both languages, Macedonian and Albanian are not completely implemented or used based on website data. And the last part of this research paper covers the future potential challenges such as translation, software, finances, an opportunity for income for freelancers, that lay ahead of the implementation of these minority languages in North Macedonia.

Key words: Language, agency, implementation, inspectorate, translation, law.

TRIBU BUKIDNON SOCIO-CULTURAL PRACTICES FOR INSTRUCTION: A DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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Dr. Severina P. Velos

Cebu Technological University- Moalboal Campus

Abstract. This study gleaned the socio-cultural practices of Tribu Bukidnon of the Indigenous Peoples during the S.Y. 2017-2018 in Bayawan City, Negros Oriental. The descriptive survey, qualitative-quantitative and ethnographic method of research was used in the interpretation of data. In view of the foregoing, the study gleaned to determine the profile of the respondents, their socio-cultural practices, extent of learner's manifestation in the classroom, the teaching strategies used by the teacher, learner's performance level in MAKABAYAN, the extent of support they received from, parents, teacher and administrator and significant relationship between the learner's performance and classroom manifestation. Generally, the results of the study revealed that the learners with the highs regards of some the socio-cultural practices, their behavior in the classroom are very positive, with regards to the support of the parents, teacher and administrator are very high, as to the learner performance in MAKABAYAN generally satisfactory performance. The result of this is the implementation of instructional development plan.

Keywords: indigenous people, socio-cultural practices, teaching strategy and behavior, Bayawan City Negros Oriental

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Psychological distress among health workers during the COVID-19: a qualitative study

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Abstract: The objective of this study was to assess the psychosocial experiences of caregivers of COVID-19 patients. From March 21 to October 3, we enrolled 21 doctors and 52 nurses who provided care for COVID-19 patients in secondary and tertiary health care institutions around Kosovo. The interviews were conducted face-to-face. *Thematic analysis* was used as a method for the analysis of interview transcripts. The psychological experience of doctors and nurses caring for COVID-19 patients can be summarized into 5 main themes. *First*, fear of being contaminated with COVID-19 in workplace and fear of infecting the family members. *Second*, death anxiety. *Third*, anxiety due to the nature of the disease. *Forth*, emotional distress for delivering bad news to the patients, and *fifth*, the emergence of obsessive thoughts.

Keywords: COVID-19, psychological distress, caregivers, Kosovo, qualitative study

Analysis on Teaching and psycho-pedagogical method

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Abstract. In every socio-economic system, general psychology is formed, with attitudes towards life, property, work, and individual and collective humanism. The teacher is educated and trained to respect in full harmony the teaching knowledge and methodology within the trinomial: philosophy, psychology, and pedagogy. Not only philosophical subdivisions, but the accepted dimensions of pedagogical logic, have peacefully given value and convenience in the field of traditional, classical, and modern knowledge and scientific research. The teacher is concerned about the student. Education and training is the core problem. Increasing its role in improving the psyche of adolescents, the use of new psycho-pedagogical techniques, deep knowledge of slippery slopes, increased competencies, and civic ethics, has given importance to time as an integral element of the existence of active life with students, giving it the necessary shapes in daily activity. Tiring commitment, which often becomes even more tedious, in the face of expected accomplishments and often shaky peace of mind. He is aware of reading, writing, speaking, thinking, and mathematical logical calculations, as conditions for the development of the necessary skills towards knowledge. Modern times have conceived this classic panel of teachers-students-parents, technology with communication capacities, and processing possibilities in a short time. The teacher's dilemma takes concrete and action forms:

- Is the teacher able to cope with this situation, which carries within it the contradiction of time?
 - Is the teacher appreciated and rewarded for the usefulness he gives in the difficult dimension of human and human values?
 - Is the teacher confident in his career and how much does the quality of his scientific qualification serve him in the future?
 - Is the teacher aware of the opportunities, in the face of the negative problems that their students display?
 - Does the teacher believe in the hierarchy in the education system, where political beliefs dictate the pedagogical career?
 - Does the teacher feel supported by family, society, unionism to fulfill the mission?
 - Within the contradictory process, does the teacher feel a free person, a citizen, and a respected worker, who deserves the maximum appreciation of society and the state?
- Programs based on the psycho-pedagogical method with their specificity, orient teachers, students, and parents to build their strategies extended in time and space. Bringing the phenomena of these relationships closer to the reality of school, family and society, expands the space of positive impact on the school environment, towards the civic environment and traditionalism. Study work within the age group of adolescence, acquires important values, because on this basis, methodologists in the service of academic formation and education, are free to think and act in unity, without distinctions between generalizations and spontaneous work imposed by conditions, circumstances, environment, human matter with their specifics. In this matter, psychology takes precedence. Modern time has imposed on psychology the change of its object, from the soul to the essential elements of human behavior. Today it can not be separated from the psychology of management, as "the object of work of researchers in the social, psychological and pedagogical field." The best educators for students are not those who know more, but those who with their skills know how to control the collective psyche of the class. This is an inseparable report that increases the pedagogical experience in dimensional dimensions. Through the methodology, the teacher imposes himself on the students, without creating reactions or concerns.

Keywords: Psycho pedagogy, teaching, psychology, cooperation methodology

Child and adolescent abuse

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Abstract: Child and adolescent abuse are all forms of abuse, misuse, threats to health, well-being, etc. Purpose: to examine the factors that are leading to child and adolescent abuse. Methodology: the target group were 100 children with primary and secondary education and 100 young people aged 19-24 years old in Mitrovica, conducted in May 2021. Results: 66% society can influence to become an abuser, 98% use of narcotics, 52% non-compliance/ with applicable laws. Conclusions: the number of abuses is growing in our country. There is no official data, as criminal offenses committed against children and adults are reported together.

Keywords: abuse, children, adolescent, institutions.

Psychosocial Safety Climate and Its Implication for Work Engagement Through Cognitive Demands

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Abstract The objective of the present study was to investigate the role of psychosocial safety climate (PSC) and its relationship to work-related outcomes (i.e., work engagement) via working conditions such as job demands. Specifically, by using the job demands-resources (JD-R) model as a basis of the argument, the research examines how cognitive demands mediate the relationship between psychosocial safety climate and work engagement. The research predicted that PSC positively increases work engagement via enhancement of positive demands (i.e., cognitive demands). The current study utilized a cross-sectional survey approach among 392 employees in one oil and gas organization in Malaysia. To test the research hypotheses, data were analyzed using statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS), and to test the confirmatory factor analysis for each construct, data were analyzed using analysis of a moment structures (AMOS). The study revealed that PSC increased cognitive demands. Furthermore, the results supported the notion that working condition mediated the relationship between PSC and work engagement. Overall, these findings suggest that PSC plays a significant role as predictor for working conditions and work outcomes in oil and gas industry. The results may be used to help occupational health and safety practitioners, human resource practitioners and higher management within organizations to understand how PSC influences working conditions and work outcomes.

Keywords: psychosocial safety climate, cognitive demands, work engagement

Predictive value of personal and social concerns over pandemic-related stress

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Abstract The paper analyzes socio-demographic and psychological predictors of pandemic stress in Kosovo. The research conducted in 2020 has collected data on the sample of 366 respondents from Kosovo. The respondent of both sexes were included in the sample, aged 18 to 47 with different levels of education. The following variables were taken as psychological predictors: personal and social concern. The effects of other socio-demographic characteristics (age and education) were also tested.

Applied multiple regression (stepwise forward) proved that: The coefficient of determination is $R^2 = 0.16$, which means that the group of predictors together explains 16% of the variance of the criterion variable. The results from the regression analysis shows that in the group of predictor variables, in the context of the examined variables, above is considered the type of information on Covid-19. Predictors also provide a high degree of explanation of the variance of the criterion variable: concern for the health of relatives and the amount of personal information on Covid-19. The calendar age of the subjects stands out as important factors in predicting pandemic-related stress in the vulnerable-resistant dimension to pandemic-related stress.

Keywords pandemic-related stress, concern, predictors, Covid-19

Psychological Concerns and the Level of Seeking Professional Help for Mental Health Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic among Students in Kosovo

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Abstract: During the COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately whole lives were lost, but it has also affected everyone's mental health. Through this study, readers will be enriched with abundant information about mental health, especially about mental health of students during the pandemic. The purpose of this paper is to understand and put to highlight the knowledge of university students in Kosovo about psychological concerns, types of the concerns they experience, as well as the level of seeking professional help for mental health care among students during this pandemic. There were 228 participating students in this quantitative research. The data were collected through a questionnaire, which consisted of eighteen closed questions. From this research it is concluded that psychological concerns have been expressed in students during this time, the levels of psychological distress have been increased during the pandemic period, some of the discussed concerns have emerged for the first time during the pandemic, students found help in their families, and some of the participants had the opportunity to keep in touch with the psychologist/psychiatrist, and the contact has helped. The results show that the most pronounced psychological concerns among students were: mood disorders, stress, depressive mood and anxiety. To address different types of psychological distress, usually psychological counseling is recommended. Also, to have the best possible mental health, physical activity is recommended too.

Keywords: psychological distress, COVID-19 pandemic, students, psychological counseling

The change of religious status in Albania in 1950.

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Abstract: In Albania, there were practiced three religions, the Muslim, Orthodox, and Catholic. Each one of them, because of the influence of foreign invasions in Albania, of course had a foreign orientation. From these three religions, the Catholic church had a very patriotic and cultural past in the Albanian history. The first Catholic church was built in Shkoder in 1857. In 1877 Jesuits founded in Shkoder another influential center for the higher education; The college of Saint Fransisco Saveri. Catholics had a very rich past in their patriotic contribution. The Orthodox institution did not fell behind. In this way, the Voskopoja printing house was founded in 1720, the first in the Balkans. After the declaration of independence many patriot clergy such as Vehi Dibra, started the organisation of Islamic institutions in Albania, in order to be independent from the Califat. Finally, the freedom of religion in Albania was realised administratively in 1923 .At the same time all religious activities were distinguished for the use of national symbols and the spreading of Albanian language.

Keywords: religion, religious status, Catholic Church

Analysis on Teaching and psycho-pedagogical method

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Abstract: In every socio-economic system, general psychology is formed, with attitudes towards life, property, work, and individual and collective humanism. The teacher is educated and trained to respect in full harmony the teaching knowledge and methodology within the trinomial: philosophy, psychology, and pedagogy. The teacher is concerned about the student. Education and training is the core problem. Increasing its role in improving the psyche of adolescents, the use of new psycho-pedagogical techniques, deep knowledge of slippery slopes, increased competencies, and civic ethics, has given importance to time as an integral element of the existence of active life with students, giving it the necessary shapes in daily activity. Programs based on the psycho-pedagogical method with their specificity, orient teachers, students, and parents to build their strategies extended in time and space. Bringing the phenomena of these relationships closer to the reality of school, family and society, expands the space of positive impact on the school environment, towards the civic environment and traditionalism. In this matter, psychology takes precedence. Modern time has imposed on psychology the change of its object, from the soul to the essential elements of human behavior. Today it can not be separated from the psychology of management, as "the object of work of researchers in the social, psychological and pedagogical field." The best educators for students are not those who know more, but those who with their skills know how to control the collective psyche of the class. This is an inseparable report that increases the pedagogical experience in dimensional dimensions. Through the methodology, the teacher imposes himself on the students, without creating reactions or concerns.

Keywords: Psycho pedagogy, teaching, psychology, cooperation methodolog

Family dynamics and communication, a factor in the emergence of mental health problems in adolescence

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Abstract: Family dynamics, relationships between family members, parent-adolescent communication are important factors affecting in a positive and negative way the development of adolescents' mental health. Lack of positive parent-adolescent communication affects the onset of mental health problems, specifically depressive symptoms, low self-esteem and social anxiety. The quality of communication among family members contributes to the quality of parent-child relationship, which in turn predicts children's well-being (Broberg, 2012). The purpose of this research is to explore family relationships, communication features in Albanian families which become motivating in the emergence of mental health problems in adolescents 15-18 years old. Lack of open parent-child communication, denial of mental health issues by parents, lack of parental cooperation in the psychological treatment of the child, critically affect the maintenance of an unhealthy environment for the development and well-being of adolescents.

Key words: communication, mental health, adolescence, psychological counseling

ABA therapy in children with autism spectrum disorder: Case report

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Abstract: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or autism is a developmental disability that affects the way people communicate, behave or interact with others. New approaches to behavior modification, such as applied behavior analysis (ABA), are becoming increasingly relevant and applicable to behavior modification and regulation in many disorders, particularly in children with autism. Applied behavior analysis, also called behavioral engineering, is an evidence-based approach that involves the application of empirical approaches based upon the principles of operant conditioning to change behavior. These defining characteristics state that applied behavior analysis should be applied, behavioral, analytic, technological, conceptual, effective, and capable of generalized outcomes in modeling and transforming objectives. This paper presents the importance of approaching the treatment of children with autism spectrum disorder based on different methods and tools based on best practices and a case presentation of successful implementation of techniques. This approach works best when individuals with ASD are accompanied by empathetic, dedicated, appropriate, patient and above all professional therapists.

Key words: ABA, therapy, approach, autism, behavior, child, therapist

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Cultural legislation in Kosovo: Overview of the specific laws covering all cultural profiles in Kosovo - Key functions in practice, issues, problematics and lack of addresses in all practices

Ph.D.Liburn Jupolli

Abstract. This article deals with the cultural legislation in Kosovo, it gives an overview of all the specific laws, how these laws reflect in practice 20 years in the making, how these laws tackle or dont tackle the specific practical needs of the cultural scenes and communities.The overview stretches also to the specific problems regarding the structure of the articles, how they are harmonised between each other, what issues need to be addressed.In the article based on the analysis there

Mythological figures ‘the myth of Orpheus’ in World and Albanian musical creativity

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Abstract. Mythology has played an integral part of every culture in the World explaining different social and natural phenomena in every civilization. It played a vital role in the development of classical music in different eras as an inspiration and basic material for some of music’s greatest masterpieces, especially operas. Scientific researches have proven that mythological figures such as the figures of the Orpheus and beautiful Eurydice have been and remain an inspiring motif in the oral creativity of peoples and the artistic musical creativity. Orpheus character was present in operas of Baroque Era (J. Peri, G. Caccini, C. Monteverdi, C. W. Gluck etc.) in which the Orpheus was seen as a metaphor for the synthesis of the arts. Even in the Albanian folk creativity we are shown mythological figures such as muse, mountain fairy, witch, sylph, jinn, etc. which appear in our rich folklore through stories and songs. The lyre of Orpheus, the sazes of Arshik Ekrem, the Flute of Tana, as well as folklore features, instruments and traditions in different cultures of the World are stories and melody belonging to a ‘multicultural’ society, because humanity is united by music and love.

Keywords: mythology, music, opera, Orpheus, Albanian literature, Arshik Ekrem.

An investigation on the acoustics of the existing halls used for music performance in Kosovo

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Abstract. Music performance of course needs special attention and special requirements. On the one hand musicians spend long time rehearsing for the performance and need the right conditions in order to have efficient rehearsal. On the other hand listeners of the music performance have their expectations as well, and require good conditions in order to enjoy the music performance properly. One aspect of these special conditions for a music performance is of course room acoustics. Since good room acoustics for music performance is not something easily achieved, usually there are specially designed halls for music performance in order to provide the right conditions including right room acoustics. In the absence of designed hall for music performance, Kosovo currently uses various theatres and other existing non-specific halls when a music performance is needed. The acoustic quality of the existing halls in use has been investigated through a questionnaire. Musicians who have performed in targeted halls were chosen for subjects in this subjective evaluation. Furthermore basic acoustic data for these halls are estimated using the diffuse field method. The paper compares and discusses the results of the subjective evaluation and the diffuse field method.

MODERN MUSIC, DIGITAL PRODUCTION & MANAGEMENT

Adelina Thaqi

Abstract. From my point of view as a professional I think it is wrong to believe that a technique is suitable for all singers and genres, and in all circumstances.

The technique should be in line with the genre you choose to learn / perform.

Singers should look for a voice teacher or trainer who is an expert in the genres, styles you want to study.

The terms "classical" and "contemporary" always refer to the repertoire we study in this approach. It does not show that one technique is superior to the other, but it does show that these techniques are different from each other.

The differences between them are, starting from the position of the larynx, the volume, the pronunciation of words along the interpretation, the stylistic elements, the short phrases that are repeated, which is typical in jazz music, etc., while in classical we have cadences.

We have many singers studying both techniques. These singers tend to be referred to as "crucified artists". This work requires a lot of time and dedication, because the knowledge base for both contemporary and classical song is large, and of course it is very challenging and also affects the other in many aspects, and also, I say this from my personal experience as a professional singer.

Styling of folk songs-changes in form

Dr.Behar Arllati, Msc.Aida GjikoIli,Msc.Leutrina Pireva

Abstract. Many traditional civic folk songs today are stylized by various singers and instrumentalists. The change of these songs has resulted in the enrichment of the general fund of traditional civic folk songs but also the possibility of a new vision of these same songs by the new generations. The embrace of these songs by the younger generations is a very good omen and herald that folklore and folk songs seem to make "a second life" plus.

For these stylizations, respectively for the changes that have been made to these songs in the formal phraseological construction, will be discussed in this Scientific Treatise where there will be no modal, rhythmic, melodic, harmonic or even cadastral treatment.

Through concrete examples we will see how the same songs are (re) created in various variants of everything, with or without lyrics, with or without shortcomings, with or without additions, with or without instrumental accompaniment. The examples will be accessible to any reader and will have the character of example and quantity. Also, the examples will not be the same in nature in order to include as many cases and, consequently, as many songs. Since traditional civic folk songs are diverse, even the changes in form that have been made to them, are of the most varied including additions or omissions. We think it is a message that deserves considerable attention as it has to do with our spiritual heritage.

Keywords: Civic folk songs, Stylization of songs, Changes in form, Spiritual heritage.

The emotion of sound & the effects of technology, the internet versus it

Luan Durmishi

Abstract. Nowadays, the effect of technology - the Internet towards the singer and his show during the performance, can there be negative or positive effects, this is a dilemma that studies and research are being done in the developed world, respectively in that of music art. !

Can the effect of technology - the internet - send us towards stage presentation, interpretation through sound, losing his emotion? This is also a big dilemma which a priori must be analyzed with great care and perspective both by the audience, as well as by the artist, respectively the singer et .etc!

Albanian Erotic Songs

Fatlume Bunjaku(1)

Abstract. Given the fact that our country is quite rich in this kind of music, with these kinds of original songs, full of art in itself but always accompanied by a reluctance to show them, this is one of the reasons that has excited me about them researched and elaborated on this topic.

This research will contain in itself: historical, the difference between the areas where these songs have worked, content, reading and analysis of texts as well as what will characterize this work the most will be the examination of the possibility that some of these songs we try to realize it in contemporary music.

Cham dance and its characteristics

Yllnor Kurti

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Abstract. Cham dance is the most representative dance of the Arvan tribe (Arvanites of Greece), an autochthonous Albanian dance, which has aroused interest from foreign scholars of cultural heritage.

The Cham cultural and artistic tradition (as well as the musical one within it) is a precious value for the cultural and artistic heritage of Albania, given the turbulent history of this minority.

In this work we will be able to follow: historical aspects, means of expression, ways of interpretation, musical elements, characteristics of Cham dance, folk costumes, the dance of Osman Tokes.

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Sculpture and acoustics: application in the artwork “Ushtari i panjohur”

Egzon Bajraktari, Burim Berisha

UBT College

Rr Rexhep Krasniqi, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë

Abstract. Sculpture, being one of the seven classical arts, known since prehistory, of course has a long history of development and application. As such, sculpture has passed various periods with various artistic expression and styles. In the context of contemporary society and recent transformations, sculpture as many other art forms, of course is challenged with the difficulty of being present and competitive in the cultural market as well as in line with artistic trends. Consequently, sculpture in its development as a medium of artistic expression, in order to be present in contemporary artistic trends, has expanded its language of artistic communication through use of various techniques, experimentation with various materials, various three-dimensional forms, concepts, names etc. In this case, application of acoustics know-how and sound as a natural phenomenon in sculpture as artwork is one of the many forms that advance the development of sculpture in the contemporary age. In this context, this paper gives a short summary of the application of acoustics in sculpture, including its brief history and key works. Further, the paper focuses specifically on the application of the acoustics in the artwork titled “Ushtari i panjohur” (English: the Unknown Soldier) that will be realized during 2021 in Prishtinë. The paper discusses the characteristics of the sculpture and analyzes its urbanistic, architectural and acoustic aspects that form and complete the sculptural artwork in this case.

Keywords: Sculpture, acoustics in sculpture, “Ushtari i panjohur”, public art.

BALKANGREUEL

Lana Čmajčanin

Abstract. In the context of this lecture, I will focus on the analysis of the form of artistic representations of violence against women in favour and support of national, political, and other interests.

As an example, I will refer to the exclusive lithograph portfolio set featuring twelve large lithographs entitled Balkangruel created in 1909 after the Austro-Hungarian Empire beginning of governing in the Balkans as the outcome of the Berlin Congress, which redistributed colonies among the European powers.

The descriptions of forms of representation of the lithograph portfolio, form the symbolical, real, and imaginary of the Balkan, and have paved the way for various perceptions of the Balkans throughout the visual presentations and popular culture.

Delivered in a variety of formats and languages, the Balkangruel graphic portfolio was intended for the elite and was quite popular and became widely distributed in Europe and beyond. In addition, as the focal point of the lecture, I will present the homonymous art installation, which is based on the Balkangreuel - Balkan cruelty portfolio. This wall installation repossesses motifs presented in the lithograph portfolio, but they can be discerned only at a closer examination. It off-sets the notion of “exotic” Balkan countries, which is still very much alive, against a comprehensive design embedding the above-mentioned motifs. Furthermore, the work also explores the imperialism of the imagination and the origins of the Western ideas, perceptions, and stereotypes about the Balkans as a “periphery”.

In front of camera

Anisa Rada

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Abstract. Photography, usually presents a real situation and is the most effective form of presenting reality. Understanding the image is understanding the realm in which the psyche of the photographer, the person in front of camera, and the viewer intersect. But, including the way our minds and social environment shape the way we think, feel, behave, and present ourselves, has photography actually become a means of creating unrealistic states and moments? In front of the camera do we feel stagnant in a mechanical tool and the moment we are aware that we are being photographed, is everything changing in the way we behave and act. Through this scientific paper a different perspective will be offered by the persons in front of the camera, in order to reflect and be aware of their real appearance.

KOSOVAFILM

(focused in Isa Qosja's Films)

Bekim Sele

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Abstract. “Kosovafilmi”, was established on the 20th of February, 1969, in Kosovo. It was the main house in the country for making and distributing artistic films. From 1969 to 2005 it has produced and coproduced independently more than 30 artistic films, documentaries and animated films. With some of these films this house was part of many film festivals in some of which were rewarded with international awards. One of directors that realized the most films within this filmic house is the author Isa Qosja.

In this project we will treat three films made by Isa Qosja which were supported and realised by “Kosovafilm” filmic house. We will describe one by one the topics treated by these films, the director's attitude and some of the most important symbols used in these creations. Through this project we will have a general reflection of the activity of the above mentioned author which functioned within “Kosovafilm”.

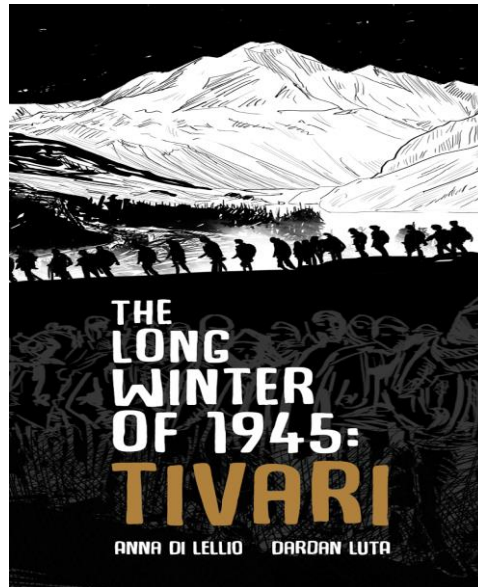
Keywords: Production, film, director, topic, symbol.

The Long Winter of 1945

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Abstract. After the liberation of Yugoslavia from Nazi occupation in the fall of 1944, Marshal Tito called for a levée en masse to break the Wehrmacht line on the Strymian front and conquer the Italian city of Trieste. As thousands of men were forcibly recruited from across the country, Albanians from Kosovo were sent to the front in a tragic march that left behind scores of sick and wounded to die. On March 30, 1945, when the unarmed Albanian recruits arrived in the town of Tivari [Bar] on the Adriatic coast, Montenegrin partisans killed hundreds of them. This book is a visual history of that massacre, a history which has been deeply buried in archives, suppressed, neglected or manipulated by historians, though never forgotten so much as silenced. We use the voices of Shaban Pajaziti and other recruits from Çubrel (Skenderaj), who survived to tell their stories. Archival and other written sources provide additional important but conflicting documentary evidence, and are a stark reminder that official history is never complete without the testimonies of participants.



The Alternative exhibition spaces: How self-organizing mindset constantly shapes Cultural history of Prishtina, Kosovo

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Abstract. The trajectory of cultural developments in Kosovo is built under the constructions of historical, political and social transitions, at least for more than 100 years. After some time of relative peace, about 4 decades during the Yugoslavia existence, Serbians oppression driven by expansionist nationalistic-fascistic ideas against Albanians started in the end of 80's and culminated in 1999 with a war in Kosovo. In these transition processes the need arises to identify and shape one's own artistic and cultural scene. Therefore, the foundation of educational and cultural institutions, the 90s and the post-war period, are important periods that need to be considered and reviewed. In particular the paper will focus in the collective civil resistance movement, which occurred in Kosovo from 1989 through 1997. This was the period of self-organizing in uncertain time of being and acting that unavoidably produced interruptions, consequently gaps in the cultural flows of Kosovar society - the period of resistance that reflects today's cultural developments. Today, two decades after the end of the war in Kosovo, the mindset of self-initiative and self-organizing remains the safest practice to follow - as the only guide in coordinating missing chapters of the country's cultural history and the cultural history stories to be made. How did the need for alternative exhibition spaces arise? What was their role and impact? If once alternative exhibition spaces had to do with resistance, what is their role today? This paper seeks to present a civic activism, in an attempt to mark this period of time from artists' perspective, which inevitably leaves room for discourse at several professional levels.

Keywords: Alternative, exhibition space, transitions, 90', self-organizing, mindset, cultural institutions.

“IN OUR HANDS”

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Abstract. The immigration period affected many lives and many people from all walks of life, the most vulnerable were women; “Hyjnesha” an archaeological artifact that dates centuries back, the icon and representation of the city of Prishtina (the capital) is the image of a woman. Living in Kosovo has its challenges, especially when you are a woman. Being born in Kosovo as a girl means having had a set of expectations before you even learn how to walk. However, despite the obstacles Kosovar girls and women face on a daily basis, giving the opportunity Albanian women excel, whatever the circumstances may be, they make the best of it. Be it education, work etc. Albanian women are thriving both nationally and internationally.

In the past few years we have seen women from Kosovo excel in all ranges of life: from Majlinda Kelmendi, to Atifete Jahjaga; the first female president of Kosovo, to our pop icons Dua and Rita. The scene for women is exponentially expanding in all fields from photography to the arts to sciences to education and so forth. Kosovar women are becoming our very own milestones as a country and they go on to make history for our very own movement of gender equality pushing us towards a more fruitful future.

But the idea of womanhood is often taboo ridden enough, although we are in a state of constant progression, a woman on her own was seen as a scar and shame to society earlier on. The concept of these women being “superhuman” is that they defy every social standard that has been inflicted on them. Even to be a woman in today’s society is to live, with some sort of backlash of everything and anything. The judgment is still somewhat present. The mentality that has been embedded for years has started to shift, but we cannot leave behind a past that has contributed highly and has pushed so much change to the womanhood we see today.

During the immigration period of the 70’s up to the late 90’s so many women raised families on their own without men or male figures in their lives. Our aim is to empower women with these stories, to show what power is. We will be interviewing 5 of these women, where they will share details of their personal stories of how they had to raise their families alone, without their husbands being present. The idea of these women being alone back in the day was absolutely terrifying but also inspiring at the same time, it’s a mentality that has hovered for years. Kosovo still holds issues like female unemployment rates, unpaid maternity leave, and traditional values as arranged marriages and gender roles. This project would provide the adequate representation that women from Kosovo need.

Kosovo’s female empowerment movement still has a long way to go even in the year 2020, but with progressing on to the future we must observe the past and only imagine what the 70s, 80s and 90s were like for the Kosovar woman in the immigration era. During that bleak period many women were left hopeless without their reliable spouses to raise families.

The very idea of a single mother in Kosovo still remains a taboo, the concept of it is still unfamiliar and for a woman to raise a child on their own is preposterous to our people. These women have fought their own fight in the fight for women’s rights without even understanding their contribution towards it. It’s important for us to tell their stories, to teach generations young and old about the endurance of these women. These women are a landmark and a turning point and they deserve to make history. To be shown as they deserve and to hear out their struggles and victories, and for us to make history alongside them.

Ushtari i Panjohur (Unknown Soldier) / Public Art

Burim Berisha

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Abstract. The Unknown Soldier is the name of the monuments we have often heard, but in a different context from the one we will realize, this work of art is dedicated to women who fight for their rights on a daily basis, and is dedicated to them women who are no longer among us and there is no monument to the appreciation of their deeds in society. "Unknown Soldier", the name is masculine, but the work is a portrait of a woman in large dimensions 3m high and changes the fact, to show greatness and gratitude to them by ironically with the name to highlight gender discrimination by expectation from naming. The portrait was selected from my project from the imaginary portraits "Dhe Jemi Ne" curated by Robert Wilton (Annex) to show the rights that have been truncated (portraits are deaf, blindfolded, powerful character with a lot of suffering, stick modeling that shows the traces that life has left on their faces, and the spiritual power not to stop (photo below)). The name is important to arouse curiosity because it refers to the male gender and we have a giant portrait of a woman, the most important is the comparison with the war because for women it has been and is multiple war, a war against patriarchal society, war against various invaders, the struggle for financial independence, the right to vote, the care of the family, and among all this the investment in knowledge and advancement of women to this day when we are in a position where at least it can be raised as an issue. I have labeled the portrait of the woman as the "Unknown Soldier" where in fact we all know that the most famous soldier is the woman. The final material will be Resin and Fiberglass Stained Glass Fiber Resin, the material is quite strong and resistant to time outdoors, especially for a period of 3 years. The color of the sculpture-portrait will be red, as a symbol of maternal warmth and at the same time STOP violence.

The specific place of installation of the sculpture (public art) is the park of Gërmia, the reasons are numerous and complement the concept of this installation: nature, color, large dimensions of the portrait in communication with nature, the material used (plastic) as a symbol of unnatural treatment of women in a completely natural environment to which they belong as equals. The portrait divided in the middle enables the interaction with the visitors, each of the visitors can be "sheltered" Inside the portrait, when we are inside the portrait we can hear the sound, (acoustic sculpture-echo sound sculpture), if we concentrate we can hear our breathing. All this in the service of concept, interaction, interaction and artistic communication. The portrait can be installed in other specific locations (site specific art) of Prishtina with evaluation by a professional commission. The presence of such a contemporary sculpture in the city, will give it a more civilized appearance from the aesthetic point of view, and most importantly the concept and dedication to the woman for the contribution given to the very patriarchal society. (Visual reference. <https://jaumeplensa.com/works-and-projects/sculpture>)

Below are photos of the work on three sides



Muscle Memory

Jakup Ferri

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Abstract. While I was studying (1999-2004), my city Prishtina was invisible and isolated from the western (art) world. This became an influence for my work, its content and its appearance. The awareness of the political situation; the invisibility of my country within the artworld and the alienation from western art from which art students like myself suffered, resulted in a series of video's where I dealt with this problematical case. It resulted in videos created with a certain spontaneity and desire to experiment. I reflect on them more as 'test' videos. I used myself as the main protagonist in these videos to establish an ironic distance to issues of cultural identity, history and the place of the peripheral artist. Often the videos exist of just one shot. Using my own appearance seems a necessary strategy. I show myself far away from art-history, trapped in my own house, neighborhood and my room. I wanted to challenge my own reality. Also my physical appearance distracts from the political weight and creates an imaginary space for a more universal and psychological interpretation, thus showing an absurd vision on humanity. This also applies to my drawings. Since these last few years, I have been focusing more on the works on paper and paintings and mosaics. Lately I have been doing a series of drawings in the form of paper mosaics. I recycle waste packages of different products, cut them into little pieces, and use them to make my mosaics. The industrial waste then becomes a little piece of color in mosaics, and they gain a completely different function. I also like the idea of using a very simple material such as paper to gain the same effect as if it were made of stones like a real mosaic. This illusion and shift of function remains hidden behind the narrative of the drawings. Often I also use found objects as a surface for my drawings like windows from boats and trains. My drawings portray various situations in thin, fine lines. They often show circumstances in which people are alienated from their surroundings. Moreover, questions involving identity and the status of the outsider become an important role in my oeuvre. Ordinary practices from everyday life, critique of the cynicism of the art world and memories from my personal background have all become recurring subjects within my work. In these last few years I have made extensive research about outsider artists, folk art, naive oriented painters and their engagement with different hand made materials such as blankets, carpets, glasses etc. They have been a great influence on my works. I see a great value in works that are hand made, textiles, authentic, punctual and unpolished character of this type of art. I use my associative and intuitive ability to guide the creation of my work, which may be the main similarity between my work and folk art and craft. Often I show situations where the human being is isolated from his/her surroundings. Isolation, wanting contact, wanting to be a part of something, desire and failure are all topics exposed. My inspiration comes from my direct surroundings. I use the dissension of living between two worlds involving my personal experiences.

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Frequency of dental anomalies in the sagittal plane

Authors: Dr. Uran Halimi (PhD candidate, Specialist in Oral Surgery) 1,
Shqipe Krasniqi²

Introduction: Malocclusions are disorders of normal occlusion (bite). In this paper we have researched the number of students with malocclusions of the first grade (neutro-occlusion), second grade (disto-occlusion) subclasses I and II and third grade (mesio-occlusion).

Objectives: This research aims to extract accurate statistical data on dental anomalies in the sagittal plane in primary school students in the municipality of Ferizaj. Which anomalies are most common? What is their distribution in the population, etc.?

Material and methods: The research was conducted through clinical examinations of primary school students in the municipality of Ferizaj, analyzing anomalies in the sagittal plane. The selection of cases was random, the exception cases were those with a lack of permanent first molars. The research was conducted during the period 2018-2019 on 154 students.

Results: Children aged 8-12 were included in the research. 53.24% were male and 46.75% were female.

18.18% of students had no abnormalities in the sagittal direction of occlusion, while 31.16% had grade I malocclusion.

9.09% had class II disorders first subclass, 12.98% had class II disorders second subclass and 28.57% had third grade malocclusion.

Conclusion: Orthodontic anomalies are hereditary problems but can also come from local factors such as bad habits, approximate caries, premature loss of deciduous teeth, etc. These anomalies cause functional, aesthetic and social problems. All these abnormalities are treatable if diagnosed in time and proper orthodontic measures are taken.

Key words: Sagittal disorders, Occlusion, neutroclusion, distoclution, mesioclusis, dental anomalies.

SECONDARY CARIES SUSCEPTIBILITY IN PROSTHODONTICS CORRELATED TO MARGINAL GAP

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Introduction Secondary caries of abutment teeth is unwanted complication during prosthodontics treatment and main reason for replacement of FPD restorations. Marginal gap space in fixed restorations is responsible for micro-leakage and cement decomposition with caries appearance due to specific demineralization process by bacteria colonization. The aim of the study was to evaluate caries lesions in correlation to crown marginal gap.

Material and methods Marginal gap between the abutment tooth and the crown was measured using a light-body silicone for evaluating of absolute discrepancy with replica technique (RT). Twenty porcelain fused to metal crowns were fabricated on ten premolars casts. Light body polyvinylsiloxane addition silicone impression material was used to fill the discrepancies between crown and tooth. After setting impression material was removed from the die and thickness of the layer was measured with direct-sight technique and microscope.

Results The measurements of marginal fit were with mean marginal discrepancies in a range between 61.5 and 75.0 microns, mean marginal gaps in a range from 40.9 - 45.3 microns, mean vertical discrepancies in a range from 22.9 - 46.0 micron and mean horizontal discrepancies in the range of 42.0 to 58.8 micron. Statistical data analysis was performed using non-parametric test of Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney.

Conclusion Based on selection of 100 microns as limit of clinical acceptability, restoration margins were presented with increased risk for caries occurrence, even when the prostheses have acceptable fit.

Keywords: Secondary caries, abutment, marginal gap

THE EFFECT OF NEW INTERNAL FERRULE DESIGN PREPARATION ON THE FRACTURE RESISTANCE OF ENDODONTICALLY TREATED CENTRAL INCISORS

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Abstract. **Statement of problem.** Many studies concerning the ferrule effect may have a significant effect on fracture resistance of endodontically treated teeth. **Purpose.** This study investigated the fracture resistance of endodontically treated anterior central incisors prepared with internal ferrule preparation design. **Material and methods.** A total of 120 extracted human maxillary central incisor were endodontically treated and divided into 10 groups of 12. Group A1 to E1 and A2 to E2 represented teeth prepared with a 0mm, 0.5mm, 1mm, 1.5mm, and 2mm internal ferrule preparation. As material for our experiments, we used Ø 1.4 - 1.6mm Y-TZP ceramics posts with retention forms in the coronary part of the post, upgraded with core build-up material (IPS E-MAX, Ivoclar, Vivadent). The experimental samples were cemented (Multilink Automix, Ivoclar), embedded in acrylic resin blocks (ProBase Polymer/Monomer, Ivoclar) and loaded at an angle of 45° degrees in an Instron Testing Machine 4301 (Instron Corp., USA) at a crosshead speed of 1mm/min until fracture. Fracture loads (N) and modes (repairable or catastrophic) were recorded. Two-way analysis of variance was used for statistical analysis with the level of significance set $p < 0.05$. Failure patterns were analyzed in the optical microscope Stereo Discovery V.8 (Carl Zeiss, Germany). **Results.** The mean values (\pm SD) for fracture loads measured in Newtons were for the group A1: 1.4mm - 405.04N (\pm 100.04); and A2: 1.6 mm - 503.09N (\pm 109.01); for Group B1: 1.4mm - 401.07N (\pm 75.02) and B2: 1.6mm - 507.13N (\pm 101.08), for Group C1: 1.4mm - 479.01N (\pm 109.12) and C2: 1.6mm - 567.06N (\pm 134.37), for group D1: 1.4mm - 601.73N (\pm 103.52) and D2: 1.6mm - 675.79N (\pm 171.09), for Group E1: 1.4mm - 719.99N (\pm 220.02) and E2: 1.6mm - 861.06N (\pm 237.15). Failure patterns within those 1.4 - 1.6mm Y-TZP posts - E-MAX cores groups revealed noncatastrophic failure in group A = 100% - 100% for 0 mm, group B = 100% - 100% for 0.5mm; group C - 91.7% - 91.7% for 1mm, group D = 91.7% - 75% for 1.5mm; and 66.7% - 58.3% for 2mm both of groups E. **Conclusion.** With the limitations of this study, the teeth prepared without, 0.5mm and 1mm internal ferrule preparation restored with 1.4 - 1.6mm zirconia posts with retentive coronal part demonstrated significantly lower failure loads than those with 1.5 and 2mm IF. The results showed that zirconia posts with retentive coronal part and 1.5mm - 2mm internal ferrule preparation which contribute to increasing the fracture resistance of the restored root-coronary dental complex, show significance higher fracture resistance. Significant higher % of repairable fractures was determined in all of experimental groups.

PROSTHETIC CHALLENGE IN TREATMENT OF MISSING BILATERAL MAXILLARY INCISORS. CASE REPORT

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Abstract.Maxillary lateral incisor agenesis is the most common congenitally missing tooth condition in aesthetic zone. It represents approximately 20% of all dental anomalies. It affects dental aesthetics and function in young patients and represents serious challenge for the clinicians. There are several treatment options available. The aim of this study is prosthetic treatment of recontouring of existing canine into a lateral incisor with all-ceramic restorations. Case report: A 20 years old female patient was concerned about aesthetic of her smile. After the clinical and radiographic examination it was verified that the patient presented agenesis of 12 and 22. Treatment planning option proposed was recontouring 13 and 23 by means of preparation for two all-ceramic single crowns. After the preparation the impression was performed using addition silicone. When all the laboratory procedures for manufacturing of all-ceramic crowns were finished, the all-ceramic crowns were tested on the patient and after they were cemented with resin cement. Conclusion: Aesthetics has been increasingly required in today's dentistry. Respecting the proper indications and therapy, principle of smile harmony, oral rehabilitation and patient's wish, the solution with two all-ceramic restorations fulfilled aesthetic and functional demands and the patient and doctor expectations as well.

Keywords: lateral incisors, prosthetic treatment, all-ceramic crowns

TYPES OF SUTURES IN ORAL SURGERY

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Abstract. Aim: In everyday surgical practice, different types of suturing materials are available. They play an important role in tissue healing, facilitate the process of haemostasis, enable the reconstruction and reunification of tissue whose integrity has been compromised during surgery or trauma. The aim of this study is to examine the reaction of the tissue to different suturing materials, as well as to determine the speed of wound healing and the incidence of complications after their use, in order to prove which of them is most suitable for oral surgery procedure. **Material and methods:** These researches were done based on analyzes presented on "MEDLINE" and "PubMed" databases, from 1970 to 2018, using the following keywords: oral surgery, suture materials, flap, periodontium, polyglucapron, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyglycolic acid, polylactic acid, silk.

Results: Tissue reactions to suturing materials vary depending on the surface properties and the adhesion properties of the bacteria to the material. Silk is the most commonly used suturing material in oral surgery. The application of silk sutures increases the risk of infections, because they react with the connective tissue, allowing the accumulation of dental plaque and bacterial adhesion around them. Studies about tissue response to suturing material confirm the presence of inflammation when using silk and cotton threads, and minimal reaction in others (nylon, polyester, polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE), polyglycolic acid (PGA).

Conclusion: In addition to the observance of surgical suturing techniques, and the proper maintenance of oral hygiene in the postoperative period, the choice of suturing material has a significant impact on tissue healing. This underscores the need for careful selection of suturing material during oral surgery.

Key words: oral-surgical interventions, suturing material, resorbable and non-resorbable sutures.

Determination of mercury from dental amalgam fillings in hard tissue of the teeth in vitro conditions

Nexhmije Ajeti, Xhevdet Aliu, Merita Barani, Ferjal Perjuci

Abstract. The purpose of this study was to determinate mercury in hard tissue from dental amalgam fillings in vitro conditions.

Material and method: 30 human teeth were tested. They were extracted for different reasons. Depend of preparation of cavity teeth were divided in three experimental groups with 10 teeth. Group 1-10 teeth were prepared in occlusal surface, group 2-10 teeth were prepared in approximate-occlusal surface and group 3-10 teeth were prepared in MOD surface. All of them were filled with amalgam and after 24 hours, five teeth of each group were polished. After 9 months the examples were tested. Before chemical analysis tooth were irrigated four times for 10 minutes in ultrasonic bath. Tooth were grind in size less than in grinder with sphere (Retch, Germany). From each tooth was taken 250 mg dust and wamineralized with royal water (HCl+HNO₃ in ration 1:3) in microwave oven (Bergenhof, Germany). After mineralization examples were filtered and were analyzed in ICP-OES (Perkin Elmer, USA, Optima 2100 DW).

Results: There were significant difference in the amount average of mercury in both group polished (One Way Anova, $F=110.54$, $p<0.001$), and unpolished group (One Way Anova, $F=69.54$, $p<0.001$).

Conclusion: It may be concluded that mercury was released more in unpolished amalgam filling than polished amalgam fillings.

Key words: amalgam, mercury, polished, unpolished.

Dental management considerations for the patients with Diabetes Mellitus in Oral Surgery and Pediatric Dentistry

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Abstract.Background: The incidence of diabetic mellitus is increasingly steadily. The increasing longevity of the population and more effective diagnostic protocol mean that the dental practitioner will be treating an increasing number of patients with diabetic mellitus. The authors present relevant information about diabetic mellitus, its type, path physiology, complications, medical and dental management of these patients. There are many medical and dental management issues that dentists should consider when treating patient with diabetic mellitus.

Keywords: Dental management, diabetes mellitus, dentistry

DIFFERENCES IN MAINTAINING ORAL HYGIENE OF CHILDREN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SUHAREKA

Suela Hoxha

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Alma Mater Europaea, Campus Rezonanca

Abstract. Comparison of awareness of oral hygiene in children of the same age of a school in the village and that in the city in the municipality of Suhareka.

The issue of oral health has been quite challenging since ancient times for various reasons. This paper compares data obtained from 6-year-old students between a village school and a city school in the Municipality of Suhareka, differences in the practice of oral hygiene, the frequency of brushing and routine dental visits, the use of sweet foods such as food more enjoyable for children of this age. Oral hygiene means the practice of keeping the mouth clean with regular brushing of teeth. The purpose of this study is to assess the oral health of children and the recommendations of these children to keep the level of oral hygiene at the maximum level. Since oral hygiene is of particular importance because not only oral health depends on it but also health in general. It is key in preventing dental disease and bad breath, on the contrary that if we do not brush and brush our teeth every day then the bacteria can not be kept under control and reach levels that can cause oral infections such as tooth decay and gum diseases.

It also seems that flouride found in toothpaste in students that keep brushing teeth, it's noticed that has a major role in remineralization of enamel.

Keywords: tooth, children, oral hygiene, rural, urban.

The Impact of edentulism on Oral Health and Quality of Life of Patients

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Abstract: This study aimed to explore the impact of edentulism on patients' health and quality of life and factors contributing to decision in seeking dental prosthetic treatment. The researchers developed a prospective pilot study with twenty patients of both sexes sourced from UBT College Dental University Clinic. The researcher utilized clinical examination to collect data through the Oral Health-Related Quality of Life (OHRQoL) questionnaire. Data analysis occurred were processed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software program to determine the regressions and coefficients. There was sufficient evidence to suggest the oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) relationships with edentulism and the decision to seek dental prosthetic treatment. The researcher established that functional disability is the main factor contributing to patients' decisions for dental prosthetic treatment. Contrariwise, pain is the most negligible factor that patients consider when choosing such treatments. The researcher also noted that women's decisions for dental prosthetic treatments are mediated more with quality of life (QoL) than general health outcomes.

Keywords: edentulism, dental prosthetic treatment, oral health-related quality of life.

SECONDARY CARIES SUSCEPTIBILITY IN PROSTHODONTICS CORRELATED TO MARGINAL GAP

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Abstract.Introduction: Secondary caries of abutment teeth is unwanted complication during prosthodontics treatment and main reason for replacement of FPD restorations. Marginal gap space in fixed restorations is responsible for micro-leakage and cement decomposition with caries appearance due to specific demineralization process by bacteria colonization. The aim of the study was to evaluate caries lesions in correlation to crown marginal gap.

Material and methods: Marginal gap between the abutment tooth and the crown was measured using a light-body silicone for evaluating of absolute discrepancy with replica technique (RT). Twenty porcelain fused to metal crowns were fabricated on ten premolars casts. Light body polyvinylsiloxane addition silicone impression material was used to fill the discrepancies between crown and tooth. After setting impression material was removed from the die and thickness of the layer was measured and evaluated by scanning electron microscopy.

Results: The measurements of marginal fit were with mean marginal discrepancies in a range between 61.5 and 75.0 microns, mean marginal gaps in a range from 40.9 - 45.3 microns, mean vertical discrepancies in a range from 22.9 - 46.0 micron and mean horizontal discrepancies in the range of 42.0 to 58.8 micron. Statistical data analysis was performed using non-parametric test of Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney.

Conclusion: Based on selection of 100 microns as limit of clinical acceptability, restoration margins were presented with increased risk for caries occurrence, even when the prostheses have acceptable fit. However, in patients with proper oral hygiene and maintains with regular follow-ups crown margin gap was not critical.

Keywords: Secondary caries, abutment, marginal gap

PHARMACOLOGIC THERAPY IN TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DISORDERS

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Abstract: The temporomandibular disorders (TMD) etiology is multifactorial and it affects the most important functions, such as eating, speaking, and facial expressions, and are usually accompanied by pain which results in distress for the patient. Despite the extensive studies in the management of TMD, which is commonly a multidisciplinary approach and the most commonly used steroidal or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory, myorelaxant, tricyclic antidepressants, anticonvulsants and anxiolytics have been proven to be successful for related inflammatory, disc interference disorders only and neuropathic pain, but are still not an appropriate solution for definitive treatments and still carries risk due to their side effect profiles. Taking this into consideration there is still an emerging need to investigate the main pharmacological approaches for the appropriate management of the resulting acute and chronic pain. In this regard, many studies have been conducted so far to provide the role of pharmacotherapy on TMD. Therefore, in this review, we have summarized the current scientific evidence which supports the most common available safe, and effective drug treatments in the TMD.

Keywords: TMD, pharmacotherapy.

ARTIFACTS IN THE BOSTIAN LOCALITY OF ZHUNICA-PRESEVO

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Abstract. In the south of the Morava Valley known as the Presevo Valley through which passes the E-75 highway which connects Western Europe with the Aegean Sea, approximately 400m near this road in the western part is the ancient locality Bostanisht in the village Zhunica. In this locality, during deliberate and accidental excavations, ancient archeological materials were discovered, such as: water supply from ceramic pipes, public baths (terms), metal coins, π -pi type ceramics and ceramics with Neolithic fingerprints secondary. Based on the archaeological findings of different periods and coins, we will present with truth the antiquity of the Bostan locality from the Neolithic, the Dardanian period, the Roman period and today. We will also present the name of this locality Bostanisht which exists from the ancient Dardania. From an evolutionary point of view, based on the fact that man appeared 200,000 years ago, in the Balkans he reached 88,000-55,000 years ago. Then there were various groups or communities among which we have the **Pelasgians, Illyrians, Dardanians, Thracians**. Therefore we say that the Balkan Peninsula is a field where they will go from prehistoric times and settled many groups of people with diverse languages, with the first indigenous inhabitants Illyrians. The purpose of this paper is to present the evolutionary stages of ethnic groups in these areas. These Balkan territories as a crossroads of some of the main roads between East and West, North and South, between Europe and Asia, with all its geographical advantages. Using the methods of determining the materials is presented the scientific opinion based on artifacts that in this area is a chronology of empires. Based on the antiquity of the found materials, it is about the Dardan tribe, the Thracian who was and is in these places populated by the Albanian people as their descendant. Ceramic patterns as well as stone figures are evidence of the Middle Neolithic. The findings of the huts also document an ancient Starchev culture 7000 years ago. In conclusion, we can say that although these lands have had successive conquests, they have led to numerous changes of toponyms or settlements. The purpose of these destructions was to lose the traces of the artifacts, the linguistic traces in these Dardanian spaces. However, archeological and linguistic traces could not be completely destroyed and based on these documents we can restore the anthropogenetic meaning in these lands.

Keywords: Bostanisht , term bathroom, antique coins , ceramic pipes,

The psychosocial impact of dental aesthetics in UBT patients

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Abstract: An important aspect of dental health is its aesthetics, and its effect on psychological life. The psychological impact of dental aesthetics questionnaire (PIDAQ) is an instrument that assess the psychological impact of dental aesthetics was used in prosthodontics patients that were treated at UBT Dental University Clinic. The aim of the study was to assess the effects of dental esthetics into the patient's dental self-confidence, social impact, psychological impact, and aesthetic attitude. We analyzed the gender difference between women and men and noticed a difference in their attitude towards dental aesthetics and its impact in four dimensions.

Key words: Dental aesthetics, dental self-confidence, social impact, psychological impact, aesthetic attitude

Platelet Rich Fibrin and Sticky Bone for Subperiosteal Periimplant Augmented Layer Technique

Abstract.

Background

(500)

The volumetric alteration in the maxillary and mandibular bone is a critical consequence of tooth loss, limiting the rehabilitation with dental implants (1). Subperiosteal periimplant augmented layer (SPAL) technique represented in 2018 is a surgical alternative for augmenting tissue thickness (2). SPAL technique benefits by the osteogenic potential of intact periosteum (2,3). It consists of a partial-thickness flap elevation leaving the periosteal layer on the edentulous ridge and separation of the mucosal layer of the flap. A periosteal pocket was created by detaching periosteum from bone tissue. Then sub-periosteal space filled with bone substitute. However, SPAL technique is surgically sensitive and periosteal or soft tissue damages may occur during raising split thickness flap and elevating periosteal layer (2). Platelet Rich Fibrin (PRF) is widely being used with promising results in various clinical applications with the primary aim of promoting wound healing, accelerating graft maturation protecting and promoting improved outcomes in soft tissue and bone healing, and tissue regeneration. PRF combined with guided bone regeneration procedures offers several added and synergistic advantages including promoting wound healing in compromised wound healing situations, bone growth and maturation, graft stabilization, wound sealing and hemostasis, and improving the handling properties of graft materials (4). Besides these advantages PRF membranes can be used to thicken gingiva (5).

Aim/Hypothesis (300):In this case report PRF membrane and Sticky Bone are used aiming to improve the outcomes of SPAL technique by means of better soft and hard tissue healing and gain keratinized tissue volume to elude a second operation of a free epithelialized gingival graft.

Material and Methods:A 45-year-old, non-smoker female patient presented to our private clinic with missing right and left mandibular first molar. She was seeking implant-supported restoration to improve her masticatory function. Clinical and radiographic examination revealed horizontal bone and soft tissue deficiencies of the corresponding alveolar ridge. It was decided to perform simultaneous placement of two dental implants with horizontal augmentation. SPAL technique with a Allogenic bone substitute (Atident, Turkey), combination with PRF Membrane and Sticky Bone was chosen in order to avoid membrane exposure complications. The patient provided informed consent.

Antibiotic prophylaxis (amoxicillin/clavulanic acid, Augmentin, Glaxo-SmithKline, Turkey), 2 g, 1 hour before surgery and then every 12 hours for 7 to 9 days, was initiated and the patient was directed to rinse with chlorhexidine 0.2% (Andorex, Pharmactive, Turkey). Nimesulide (Nimes, Sanovel Turkey) 100 mg also was administered, 1 hour before surgery and then twice a day for 5 days. Before Local anesthetic administration, the patient's blood was collected with venipuncture into centrifugation tubes to produce the blood derivatives. A total of 4 tubes were collected. The Autologous fibrin glue AFG was obtained after centrifugation of one tube without any additive. (Vacuette Z tube) for 3 min, at speed of 2700rpm, in a centrifuge(Elektromag Inc, Turkey) Then the tube with AFG removed, the vacant slot is filled with water filled tube for weight balance and continued centrifugation to prepare PRF membrane. The PRF membranes were obtained after centrifugation of 3 plastic serum tubes, with silica clot activator, silicone-coated interior(BD Vacutainer Serum Tubes, BD-Plymouth.PL67BP.UK) for 9 more minutes at 2700 rpm/400g RCF. After centrifugation, The upper autologous fibrin glue (AFG) layer is obtained with syringe and mixed with particulate bone graft and allowed for 5-10 minutes for polymerization in order to produce sticky bone. Silica coated tube shows three different layers. The most upper layer is platelet poor plasma, and the middle layer is fibrin buffy coat layer represented by a very large and dense polymerised fibrin block containing the concentrated growth factors. The bottom layer is red blood cell layer. Buffy coat layer is taken from tube and placed in the metal storage box and compress with metal cover to convert to PRF membrane. The upper AFG For acceleration of polymerization of AFG, exudate taken in the bottom of metal storage box after compression of PRF layer is added when AFG and particulate bone graft is mixed. Local anesthetic was administered by means of infiltration with 1% articaine with adrenaline 1:100000.

A split thickness flap is raised on the buccal aspect. Mucosal and periosteal layer splinted. The periosteal layer is elevated from the bone crest and prosthetically driven implants(Astra Tech TX 4.0 Implants Denstply Sirona USA) are placed. Created pocket inside the periosteal layer filled with sticky bone graft(Human Allograft Atident Turkey) . Prf membranes placed over the augmented site, coronally advanced mucosal layer sutured tension free by horizontal internal mattress and interrupted sutures. Sutures were removed after two weeks. Because of pandemia conditions patient could not come to control before one year. At re-entry procedure a buccal split thickness flap was performed to position healing abutments. An increase in the thickness of soft tissue of the buccal peri-implant tissues was observed. Also obtaining increase on the keratinised tissue volume disposed of a secondary free gingival graft surgery.

Results (1000):During the entire postoperative evaluation period, two surgical sides evolved without complication. Soft tissue fenestrations healed perfectly and didnt compromise the result. The treatment produces volume increase horizontally, exposed implant surface was covered with hard tissue. Keratinised tissue gain was obtained.

Conclusion and Clinical implications (500):SPAL technique associated with PRF membrane and Sticky Bone may represent a valuable surgical option for peri-implant bone and soft tissue augmentation.

Assessing quality of life using the oral health impact profile

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Abstract. Oral conditions impact on the individual's health and quality of life. The use of a valid and reliable instrument provides accuracy in the measurement of this impact. This study aimed to assess the evidence of validity and reliability of the Oral Health Impact Profile instrument (OHIP-14) among patients requiring prosthodontic rehabilitation from UBT Collage Dental University Clinic. A total of 20 patients participated in the study. The OHIP-14 and intraoral examinations were performed. Using OHIP-14, we assessed seven different dimensions, considering the perception of the individual in relation to the impact of oral conditions in the physical, psychological, and social well-being in the last six months. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software program was used to determine the regressions and coefficients. Psychological discomfort and handicap were the biggest complaints of patients who need prosthodontic treatments. The OHIP-14 proved to be a valid and reliable instrument for the assessment of the impact of oral health and might be used as a complementary tool to the traditional methods of assessing the need for dental treatment in prosthodontics. It is an instrument that might help in the exploration of oral health needs and in the elaboration of strategies, in order to reduce the development of diseases and to promote oral health with positive impact on the quality of life.

Keywords: prosthodontic patients, oral health-related quality of life, oral health impact profile.

PREVALENCE AND MODALITIES OF TREATMENT OF LARGE ODONTOGENIC CYSTS IN THE POPULATION OF KOSOVO - A SERIES OF 69 CASES

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Abstract. Purpose: Present the findings through a study of 69 cases of large odontogenic cysts, treated over a period of 5 years; distribution by age, sex, anatomical localization, type of odontogenic cyst and modalities used for their treatment.

Materials and methods: 69 cases affected by large odontogenic cysts were included in this study. All cases were treated surgically at the Oral Surgery Clinic of U.D.C.C.K. (University Dentistry Clinical Center of Kosovo). The diagnosis was made on the basis of clinical and radiological examination and was confirmed by histopathological examination. Each case was analyzed separately and with the use of local anesthesia on the enucleation or marsupialization of the cyst was done. Healing of the bone defect was evaluated with periodic radiographs following the reduction of the bone defect.

Results : Of the 69 cases treated, the prevalence of radicular cysts was higher with 62.3%, followed by follicular cysts with 20.2% and residual cysts with 17.3%. The upper jaw is most often attacked by radicular cysts with 24 cases, while the mandible more often by follicular cysts with 8 cases. The most affected age with large cysts is the third and fourth decade of life. Enucleation of the cystic lesion was done in 67 cases while in 2 cases the marsupialization and preservation of the tooth was done. Spontaneous bone regeneration has been recorded in all cases.

Conclusion: Odontogenic cysts can cause significant bone defects in the jaw. In this group of population in Kosovo with large cysts, the prevalence of radicular cysts was higher in relation to follicular and residual cysts. The bone defect created, after enucleation of large cysts, surrounded by sufficient walls can be regenerated spontaneously without the use of bone grafts.

Keywords: prevalence, follicular cysts, radicular cysts, residual cysts, enucleation, spontaneous regeneration

Frequency of Oral Parafunctions in Dental Students from the UBT College Faculty of Dentistry

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Abstract: This study was conducted for investigation of the oral behavior in dental students from UBT College - Faculty of Dentistry. This was a prospective cross-sectional study and was realized in ninety-one dentistry students (60 females, and 31 males) from the first to the last of the university year. All the participants self-complied a standardized questionnaire to collect the data consisting of the frequency information of either presence or absence of different oral parafunction and behavior. In addition, we have shown significant differences between the time-frequency of the present oral parafunction, such as dominating always in sleep in a position that puts pressure on the jaw, sometimes for hold teeth together with other than eating and hold tighten or tense muscles without clenching, bite, chew, or play with your tongue, cheeks or lips, use chewing-gum (often also), lean with your hand on the jaw, eating between means and rarely for the sustained talking yawning and telephone holding position and clench teeth together during waking hours. This was supported by the gender differences the significant differences between the males and females in the all-time frequency presence of oral parafunction. Moreover, these were significantly different in terms of studying years of participants as well. In summary, our study demonstrated differences in either presence or time-frequency of the investigated oral parafunction, with specific gender or year of studying differences.

Keywords:UBT College,Dental Students,Oral Parafunctions,Oral Behaviour

TYPES OF SUTURES IN ORAL SURGERY

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Abstract.Aim: In everyday surgical practice, different types of suturing materials are available. They play an important role in tissue healing, facilitate the process of haemostasis, enable the reconstruction and reunification of tissue whose integrity has been compromised during surgery or trauma. The aim of this study is to examine the reaction of the tissue to different suturing materials, as well as to determine the speed of wound healing and the incidence of complications after their use, in order to prove which of them is most suitable for oral surgery procedure.

Material and methods: These researches were done based on analyzes presented on "MEDLINE" and "PubMed" databases, from 1970 to 2018, using the following keywords: oral surgery, suture materials, flap, periodontium, polyglucapron, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyglycolic acid, polylactic acid, silk.

Results: Tissue reactions to suturing materials vary depending on the surface properties and the adhesion properties of the bacteria to the material. Silk is the most commonly used suturing material in oral surgery. The application of silk sutures increases the risk of infections, because they react with the connective tissue, allowing the accumulation of dental plaque and bacterial adhesion around them. Studies about tissue response to suturing material confirm the presence of inflammation when using silk and cotton threads, and minimal reaction in others (nylon, polyester, polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE), polyglycolic acid (PGA).

Conclusion: In addition to the observance of surgical suturing techniques, and the proper maintenance of oral hygiene in the postoperative period, the choice of suturing material has a significant impact on tissue healing. This underscores the need for careful selection of suturing material during oral surgery.

Keywords: oral-surgical interventions, suturing material, resorbable and non-resorbable sutures.

PROSTHETIC CHALLENGE IN TREATMENT OF MISSING BILATERAL MAXILLARY INCISORS. CASE REPORT

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Abstract. Maxillary lateral incisor agenesis is the most common congenitally missing tooth condition in aesthetic zone. It represents approximately 20% of all dental anomalies. It affects dental aesthetics and function in young patients and represents serious challenge for the clinicians. There are several treatment options available. The aim of this study is prosthetic treatment of recontouring of existing canine into a lateral incisor with all-ceramic restorations. Case report: A 20 years old female patient was concerned about aesthetic of her smile. After the clinical and radiographic examination it was verified that the patient presented agenesis of 12 and 22. Treatment planning option proposed was recontouring 13 and 23 by means of preparation for two all-ceramic single crowns. After the preparation the impression was performed using addition silicone. When all the laboratory procedures for manufacturing of all-ceramic crowns were finished, the all-ceramic crowns were tested on the patient and after they were cemented with resin cement. Conclusion: Aesthetics has been increasingly required in today's dentistry. Respecting the proper indications and therapy, principle of smile harmony, oral rehabilitation and patient's wish, the solution with two all-ceramic restorations fulfilled aesthetic and functional demands and the patient and doctor expectations as well.

Keywords: lateral incisors, prosthetic treatment, all-ceramic crowns

THE EFFECT OF NEW INTERNAL FERRULE DESIGN PREPARATION ON THE FRACTURE RESISTANCE OF ENDODONTICALLY TREATED CENTRAL INCISORS

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Abstract. **Statement of problem.** Many studies concerning the ferrule effect may have a significant effect on fracture resistance of endodontically treated teeth.

Purpose. This study investigated the fracture resistance of endodontically treated anterior central incisors prepared with internal ferrule preparation design.

Material and methods. A total of 120 extracted human maxillary central incisor were endodontically treated and divided into 10 groups of 12. Group A1 to E1 and A2 to E2 represented teeth prepared with a 0mm, 0.5mm, 1mm, 1.5mm, and 2mm internal ferrule preparation. As material for our experiments, we used Ø 1.4 - 1.6mm Y-TZP ceramics posts with retention forms in the coronary part of the post, upgraded with core build-up material (IPS E-MAX, Ivoclar, Vivadent). The experimental samples were cemented (Multilink Automix, Ivoclar), embedded in acrylic resin blocks (ProBase Polymer/Monomer, Ivoclar) and loaded at an angle of 45° degrees in an Instron Testing Machine 4301 (Instron Corp., USA) at a crosshead speed of 1mm/min until fracture. Fracture loads (N) and modes (repairable or catastrophic) were recorded. Two-way analysis of variance was used for statistical analysis with the level of significance $p < 0.05$. Failure patterns were analyzed in the optical microscope Stereo Discovery V.8 (Carl Zeiss, Germany).

Results. The mean values (\pm SD) for fracture loads measured in Newtons were for the group A1: 1.4mm - 405,04N (\pm 100.04); and A2: 1.6 mm - 503,09N (\pm 109.01); for Group B1: 1.4mm - 401.07N (\pm 75.02) and B2: 1.6mm - 507.13N (\pm 101.08), for Group C1: 1.4mm - 479.01N (\pm 109.12) and C2: 1.6mm - 567.06N (\pm 134.37), for group D1: 1.4mm - 601.73N (\pm 103.52) and D2: 1.6mm - 675.79N (\pm 171.09), for Group E1: 1.4mm - 719.99N (\pm 220.02) and E2: 1.6mm - 861.06N (\pm 237.15). Failure patterns within those 1.4 - 1.6mm Y-TZP posts - E-MAX cores groups revealed noncatastrophic failure in group A = 100% - 100% for 0 mm, group B = 100% - 100% for 0.5mm; group C - 91.7% - 91.7% for 1mm, group D = 91.7% - 75% for 1.5mm; and 66.7% - 58.3% for 2mm both of groups E.

Conclusion. With the limitations of this study, the teeth prepared without, 0.5mm and 1mm internal ferrule preparation restored with 1.4 - 1.6mm zirconia posts with retentive coronal part demonstrated significantly lower failure loads than those with 1.5 and 2mm IF. The results showed that zirconia posts with retentive coronal part and 1.5mm - 2mm internal ferrule preparation which contribute to increasing the fracture resistance of the restored root-coronary dental complex, show significance higher fracture resistance. Significant higher % of repairable fractures was determined in all of experimental groups.

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Burnout of health workers during the COVID-19 pandemic in Peja regional hospital

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Abstract. This paper focuses on identifying occupational burnout (Burnout) in health workers during pandemic COVID-19. The purpose of this paper is the assessment the level of burnout, as well as the recommendations of health professionals that the rate of occupational burnout be lower, why not exist at all.

The paper contains research composed of health workers of Peja Hospital. The research was conducted using the method of Maslach Burnout Inventory, which was attended by a total of 52 people.

The data obtained from the research show that the impact of the pandemic on health personnel has been high enough, as most feel emotionally exhausted, run out of patience at work, but their motivation for work and care is quite high. The presence of burnout is correlated with youngest age group, the level of education and working in emergency department.

Keywords: occupational burnout, health workers, emotional exhaustion, depersonalism, personal achievement.

UROLITHIASIS AND NURSING MANAGEMENT

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Abstract . Introduction: Urolithiasis is common in urologic practice and ranks in third place, immediately after malignant diseases and infections. Annual incidence per 10,000 population ranges is from 6.8 to 20.8.

Purpose: This paper aims to evaluate the incidence of urolithiasis in the city of Prishtina and surrounding area and compare the data with those in the literature.

Material and methods: Data for diagnosis of urolithiasis were collected from patient registry and registry for treatment operating division of urology at the Clinical Hospital of Prishtina, including the period from 01.01.2018 to 30.09.2020.

The data were analyzed based on age, gender and source localisation.

Results: The total number of urolithiasis has been diagnosed with in 152 (n = 152). Of them 82 were female and 70 were male. The average age of women was 50 years old, whereas the men with urolithiasis 49 years old. Localisations of diagnosed stones in the urinary tract have been in favor of the kidneys by 90% in the urethra and urinary bladder with the 5%, prostate and urethra was less frequently, with 0.7%.

Conclusion: It is concluded that the annual incidence of urolithiasis in Prishtina and the surrounding area is 19.6 in 10,000 inhabitants.

This incidence represents nearly the highest value found in the literature that lists the Prishtina in endemic countries regarding the occurrence of urolithiasis.

Keywords: urolithiasis, incidence, Prishtinë.

Nurses' attitudes about the importance of documenting patient care

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Abstract.Introduction: Documentation is a valuable tool through which nurses track the improvement or deterioration of the patient's condition. Nursing documentation ensures high quality care, continuity of care and supports the scientific research work of nurses. Documentation facilitates nurses communicating with each other and other members of the care team. In reality, in Kosovo, nursing documentation does not meet these objectives. The work of nurses is not reflected in patient care documentation.

Purpose: The purpose of this paper was to investigate the attitudes of hospital nurses regarding the importance of reflecting their work in patient care documentation.

Method: Quantitative non-experimental research in which 117 nurses from 4 UCCK clinics in Prishtina participated. The average age of the participants was 41 ± 6 years. Data were collected with the instrument developed on the basis of literature. During the data collection, the ethical rights of the research participants were respected. Data were analyzed with SPSS - 26.

Results: Nurses attribute the lack of reflection of their work to low-performance patient documents. The shift nurses expressed that they did not have enough time for documentation. The longest work experience is related to the positive attitudes of nurses towards documentation ($p = 0.01$).

Discussion: Nurses perceive as necessary the reflection of their work in patient documentation. Low performance and workload of nurses negatively affect patient outcomes.

Keywords: attitudes, nurse, importance of documentation, patient care.

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Challenges and opportunities associated with multiprofessional collaboration

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Abstract. Despite impressive health gains in almost all countries over the last few decades, the challenges facing the public health workforce are great, and range from infectious disease control to the impact of global environmental changes. There are several reasons for the universal poor state of public health practice. The nature of many aspects of public health practice presents a difficulty when government attention and resources are concentrated on health care. Responsibility for health is increasingly located at the personal level as national authorities attempt to reduce their costs.

Methods: A systematic review of the literature has been carried out in order to provide a transparent overview of the articles searched. Articles were searched electronically in English and come from a variety of sources. The search for articles is conducted in PubMed, Jstore, BMJ, Medline and secondary resources on the topic are done.

Results: Power struggles within society, for example the power of experienced over inexperienced, are a barrier to inter-professional working. New developments in health care such as generic skill-mixing approach, and a drive toward true patient-centred-care, using patient power to govern the priorities of inter-professional teams, may be the way to overcome these barriers. If real power were given to patients in the form of an expert patient board responsible for the governance of an inter-professional care group, then true autonomy might exist..

Conclusion: The findings show that public health partnerships at the state level share many challenges and opportunities of health-based and promotional partnerships. Cooperation at the state level, however, includes more attention to organizational alliances, coordination of institutional change, and strategic responses to policy change.

Keywords: Multiprofessional, public health, interprofessional, health, nursing, and research.

A 14-Year-Old Male Patient with Kawasaki Disease Presented with Stroke after COVID-19

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Abstract. According to several studies, children represent only about 2% of the patients affected by the current SARS-CoV-2, and most often, they are asymptomatic. However, there is a concern about a vascular inflammatory disease which is similar to Kawasaki disease observed in children and adolescents weeks after infection. We report a case of Kawasaki disease presented with ischemic stroke in a 14-year-old male patient following SARS-Cov-2 infection.

Case report. A 14-year-old male with classical signs of Kawasaki Disease (KD) and no chronic medical condition presented with ischemic stroke. The diagnosis was challenging because the prior COVID-19 was silent and the skin rashes were very prominent on admission. Therefore, the patient was admitted and empirically treated in the clinic of dermatology at first days, and only after complicated with neurological symptoms, he was transferred to the Neurology Clinic. Prior infection with SARS-CoV-2 was confirmed based on serological testing and prior contact with the infected family member. Brain ischemia was confirmed with MRI. Even though there was not any large artery or venous occlusion apparent on CTA, increased pulsatility index was found on the left MCA suggesting distal small diameter arterial segments occlusion. After treatment with IVIG, corticosteroids, and low-dose aspirin, the neurological deficit was resolved. The exact pathomechanism of the Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) is not clear. Given the lag between SARS-CoV-2 infection and MIS-C and the finding that many patients are positive for antibodies and negative for the viral antigen, it has been suggested that abnormal immune response might be the key factor. A potential role of the antibodies in the pathogenesis of KD has been accepted, and the prevalence of such antibodies to target different tissues in the body could explain the multisystem presentation in MIS-C [10].

Conclusion. There is a myriad of COVID-19 symptoms and sequelae making the diagnosis challenging. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment of the secondary inflammatory syndromes, including Kawasaki disease, is very important for preventing end-organ damage and long-term complications.

Asthma, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis and eczema prevalence in adolescents in Peja municipality

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Abstract. To determine the prevalence of allergic diseases that will serve as a basis for tracking changes over the years and comparing it with other centers in the country and in the world.

Methods: Peja municipality was one of the centers of an international multicenter cross-sectional study GAN Phase I, based on ISAAC methodology. The study was conducted by enrolling 1,433, thirteen-to fourteen-year-old adolescents in five primary schools. The anthropologic measurements were performed to each participant and self-answered questionnaire on symptoms and clinical history of allergic diseases and video questionnaire was completed.

Results: Out of 1458 children selected, 1433 participated in the study, with a participation rate of 98.2%. The prevalence of symptoms was, current wheeze 9.4%, asthma ever 5.6% and 3.9% asthma confirmed by doctor; 14.1%, allergic rhino-conjunctivitis ever and 8% rhino-conjunctivitis confirmed by doctor, as well as eczema ever 5.7% and eczema diagnosed by the doctor 2.4%. The country-level prevalence of allergic diseases was current wheeze 7.6%, asthma ever 3.4%; rhino-conjunctivitis ever 12.4% and eczema ever 5.6%;

Conclusion: The prevalence of current asthma symptoms in children aged 13-14 years was higher in the municipality of Peja compared to the prevalence at the national level. However, both prevalence corresponded to the II prevalence rank according to the ISAAC classification. This prevalence rating is characteristic of low- and low middle-income countries, to which our country also belongs.

Key words: allergic diseases, current wheeze, prevalence

Patients with Parkinson's and nursing care

Eglantina Kraja Bardhi¹, Niman Bardhi²,

Abstract. Parkinson's is a neurodegenerative disease caused as a result of the death of cells that synthesize and release dopamine. Parkinson's is a slow and progressive disorder of brain cells that leads to tremor (tremor), difficulty walking and coordination. The cause of this pathological change is unknown.

Purpose: Assessing the knowledge of health professionals regarding: treatment of Parkinson's patients, communication skills between nurses and Parkinson's patients as well as the development of skills for better care in the field of neurology.

Methodology: data collection was performed by 62 nurses of the Regional Hospital in Gjakova during the period June 2021.

Results: 84% declared that Parkinson appear after the age of 51 years. For Parkinson's symptoms 100% stated that there is tremor (limb tremor), rheumatism 97%, bradykinesia 87%, unstable gait 100% and change in facial expression 89%. The first three nursing interventions in importance are stated: 1) Help to minimize symptoms; 2) Ensuring diagnostic-therapeutic implementation and 3) Ensuring periodic changes in behavior.

Conclusions: continuous education of nurses is needed in order to advance nursing care. To develop health education, in order to acquire new knowledge on the ways of treatment and application of nursing care as fair as possible in patients with Parkinson's. Implementation of strategies that will promote optimal quality of life for patients with Parkinson's. Taking rehabilitative measures in order to improve movements, administering medication as prescribed by the doctor, keeping the situation under control, offering the patient as many possible choices.

Keywords: Parkinson, patients, care, nurse, education.

Nurse-patient communication in healthcare settings

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Abstract: This research study objective was to obtain information on the impressions and opinions of patients and nursing staff regarding the communication patterns during the Covid-19 pandemic and as well as in common situations. The study has been conducted in city of Viti (Family Medical Centers) and in Gjirokastra (The Regional Hospital of Gjirokastra). We have used the quantitative method as the main methodological approach in two parts of the research. The first part of research included 57 patients, 36 females and 21 males, who self-administered questionnaire. While, the second part of research included 49 nurses, 40 were females and 9 males. The results showed that 67% of patients declared that they are very interested in communicating with the nursing staff about their health condition and 47% trusted their nurses. Also, 28% of patients declared that it has been more difficult to communicate during Covid-19. Whereas, the results of the second research showed that successful communication with patients brings satisfaction to the nurse's work.

Keywords: Communication, nurses-patients communication, healthcare, Covid-19.

Left ventricular function in children with Coarctation of the Aorta

Haki Jashari MD PhD

Abstract. Surgical repair of coarctation of the aorta (CoA) is a safe procedure in children, however the condition is known for its potential recurrence and other related complications. The available evidence shows abnormal intrinsic properties of the aorta in CoA, thus suggesting additional effect, even after CoA repair, on left ventricular (LV) function. Accordingly, we sought to obtain a better understanding of LV myocardial mechanics in very early-corrected CoA using two-dimensional STE.

Methods and results: We retrospectively studied 21 patients with corrected CoA at a median age of 9 (2–53) days at three time points: 1) just before intervention, 2) at short-term follow-up (within 3 months after intervention) and 3) at medium-term follow-up after intervention (median 2.3 years) and compared them with normal values. Speckle tracking analysis was conducted via vendor independent software, Tomtec. After intervention, LV function significantly improved (from -12.8 ± 3.9 to -16.7 ± 1.7 ; $p < 0.001$), however normal values were not reached even at medium-term follow-up (-18.3 ± 1.7 vs. -20 ± 1.6 ; $p = 0.002$). Medium-term longitudinal strain correlated with pre intervention EF ($r = 0.58$, $p = 0.006$). Moreover, medium-term subnormal values were more frequently associated with bicuspid aortic valve (33.3% vs. 66.6%; $p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: LV myocardial function in neonates with CoA can be feasibly evaluated and followed up by speckle tracking echocardiography. LV subendocardial dysfunction however, remains in early infancy coarctation long after repair. Long-term follow-up through adulthood using myocardial deformation measurements should shed light on the natural history and consequences of this anomaly.

Spinal tumors operated at University Clinical Centre of Kosova in the periods 2015-2020

Besnik Elshani¹, Arion Elshani², Fëllënza Spahiu²

Abstract. A **spinal tumor** is an abnormal mass of tissue within or surrounding the **spinal cord** and/or **spinal column**. These cells grow and multiply uncontrollably, seemingly unchecked by the mechanisms that control normal cells. Spinal tumors are referred to in two ways, by the region of the spine in which they occur or their location within the spine. Primary spinal tumors fall into a distinct category because their timely diagnosis and the immediate institution of treatment have an enormous impact on the patient's overall prognosis and hope for a cure.

Purpose: The purpose of this research was the analysis of spinal tumors operated and treated at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo in the Neurosurgery Clinic.

Materials and methods: In this retrospective clinical study, are taken into account spinal tumors operated in the Emergency Center of UCCK during the period 2015-2020. Depending on the region and location of the tumors, the patients who underwent the operations were selected in Observation groups.

Results: In the neurosurgery clinic at UCCK since 2015-2020 have been operated and treated a number of 66 cases of spinal tumors. In the results obtained it was noticed that most of the patients were females with a total of 40 cases or 60.61%. The researched cases were also looked at in terms of neurological function, 29 patients had neurological deficits expressed as Quadriplegia, Tetraplegia, Paraparesis and Paraplegia. The time that patients spent in the Neurosurgery Clinic at UCCK, varies depending on the region where the operation was performed and the condition of the patients after the operation.

Conclusion: From the results achieved in this research we have concluded that women have been more prone to the formation of back tumors in almost 2/3 of cases (60.61%) compared to men. Depending on the location of the tumors it has been seen that the most common are tumors of the Lumbo-Sacral region expressed as Meningiomas, Astrocytoma, Ependymoma, Neurinoma and Metastatic Tumors.

Keywords: Spinal tumors, Cervical Region, Thoracic Region, Lumbo-Sacral Region, Neurosurgery clinic in UCCK.

Possibility of improving postoperative pain management by improving daily practices

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Abstract. Persistent postoperative pain is common after most surgical procedures.¹ The burden of untreated postoperative pain is high.² Postoperative pain has been poorly managed for decades. There is good quality evidence that supports many of the common agents utilized in multimodal therapy, however, there is a lack of evidence regarding optimal postoperative protocols or pathways.³ Multimodal pain management provides additional pain relief until the fourth postoperative day, improves patient satisfaction at discharge, and reduces total narcotic consumption for postoperative pain management.⁴

Methodology. The study was quantitative approach. The research was conducted from December 2014 - June 2019. Data were collected from 1924 patients in surgery, urology, orthopedics, ENT, ophthalmology, and gynecology/obstetrics of General Hospital of Prizren. Hospital has 521 beds; is the second largest hospital in Kosovo. Data about pain-related Patient Reported Outcomes and process data were collected on the first postoperative day. All patients gave consent to participate in study. General anesthesia was the most common form of anesthesia.

Results. Findings were obtained from 608 patients at general surgery, 475 patients at obs/gyn, 231 patients at ENT, 219 patients at urology, 199 patients at orthopedy and 192 patients at ophtalmology. From 1924 patients 1270 (66.2%) were females and 33.8% were males. From them reported that mean of maximum pain was 5.38/10 and minimum pain was 1.17/10. Regarding to wards general surgery patients reported the worst pain (maxpain 6.06/10) and less pain was in Ophtalmology (maxpain 1.94/10). During general survey of postoperative pain management many daily clinical practices was needed to be improvement. From the key findings can be mentioned the pharmacologic treatment of pain in combination with non-pharmacologic treatment, the evaluation of the pain, the continuous documentation, giving of analgesics according to the description and not “as needed” etc. Most patients in obstetrics have said that after taking pain injections, the pain after a few minutes has increased. It has been proven that nurses gave along with pain medication IM (Diclofen amp.) also uterotronics (Oxytocine) which causes uterine contractions which was associated with pain in patients which made the connection with taking analgesia. This problem has been avoided by giving the injections separately, ie at different intervals.

Conclusion. Patients after surgical procedures reported severe pain-related outcomes. It is needed to evaluation the pain in the sheet of vital signs monitoring. Based on these findings we recommend implementation of pain management programs and care policies to build pain management into standing orders, protocols and patient charts.

AN ONLINE STUDY ON DEPRESSION IN KOSOVO DURING THE COVID-19 PA

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Abstract: A review of the literature shows increased rates of depression during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is intriguing what impact Covid-19 will have on Kosovo as a low-middle-income country in Europe.

Aim. To understand the level of depression as a result of the COVID-19 situation and possible associations with socio-demographic variables such as age, gender, place of residence, educational level, economic status and employment.

Methods. It is a cross-sectional study. Participants were 355 respondents through internet, who in the period 27.12.2021 to 21.01.2021 completed the Albanian version of PHQ-9 which has nine findings that ask about thinking / feelings during the last two weeks. The age of the participants was from 14 to 85 years (Mage = 24.41, SD = 9.57).

Results. The mean value of depression was 5.73 (DS = 6.66). Severe depression resulted in 21 participants or 5.9%, with moderate depression 19 or 5.4%, with mild depression 42 or 11.8% and with minimal symptoms 59 or 16.6%. 17 participants or 4.8% have suicidal thoughts almost every day. There are no significant differences in the level of depression by gender, place of residence, educational level and employment status. Participants with poor economic status had significantly higher levels of depression. Somatic symptoms were significantly more present.

Conclusions. About ¼ participants exhibit clinical levels of depression. Prevention and treatment efforts are indicated especially for people with economic difficulties.

Keywords: COVID-19, depression, PHQ-9, online, Kosovo

Burden and role of Primary Health Care in the Covid-19 pandemic in the Municipality of Lipjan during August 2021

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Abstract. Since the beginning of the unprecedented pandemic SARS-Cov-2 outbreak, demands for Primary Health Care (PHC) providers has increased manyfold. PHC workers were the first line health care providers and were exposed to increased risk of infection, psychological stress, fatigue, and in the meantime, they were struggling to keep a balance between continuing essential health services and new challenges with Covid-19. The first detected case in Kosovo was on 13th of March 2020 in the Vitia municipality and was introduced by a patient who travelled from Italy. Afterward the infection spread throughout the country within a few weeks. Whereas the first case in Janjevë, Lipjan municipality was reported on 19th of March in the municipality of Lipjan. Since then, Covid-19 cases were continuingly present, albeit characterised by multiple waves, reaching the highest peak on August 2021. During this month, in the main Centre of the Family Medicine and other ambulance points in Lipjan municipality, 43342 health services and 23455 medical visits were offered. When we compare with the August 2019 (21404 health services and 20872 medical visits respectively) number of health care services almost doubled 49.38% with 18938 more health services in August 2021 compared to August 2019. Also, there was a substantial increase in the number of medical visits by 12.36% or 2583 respectively. Also, not just the number of health services, but also the structure of PHC services offered was restructured by applying uncommon services such as oxygen-therapy and increased number of intravenous infusion therapy, which are more time consuming for the PHC workers.

All the work was performed on specific condition, wearing protective clothes (PPE) and under constant time pressure from patient waiting for treatment, limited availability of medicaments from essential list, limited space and number of hospital beds. This pandemic has emphasized the need for more support from local and especially central government for the PHC. It's focus and policies must be shifted not only toward the material support but also in human resources. What can we learn from this pandemic situation is that we must plan ahead to increase the number of the staff and their motivation in order to stop brain drain out from the Kosovo.

Use of Vitamin D at young ages, its role and importance

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Abstract: Vitamin D or otherwise the "sunlight" vitamin is a vitamin which is digested in fat also called as liposoluble vitamin. Vitamin D is one of the only vitamins that can not be produced by our body. As the main source for the production of vitamin D are sunlights and this vitamin is also essential to regulate the level of calcium and phosphorus in our body, playing a key role in maintaining the normal structure of bones.

Purpose: The purpose of this paper was to explore the knowledge and awareness of young people about Vitamin D, its role and importance in their body and also to investigate the level of its deficiency and its symptoms in their daily lives. Also, the realization of this study aimed to draw the attention of young people to the problem of Vitamin D deficiency as a phenomenon. They can understand that Vitamin D deficiency can exist among all of us and get acquainted with the most common symptoms of this deficiency.

Material and methods: The research methodology used in this paper is composed of combined methods such as descriptive and statistical ones. The study of this type was conducted through a questionnaire where the total sample of this study consists of 150 people from different areas of Kosovo. The average age of the participants was 21.14 years.

For the preparation of the paper, data were collected from the scientific and professional literature of various authors, as well as the use of publications by experts, scientific journals in the field of medicine and sources from the Internet.

Results: Based on the review of the results of this research it is presented that informing young people about the importance of vitamin D is sufficient, out of 150 respondents 51.3% had never done the analysis of vitamin D, 35 of these young people or 27.3 % had lacked it and the symptoms of its absence had sufficiently affected their daily lives.

Discussion: Knowledge and awareness of everything related to vitamin D has been tested and clarified in more detail, where it turns out that most of these young people do not know if they are deficient in this vitamin and some of them suspect that they may be deficient.

Conclusions: In the future it is good to continuously educate young people about the role, importance and complications that can lead to vitamin D deficiency, in case of any of the symptoms mentioned in the research should be done analysis of this vitamin and should try to have as much exposure to the sun as possible because health is the first and most important element of happiness so caring for it should be primary for us.

Keywords: Vitamin D, health, importance, deficiency

Insomnia and other psychological factors of health workers in the face of the Covid- 19 pandemic, at the Main Family Medicine Center in Ferizaj

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Abstract: This research paper deals with health problems caused by insomnia and other psychological factors among health workers in the face of the pandemic Covid-19, at the Main Family Medicine Center in Ferizaj. Knowing what problem is facing worldwide, recent actuality has made us health professionals especially curious to research the difficulties and problems faced by our colleagues during this very difficult period we are going through.

Purpose of the research: The main purpose of this study was to investigate the difficulties and challenges faced by health professionals, the risk during the pandemic, psychological disorders during working hours, in the period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Methodology: This research was conducted through a questionnaire which included a total of 65 health personnel: nurses, doctors and secondary health staff.

Results: In this study were analyzed a total of 65 health professionals divided by gender, age, job position based on education, doctor, nurse, and staff with secondary education. The results of this research have shown statistically significant data for health workers who are exposed to risk during the pandemic period, which directly affects their personal well-being taking into account the factors that affect insomnia and other disorders such as: disorders convulsive obsessions, stress, anxiety, etc.

Keywords: insomnia, psychological factors, health workers

Challenges and grievances of surgical nurses during the Covid-19 pandemic

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Abstract: Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) has spread globally since 2019, resulting in the 2019-2021 coronavirus pandemic. In the rapid spread of the virus in our country, health personnel were most affected because it was on the front lines of the battle. Nurses represent the largest group of health personnel who have been in direct contact with patients. The lack of nurses at the Infectious Diseases Clinic, the Pulmonology Clinic and the opening of other units with patients with covid 19 have forced the nurses of surgical clinics and other clinics to help, where however, any additional help that may come to the health system today is indisputably, useful as never before.

Aim: This study aims to investigate the challenges and grievances of surgical nurses in other clinics located with patients with covid 19 in UCK who worked under a psychological pressure (stress, anxiety and work fatigue) of nurses who work and care for patients infected with Sars cov 2

Methodology: An interpretive phenomenological analysis will be used for this study, which will enable us as researchers to explore the topic in depth by taking the experiences of surgical nurses about their challenges and grievances at the Infectious Diseases Clinic, Pulmonology Clinic and additional patient open units. me Covid 19.

Phenomenology allows the researcher to examine a phenomenon or event in the everyday world from the perspective of individuals experiencing them (Streubert and Carpenter, 1999). Ten surgical nurses who have been in open surgeries with patients with covid 19 and in infectious and pulmonary clinics will be interviewed using semi-structured interviews.

Results: The results of the interview derived from the informants' descriptions will serve as a basis for understanding the experiences of surgical nurses. The results of this study will be important in identifying the challenges and grievances of surgical nurses who were under psychological pressure, increased workload, lack of quality personal protective equipment (PPE), social stigma, lack of incentives, lack of coordination and proper management during their service by the institution. Informants will be selected using the purposeful sampling technique, while interviews will be conducted until data saturation is done. Data will be collected between March-August 2021 and analyzed using the Colaizzi (1978) analysis method. To ensure data reliability (triangulation).

Keywords: sars covid 2, surgical nurses, challenges

Questions to ask in a phenomenological study: Challenges of working with patients hospitalized with COVID-19 (subtopics: working in a new context and new work environment, tired of the workload, struggling to wear protective clothing, witnessing suffering);

Survival from COVID-19 (subtopics: changing eating habits, group and family work, fear of COVID-19,);

Sustainability of surgical nurses (subtopics: a real call, a sense of purpose).

PRESENTATION OF BRAIN ABSCESS IN DIFFUSION-WEIGHTED MR IMAGING

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Abstract. Brain abscess is a serious infection of the cerebral parenchyma, which endangers the lives of patients. According to the relevant literature there is a high mortality rate of approximately 10% and can reach up to 80%. Due to the high morbidity and mortality, the need for early diagnosis and prompt treatment is of a particular importance. RM plays an important role in differentiating different brain lesions due to its high resolution and examination possibilities in different plans. The DWI (Qualified Diffusion Imaging) sequence is a much more sensitive and efficient tool than conventional RM in diagnosing brain abscess due to its ability to detect water diffusion restriction. Early diagnosis through RM with DWI would eliminate the need for invasive diagnostic and surgical procedures and enable early initiation of treatment and thus significantly reduce the morbidity of this condition.

The objective of this study is to determine the diagnostic accuracy with the DWI sequence in the diagnosis of brain abscesses as well as common and uncommon presentations, based on histopathological findings.

Material and methods: This retrospective and prospective study was conducted in the cabinet of the Republic of Macedonia at the Radiology Clinic of UCC of Kosova during a period of six months from March 2017 to August 2017. 18 patients were selected to conduct this study.

Results: Out of 18 patients, 8 patients were diagnosed as brain abscess by histopathological examination. Of these 8 patients, 7 patients were positive in the DWI sequence. Therefore, RM examination and DWI sequence had 90% sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy in diagnosing brain abscess. It was proved that pyogenic abscesses have typical presentation in DWI.

Key words: MRI, Diffusion-weighted MR imaging, brain abscess

PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS OF COMPLEX CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE IN KOSOVO AS A COUNTRY WITH LIMITED RESOURCES IMPROVE SURVIVAL

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Abstract. Congenital heart diseases (CHD) are not common congenital abnormalities in the human foetus, but their serious consequences and high rate of mortality make early detection and treatment essential. Several risk factors for CHD, including maternal and fetal factors, have been reported. Improving fetal echocardiography as a screening at primary level and as definitive diagnosis at tertiary level has been shown the best diagnostic approach to identify the majority of complex structural cardiac abnormalities. In order to improve the prenatal detection of CHD, a screening test, which can be offered to all pregnancies, is required. Kosovo, as youngest country in Europe, with high natality and high neonatal mortality rate, mostly caused from CHD, with completely absent paediatrics cardio surgery service, it should begin to apply prenatal screening and transport in utero as a better solution in the treatment of neonates with complex CHD.

Aim of presentation: our aim was to establish whether local improvement in prenatal diagnosis of complex CHD, improved early survival rate comparing pregnancies completed in Kosovo with those transported in utero at the center where early cardiac surgery intervention can be done. All neonates diagnosed postnatally have been excluded from the study.

Methods: Retrospectively we analysed medical records of 28 pregnant women diagnosed with foetuses with complex CHD, divided in two groups: those where the birth was completed in Kosovo (group 1) and those where the birth was completed abroad after in-utero transport (group 2). Group 1 included 18 pregnant (64%); of them 8 have been with single ventricle (4 with hypoplastic left heart syndrome – HLHS, 3 with tricuspid atresia – TA, and one with pulmonary atresia and ventricular septal defect – PAVSD), 6 with TGA, 3 with PA without VSD and 1 with complete AV canal and tetralogy of Fallot (AVCTOF). Group 2 included 10 pregnant (36%); of them four with TGA, three with HLHS and three with TA. In both groups prenatal diagnosis was done between 16 and 32 weeks of gestations (average 24 weeks and 4 days). In all neonates soon after delivery transthoracic echocardiography was done and in all of them basic prenatal diagnosis is confirmed. From group 1 two neonates with HLHS, in the absence of prostaglandins and two with D-TGA in absence of Rashkind balloon have died soon after birth (22%). In 4 neonates balloon atrioseptostomy procedure successfully was done. All other neonates have been treated with prostaglandins and transport abroad Kosovo, using normal air flight lines, was done. All have survived the first palliative intervention. All neonates from group two have survived palliative interventions necessary for the relevant pathology.

Conclusion: Prenatal echocardiography in Kosovo is shown completely as a sensitive procedure in diagnosing complex CHD. In a country with limited resources transport in utero is the best solution in the immediate postnatal treatment, including medical treatment with Prostaglandins, balloon atrioseptostomy procedure and cardiosurgery interventions.

Keywords: prenatal echocardiography, complex congenital heart disease, in-utero transport, prostaglandins

Impact of prenatal diagnosis and outcomes for congenital heart disease in two centers – comparative study

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Abstract: Congenital heart disease (CHD) are the most common form of birth defects with the incidence of about 8 to 10 per 1000 (0.8%–1%) live-born. Prenatal identification and management of CHD are important because they are a leading cause of neonatal and infant death in development countries.

Aim of presentation: Here we present result of prenatal diagnosis using fetal echocardiography (FE) in two centers Genoa, Italy and Prishtina, Kosovo, comparing sensitivity and specificity of prenatal diagnosis, age of pregnancies and outcomes of fetuses with CHD. **Methods** Retrospectively we analyzed medical records of 121 pregnancies in Prishtina and 68 in Genoa. Gestational age at the moment of diagnosis, type of CHD and outcomes of fetuses with CHD **Results:** During the period January 2018 - December 2019, 205 fetuses out of 187 pregnancies were examined (14 gemelar pregnancies, two triplets). Out of 187 pregnant women, 68 were examined in Genoa (Italy), at the Health Institution "Istituto Giannina Gaslini" in Genoa, Italy, all with unique fetuses, while others were examined in Prishtina. Most of the examinations in Prishtina were performed at the Polyclinic "ECHO-SCAN". A small number of examinations were performed at the Main Family Medicine Center in Prishtina. A total of 342 fetal echocardiograms were performed. Each fetus was examined 1- 4 times (average 1.6 ± 0.6 times). The first examination was performed between the 14th and 38th week of pregnancy (average at 25.9 ± 9.2 weeks).

The average age of pregnant women in the group from Genoa was significantly higher (38.6 ± 7.2 vs. 29.6 ± 6.0 , $p < 0.001$) than in Kosovo.

Fetal echocardiography, as a method for early diagnosis of fetal CHD, has been shown to be a method with high diagnostic efficiency, respectively with sensitivity 90% and specificity 97.3%, with positive predictive value (PPV) 90%, respectively negative predictive value (NPV) 97.3%.

According to the centers, in Genoa group:

- the degree of sensitivity of the FE for the diagnosis of CHD was 91.67%,
- the degree of specificity was 96.43%, VPP 84.62%, respectively VPN 98.18%.

In Prishtina group:

- the degree of sensitivity of FE for the diagnosis of CHD was 89.29%,
- the degree of specificity was 97.83%, VPP of 92.59%, respectively NPV of 96.77%

Conclusion: Fetal echocardiography (EF) is a safe and highly informative method, invaluable in the assessment and diagnosis of CHD. The sensitivity of FE in the group of fetuses studied was 91.67% and the specificity was 96.43%. The positive predictive value was 84.62% while the negative value was 98.18%. The results of this study are closely correlated with data from the cited literature.

Keywords: fetal echocardiography, congenital heart disease, fetal screening, hidrops fetalis

VIEWS AND ATTITUDES OF NURSING STUDENTS ABOUT WORK ABROAD

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Abstract: There is a huge shortage of nurses worldwide. This global phenomenon derives from historical, economic, social and political factors. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that the whole world is facing a global shortage of nearly 4.3 million physicians, nurses, midwives, and other health care professionals. Kosovo has also been affected by the migration of nurses. As the poorest country in Europe, Kosovo is gripped by systematic corruption, high unemployment, nepotism when it comes to employment, politicization of the public sector, poor economic condition and the potential of social dissatisfaction are among the main driving factors contributing to the overall migration from the country. On the other hand, other general attracting factors such as: higher wages and better living standards, social benefits, political stability, have also contributed to the recent massive migration from Kosovo.

Goal: This research has been conducted in order to evaluate nursing students' views and attitudes on working abroad. The research was conducted through a questionnaire. This research focuses specifically on Kosovo, researching the factors that are influencing the migration of nursing students for working abroad.

Tools and Methodology: The research belongs to the cross-sectional type and a questionnaire was used for gathering the data. In the accordance with the objectives of the research, a study was conducted with a sample of 200 third-year students of the nursing program of the academic year 2019/2020. The surveyed students were selected by random method. The structured questionnaire included a total of 20 questions. The students who participated were from the nursing program at the University of Pristina (UP), the University of Gjakova (UGJ), as well as the Private College-University for Business and Technology (UBT). Participation was voluntary and anonymous. The data were processed using the Microsoft Excel Program. The most relevant databases such as PubMed, Google Scholar, Med Line, etc. were used for the literature.

Results: The majority of the students, with a percentage of 53%, think of continuing their professional career abroad, 31% of students still have not decided yet and only 16% of students see their professional future in Kosovo, serving the country. 68% of our respondents see themselves as fit into the German working system. The main element that makes them decide to migrate, are the better working conditions and professional development with 56%. Also, 50% of students consider the economic factor as the basic factor, and also the majority (51%) of students see the social and political factors as the issue and another high percentage of 58% consider the poor working conditions. Most respondents, 65% plan long-term stay abroad over 5 years.

Conclusions: More than half (75%) of the students failed to have a working experience during their studies, so through this study we saw that a large percentage of students were thinking of leaving. There is an undeniable need for long-term action to improve working conditions and the payment of nurses. If this does not happen, the human resources crisis in the Kosovar nursing sector will get worse.

Keywords: Nursing students, Professional migration, Motivational factors, Poverty, Kosovo.

Nursing care in patients with anemia

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Abstract: The reason why I studied anemia is due to the fact that in our country these cases are frequent, anemia is due to lack of iron in the body, so it is important to educate and teach patients that iron can be taken into the body through foods, plants that are characterized by iron content, fruits and vegetables.

Purpose: My goal is to learn as much as possible about the complications caused by this disease such as: fatigue, dizziness, and headaches. Treatment is based on the main preparation which is iron. Many cases of sideropenic anemia can be overcome if iron-rich foods are taken. and on a regular basis. The paper will discuss the classification of anemias, the etiological and morphological division of anemia, symptoms, signs, diagnosis, treatment and also about possible complications of possible diseases and health care. Based on the history, talking to the patient about his illness, examining the patient and calculating the blood, determine the existence of anemia. Approaches to treating anemia are different and also depend a lot on the cause of the anemia. The doctor determines the treatment strategy, such as the use of certain medications and food-changing habits.

Material and methods: Utilized in the paper entitled "Nursing care for patients with anemia" stands oriented to three specific phases of research, such as: thinking about research, research preparation and data collection. The preparatory work is mainly based on the research method in the literature, while to achieve all the objectives of the paper, we have used the method of analysis by analyzing reports and publications on the topic always referred to the laws that are in force regarding responsibilities. epidemiological and public health protection.

Results: The research sample consists of 20 respondents who were in the rehabilitation phase with anemia. Data were collected through research of 10 questions where patients were surveyed. The average age of the participants was that they were being trained in the hospital starting from adulthood to adulthood.

Upper limb fractures in adults

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Abstract: Every human life is important and it is very vital to show a care for the progress of work as well as for the image we create of ourselves. Nursing care provided to patients with limb fractures in adults is a treatment that improves the quality of life of the patient and the family, addressing the problem of life-threatening, through the prevention and facilitation of proper treatment of pain as well as other physical, psycho-social and spiritual problems. Whenever the treatment of fractures is applied, care for patients should be primary, its main component is the quality that health personnel bring to patients, the way of care that makes it possible to differentiate the needs of the patient and family, needs that develop in time and commitment that they require.

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is the health of each patient is the primary thing that every nurse should consider and show special care. As a nursing student, I want to address this issue as well as delicately to expand my knowledge and show you what the basic principles that every nurse should follow.

Methodology: The paper retrospectively analyzes patients treated with upper limb fractures at the Clinic of Orthopedic Surgery, Peja, during the period January-June.

Results: The data (statistics) show us that the largest number of cases according to anatomy is with fractures of the humerus with 56% and radius with 27%.

The experiences and management practices of nurse managers at University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented financial and management challenges for health care systems across the world. Frontline health workers have been faced with numerous challenges since the pandemic began. Challenges emerging from the COVID-19 outbreak have particularly affected nurse managers who have been working under uncertain conditions characterized by unprecedented psychological stress, financial struggles, inadequate supply storages and staff shortages. The drastically increased number of COVID hospitalizations coupled with financial restrictions and nursing shortages have forced nurse managers to manage unpredictable workloads and rapidly changing work environments. These challenges have been particularly apparent in developing countries which tend to lack the adequate financial and human resources to address the healthcare needs of the population (Gab, 2019). Nurse managers are responsible for supervising nurses and play a key role in ensuring effective healthcare service provision for patients. The experiences and challenges of nurse managers in developing countries in managing high workloads during the COVID-19 pandemic have received insufficient research attention and this study aims to fill this research gap.

Aim: This study aims to explore the experiences and management practices of clinical nurse managers at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK) during the COVID-19. In Kosovo the first cases of COVID- 19 infections in Kosovo appeared on March 13th, and to date there are 12.464 active cases and 2,878 confirmed deaths.

Methodology: An interpretive phenomenological research approach will be employed in this study, which will enable the exploration of the experiences and management practices of clinical nurses during the pandemic at UCCK. Phenomenology allows the examination of a phenomenon or an event in the daily world from the viewpoint of individuals experiencing them (Streubert and Carpenter, 1999). Five

(5) nurse managers (headnurses) who have been working at different clinics of UCCk during the COVID- 19 pandemic will be interviewed for this study. Semi-structured interview will be used as data collection technique whereas the selection of participants will be based on a purposeful sampling technique. The main themes which will emerge from the interviews with informants will serve as the basis for understanding the experiences and management practices of nurse managers at UCCK. Data will be

collected between September 20 and October 10 2021 and will be analyzed using the Colaizzi's (1978) method of analysis. In order to ensure the trustworthiness of the data (triangulation) will be applied. For the purpose of data triangulation and attending to the Colaizzi's seventh procedural step, the analyzed findings will be returned to the participants for validation (verification).

Results: The results of this study will be useful in understanding the experiences and management practices of nurses managers at UCCK.

Keywords: nurse manager, management practices, COVID-19 pandemic

Analysis of the DNA fragmentation in the ejaculate of infertile male in the Dukagjini Region in the Republic of Kosovo

Dr.sc. Afrim Zeqiraj, Dr.sc. Zafer Gashi, Dr.sc. Shkelzen Elezaj

Abstract : One of the main factors affecting male infertility is the presence of abnormal sperm or fragmented DNA in the ejaculate of males. Male infertility is a heterogeneous group of disorders, known causes account for only 30-50%, and unknown (idiopathic) causes are the rest. Male infertility includes nearly 15% of couples at the age of reproduction. Halosperm / Halotech DNA is a diagnostic tool that allows fragmented DNA analysis in a quick, easy way without the need for complex laboratory equipment. **Purpose of the Thesis:** The purpose of this PhD work was to analyze the percentage of fragmented DNA in sperm. **Material and Methods:** Sampling was performed by 257 patients (169 patients per study group and 88 patients per control group). Patients with normospermia have been taken for the control group, while patients with asthenospermia, oligospermia and oligoasthenospermia have been treated for the working group. The statistical processing of the data is done with the statistical package SPSS 22.0. The difference is significant if $P < 0.05$. **Outcomes:** Study group patients had high levels of DNA fragmentation in sperm compared to control group patients with significant statistical significance (Mann-Whitney test, $U = 14543$, $P < 0.0001$). **Conclusions:** We can conclude that the results of DNA fragmentation in the sperm are encouraging and can be used for diagnostic purposes in determining male infertility. Such an assessment of DNA damage to the sperm may serve clinician doctors to help spouses with infertility problems in the selection of IVF / ICSI assisted medical support technique. It is recommended that such an analysis of DNA fragmentation determination in the sperm becomes part of the clinical trials of andrology laboratories.

Key words: Sperm DNA fragmentation (SDF), infertility, IVF / ICSI.

Micronucleus test of Californian trout fish after treatment with the herbicide monosan for 48 and 96 hours

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Abstract: Fish are the object of study to detect potential contaminants, Mutagenic or carcinogenic present in the water. Besides fish toxicant similar response can provide higher vertebrates for chemicals that are carcinogenic to humans. Micronucleus test (MNT) is a technique developed by Schmid (1975), using the cells as an object of study, and by treating with chemicals as a genotoxic test. Micronucleus test can be used to fish, frogs and birds, and is a biological warning direct or indirect contamination of aquatic environment in vivo. **Research goal:** The purpose of this research was verified genotoxic effect of herbicide monosan in peripheral blood erythrocytes of trout fish of California (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), thus to prove damage to the genetic material (chromosomes) in erythrocytes by MN test. **Results:** It's seen that the frequency of micronucleus (MN) in erythrocytes of fish treated for 96 hours in all concentrations (0.2, 0.3, 0.4 and 0.5 ml / L), is in scale significantly higher ($p < 0.001$) compared with the control group of fish. The high frequency with micronucleus in significant degree is also determined to fish treated for 48 hours in all dilutions (0.2, 0.3, 0.4 and 0.5 ml / L) compared with the control group. **Conclusion:** In our research we found a significant increase ($p < 0.001$) the frequency of MN in peripheral blood erythrocytes of fish treated with herbicide monosan, compared with control group of fish.

Key words: Micronucleus test, herbicide monosan, Californian trout fish.

“Health services and quality of life for children with cerebral palsy in the Prizren Region”

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Abstract: Cerebral palsy (brain paralysis), defined as a disorder of the musculoskeletal system, is a problem that affects over 17 million people worldwide. This disorder develops due to a brain loss that can occur during pregnancy, childbirth or neonatal periods associated with other health problems, in speech, sight, hearing, balance, walking, etc.

Aim: It is the analysis of the use of health services and healthy life of children with cerebral palsy taking into account sociodemographic factors.

Methods: In cooperation with the Neurology Clinic and Hendikos Center we studied children with cerebral palsy in Prizren (Kosovo). Quality of life and assessed with the PedsQL questionnaire and the Likert scale.

Results: A total of 20 children were analyzed by the person 60% (N = 12) belong to the male gender and 40% (N = 8) to the female gender while the average age was 1.8 years. Children over 5 years old were more tired and more pain, while those under 4 years old had milder complaints as they had made more visits to specialists since birth.

Conclusion: This study highlights the variables that can affect the quality of life of children visit as much as possible to serve health to identify certain difficulties of children who may need individual intervention. It may be possible to inform the services provided by nurses, physiotherapists and speech therapists, cerebral palsy should as early as possible individual rehabilitation programs, also parents / caregivers of children with cerebral palsy (CP) should undertake multifaceted activities for long-term care of disability.

Keywords: Cerebral palsy, quality of life, socio-economic factors, rehabilitation centers

SUICIDES DURING THE PANDEMI

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Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in recent years. This is a challenge that has manifested itself in many problems in all spheres of life. One of the areas it has touched on is mental health, which has been much discussed. However, one of the main issues that this study is about are suicides and the main causes that brought them.

Suicide is a complex act and appears due to many factors, which are sometimes known, and there are cases that remain unknown at the time of death. But the purpose of this study is to study the known causes that caused suicides during the time of the pandemic. At the same time to study the reasons for the decrease in the number of suicides in certain countries of the world. The essence of this study is to provide specific evidence for the increasing and decreasing trend of suicide cases in different countries of the world. Identifying specific factors associated with changing the suicide case ratio provides valuable information for the community. In order to raise his awareness about such cases and to sensitize them to approach them properly. The result of this study is to determine how the various factors around us play a major role in our mental health and our emotional state by pushing us towards committing the act of suicide. These results include a description of the characteristics of each factor and how influential they are. The study will contribute to the field of medicine, integrating the field of psychology and sociology so that the treatment of cases and persons who tend to perform such an act is safer and more efficient. Since through the cooperation of these areas competent for these issues can be achieved prevention until their arrival.

Keywords: pandemic, suicides, stress, anxiety, social isolation, economics, emotional state, situation management, mental health

Recent advances in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer hormone receptor positive and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 negative with CDK4 / 6 inhibitors

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Abstract: The aim of this study was to describe the role and importance of the application of CDK4 / 6 inhibitors in the treatment of patients with metastatic breast cancer hormone receptor positive and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 negative (HR + / HER-2-). Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in women, with more than 276,000 new cases estimated in 2020. Metastatic breast cancer accounts for 6-10% of all patients diagnosed with breast cancer, it is an incurable and threatening disease for life, with 5-year survival approximately 25%. Unfortunately, despite important steps in the treatment of breast cancer, recurrence of the disease occurs in 20-30% of patients. Hormone-receptor-positive breast cancer, which accounts for more than 70% of cases, has been treated with endocrine therapy with selective estrogen receptor inhibitor and aromatase inhibitor. Although endocrine therapy remains the mainstay of hormone-receptor-positive breast cancer treatment, resistance develops in up to 50% of patients with advanced breast cancer. To combat resistance, targeted therapies- three CDK4 / 6 inhibitors palbociclib, ribociclib and abemaciclib have been approved for patients with hormone receptor-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-negative advanced breast cancer. CDK4/6 inhibitors (Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors) are the newest class of drugs for the treatment of advanced stage breast cancer. The main effect of CDK4/6 inhibitors is to prolong the development of resistance to endocrine therapy. The mean survival without disease progression is about 20 months in the first line of treatment where CD4/6 inhibitors were combined with aromatase inhibitors and about 10 months in the second line where CD4/6 inhibitors were combined with fulvestrant. Prolonging time without disease progression delays the use of chemotherapy and patients are assured of a better quality of life, without the side effects of chemotherapy, which has a systemic effect on the body, causing nausea, vomiting, hair loss and more. **Conclusion:** CD4/6 inhibitors in combination with endocrine therapy are a new therapeutic option in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. The use of CDK4/6 inhibitors in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer, hormone receptor positive and HER-2 negative, has resulted in a significant improvement in disease control, mainly by significantly prolonging survival without disease progression, by a profile acceptable toxicity.

Keywords: Metastatic breast cancer; cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors; palbociclib; ribociclib; abemaciclib;

THE ROLE OF THE NURSE IN ADDRESSING SEXUAL HEALTH NEEDS

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Abstract: Introduction - Sexual health care is as important as physical and mental health care; however, many nurses are not sufficiently prepared to address these needs. Learning experiences in basic nursing education are limited and opportunities to attend post-education courses may be limited, unless the job role is specifically related to sexual health services. However, there is potential to approach sexual health topics in healthcare if nurses feel confident doing so. Purpose - To sensitize the public health media about the need and role of the nurse in addressing correctly, professionally and scientifically the needs of patients in the field of sexual health. Methodology - Review of relevant contemporary literature dedicated to the role and importance of nurses in addressing this topic, taking care to add our professional comments based on the requests of clients treated at the Libido Clinic in Prishtina. Expected results - Awareness of nurses, providers of education providers in public and private sector about the role and importance of including sexual health issues in the curriculum as an emergency need through which nurses will receive professional knowledge and willingness to approach correctly good at fulfilling their role. Conclusions - The World Health Organization (WHO) and other relevant bodies promote nurses as a forefront of sexual health care delivery but many nurses feel uncomfortable being involved in this aspect of care in their general consultation.

Keywords: nurse, sexual health, health care

YOUTH'S KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES ABOUT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

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Abstract: Sexually transmitted infections are defined as infections that are passed from one person to another during a sexual act. Worldwide most adults get sick from at least one sexually transmitted disease and many of them can have complications. It is estimated that within a day worldwide, sexually transmitted infections infect one million people.

Purpose – To identify knowledge and attitudes first and then also the need to improve information by measuring or evaluating the views of young people in various aspects of sexually transmitted infections. **Methodology -** The study was conducted among the youth of Ferizaj and included 253 high school students in Ferizaj, in 2020. For this research, a questionnaire was used to measure the knowledge and attitudes that young people have about sexually transmitted infections. This questionnaire contains 20 questions that measure students' knowledge and attitudes about sexually transmitted infections and 3 questions with demographic data. **Results -** The results of the study answered the research question "do young people have knowledge about sexually transmitted infections". A significant number of them, a little more than half (55.3%) said that they have enough information, 41.5% have less information and 3.2% have no information at all. **Conclusions -** From the results of this research, it was found that young people, most of them, have information about sexually transmitted infections. They mostly state that they would like to learn more about sexually transmitted infections in school.

Keywords: Sexually Transmitted Infections, Knowledge, Attitudes, Youth

“Forgotten” stents in the urinary tract and procedures for their extraction

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Abstract: After the start of the application of ESWL, percutaneous lithotripsy and URS-lithotripsy, to manage urolithiasis, indications for the use of the “JJ” ureteral stents are not uncommon. Meanwhile, there is a limit time for their keeping them in, because if retained for more than 6 weeks or two months, there is a possibility for crystallization, especially in the upper and lower parts of the “J”, where crystallization occurs very often and this makes difficult to extract them. We present 12 cases of holding stents, lasting more than three months (one case up to 8 years!) and how to manage them. The material was taken from the protocol of the Urologic Clinic of Kosovo and Urological Polyclinic “Pro-Ren” in Ferizaj, during the period, from April 2017- April 2021. We present 12 cases of calcification of ureteral stents “JJ” and how to manage them. Of these 12 cases, in the 8 cases we see calcifications occur only in the upper “J” (pyelon); in the 2 cases, calcifications occur mainly in the lower “J” (bladder) and in 2 other cases, calcifications occurred in the upper and lower “J” (pyelon and the bladder). For the first 8 cases, we use the ESWL as a management method, where, after one or two sessions, we managed to destroy the calcification in the upper “J”; in six cases after two sessions of ESWL, we managed to remove the stents, while in two cases, even after 4 sessions, with 4000 strokes, we did not manage to destroy the calcifications, so we had to perform the pyelolithotomy, for extracting of stents. In 2 cases with calcifications in the upper and lower “J”, we manage to destroy the calcifications with ESWL in upper “J” and with cystolithotripsy in the lower “J” and then easily extract the stents. Two other cases, with calcifications only in the lower “J”, we applied only cystolithotripsy and the stents were removed, without any difficulty. We can conclude that in cases when it comes to “forgotten” stents for a long time in the urinary tract, we should use less invasive methods to managing these cases, such as ESWL and cystolithotripsy, or a combination of both. But, in some cases, we are forced to perform more invasive procedures, which are not preferred, but are necessary, such as pyelolithotomy, to maintain kidney function.

Article title: Students knowledge and perceptions about protective measures for infectious diseases

Marigonë Rizani

Abstract: Communicable diseases are those diseases caused by microorganisms and parasites that are transmitted directly or indirectly by the sick person or the causative carrier to the healthy person. Diseases can be caused by microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites or toxins. The general purpose of this research is to explore knowledge and perceptions regarding protective measures and communicable diseases. The study was conducted by proposing a questionnaire in the high schools of the Republic of Kosovo, respectively in the Gymnasiums in Lipjan, Ferizaj and Prishtina. The questionnaire was conducted with 10th and 11th grade students where a total of 287 respondents were included. Relevant scientific literature was also used to complete this article. The results show that our students do not have much knowledge of communicable diseases or protective measures for communicable diseases. Lack of knowledge about the spread of infectious diseases also affected the rapid spread of Covid-19 among students. The majority of students declare that they did not attend any classes related to communicable diseases. A number of them consider that they often approach fast food and restaurants which make us think that they can be very easily affected by communicable diseases, so this topic should be taken very seriously. Some of our young people don't know at least one contagious disease so I think this issue needs to be treated with particular care. Extensive mobilization by state institutions to undertake educational measures in schools is recommended to address this issue.

Keywords: students, contagious diseases, infections etc.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS 'EDUCATIONAL STYLES AND SMOKING HABITS IN CHILDREN

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Abstract: Risky behavior is a serious public health problem in EU countries. Many diseases in adolescents are the result of risky behaviors associated with smoking habits. The problems that lead to the presence of risky behavior can be sought in the poor quality of the family life and the inappropriate way of upbringing. **Purpose of the paper:** To determine the connection of the educational styles of the parents with the smoking habits of the adolescents. **Material and methods:** Conducted is a cross-sectional study of a sample of 600 respondents, students from primary and secondary schools in the territory of the Polog region. The scale intended for assessing the educational styles of parents - "Egna Minnen Baträffande Uppfostran" (EMBU) was applied, as well as the survey questionnaire from the "Global Survey on Adolescent Health". Statistical analysis of the data obtained from the survey was performed in the statistical program SPSS 17.0. **Results and discussion:** The structure of the respondents consisted of 264 (44%) male and 336 (56%) female students. The ethnic structure of the students consisted of 300 Macedonian and 300 Albanian students, where 172 (28.67%) were students from IX grade, 203 (33.83%) from I year high school, and 225 (37.5%) were students from II -year high school. 161 students declared themselves as smokers, ie the prevalence of smoking in the examined group was 26.8%. The multivariate logistic regression analysis confirmed that: inconsistency ($p = 0.005$), emotional warmth and acceptance ($p = 0.037$), and favoritism ($p = 0.001$) are maternal upbringing styles that are significantly associated with the development of adolescent smoking habits. Multivariate Logistic Regression analysis as educational styles by the father significantly associated with the development of cigarette smoking in children, confirmed: inconsistency ($p = 0.045$), rejection ($p = 0.045$) and favoritism ($p = 0.007$). **Conclusion:** The results of research have shown that the educational styles of parents have a significant impact on the risky behavior of adolescents in terms of cigarette smoking.

Keywords: educational styles, parents, adolescents, cigarette smoking.

IMPACT OF DATA AND STATISTICS IN THE CREATION OF KOSOVO'S PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES

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Abstract: Health statistics contain data on the main indicators of the health service in Kosovo, based on Eurostat standards aiming at the dynamic evaluation of the health service in the country from year to year. Health information is very important for decision making and planning activities across health care systems. From this perspective, the health information system should be considered as a basis of public health and an integral part of the health system in each country. Therefore, strengthening and modernizing health information systems should be considered a priority of the institutions involved in providing health care in Kosovo. The collection, administration, processing and dissemination of medical data and statistics has a significant impact on the evaluation of public health parameters, elaboration, analysis of these data and statistics will be the basis for drafting, reforming and developing public health policies, programs, sectoral strategies and national strategies in the health sector. The purpose of this scientific paper is to produce an accurate analysis of the shortcomings, vacuums run and institutions dealing with statistics and treatment as well as proposing functions and alternatives to the reliable database that need adequate reform of that sector. of the health system of Kosovo

Key words: Health, data, statistics, information, reforms, policy, strategy.

EFFICACY OF PROBIOTICS IN HELICOBACTER PYLORI ERADICATION THERAPY

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Abstract: Development of antibiotic resistance, maladaptation of patients to receiving eradication therapy, side effects of drugs are the main factors influencing the apparent decrease in eradication rates of *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*). In our work on classical eradication therapy of *H. pylori*, we have added probiotics and evaluated their role in eradication, as well as tried to evaluate the role of probiotics in reducing the occurrence of side effects of antibiotics. The study included 114 patients in most cases with dyspeptic complaints and *H. pylori* from the Gastroenterology Clinic of HUCKS, and the Specialist Clinic "Gastromed -AFM" in Pristina. The patients were divided into two groups. The first group consisted of 62 patients, who were given the classical therapy with pantoprazole 40 mg, twice a day for half an hour before a meal, amoxicillin 1 g, twice a day after a meal for two weeks, and clarithromycin 500 mg, 2 times a day after meals, for two weeks. The second group consisted of 53 patients, to whom the probiotics *Lactobacillus reuteri* were added to the classical eradication therapy as well as the combination of three other probiotics *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus casei*, and *Bifidobacterium lactis*, in the form of 3 capsules of *Helicobalans*, for two weeks. One month after the end of therapy, the condition of *H. pylori* was assessed with antigen in the feces, urease test, or histopathological analysis. Where *H. pylori* were negative it was accepted that eradication was successfully performed. *H. pylori* eradication was achieved in 38 of 62 patients in the first group (61,3%), and in 37 of the 53 patients in the second group (69,8%). Although the eradication rate in the second group was higher, the statistical difference between the two groups was not statistically significant ($p = 0.199$). Regarding the side effects of prescribed therapies, the first group had side effects in 27 (43.5%) patients, while the second group with probiotics in 17 (32%) patients. However, in terms of the occurrence of side effects from the use of ordinary therapy, there was no statistical difference between these two groups ($p = 0.194$). The addition of probiotics to classical *H. pylori* eradication therapy can reduce the side effects of therapeutic regimens as well as increase the success of *H. pylori* eradication. There is a need for prospective and randomized work with a larger number of patients.

Keywords: probiotics, *H. pylori*, Kosovo

USE OF ENDOANAL ULTRASOUND IN ANORECTAL DISEASES: OUR CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

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Abstract: Benign anorectal diseases are very common in the general population. Fistula-in-ano obstructed defecation, and fecal incontinence remains a major challenge in surgery. The high rate of surgical failures and the need for repetitive surgical interventions are common experiences for physicians dealing with these pathologies. Endoanal ultrasound is now regarded as the gold standard for evaluating anal sphincter pathology in the investigation of anal incontinence. Endocavitary ultrasound for anal and rectal pathologies was first used in the early 60s for the initial assessment of rectal tumors. The main indications of the endoanal ultrasound are the assessment of anal fistula and the anal sphincter study in patients with fecal incontinence. Endorectal ultrasound is widely used in rectal cancer staging. The purpose of this paper is to present the results of our work with endoanal ultrasound in our patients with benign and malignant anorectal diseases. The study included 65 patients [24 females (36.9%) and 41 males (63.1%), with a mean age of 49.29 ± 16.5 years, range 14-84], with benign and malignant anorectal diseases, who were registered at the "Gastromed - AFM" Ordinance in Pristina during the period March 2018 - January 2020. After taking the history, physical examination, and endoscopy, an endoanal/transrectal ultrasound was performed with a Hitachi EUP-R54AW-19 probe. Based on the indications for endosonographic examination, patients were divided into 5 groups: with anal pain [n = 31 (47.7%)], with fecal incontinence [n = 11 (16.9%)], rectal cancer [n = 4 (6.2%)], constipation [n = 10 (15.4%)], and with perianal fistulas [n = 9 (13.8%)]. As can be seen almost half (47.7%) of the patients were with anal pain. Ten patients had fistulas (out of 5 with intersphincteric and transfincteric fistulas). Endosonography had also revealed four abscesses. Sphincter damage was present in 11 patients (16.9%). The internal anal sphincter was mostly damaged in 8 (12.3%) patients, while the external one was damaged in one patient (1.5%). Both sphincters were damaged in both patients. The anal fissure was the most common cause of anal pain, 17 patients (26.2%).

Endoanal ultrasound is easy to apply, well accepted by the patient, requires simple preparation, is inexpensive, and provides accurate and rapid information on regional anatomy. All these features make endoanal ultrasound to be the method of choice in patients with anorectal diseases.

Keywords: Kosovo, endoanal ultrasound, anal pain, fistula

Urinary tract infection is a disease that occurs frequently in patients regardless of age or sex.

Trendeline Pillana

Abstract:Exzisted various causes of this disease, but in this paper we present an intervention (procedure) medically which may be one of the causes towin a urinary infection. The aim of this study was to investigate the incidence of urinary tract infection in catheterized patients at the Urology Clinic in the period January-December 2020. Also to isolate the cause of infections after urinary catheterization, and how to treat these infections .The research of this paper is made in the Urology Clinic patients who underwent this type of surgery despite intervention or illness that they stand you took samples after 5 days of this procedure resume In this paper is presented acquired infections after urinary catheterization in hospitalized patients of Urology Clinic, January-December 2020 is presented obtained rate infeksionetve catheterization patients in other medical centers. Tested knowledge and experience of health personnel to the urology clinic where result lack of adequate conditions for catheterization, lack of education, lack of protocols, lack the educational knowledge of patients regarding maintenance and hygiene around the urinary catheter. The knowledge and experience of the health staff of the urology clinic have been tested, which results in lack of adequate conditions for catheterization, lack of education, lack of protocols, lack of educational knowledge of patients regarding maintenance and hygiene around urinary catheter. In the future it is good to use different methods for data collection to conduct such studies, in order to achieve better results. This means involving other health professionals in research, in various specific fields (such as doctors, nurses, midwives, laboratory technicians, X-ray technicians, dentists, pharmacists, microbiologists, etc.) because acting as an orchestra can greatly contribute to prevention of urinary tract infections.

Key word: Urinary catheterisation, nursing care, infection.

INFLUENCE OF THE POST SPACE PREPARATION ON THE REST FILLING IN ENDODONTICALLY TREATED TEETH

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Abstract: Endodontic treatment is usually indicated for teeth that are carious, severely damaged or fractured. In such teeth, making a post and a crown is indicated. Although the main purpose of the post is to strengthen the structure of the tooth and the possibility of extending the stump, it is equally important not to introduce reinfection into the canal during operation, but also to prevent the micropermeability of the remaining part of the canal filling. The post space preparation involves the removal of the gutta-percha and cementum from the coronary and middle thirds of the root canal, but it can often do damage to the filling in the apical part of the root canal, which can pull, loosen, or damage. During the tests related to the post space preparations, several parameters were examined in relation to the rest of the canal filling. They refer to: different methods for filling the root canals and materials in endodontic therapy, length of the remaining filling in the apical part, methods and instruments used in the preparation of the root canal, but also the most suitable time, ie the most favorable period for preparation after a definite obturation. Numerous tests have been performed in relation to the indicated parameters, but there are also numerous methods for testing whether the filling remaining in the channel meets the rules for hermetic closure. They can be clinical, laboratory, computer or X-ray. Yet while some rules and doctrines can be drawn, there are still many ambiguities and controversial results.

Keywords: (apical sealing, apical microleakage, post space preparation)

The quality of teaching and the success of the students of the Faculty of Medicine branch Nursing in UBT College

MSc: Vlora Kurti - Author MSc: Ardiana Dragubuzhda Collaborator

Abstract: Higher education leads to the professional development of young people and plays a key role in supporting social cohesion, economic growth and global competitiveness. It is important to develop higher education for the purpose of socioeconomic development and raising the culture of a country. Ensuring a quality education is essential in ensuring adequate qualification. It is to evaluate the quality of teaching of students of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing branch at UBT College - University for Business and Technology, evaluating the work of academic staff and the curriculum with teaching methods. Research by design is qualitative - not experimental. The research involved 150 students of the Faculty of Medicine branch of Nursing at UBT College, the questionnaire contains a total of 18 questions which are mostly closed, the questionnaires were completed directly at UBT College during the time the students were in lectures. The data were processed through the SPSS program and at the end those results were presented in tabular form and with the help of graphs were presented in a more concrete way. At the end of this research we noticed that in this college there was great satisfaction on the part of the students about the quality of teaching and the teaching methods used by the teachers and assistants. From the research we have done we have noticed a great quality of education in this institution as well as a great satisfaction on the part of the students for the way of teaching development, the methods used have been evaluated as very adequate and the working space very suitable and supplied with the necessary tools.

Keywords: Teaching, students, medicine, success.

The importance of promoting structures that support, breastfeeding, the role of midwives, nurses in promoting and facilitating breast feeding.

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Abstract: Breastfeeding is when you feed your baby breast milk, usually directly from your breast, it has been viewed as the healthiest approach of feeding. In 2003, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended that infants should exclusively be fed with breast milk by the age of six months. However, breastfeeding rates remain lower than recommended. The essential period for supporting breastfeeding is the first two weeks after birth. During this period, support of midwives is very important. Despite increasing knowledge, breastfeeding rates remain relatively static and mothers continue to report dissatisfaction with their experiences of breastfeeding. The purpose of the research is to explore the structures that support breastfeeding, midwives and nurses role in promoting and facilitating breastfeeding. For research, has been selected Gynecology clinic -in QKUK-SHSKUK where participants in this research were pregnant women. The research is qualitative, descriptive design, the questionnaire is self-administered taking for base ten steps straight to successful breastfeeding. 1. Hospital Policie, 2. Staff competency, 3. Antenatal care, 4. Care right after birth, 5. Support mothers with breastfeeding, 6. Supplementing, 7. Rooming-in, 8. Responsive feeding, 9. Bottles, teats and pacifiers, 10. Discharge. Mothers tended to rate social support as more important than health service support. Health service support was described unfavourably with emphasis on time pressures, lack of availability of healthcare professionals or guidance, promotion of unhelpful practices and conflicting advice. Changes are required within the health services to address the needs of both mothers and staff. Policies and practices cannot be done without complementary observational work and research that focuses specifically on how different approaches are expected and experienced by parents. Such research can naturally reveal that these changes are assessed by women, rather than identifying a 'proper' way to offer support. Given the recommendations, mentioned above, to provide some form of supplementary support for breast-feeding women, it would appear to be a pragmatic opportunity to consider employing qualified support for the care within health care systems.

Keywords: Breastfeeding, Breast Milk, Support, Midwife, Nurse

LOCALIZATION OF TAMM-HORSFALL PROTEIN IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE KIDNEY IN CHRONIC TUBULOINTERSTITIAL DISEASES

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Abstract:The immunohistochemical method was applied with the aim of determining the localization of the Tamm-Horsfall protein in the intracellular areas of the different parts of the nephron,as well as its localization at the interstitium of the kidneys.Of the 101 cases with chronic tubulointerstitial diseases,48 were chronic obstructive pyelonephritis cases and 53 were chronic nonobstructive pyelonephritis cases accompanied with a vesico-urethral reflux.The methods that have been applied:Hematoxilin-eozin,PAS(Periodic Acid Schiff).After that,blocks of paraffin which proved PAS-pozitive were applied the specific immunohistochemical method,carried out with PAP reaction of the specific primary antibody(Tamm-Horsfall anti-beta-2glycoprotein).The immunocytochemical reaction was mainly the shape of(bigger or smaller) granular precipitates of dark on brown or yellow to brown color.Mosaic type reaction dominated all the preparations.The results reached at by the application of the immunohistochemical method show the presence of Tamm-Horsfall protein in the form of diffuse amorphous precipitates in the interstitium and chronic inflammatory infiltrates and macrophages gathering around them.This method also enables us to distinguish the presence of this protein substance,in the granular or mosaic form,in the cytoplasm of the epithelial cells of the distal tubules of nephron,as well in the macrophages seated in the interstitium,mainly around the amorphous precipitates of this protein.In other parts of the nephron the immunocytochemical reaction was negative.

Key words:Chronic tubulointerstitial diseases,immunohistochemistry.

Correlation between DNA sperm fragmentation, ejaculate oxidative stress and anti-sperm antibodies in persons severe acute respiratory syndrome SARS-CoV-2

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Abstract: The severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV-2) was first identified in December, 2019 in the Wuhan city, China and subsequently declared pan-demic causing coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19), by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Angiotensin converting enzyme-2 (ACE2) receptor plays a key role in the COVID-19 pathogenesis. A breakthrough revelation in male fertility research is that testes show almost the highest ACE2 mRNA and protein expressions among various body tissues, mainly in seminiferous duct cells, spermatogonia, Leydig and Sertoli cells. In SARS-CoV infections, it has been reported that the excessive production of reactive oxygen species (ROS). This further stimulates release of cytokines causing exaggeration of the inflammatory responses. Investigating whether a new coronavirus-related infection (called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has a correlation between DNA sperm fragmentation, ejaculate oxidative stress and anti-sperm antibodies in persons severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)-coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). This was a retrospective clinical observation study using data from 98 patients with COVID-19 from April 15 - September 28, 2020. All patients in this study were volunteers, residents of the Dukagjini region in Republic of Kosovo. This study was performed in the Biochemistry and Andrology Laboratory of Biolab-Zafi Polyclinic in Klina and Medical Laboratory „Biolab-Zafi-F in the city of Peja, Kosovo. The mean positive titer of Anti SARS - COV-2 was 45.9 ± 12.4 . The lowest titer of Anti SARS - COV-2 was found in patients with low sperm DNA fragmentation, low OxiSperma test and a low percentage of positive MAR test for anti-sperm antibodies. Most patients with positive anti-SARS - COV-2 IgG antibodies had a DFI higher than 10% ($13.7 \pm 3.3\%$) but the values were within normal limits. SARS-CoV-2 infection may possibly affect sperm DNA and cause SDF through induction of OS following various direct oxidant-sensitive pathways, altering reproductive endocrinological milieu, or through the course of COVID-19 treatment using certain broad-spectrum anti-viral drugs.

Keywords: COVID-19, Anti SARS - COV-2, OxiSperma test, DNA fragmentation, MAR test.

Globospermia. Genetic defect as acrosomal malformation of sperm. The first case detected in Kosovo

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Abstract: Among the factors involved in male infertility, there is a rare morphology disorder called "globozoospermia" that is classified into total globozoospermia and partial globozoospermia (type I and type II, respectively). This syndrome is primarily characterized by the presence of round-headed spermatozoa with cytoskeleton defects around the nucleus and no acrosome. To document the pathology of sperm with globozoospermia as the first case detected in Kosovo in the ejaculate sample in a male with primary infertility of 11 years. Microscopy of the ejaculate sample stained with the May-Grünwald-Giemsa (MGG) method showed that 82% of the sperm had round heads and no acrosomes. Ejaculate volume and sperm concentration were normal. The average sperm motility was very low 1-2% and was of category c (movement in place), despite the morphological abnormalities 82% of workers according to the recommendations from the WHO manual of 2010. Vitality test (Eosin - Negrosine test) has a percentage low (21-24%) The results of hormonal tests have shown that they are normal in men with globospermia. In general, it can be said that globozoospermia reduces sperm quality especially normal morphology and motility by preventing normal fertilization in vivo. Considering that globospermia is a genetic defect (mutation of the DPY19L2 gene) it can be concluded that the diagnosis of men with total or partial globozoospermia suggests to the clinician in the only possible and right decision to advise men with globospermia that they can become parents only through IVF-ICSI medically assisted fertilization methods. Medication is not recommended because it shows no success.

Keywords: Globospermia, sperm, male infertility, IVF-ICSI

Recommended Post-Colonoscopy Surveillance Strategies for Reducing Colorectal Cancer

Zaim Gashi, Aida Polloshka, Arjeta Gashi

HUCCK, Clinic for Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Prishtina. Risk For patients with normal, high-quality colonoscopy, repeat CRC screening in 10 years. For patients with 1–2 tubular adenomas <10 mm in size completely removed at a high-quality colonoscopy, repeat colonoscopy in 7-10 years. For patients with 3–4 tubular adenomas <10 mm in size in completely removed at a high-quality colonoscopy, repeat colonoscopy in 3-5 years. For patients with 5-10 tubular adenomas <10 mm in size in completely removed at a high-quality colonoscopy, repeat colonoscopy in 3 years. For patients with 1 or more adenomas >10 mm in size in completely removed at a high-quality colonoscopy, repeat colonoscopy in 3 years. For patients with adenoma containing villous histology completely removed at a high-quality colonoscopy, repeat colonoscopy in 3 years. For patients with adenoma containing high grade dysplasia completely removed at a high-quality colonoscopy, repeat colonoscopy in 3 years. For patients with >10 adenomas completely removed at high-quality examination, repeat colonoscopy in 1 year. For patients with ≤ 20 HPs <10 mm in size in the rectum or sigmoid colon removed at high-quality examination, repeat CRC colonoscopy screening in 10 years. For patients with ≤ 20 HPs <10 mm in size proximal sigmoid colon removed at high-quality examination, repeat colonoscopy in 10 years. For patients with 1–2 SSPs <10 mm in size completely removed at high-quality examination, repeat colonoscopy in 5-10 years. For patients with TSA completely removed at a high-quality examination, repeat colonoscopy in 3 years. For patients with 3–4 SSPs <10 mm at high-quality examination, repeat colonoscopy in 3-5 years. For patients with any combination of SSPs <10 mm at high-quality examination, repeat colonoscopy in 3 years. For patients with SSP containing dysplasia at a high-quality examination, repeat colonoscopy in 3 years. For patients with piecemeal resection of adenoma or SSP >20 mm, repeat colonoscopy in 6 months.

Key words: screening, colorectal polyps, recommendations, polypectomy

Treatment of Achalasia with Botox injection

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Abstract: Achalasia represents the absence of lower esophageal sphincter relaxation and absence of normal peristalsis of the esophageal body, showed in incidence of 1-2 patients in 100 000 people. Causes of achalasia are of unknown ethiology or secondary causes. It is present equally in men and women, at every age.

Presence of alarm symptoms, such as dysphagia, weight loss, regurgitation, anemia, family history of cancer, warrant further investigation. Specific testing is needed to distinguish achalasia from other disorders. For diagnosis, upper endoscopy, esophagogram, high resolution esophageal manometry are needed. In distinguished cases, abdomen and chest CT scan and pH testing are performed as well. There are several treatment modalities for achalasia. Botulin toxin injection is known since 1995, from Pasricha and Kalloo. Botulin toxin injection is an effective and safe treatment.

Our presentation is a success story and the first injection, in our state, of Botulinum toxin in order to improve the symptomatic dysphagia, in a 73-year-old man, who had cardiopulmonary contraindications for surgery.

Our presentation is a successful story of the injection of Botulinum toxin in order to improve the symptomatic dysphagia, in a 73-year-old man, who had cardiopulmonary contraindications for surgery. Even after 6 months he feels quite well.

Impact of the right of patients selected physician on the largest number of patients in the general hospital in Peja.

Autor : Dr.med. mr.sci. Skender Dreshaj

Koautor:Dr.med.mr.sci. Samoni Loxha

Abstract:Operative births, known as Sectio Caesarea, from its inception when applied only when one of the 4 absolute indications appeared today is applied by evaluating about 100 possible indications including the patient's right to decide whether to perform the birth with this intervention. This has caused the number of births performed with Sectio This has led to an increase in the number of births performed with Sectio from year to year. While in 2000, in Kosovo, births by cesarean section were 7.5%, this trend has increased to about 33%. In General Hospital Peja from 7% in 2000 to 38.2 % in 2020. Among the factors that have influenced this enormous increase besides the well-known factors such as the perfection of the operative technique, the perfection of the anesthesia techniques, the trained professional staff, the health education, the family planning, the extended rights of the patient in decision making, the paper aims to document whether the patient's right to select the doctor who will lead the birth is one of the factors with a significant impact on increasing the percentage of births with Sectio Caesarea at the General Hospital in Peja. In order to address the issue, a 5-item questionnaire was designed to provide reliable data on whether the agreement reached between the patient and the selected physician to monitor pregnancy and childbirth has resulted in a large number of births with Sectio Caesarea. 160 pregnant women who gave birth at the General Hospital in Peja in the period July-August 2021 were surveyed. The purpose of this paper is to collect, systematize and analyze the data resulting from the paper to confirm that the involvement of the personal physician in the birth process necessarily affects the increase of the percentage of births with Sectio Caesarea. What was the impact of the patient's right to select a physician on the percentage of operative births - Sectio Caesarea? The right of the Patient to select the doctor has a significant impact on increasing the number of births by operative route - Sectio Caesarea. The type of topic research is exploratory and explanatory. A questionnaire with 5 questions was designed. We took care to have a few questions but to provide data to reach the conclusion on the research question and confirmation of the hypothesis. and in the presence of the midwife the questionnaire was completed by the interviewer. We are determined for a sample of 160 midwives which represents 100% of monthly births and around 10% of annual births in the General Hospital in Peja. The nature of the data Primary sources - data obtained through questionnaire-based oral interview. Secondary data- Birth protocol, Birth protocol performed by cesarean section. Data on births for the years 2009-2020 Number of Cesarean section births by years expressed in number and percentage Number of births performed by Cesarean section Data collection - Questionnaire-based oral interview is completed in the Obstetrics Department Findings from the study lead to the conclusion that, year after year, we have an increase in births by cesarean section. There is a cesarean section birth correlation when delivery is led by the physician selected by the patient. This increase in the percentage is not related and has nothing to do with medical reasons - indications but are mainly planned births and the result of an agreement between the doctor and the patient justified by the patient's right to select the doctor and the manner of birth. From the lateral analysis of the data it results that the births performed by the selected doctor in relation to the births performed by the attending physician have not resulted in an impact on the morbidity or mortality of either pregnant women or infants.

Nursing care in patients with anemia

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Abstract:The reason why I studied anemia is due to the fact that in our country these cases are frequent, anemia is due to lack of iron in the body, so it is important to educate and teach patients that iron can be taken into the body through foods, plants that are characterized by iron content, fruits and vegetables. My goal is to learn as much as possible about the complications caused by this disease such as: fatigue, dizziness, and headaches. Treatment is based on the main preparation which is iron. Many cases of sideropenic anemia can be overcome if iron-rich foods are taken. and on a regular basis. The paper will discuss the classification of anemias, the etiological and morphological division of anemia, symptoms, signs, diagnosis, treatment and also about possible complications of possible diseases and health care. Based on the history, talking to the patient about his illness, examining the patient and calculating the blood, determine the existence of anemia. Approaches to treating anemia are different and also depend a lot on the cause of the anemia. The doctor determines the treatment strategy, such as the use of certain medications and food-changing habits. Utilized in the paper entitled "Nursing care for patients with anemia" stands oriented to three specific phases of research, such as: thinking about research, research preparation and data collection. The preparatory work is mainly based on the research method in the literature, while to achieve all the objectives of the paper, we have used the method of analysis by analyzing reports and publications on the topic always referred to the laws that are in force regarding responsibilities, epidemiological and public health protection. The research sample consists of 20 respondents who were in the rehabilitation phase with anemia. Data were collected through research of 10 questions where patients were surveyed. The average age of the participants was that they were being trained in the hospital starting from adulthood to adulthood.

Upper limb fractures in adults

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Abstract: Every human life is important and it is very vital to show a care for the progress of work as well as for the image we create of ourselves. Nursing care provided to patients with limb fractures in adults is a treatment that improves the quality of life of the patient and the family, addressing the problem of life-threatening, through the prevention and facilitation of proper treatment of pain as well as other physical, psycho-social and spiritual problems. Whenever the treatment of fractures is applied, care for patients should be primary, its main component is the quality that health personnel bring to patients, the way of care that makes it possible to differentiate the needs of the patient and family, needs that develop in time and commitment that they require. The purpose of this paper is the health of each patient is the primary thing that every nurse should consider and show special care. As a nursing student, I want to address this issue as well as delicately to expand my knowledge and show you what the basic principles that every nurse should follow. The paper retrospectively analyzes patients treated with upper limb fractures at the Clinic of Orthopedic Surgery, Peja, during the period January-June. The data (statistics) show us that the largest number of cases according to anatomy is with fractures of the humerus with 56% and radius with 27%.

Identification of persons with diabetes 1 and 2 based on Biochemical analyzes in the Rahovec region.

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Abstract: Diabetes is prevalent in all parts of the world, so much research has been done about it. In terms of gender and age, there is no limit, so we encounter it in children and the elderly. The most affected persons are obese individuals and patients with concomitant diseases. During the research we encountered patients with type 1 and 2 diabetes. For analysis we used some parameters such as HbA1c, glycemic values, hemogram values.

From gender % result in: 43% of men 56% of women, "type 1 and type 2 diabetes present with the same insulin resistance disorders based on different genetic materials" according to Wilkin arguing the accelerator hypothesis. An A1c level of 6.5 percent or more is indicative of the disease and an A1c level between 5.7 and 6.4 percent is indicative of prediabetes (Nataly, Michal & Shlomo, 2014). It was found that the highest glycemic values were found in persons who were first identified after not being treated properly, compared to individuals who had regular medical check-ups.

We recommend having hemogram tests that give us signals about the condition of the body and orient us in time for further procedures.

Keywords: diabetes mellittus, HbA1c, glycemic values, hemogram values.

Correction of Post-Burn Contracture of Second Fingers with Two Stages Reconstruction. A Case Report

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Abstract: Post-burn finger contractures are still a common event in our surgical work. They present after deep hand burns. The treatment and prophylaxis of these post-burn deformities are a crucial moment in the treatment of patients with burns. We present a case with post-burn palmar (flexor) major contractures of second fingers (about 110°), of which released with two stages reconstruction technique, with the full skin graft and application of Kirschner wire. Managing of post-burn hand deformities can be a long and complex procedure. Timely wound closure and the development of an individual programme for surgical treatment of post-burn finger deformities are crucial for optimal outcomes in patients with burns.

Keywords: post-burn contractures, repair, skin graft, rehabilitation.

Chylothorax at 'Signet ring'(gastrointestinal) Adenocarcinoma - solving with Talc 'slurry' pleurodesis.

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Abstract: Patient, 57 years old, male, with right pleural effusion. Condition after ambulatory pleural puncture evacuation of 2700 ml fibrinous serous fluid (turbid, purulent?). State after lymph node biopsy in the left inguinal region, 10 months ago (Tirana, ALbania); with dg. Adenocarcinoma Signet ring cell; Metastasis from the gastrointestinal tract (Stone-shaped cell in the ring); Ambulatory treated, week after, he is hospitalized in Thoracic Surgery Clinic and drained 2 L of pleural fluid (turbid, pus?) from the right hemithorax. At the Thoracic Clinic it is treated with antibiotics, but meanwhile the pleural fluid takes on an opalescent color (yellowish) which is suspect on lymph leakage. There is also crural (see photo) and corporal lymphedema (abdominal and back); After reviewing the literature, we learn that there are cases of Adenocarcinoma signet ring of the gastrointestinal tract (90% of the stomach) (with stone-shaped cells in the ring) in the presence of lymph flow (chyle) in the thorax (pleura): chylothorax; Laboratory: Hypoalbuminemia-->albumine: 29.3 --> 27.3 ---> 28.6 g/L; Albumin 20% is added to the therapy 2 times a day as well. After the analysis of pleural fluid (17 days after hospitalization) Glucose 5.82 mmol/L; albumine: 13.9 g / L; LDH: 199 U / L and from clinical point of view (crural / corporal lymphedema) it's decided to start with treatment with low fat diet, rich in protein and with Octreotide acetate Injection (Sandostatin * Novartis with a dose of 100 micrograms / 8 h subcutaneously). Four days later, 250 ml of chyle per day is produced. We continue with broad-spectrum antibiotherapy and Octreotide, Albumin and low-fat diet. Hematologic findings: RBC: 4.47×10^9 ; Le: 7.3×10^9 ; Hb: 139 g/L; Hct: 45; Biochemistry: glucosae: 4.73 mmol/L; cholesterol: 3.71 mmol/L; Creatinine: 86.5 mikromol/L; Total bilirubine 4.5 mikromol/L; Direct bilirubine: 1.25 mikromol/L; ALT 14 U/L; AST 18 U/L; Albumine: 28.6 g / L; Total protein 47.8 g / L; CRP 10.0 mg / L; So, we indicate pleurodesis (it's three week after admitting on Clinic) with 'Talc slurry' solution (4 g) "Steritalc" + 5 amp Lidocaine 2% + 100 ml saline Na Cl 0.9%. The next day there is no pleural fluid leakage. The drain is removed 4 days later. The patient has corporal swelling; oxymetry: 91%, Pp: 90/min; Five month later there is pleural effusion of the opposite side which is treated with evacuation punctures of pleural fluid. Patients in preterminal and terminal state *exit*.

Keyword: Chylothorax, Adenocarcinoma(signet ring); Pleurodesis

ABAapy in children with autism spectrum disorder: Case report

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Abstract:Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or autism is a developmental disability that affects the way people communicate, behave or interact with others. New approaches to behavior modification, such as applied behavior analysis (ABA), are becoming increasingly relevant and applicable to behavior modification and regulation in many disorders, particularly in children with autism. Applied behavior analysis, also called behavioral engineering, is an evidence-based approach that involves the application of empirical approaches based upon the principles of operant conditioning to change behavior. These defining characteristics state that applied behavior analysis should be applied, behavioral, analytic, technological, conceptual, effective, and capable of generalized outcomes in modeling and transforming objectives. This paper presents the importance of approaching the treatment of children with autism spectrum disorder based on different methods and tools based on best practices and a case presentation of successful implementation of techniques. This approach works best when individuals with ASD are accompanied by empathetic, dedicated, appropriate, patient and above all professional therapists.

Key words: ABA, therapy, approach, autism, behavior, child, therapist.

Nursing care for arterio-venous fistula and its complications

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Abstract: Hemodialysis is a temporary treatment for patients that are candidate for Kidney Transplant and a permanent treatment for patients with end stage kidney disease that has no chance for the Kidney transplant. Although arteriovenous fistulas is a most appropriate approach for hemodialysis because of longevity it is transplantation. Although vascular artery fistula is the most appropriate approach because of its longevity, it is still accompanied by complications. Purpose: This research aims to evaluate the nursing care plan in the treatment of patients with FAV in the Hemodialysis Department at UCCK and to assess patients' knowledge about AVF self-care and its complications. Methodology: The research is quantitative conducted through a semi-structured questionnaire. Two types of patient questionnaires were used and nurse. The questionnaires are based on and adapted to the standards of the National Kidney Foundation and Clinical Practice Guidelines and Recommendations (KDOQI). The number of subjects was 110 per patient and 36 nurses. The obtained data were grouped according to the questions and statistical processing was done with SPSS program (version 21) and Excel 2007. The calculation of statistical age parameters was done according to the average age, minimum, maximum and variability measures. Verification of tests is done with Pearson test which the reliability rate for $p < 0.001$ with probability 99.9%, and $p < 0.05$ with 95% probability. The presentation of data is presented through tables and graphs. Results: The data obtained showed 69.4% of nurses stated that they clean their hands regularly before vascular access while 1 or 2.8% stated: sometimes and never. A significant ratio was found between hand cleaning before vascular access and wearing gloves before switching on / off ($r = 710$, $p < 0.001$). In assessing patients' knowledge about vascular access self-care, we have these data that out of 110 people 48 (43.6%) stated that they are always careful not to weigh AVF during sleep while 1.8% denied self-care in this regard. Significant correlation was found between non-balance of AVF hand during sleep and non-measurement of blood pressure in the hand where AVF is located ($r = 334$, $p < 0.001$). Complications of AVF such as Stenosis and Thrombosis are observed in 16.4% of patients, Aneurysm and Infection is emphasized in 27.3% while the fad (function) of AVF is observed in 77.3% of patients. Conclusion: Based on all the research data it necessary for continuous professional education of nurses about fistula puncture techniques, follow-up of complicated fistula puncture with ultrasonography, observance of aseptic measures and awareness of patients for increased self-care related to AVF.

Keywords: Hemodialysis, care, self-care, vascular access, complications

Patients with post COVID-19 syndrome in cardiology practice

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Dr. Shpend Abdushi – Clinic for Internal Medicine and Cardiology “Shëndeti” in Prizren;
Dr. Violeta Kryeziu – National Institute of Public Health in Prizren.

Abstract: Although the symptoms of COVID-19 are acute and in most cases patients are fully recovered, a significant number of patients are experiencing symptoms even after more than 12 weeks.

Aim – of this study was to identify the reasons for cardiological evaluation in patients who have survived COVID-19 disease. **Methods** – In this cross-sectional descriptive study were included 117 individuals who had overcome SARS 2 COVID-19 infection at least 12 weeks ago. From the study were excluded all individuals younger than 18 years, those who did not agree to participate in the research and all those who even before being diagnosed with COVID-19 were treated for various cardiovascular diseases. All participants underwent cardiological examination (anamnesis and physical examination) and were determined biochemical parameters (CK-MB, CPK, Troponin I, etc.) and performed diagnostic examinations according to clinical indication (ECG, transthoracic echocardiography, test i exercise test, Holter ECG and Coronarography). **Results** – The average age of the respondents was 52.42 ± 13.96 years (from 27 - 78 years). Of those 45 (32.87%) were male. Hospitalized for COVID-19 were 38 (32.48%). Cardiac injuries were encountered in 15 (12.82%) of cases, 6 of those hospitalized and 9 of those who were not hospitalized. The most common symptom was fatigue (66.67%). However, from cardiac injuries, rhythm disorders were mostly confirmed, from 17 (14.53%) cases with palpitations, to 11 (64.71%) rhythm disorders were confirmed by ECG, stress test or during Holter monitoring. Regarding cardiac disorders, no significant difference was observed between individuals treated in hospital for COVID-19 and those who were not hospitalized ($p = 0.71$). **Conclusion** – Data from this research have highlighted that a significant proportion of patients who have coped with SARS-CoV-2 infection will face "post COVID-19 syndrome", including cardiac disorders. All individuals with "post COVID-19 syndrome" who have symptoms suggestive of possible cardiac injury should consult a cardiologist.

Key words: Post COVID-19 Syndrome, Heart Disorders, Symptoms.

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Sport for development as a tool for social change and cohesion in Kosovo

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Abstract .In recent years a topic called “Sport for Development” (S4D) has been used by different international organizations as a tool of social change and social cohesion. No poverty, decent work and economic growth, quality education, gender equality and other SDGs (The 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals provided by United Nations members in 2015) have been “tackled” in the 3rd world countries by applying initiatives and ideas through untraditional sport movements. Kosovo as a new developing country has been part of these programs since 2017. It started after the exodus of 2015-16 where a lot of people from Kosovo sold all they had and fled illegally towards Western European countries (Germany, France, Austria etc.) for a better life, but as a result these countries made sure to send these people back where they came from. German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in September 2017 started a project called “Kick-off: Sports activities for potentials development (ASAP) “, where 15 professors, coaches, social workers and students from all around Kosovo got trained on how to use untraditional models of sports to impact in social change, especially how to reintegrate the returnees in everyday life. This was only the starting point of a following path where a lot of trainings, workshops and projects took place in different topics as gender equality, inclusion, quality education and lately employability. Existing and newly established non-governmental organizations in cooperation with international organizations are using S4D in our country as a tool to strengthen individuals, create networks and initiate strategies in order to reach a various set of sustainable development objectives.

Key words: Sport for development, social cohesion, sustainable development

Kinesiological analysis of football referees

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Abstract: Football is a sport of endurance in which players perform activities of varying intensity over a 90 min play period, which is one of the most popular and entertaining sports in the world (A.I. Da Silva et al., 2011). It is estimated that each week in a competitive season, 1.3 million referees enter the football field in order to regulate the behavior of players on the field and enforce the rules of the game (Minten., 2003). During an elite football match, referees have been reported to cover an average distance ranging from 9 to 13 km (Castagna et al., 2007). Time movement analysis has revealed that elite level referees change the way they move approximately every 4 seconds, reaching 1,268 activity changes during an average match. Of these 1,268 activity changes, 588 and 161 are due to low and intensely high intensity in match management (Krustrup, Bangsbo., 2001). Key references have been shown to cover about 10-12 km during the course of matches with an average heart rate (HRmean) of 86% of the maximum heart rate (HRmax) (Mallo et al. 2009a) with 34% of the total distance of 13 km / h (Mallo et al., 2009a). However, assistant referees have been shown to have 5-6 km during football matches with almost 20% of this distance covering it with high intensity (Krustrup et al., 2009) and a 77% HRmean of HRmax (Mallo et al., 2009b). The purpose of this analyze was to examine the physical condition, and some motor information that referents have. Therefore, in order to further increase the physical preparation of referees in matches, the information of this analysis supports the application of intensive sessions and in conjunction with modern training where they should have priority in high intensity aerobics. This analysis examines the knowledge available in terms of the performance of football referees which is an attempt to describe the motor condition by referring to statistical information and condition training which they do according to the program of FIFA and UEFA.

Key words: referee, football, movements, fitness analysis.

THE INFLUENCE OF MATCH-INDUCED FATIGUE ON CHANGE OF DIRECTION TECHNIQUE IN SOCCER PLAYERS

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Evidence regarding match -induced fatigue effect on change of direction (COD) technique among soccer players is scarce. The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of fatigue exerted during different time-periods of a youth soccer match on the players' ability to perform 15m COD, and COD technical executions. Ten young male soccer players (age=16 ± 0.57yr, body mass = 66.41 ± 6.48 kg, and body height = 177.7 ± 6.73 cm) participated in this study. The testing procedures were organized in the following order: 1) standardized warm-up; 2) pre-match (COD); 3) after 20' of play (COD and RPE); 4) after 40' (COD, RPE); 5) after 60' (COD, RPE); 6) post-match (COD, RPE). Moreover, COD executions were recorded and analyzed. A fatigue-effect on COD technique (from sharp to rounded executions) was found. Significant differences ($p < 0.05$) in RPE and session-RPE values between match periods were found. In summary, COD performance was compromised during and at the end of the soccer match, being more prone to be affected by fatigue. Indeed, it can be speculated that a "sharp" execution requires more power production and therefore is more prone to be affected from fatigue.

Key words: fatigue monitoring, youth soccer, change of direction technique.

Analyzing of some morphologic parameters and motor abilities among female and male volleyball players of Kosovo U-20 National Team based on playing position

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Abstract: Volleyball, today is dynamic, unpredictable explosive or counterattack sport based on high level of technique, tactics, conditioning and mental preparation, of the player and the team. On all these aspects great contribution also is given to the scientific research on the field of elite sport. In addition, important role has some morphological parameters and motor abilities such as explosive force and agility. For the purpose of this study 18 female and 13 male members of the Kosovo U-20 volleyball team were included. The sample of variables includes two anthropometric parameters: body weight and height, as well as motor tests that are indicative of explosive force, short-distance sprint, and an agility test. Among female players, blockers have the highest body height, 178.38 ± 2.36 cm (body weight 61.68 ± 6.20 kg), while liberos have the lowest body height 159.00 ± 3.54 cm. (body weight 55.15 ± 3.32 kg). The best result in the long jump motor test was achieved by the hitters 210.75 ± 15.26 cm, while the lowest by setters 193.25 ± 13.21 cm. In the sprint 20 meters the best result was the blockers $3.45 \pm .25$ seconds, while the weakest were the setters $3.67 \pm .16$ seconds. Among male players, the highest body height has the blockers 195.18 ± 3.01 cm (weight 80.37 ± 7.03 kg), while the lowest body height has the hitters 182.95 ± 0.92 cm (body weight 72.35 ± 11.24 kg). In the explosive force tests the best results were achieved by the hitters ($269.00 \pm .29$ cm long jump and 293.00 ± 16.97 cm high jump). In the sprint tests in 20 meters, the best result was achieved by the blockers in $3.20 \pm .25$ seconds, while the weakest $3.36 \pm .11$ seconds were in the liberos. In both female and male players who play in the positions of hitters and blockers have greater body height, respectively players who play close to the net, where more jumps are needed to attack but also to block the opponent's attacks. Differences in the morphological variables and in the motor tests of the players according to their positions in the game were confirmed. In female players confirmed statistically significant differences only in one morphological variable and in two motor tests. No statistically significant differences were found in male volleyball players either in anthropometric parameters or in motor tests.

Key words: volleyball, players position, setters, hitters, blockers, libero

Determination of motoric requirement level for female physical education and sport science students based on body joints

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Abstract: The aim of the study is determination of motor skills (force, flexibility, and mobility) requirement level for female physical education and sport students based on body joints. The study consists of 10 female physical education and sport students of Istanbul Gelisim University, who voluntarily were part of the study. The study meets the Helsinki Declaration and is approved by the ethics commission of Istanbul Gelisim University. Determination of the force level was made by using bench press on the smith machine, smith machine squats, smith machine shoulder press, dumbbell bench press, barbell squat, and barbell shoulders press tests. flexibility and mobility tests consist of the forward-backward split, leg raises forward, side split, leg raise sideward, arm trunk angle (flexion and extension), and seat reach hip angle degree. During the data collection, Kinovea 0.9.4 and the "1RM" app was used. Data analysis in the study was made by using the IBM SPSS statistics 26 programs. Determination of the level (norm values) of force, flexibility, and mobility made by using the percentile(s) statistics. Force, flexibility, and mobility requirement levels were given in four categories (20th, 40th, 60th, 80th) and middle fifty (50th). As the results of the study were determined force, flexibility, and mobility requirement levels (norm values) for female physical education and sport students. Besides this, the study determines the middle fifty of norm values for each motor test included in the study, which may help in data comparison between different studies, countries, and athlete categories. Based on the results has determined the force, flexibility, and mobility requirements level of physical education and sport science students which provides the possibility to update the content of certain lessons of sport science faculties. Thus, may increase the student's motor abilities which are directly related to the coaching performance.

Key words: Force, Flexibility, Mobility, Norm Values, Female Students, Sport Science, Coaching

Assessment of the participation of students in physical activities during pandemic of covid-19

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Abstract:Physical education aims to prepare students with the basic knowledge and skills in order to have a healthy lifestyle and a certain level of fitness that guarantees better health. Physical activity is any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscle that requires energy expenditure - including activities undertaken while working, playing, doing household chores, traveling, and engaging in recreation (Vuori, I. 2018). Different methods and techniques are used to assess students' participation in physical activities, such as: behavioral observation, physiological questionnaires such as heart rates, calorimetry and motion sensors. Accelerometry and doubled water are considered the most objective methods, but they require special equipment and are more difficult to use with children, especially on a larger scale. Questionnaires are often the only feasible method of assessing habitual physical activity in large populations because they are easy to administer, relatively inexpensive and noninvasive (Friedenreich CM et al., 2006; Shephard RJ, 2003). The research included 717 students, 422 females and 297 males, aged 10-15 years from the main regions of Kosovo. The research was conducted during June 2020 as in the previous months there were more stringent restrictions on movement during the day, while in June the restraint measures were released and most of the day the movement was free. An abbreviated version of the IPAQ-SF questionnaire was used (Pate, R. R., et al.1995). Out of a total of 719 participants, 297 were boys and 422 were women. The average body height of students aged 10-15 is 162.01cm, while body weight 53.59kg. The result of the body mass index shows that 66.67% of boys are with normal body weight, while for girls this value is 67.44%. In terms of overweight, the scores of boys (33.33%) are higher than those of girls (24.88%). Students sit for an average of 2.79 hours a day. In terms of moderate physical activity students are active 3.67 days a week and 32.85 minutes during a day. Students do strenuous physical activity about 3 days a week (3.27), while during the day they do 25.45 minutes. Student physical activity is also converted into expended energy (Ainsworth, B. E., 2000). The obtained results show that the amount of energy expended with moderate physical activity is only 531.16 MET / min / week, while with moderate physical activity it is 762.62 MET / min / week. The total energy consumed was 1293.78 MET / min / week. Moderate and vigorous activities do not meet the required criteria, so it can be said that Kosovar children during the pandemic did below average physical activity. Decreased physical activity in children is a global phenomenon (Goran MI, et al., 1999). Of course, the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in decreased student physical activity given movement limitations and the development of online learning which has reduced mobility requirements. This situation will have its consequences as it is known that the children have been completely deprived of movement for about 3 months, before the easing of restrictive measures began and the children returned to the school benches on a part-time basis.

Keywords: Physical activity, assessment, students, questionnaire, MET

Strength according to the positions of the basketball game

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Abstract: In this professional paper i will discuss the problem of strength according to the positions of the basketball game. We will also present the ratio of strength to power as well as their relationships in the evolution of other motor abilities. In this case, studies will be presented with various training programs in the development of strength performance according to the positions of the basketball game, with special emphasis on recent publications in databases such as Web of Sciences, Scopus, PubMed, Google Scholar and platforms others. The paper will include the indexes and basic formulas of strength with power as well as the main equations of strength and its relations with the performance of other motor abilities. Relevant theoretical and practical actions of strength will be applied during the treatment of the professional paper.

Keywords: Strength, power, game, positions, basketball

The role of cardiovascular training in the sport of bodybuilding

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Abstract: This professional article has dealt with a timely strategy for cardiovascular training during different stages of muscle development in bodybuilders based on the scientific literature and based on data and anecdotal feedback of various profiles related to the sport of bodybuilding. There are many basic arguments tested in small and large population samples for the right time for cardiovascular training in bodybuilders. So many fitness and bodybuilding experts prefer that cardiovascular exercise be done either in the early, early or late hours. Weight training, or on special days when not exercising with weights, just let it take place, as at any time during the day they have a positive effect and many benefits to the human body.

Keywords: Cardiovascular exercise, running, aerobics, fitness, bodybuilding.

The effect of different government restrictions in physical activity levels and exercise preferences during COVID-19 pandemic in Kosovan population

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Abstract: The purpose of the current study was two-fold; firstly, to investigate the effect of two different government restrictions in PA levels expressed as energy expenditure (MET-minutes/week), and secondly to investigate personal exercise preference choices. 1633 participants (age range: 13-63 years; mean: 24.70±9.33 years; body height: 172±10.57 cm; body mass: 69.10±13.80 kg; BMI: 23.09±3.63 kg/m²) were enrolled in the study. A cross-sectional study design was implemented using an online questionnaire, including an adapted version of the International Physical Activity Questionnaire-Short Form (IPAQ-SF). The data concerning PA levels during pandemic were collected under the restriction measures of the government, whereas, PA levels before the pandemic were collected retrospectively. To analyse the data Mann-Whitney was used to analyse the data. Significant differences in MET-min/week between pre and during conditions for both types of government restrictions measures ($p<0.001$). Likewise, the MET-min/week was significantly higher ($p<0.001$) during the 1st type of home confinement compared to the 2nd one. As for the % of personal preferences on being engaged in PA, 71.03% used to exercise alone, 10.83% in couple, 8.26% in small groups and 9.85% didn't prefer to respond. COVID-19 restrictions decreased PA levels and MET-min/week among Kosovan population, in both times from different government measures, with higher decrease on the second resections. As for the exercise personal preferences, Kosovan people preferred on being alone while exercising.

Key words: COVID-19 pandemic, PA levels, exercise preferences

ANTHROPOMETRICAL CHARACTERISTICS STRUCTURE TO THE 16-YEAR-OLD MALE STUDENTS

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Abstract: The aim of the study is to determine the structure of some anthropometrical characteristics of children aged 16, living in Kosovo. The research was conducted on a sample of 110 male students of high school "Fehmi Lladrovci" in Glogoc, the Republic of Kosovo. The sample of variable held eighteen anthropometric measures: four variables to estimate the dimensionality of the longitudinal skeleton, four variables to estimate the dimensionality of the transversal skeleton, four variables to estimate the volume of the body, four variables to estimate the skin folds of the body, body weight, and body mass index. The calculation of the data was made by using the SPSS 24 program. The statistics obtained were provided by descriptive statistics, Pearson correlations and factorial analysis. All morphological indicators have displayed different parameters that ranged from the lowest to the highest levels. The correlation analysis show that the coefficients of morphological variables are curved and appear as a homogeneous group with a high intercorrelation at the coefficient level of ($p = 0.01$). Factor analysis has shown three latent factors, the first latent factor that has appeared is the anthropometric factor composed of longitudinal dimensionality, transversal dimensionality and body perimeter factors of skeleton. The second latent factor is composed of the skin folds, and the third factor is the anthropometric factor composed of body weight and body mass index.

Key words: Anthropometry, basic parameters, correlation, factor analysis

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Optimization of energy flow in a microgrid application with a photovoltaic electricity supply

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Abstract. A microgrid is a local energy grid that generates electricity through a combination of energy sources, operates while connected to the main grid, but it can also operate independently. Microgrids can be powered using wind turbines, generators, batteries, or solar panels. In case of emergency, a microgrid provides backup from the main grid in times of crisis like storms or power outages, also it can be used to reduce the energy consumption from the main grid. This paper presents optimization of a battery schedule in a microgrid application when is used in as island mode (disconnected from the main grid) with a photovoltaic electricity supply, battery and inverter. The data used for the problem formulation include the photovoltaic energy production in 24 hours for 3000 houses of California state with solar panel power output 165W, and 200W, battery capacity with 100MW, 150MW, and 200MW. A winter day and a summer day are considered in this study for the simulations. One object function with six's different scenarios is used to test the problem for minimization of the consumed energy from the main grid. The MATLAB solver fmincon from Optimization Toolbox is used for the calculations. The data about the consumption of the houses are taken from nanoHUB platform, and the production results of the solar panels are from GridLab-D tool. The obtained results show that a reduction of energy costs for the end user can be achieved by means of optimal battery schedules, as well as that the energy consumption from the main grid can be minimized. The presented approach is promising and it can be applied successfully to real microgrids.

Keywords: Microgrids, Energy Scheduling Optimization, Models & Simulation, MATLAB, GridLab-D, nanoHUB.

Direct Digital Synthesis Optimization Based on VHDL Code

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Abstract. In this paper, we will describe the synthesis of Direct Digital Synthesis (DDS) circuit using VHDL language. Nowadays the DDS are being used widely in the fields of telecommunication and especially as generators. The DDS circuits are used to generate analog signals with the use of fully digital circuits. The aim of this work is to present the implementation of DDS with the VHDL language, which offers compatibility with FPGA devices. Initially, the VHDL code was generated automatically via Matlab / Simulink model, designed by using HDL Coder components which are compatible with VHDL.

Finally, in order to optimize the automatically generated code and the performance of the DDS circuit, the VHDL code is modified. Due to this optimization done on VHDL code about 10% improvement in power consumption and reduction of resource utilization is achieved.

Keywords: DDS, FPGA, VHDL, MATLAB/Simulink, Low Power Consumption

EMPIRIC STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC MOBILITY IN KOSOVO AND ITS IMPAC ON DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract. The background of the research presented in the paper lies in the divergence between the observations of international student mobility in the context of the internationalization of higher educations by the EU and universities on one hand and international students' motivations for study abroad in general. The research is based on four main case studies of Universities in Kosovo, Bulgaria, Sweden, and Poland including here also other exchange students from different continents such as Fiji, India, South Africa, etc. A survey with some questions is designed and 272 responses from students on Erasmus+ mobilities are collected in 2020 and analyzed. This paper explains the students' experience abroad in terms of their intercultural competencies and skills, their shape of identities, the achievement and transfer of knowledge, the possible forming of multicultural mindsets, perceptions of employability, and their future mobility aspirations. This research also considers the barriers and factors of mobility, perceptions of risk and uncertainty with regards to mobility, and the role of providence in students' mobility, which has not been researched and mentioned. The special phenomenon of the COVID 19 pandemic which coincides with the period of the study is also examined and researched as an unprecedented phenomenon which appeared to have psychological and economic consequences worldwide including here exchange students. This research confirms that student experiences, skills, the gain of knowledge abroad and the internationalization efforts of universities and the EU would benefit a lot from the introduction of education for global nationality, which should focus on the intercultural competencies of students.

Keywords: Erasmus, Mobility ,Students ,University, Knowledge, Exchange students.

Probation of IMA-NET Platform in the Framework of Flexible CEEPUS Course at the Summer Academia in UBT

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Abstract. Summer courses can be a valuable and rewarding experience for students who want to continue building and developing their learning skills during the summer. They offers both flexible and stress-free environments to whom want to master a specific course or gain experience in a totally new subject that they would not otherwise come into contact with during the school year. This helps to round out a student's educational experience and it can be very helpful to them when deciding what they want to do in college and in life.

UBT along with partners from TU-Sofia and more with the coordination of CEEPUS Network - CIII-BG-1103-05-2021 Modelling, Simulation and Computer-aided Design in Engineering and Management, organized a summer academy session with 20 hours Flexible CEEUS Course. This was a great opportunity to probate IMA-NET, a web platform for innovative e-Management of Academic Network. Students from different countries, participating in the summer course, were introduced with the software. Diverse valuable information, including students preferred topics and evaluation of the whole event, collected through surveys and feedback in IMA-NET web application and some new features of IMA-NET platform as the Certificate generator option are described in the paper.

Keywords: E-Management, E-Learning, Academic network, Joint programs, Summer school, Students' mobility, Flexible CEEPUS Course, Web based application.

Identification of macrolevel factors for EDA companies

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Abstract. The EDA industry is a very complex, dynamic, and unstable industry. During the years companies have been challenged to continuously find ways of survival and competitiveness. Innovativeness and dynamic capability to adapt to technological changes have been quite important for organizations. For years the USA has been the leading country in this area. Most of the talents, knowledge, and innovation has come from organizations operating in this part of the world. Nowadays, due to technological war between countries, and due to changes in the political arena, and with the importance technology has gain, European Union, Germany, China, Taiwan has started to invest in their workforces and to challenge the current market balance of this oligopoly industry. This paper focuses on identifying macro-level factors that impact the companies that operate in the industry. PESTEL framework is used to give an organized view of the factors and the Analytical Hierarchical Process technique is used to rate and identify the most important ones.

Abstract: EDA industry, electronic design, success factors, macrolevel factors, AHP technique.

Review of cybersecurity hardware devices

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Abstract

In the modern world, cybersecurity is an important issue in the field of technology. The main security problem is the security of the data we receive on the server side after being sent by the client or by the sensors. Nowadays cybersecurity is seen as an area where software is more important than hardware and this led to an increase in the number of securities at the software level. By increasing security at the hardware level cyber security takes another dimension. Network infrastructure devices serve for the realization of communication of applications, data, services and multi-media. These devices include firewalls, routers, servers, switches, load-balancers, domain name systems. Intrusion detection systems and storage area networks. All of these infrastructure devices are the main target of cyberattacks because all data traffic passes through them. A router attack can monitor all network traffic. Network data can be monitored and modified. Also, the presence of an attack on the switch can monitor, modify and deny traffic to hosts within the network. Most organizations that use old unencrypted protocols to manage their hosts make it easier to obtain credentials from cyberattacks. Security at the hardware level is one of the most important issues for the proper functioning of computer systems. Hardware security includes limited access to sensitive information, risks and potential security threats, protection against unauthorized, and enhancement of hardware performance. This paper provides an overview of internet security hardware devices and some recommendations.

Keywords: hardware device, security, attack, biometrics, scans, cryptography, fingerprint

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