


# Curriculum vitae, April 2024


## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Ing. Oliver Rafaj, PhD.



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Sex male | Date of birth 06/11/1989 | Nationality Slovak

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Present – September 2018	<b>Assistant professor</b> University of Economics in Bratislava, Dolnozemska cesta 1, 852 35 Bratislava, Slovak Republic <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Pedagogical and research activities at the Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, Faculty of Economics and Finance, University of Economics in Bratislava</i></li></ul>
January 2021 – December 2021	<b>Expert consultant</b> Tnava self-governing region, Starohajska 10, 917 01 Tnava, Slovak Republic <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Expert analysis for the creation of a strategic document – Program of economic development and social development for Tnava self-governing region (TTSK) within 2022-2030</i></li></ul>
September 2017 – November 2016	<b>Junior Analyst</b> Institute for Strategy and Analysis (ISA), Government Office of the Slovak Republic, Námestie slobody 1, 811 08 Bratislava, Slovak Republic <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Expert analyst for the creation of economic and social policies and strategies for the Government of the Slovak Republic</i></li></ul>
July 2016 – July 2013	<b>Spatial planner</b> AUREX, spol. s r. o. (private company), L'ubľanska 1, 831 02 Bratislava, Slovak Republic <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Junior analyst for processing data and background documents for analytical, conceptual, and strategic documents for spatial development</i></li></ul>

## EDUCATION

### Higher Education

June 2018 – September 2015	<b>Doctor of Philosophy in Economics</b> University of Economics in Bratislava, Dolnozemska cesta 1, 852 35 Bratislava, Slovak Republic <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Studied program: Public Administration and Regional Development</i></li><li><i>PhD thesis title: The economic growth of cities, under supervision of Štefan Rehák</i></li></ul>
June 2014 –	<b>Master of Science in Economics</b> University of Economics in Bratislava, Dolnozemska cesta 1, 852 35 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

- September 2012 • Studied program: *Public Administration and Regional Development*
- June 2012 – September 2009 **Bachelor of Science in Economics**  
University of Economics in Bratislava, Dolnozemska cesta 1, 852 35 Bratislava, Slovak Republic
- Studied program: *Public Administration and Regional Development*

## EDUCATION

Additional forms of education

Attended in-person international workshops, research stays, and summer schools

- February – July 2024 **Research stay**  
Politecnico di Milano, Via Eduardo Bonardi, 20133 Milano, Italy
  - *Research stay under the supervision of Ilaria Mariotti. Research topic: Examining the interactions between users of coworking spaces and the factors related to the rate of interactions. Research stay was supported by SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency)*
- July 2023 **6<sup>th</sup> Summer School on Workplace Management (SSWM), co-organized within COST CA18214 project**  
Politecnico di Milano, Via per Cernobbio 11, 22100 Como, Italy
  - *Summer school's topic: "Focus on Coworking Spaces"*
- April 2023 **Learning, Teaching and Training Event by "Digital skills and cross-domain entrepreneurship for societal challenges" within DIGI-SOC ERASMUS+ project**  
University of Bologna, Via U. Foscolo 7, Bologna, Italy
  - *Workshop's topic: "Building your own competencies within an international, digital and entrepreneurial environment by academic knowledge"*
- October 2022 **Learning, Teaching and Training Event by "Digital skills and cross-domain entrepreneurship for societal challenges" within DIGI-SOC ERASMUS+ project**  
University of Economics in Katowice, ul. 1 Maja 50, 40-287 Katowice, Poland
  - *Workshop's topic: "How to live and learn in a digital world"*
- July 2022 **5<sup>th</sup> Summer School on Workplace Management (SSWM), co-organized within COST CA18214 project**  
Politecnico di Milano, Via Colombo 40, 20133 Milano, Italy
  - *Summer school's topic: "Focus on Coworking Spaces"*
- July 2021 **Short-term Scientific Mission within COST CA18214 project**  
Tomas Bata University in Zlín, Mostní 5139, 760 01 Zlín, Czech Republic
  - *Research stay at the Department of Regional Development, Public Sector Administration and Law under the supervision of Pavel Bednář*
- July 2018 **31<sup>st</sup> ERSa Summer School**  
University of Economics in Bratislava, Dolnozemska cesta 1, 852 35 Bratislava, Slovak Republic
  - *Summer school's topic: "Regional Policy: Analysis and Planning – Evaluation Theory and*

January 2018 – October 2017	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Practice“</i></p> <p><b>PhD visiting period</b> Politecnico di Milano, Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32, 20133 Milano, Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Research stay at the Department of Architecture, Built Environment, Construction Engineering under the supervision of Andrea Caragliu</i></li> </ul>
July 2016	<p><b>29<sup>th</sup> ERSA Summer School</b> Politecnico di Milano, Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32, 20133 Milano, Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Summer school’s topic: “Space, Territory and Growth. Advances in Regional Science“</i></li> </ul>

## PERSONAL SKILLS

**Mather language(s)** Slovak

**Other language(s)**

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
French	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2
German	B2	B1	A2	A2	A2

**Communication skills** Written and fluent verbal communication with international authorities in English; providing lectures in English language; communication with international and state administration bodies, regional and local authorities, and other project partners, on a professional level.

**Organizational / managerial skills** Since 2016, regularly co-organizing Winter Seminars of Regional Science within the Slovak section of European Regional Science Association (ERSA). Seminars are for approx. 30 researchers, experts, and policy makers in the field of regional science. In addition, co-organized 31st ERSA Summer School held at the University of Economics in Bratislava. Member of organizing committee for 7th Central European Conference of Regional Science (CERS) in 2019. Member of organizing committee for VI Seminar for New Academic Researchers at Open University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain in 2023. Inviting on a regular basis researchers, experts, and policy makers, from the field of regional science to classes that I provide at the University of Economics in Bratislava.

**Reviewer and evaluator** Applied Geography; Papers in Regional Science; npj Urban Sustainability; European Spatial Research and Policy; Review of Economic Perspectives; Ekonomické rozhľady - Economic Review; Polish National Science Centre; Inštitút pre stratégie a analýzy (ISA), Government Office of the Slovak Republic; Vedecká grantová agentúra Ministerstva školstva, výskumu, vývoja a mládeže Slovenskej republiky a Slovenskej akadémie vied (VEGA)

**Membership(s)**

- Member of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI), Slovak section of European Regional Science Association (ERSA), since January 2016
- Member of the Slovak Economic Association (SEA), since 2021
- Member of the Regional Studies Association (RSA), since 2023

Managing and representative positions

- Manager for horizontal activities within The COST CA 18214 project, December 2022 – April 2024
- RSA Ambassador to Slovakia, since June 2023
- Secretary for Slovak section of ERSAs, 2019 – 2022

Computer skills Microsoft Office™, QGIS, GeoDa, STATA

Other skills Purposeful, empathy and sense of humour

Driving license B

## ANNEXES

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- 1) List of publications registered in Web of Science and Scopus
- 2) List of investigated research projects in the field of regional science
- 3) List of indexed publications registered in databases provided by Web of Science and Scopus

## 1) List of indexed publications registered in databases provided by Web of Science and Scopus

### A. List of articles published in scientific journals:

- [1] Rafaj, O., & Némethová, V. (2024). Efficiency Analysis of Elementary Schools in Bratislava – A Two Step DEA Approach. Review of economic perspectives, 24(1), 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.2478/revecp-2024-0001>
- [2] Rafaj, O., & Siranova, M. (2023). De - branching, too - much - branching, and cost of debt of SMEs in Slovakia. European Financial Management, 29(5), 1576-1619. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eufm.12402>
- [3] Rafaj O., Rehák, Š., & Čerměňko, T. (2022). Smart Cities – Overview of Citizen Participation across Application Domains. Scientific Papers of the University of Pardubice. Series D, Faculty of Economics & Administration, 30(1). <https://doi.org/10.46585/sp30011389>
- [4] Rehák, Š., Rafaj, O., & Čerměňko, T. (2021). EU integration, regional development problems and the rise of the new radical right in Slovakia. Regional Science Policy & Practice, 13(2), 303-321. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12385>
- [5] Rafaj, O. (2020). The Effect of Human Capital on the Output of Slovak Urban Regions. Scientific Papers of the University of Pardubice. Series D, Faculty of Economics & Administration, 28(4). <https://doi.org/10.46585/sp28041163>
- [6] Rafaj, O., & Rehák, Š. (2017). Ľudský kapitál a lokálny ekonomický rast na Slovensku. Scientific papers of the University of Pardubice. Series D, Faculty of Economics and Administration. 41/2017. <https://dk.upce.cz/bitstream/handle/10195/69600/Rafaj%2c%20Reh%c3%a1k.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- [7] Žárska, E., & Rafaj, O. (2017). Rozvoj miest a jeho financovanie. Scientific papers of the University of Pardubice. Series D, Faculty of Economics and Administration. 41/2017. [https://dk.upce.cz/bitstream/handle/10195/69610/%c5%bd%c3%a1rska\\_Rafaj.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://dk.upce.cz/bitstream/handle/10195/69610/%c5%bd%c3%a1rska_Rafaj.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)
- [8] Rafaj, O., & Rehák, Š. (2016). Spatial Aspects of University Graduates in Slovakia. GeoScope, 10(2). <https://doi.org/10.1515/geosc-2016-0003>

### B. List of published articles in registered proceedings:

- [1] Rafaj, O., & Siranova, M. (2020). Growth of City Regions and Bank Branch Localization. In SHS Web of Conferences (Vol. 74, p. 05019). EDP Sciences.
- [2] Rafaj, O. (2020). Localization of Coworking Spaces and Concentration of Human Capital in Slovak Cities. In 10th Winter Seminar of Regional Science. Proceedings. 10th Central European Winter Seminar of Regional Science : Proceedings. - Bratislava : Publishing house EKONÓM, 2020. ISBN 978-80-225-4740-6, pp. 1-13.
- [3] Rehák, Š., Rafaj, O. & Čerměňko, T. (2020). The Rise of Anti-System Movement in Lagging Regions – Case of Slovakia. In 7th Central European Conference on Regional Science. Conference. Conference Proceedings of the 7th Central European Conference on Regional Science (CERS) : Flows of Resources in the Regional Economy in the Age of Digitalisation. - Pécs : European Regional Science Association, 2020. ISBN 978-615-5949-07-4, pp. 34-45.
- [4] Rafaj, O., & Rehák, Š. (2017). Sorting of human capital in Slovak urban regions: location choices of university graduates. In Engines of urban and regional development. Central European conference in regional science - CERS. Engines of urban and regional development: conference proceedings: 6th Central European conference in regional science: 20 – 22 September 2017, Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic. ISSN 1804-8048, 2017.

### C. List of published articles in monographs:

- [1] Rafaj, O., Danko, L., Zhang, S., & Belvončíková, E. (2024). The Localization of Different Types of New Working Spaces in Central Europe. In Evolution of New Working Spaces: Changing Nature and Geographies (pp. 119-127). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland. Link: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-50868-4>
- [2] Belvončíková, E., Danko, L., & Rafaj, O. (2023). The COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Influence on Coworking Spaces in Slovakia: West–East Division. In European Narratives on Remote Working and Coworking During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Multidisciplinary Perspective (pp. 83-95). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland. Link: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-26018-6>

- [3] Rafaj, O., & Reháč, Š. (2023). Introduction to Data Visualisation. Handbook on digital skills and cross-domain entrepreneurial competences for societal challenges, 183-187. Link: [https://www.ue.katowice.pl/fileadmin/user\\_upload/WE/katedry/kat-badan-streteg-i-region/Katedralne - struktura\\_strony/DIGI\\_SOC/978-83-7986-490-4.pdf](https://www.ue.katowice.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/WE/katedry/kat-badan-streteg-i-region/Katedralne_-_struktura_strony/DIGI_SOC/978-83-7986-490-4.pdf)
- [4] Rafaj, O. Reháč, Š., Kebir, L., & Salim, E. (2023). Contextualising the Digital Skills. Handbook on digital skills and cross-domain entrepreneurial competences for societal challenges, 107-119. Link: [https://www.ue.katowice.pl/fileadmin/user\\_upload/WE/katedry/kat-badan-streteg-i-region/Katedralne - struktura\\_strony/DIGI\\_SOC/978-83-7986-490-4.pdf](https://www.ue.katowice.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/WE/katedry/kat-badan-streteg-i-region/Katedralne_-_struktura_strony/DIGI_SOC/978-83-7986-490-4.pdf)
- [5] Campana, G., Rafaj, O., Reháč, S., Salim, E., Sebastião, P., & Sousa, M. J. (2023). Contextualising the Entrepreneurial Competences. Handbook on digital skills and cross-domain entrepreneurial competences for societal challenges, 120-146. Link: [https://www.ue.katowice.pl/fileadmin/user\\_upload/WE/katedry/kat-badan-streteg-i-region/Katedralne - struktura\\_strony/DIGI\\_SOC/978-83-7986-490-4.pdf](https://www.ue.katowice.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/WE/katedry/kat-badan-streteg-i-region/Katedralne_-_struktura_strony/DIGI_SOC/978-83-7986-490-4.pdf)
- [6] Belvončíková, E., Danko, L., & Rafaj, O. (2023). The COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Influence on Coworking Spaces in Slovakia: West–East Division. In European Narratives on Remote Working and Coworking During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Multidisciplinary Perspective (pp. 83-95). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-26018-6>
- [7] Danko, L., Bednář, P., Mariotti, I., & Rafaj, O. 2 Changes in knowledge strategies under the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Future of Working Spaces, 25. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003181163>
- [8] Micek, G., Bednář, P., Rafaj, O., Belvončíková, E., Paas, T., Alfieri, L., ... & Matošková, J. Independently operated coworking spaces and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Future of Working Spaces (pp. 39-51). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003181163>
- [9] Šipikal, M., & Rafaj, O. (2020). Bratislava: The development and specific features of outsourcing, offshoring, and the global business services sector. In Outsourcing in European Emerging Economies (pp. 87-97). Routledge.

## 2) List of investigated research projects in the field of regional science

No.	Employer	Completion date	Title of the project	Position
1.	Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, UEBA	2027	The European dimension of knowledge creation in the regions  APVV-22-0183	Co-investigator
2.	Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, UEBA	2026	The evolution of the knowledge creation of universities in the regions  VEGA 1/0384/23	Co-investigator
3.	Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, UEBA	2024	Spatial aspects of coworking organizations in V4 cities  Internal grant UEBA I-24-107-00	Principal investigator
4.	Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, UEBA	2024	The geography of New Working Spaces and the impact on the periphery  COST CA18214	Co-investigator, MC member, Manager for Horizontal Activities (since December 2022)
5.	Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, UEBA	2024	Coworking spaces and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic - opportunities for urban economic development  VEGA 1/0249/22	Co-investigator, Deputy of Principal investigator
6.	Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, UEBA	2023	Digital skills and cross-domain entrepreneurship for societal challenges (DIGI-SOC)  Erasmus+ No. 2021-1-PL01-KA220-HED-000027649	Co-investigator
7.	Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, UEBA	2023	Possibilities of application of methods and tools of "smart governance" at the local and regional level (SMARTREG)  APVV-19-0263	Co-investigator
8.	Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, UEBA	2022	Accumulation of human capital in the regions - economic and social consequences  VEGA 01/0774/19	Co-investigator
9.	Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, UEBA	2021	Social exclusion and distrust in society  Internal grant UEBA I-20-106-00	Principal investigator
10.	Department of Public Administration and	2018	Universities and economic development of regions	Co-investigator



	Regional Development, UEBA		APVV-14-0512	
11.	Department of Public Administration and Regional Development, UEBA	2018	Visiting professor – Edward Bergman  VUB bank foundation 2017-3-03/1	Co-investigator

### 3) List of investigated business projects and projects for professional practice in the field of regional science

No.	Employer	Completion date	Title of the project	Position
1.	Business Innovation Center (BIC) BANSKÁ BYSTRICA, S.R.O.	2023	Economic Impact Assessment and Demographic needs and priorities for BREEAM - „Nové Lido” development area in Bratislava	Co-investigator
2.	Tmava self-governing region (TTSK)	2021	Program of economic development and social development of the Tmava self-governing region for 2022-2030	Co-investigator
3.	Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	2020	Analysis of information publication in the module of subsidy schemes	Principal investigator
4.	STENGL a. s.	2017	Coordination and methodological support in identifying the development potential of Slovak regions at the NUTS 3 level and their subregions	Co-investigator
5.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2017	National Strategy for Regional and Territorial Development until 2035	Co-investigator
6.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2017	Methodology of the economic and social development programs in Slovakia	Co-investigator
7.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2016	Program of economic and social development of the Bratislava - Nové Mesto district	Co-investigator
8.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2016	Economic and social development program of the city of Senec	Co-investigator
9.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2015	Sustainable development strategy for Slovakia after 2015	Co-investigator
10.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2015	Sustainable development of transport through the improvement of information services and intermodality on the Hungarian-Slovak border (TransHUSK+)	Co-investigator
			OP CBS HUSK	
11.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2015	Study for evaluation and monitoring of ÚPN NSK using the results of the SEE project Donauregionen +	Co-investigator
			OP ROP SK	
12.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2014	Crossing the borders: Geographic and Structural Characteristics of Cross-	Co-investigator

			Border Cooperation in the Danube Region Central European Service For Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI)	
13.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2014	Feasibility study of the use of the Malý Dunaj watercourse for the creation of new alternative transport connections in the area between Bratislava and Komárno  OP SEE Transdanube	Co-investigator
14.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2014	Improving mobility by promoting public transport on the Slovak-Hungarian border (TransHUSK)  OP CBC HUSK	Co-investigator
15.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2014	Addition of territorial concentration to the draft Partnership Agreement of the Slovak Republic for the years 2014 – 2020  OP TP	Co-investigator
16.	AUREX, spol. s. r. o.	2013	Sustainable transport and mobility in tourist regions along the Danube - Regional strategy and regional action plan  OP SEE Transdanube	Co-investigator