

**Témy dizertačných prác pre uchádzačov o doktorandské štúdium  
pre ak. rok 2024/2025 v študijnom programe Economics**

(skratka dE\_21EN – denná forma)

Témy sú zoradené podľa priezviska školiteľa

prof. Ing. Anetta Čaplánová, PhD.	<b>Building Public Trust and Engagement in E-Government Services through Behavioral Economics (A Comparative Analysis of selected Central European and South-East Asian countries)</b>	denná forma	Katedra ekonómie
anotácia	<p>This dissertation research will focus on the digital transformation of government services and the study of the ways in which these services can foster civic participation and how to improve the efficiency of e-government services. The differences observed across selected Central European and South-East Asian countries based on e.g., economic, cultural, and technological disparities will be considered. The behavioral economics approach will be used to identify the key behavioral factors that influence public engagement and trust in digital government initiatives. The Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) will be incorporated into the research design to empirically assess specific behavioral strategies, such as simplifying procedures, or using personalized communication, with the aim of deriving practical guidelines for the creation of more inclusive and effective digital government services. The study seeks to provide an in-depth understanding of the administrative hurdles and user experiences across different cultural and geographical contexts. Testing the theories of cognitive biases, heuristics, and the impact of socio-cultural influences on the adoption and utilization of digital government services will allow to provide insights into the effective e-governance service design and facilitate the development of more user-friendly, inclusive, and engaging digital public services.</p> <p>The research is linked to the research project Overcoming Digital Divide in Europe and Southeast Asia (ODDEA) HORIZON Europe-MSCA-SE, Project 101086381, which prof. Anetta Čaplánová coordinates and is directly involved in as a researcher. Prof. Čaplánová has also relevant related publications (e.g., Caplanova, A., &amp; Sirakovova, E. (2022). Experimental Approach to the Study of Voluntary Contribution to Public Good Financing. Montenegrin Journal of Economics, 18(2), 143-160. Sirakovová, E., &amp; Čaplánová, A. (2023). Dobrovoľné príspevky na verejné statky: Spoločensko-ekonomické súvislosti a význam občianskeho crowdfundingu. Sociologia, 55(3). Sirakovová, E., &amp; Čaplánová, A. (2021). Are People Willing to Voluntarily Contribute to Public Goods? The Results from the Behavioral Game Experiment. Zagreb International Review of Economics &amp; Business, 24(SCI), 63-75. Caplanova, A., Sivak, R., &amp; Szakadatova, E. (2021). Institutional trust and compliance with measures to fight COVID-19. International Advances in Economic Research, 27(1), 47-60. Caplanova, A., Sirakovova, E., &amp; Szakadatova, E. (2022). Nudging Towards Compliance with the Payment of Garbage Collection Fee (Results from a Field Experiment). Available at SSRN 4280302). Several papers related to digitalisation have been submitted to peer reviewed journals.</p>		

Ing. Lubomír Darmo, PhD.	<b>The role of foreign direct investment in digital transformation</b>	denná forma	Katedra ekonómie
anotácia	<p>The role of the foreign direct investment (FDI) in affecting various macroeconomic aspects of hosting economy is well investigated. FDI has often crucial role in the transformation process of economies, including adopting new and advanced technologies. Technological spill-over resulting in improved performance and economic growth is proved by many authors (Asongu and Odhiambo, 2020; Borensztein, De Gregorio and Lee, 1998; Blomström and Kokko, 1997 and 2002; Combes, Kinda, Ouedraogo and Plane, 2019; Dimelis and Louri, 2004; Gherigi and Voytovych, 2018; Javorcik, 2004; Khan, Asteriou and Jefferies, 2023 or Sadik and Bolbol, 2001). The feature of FDI has changed over the years and in current digital environment, technology seeking investment is more present. To attract such investment by a host country, the existing technological capacity in a host country is required. Otherwise, knowledge or technology seeking investment will not be allocated in a host country. Attracting more FDI into the digital economy will not only be a key strategy in economic recovery from pandemic, but it will also be a key strategy in building the digital infrastructure, digital entrepreneurship, and digital literacy so vital for success in the new digital world (Satyanand, 2021). The digital economy benefits in both developed and emerging markets – as long as the country has a strong ICT infrastructure. Creating a digital friendly investment climate may require specific policies, regulations and measures (Eden, 2016). Ha and Huyen (2022) has found that digitalization plays a critical role on promoting FDI inflows. On the other side, Mrdović (2023) states that international investors have helped to advance digital infrastructure, promote digital skills and assist in implementing of digitalisation programmes. Similarly, FDI brings not only a capital, but also knowledge and technologies resulting in increasing digital capacities of host country of investment (Eden, 2016). Even the increasing connection due to technological progress that technologies and digitalization allows, digital transformation has not spread uniformly throughout the world, nor has not spread uniformly throughout the world, nor has it caused the same effects in all countries equally, as some have benefited more than others (Parra – Pérez-Pons – González, 2012). The world is characterized by a distance between hyper-digitalized and under-connected economies. The divide is mostly significant in sectors as frontier technologies and digital data (Nguyen, 2023).</p> <p>The thesis will be focused on analysis of the relationship between the foreign direct investment and the digitalization. The emphasis will be put to investigate if the foreign investment has positive and substantial effect of on the digital transformation of host economies, thus to examine the spill-over effect of the foreign direct investment inflow. Also, the research should bring policy recommendations towards the support of the foreign direct investment inflow and suggest the system of investment incentives or revision of current systems that would enhance technologically advanced investments. The research question of the thesis is whether the foreign direct investment affect digital transformation of countries and to which extend has the foreign investment impact on digital transformation. The data for the thesis will origin from international statistics databases as UNCTADstat, Eurostat, European Commission, etc.</p>		

<b>doc. Mgr. Martin Kahanec, PhD., MA</b>	<b>Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Active Labor Market Policies for the Integration of Disadvantaged and Marginalized Populations</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra sociálneho rozvoja a práce</b>
anotácia	Social and labor market exclusion of some groups of populations remains a key socio-economic challenge in Slovakia. Many public, private and civil society initiatives have tried to alleviate this challenge. Although there has been little progress overall, some inclusion policies may be more effective than others. It has been argued that long-term commitment, adequate budget, and building of trust and social relationships with stakeholders are key to success (Kahanec and Zimmermann, 2011). As public, private and civil society integration initiatives often differ precisely along these dimensions, the effectiveness of active labor market and integration policies may differ across these three types: public, private and those run by civil society organizations. This research project will evaluate the effectiveness of these various types of active labor market and integration policies in Slovakia. Statistical, experimental and/or qualitative approaches are foreseen (randomized trials, focus groups and/or interviews).		

<b>doc. Mgr. Martin Kahanec, PhD., MA</b>	<b>The Impact of Rising Living Costs on the Pervasiveness of Undeclared Work</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra sociálneho rozvoja a práce</b>
anotácia	The Covid-19 pandemic and the energy crisis of the early 2020s have resulted in significant price hikes around the globe. Although consumers can mitigate some of these price hikes by adjusting their consumer baskets, low-income groups may be more constrained to do so as their consumer baskets contain larger shares of necessities. It turns out, in fact, that their costs of living increased more steeply than those of the other income groups, as the recent price increases were more profound in the categories of goods that constitute relatively large shares of consumer baskets of low-income groups. Such price hikes may increase labor supply on the fringes of the labor market, as especially low-income households may need to compensate for the decreased purchasing power of their nominal income by seeking additional employment out of necessity. In addition, price hikes on the input side increase the costs of production, possibly pushing employers and employees into undeclared work, or employers into layoffs or bankruptcies. Using quantitative methods (inasmuch as needed complemented with qualitative methods), this thesis will study the impact of the recent hikes in living costs on the prevalence of undeclared work. It will shed light on some of the key drivers of undeclared work and inform the policy debate on tackling undeclared work globally.		

<b>prof. Ing. Martin Lábaj, PhD.</b>	<b>Technology, Inequality, and Productivity: Shaping the Future of Work</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra hospodárskej politiky</b>
anotácia	The future of work is a source of controversy. New technologies, advances in automation and digitalization, and the use of AI have the potential to outcompete humans in a wide range of tasks in which they had comparative advantages for decades. Mass unemployment, job destruction, and social disruptions worry many when thinking about the future. However, the empirical evidence we have collected so far suggests that massive investments in new technologies have led to long run productivity gains and recent turmoils haven't turned the labor market upside down. Acemoglu – Restrepo (2019) show that unlike in the post-war period, rapid automation has not been counterbalanced by the creation of new tasks during more recent decades. Graetz (2020) documented similar trends in five European countries. Long-term shifts in labor demand that led to a significant polarization of job opportunities across occupations in the United States since the late 1980s have been documented by Autor (2011). Goos et al. (2009, 2014), Breemersch et al. (2017), Antonczyk et al. (2018), Bachmann et al. (2019), and Bekhtiar et al. (2021), among others, show that European and other advanced countries have experienced very similar trends. More recently, Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020) show that unlike in the past when technological progress was associated with new job opportunities primarily for less-skilled workers, new tasks are now being allocated mainly to those with a college education. The dissertation should address these issues and provide new empirical evidence on the effects of new technologies on inequality, productivity and the future of work. The main aim should be fulfilled with original research providing new empirical evidence in three separate but interlinked papers with a detailed overview of the topic linking each particular research paper to a one coherent thesis.		

<b>prof. Ing. Martin Lábaj, PhD.</b>	<b>Research Essays on Appropriate Technologies and Economic Development</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra hospodárskej politiky</b>
anotácia	Developing countries benefit from importing technologies from advanced nations. But not all technologies developed in advanced countries are appropriate for economic development of poor countries (Diwan-Rodrik, 1991). Recent advances in automation technologies (Acemoglu-Restrepo, 2002), artificial intelligence, and concerns about deindustrialization in the south (Rodrik, 2016), revived the debate of appropriateness of new technologies for a broadly shared economic development (Acemoglu-Simon, 2023). The dissertation should provide new empirical evidence on the effects of appropriateness of new technologies for economic development across the world and their links to rising inequalities, labor market polarization, and premature loss of development opportunities for developing countries, as suggested in the recent literature. There are several research gaps in the current empirical research. To understand the link between new technologies, participation of the least developed countries in global value chains, and their consequences require new data and more detailed research. Country and technology specific studies, similar to Moscona – Sastry (2022), are needed to understand the effects of particular technologies on local labor markets and economic development. Public policies and institutions play an important role in directing the new technologies towards more inclusive economic development. Therefore, more innovation policy studies are necessary for evidenced based policies. The main aim of the dissertation is to investigate the implications of the appropriateness of new technologies for economic development with a focus on developing countries. Separate but interlinked papers on this topic should provide new empirical insights that could help steer innovation towards more inclusive economic development.		

<b>doc. Ing. Karol Morvay, PhD.</b>	<b>Convergence or divergence of wage levels in the economies and regions of Central and Eastern Europe: what role does labor productivity play?</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra hospodárskej politiky</b>
anotácia	<p>The former transforming countries of Central and Eastern Europe have been confronted over the last decade with the challenge of weakened labor productivity growth as labor costs continue to rise. Previously observed link between wage convergence and labor productivity convergence have changed. In this thesis we will examine the nature of convergence processes in wage levels and explain the role of labor productivity in this process. The consequences of such changes (impact on competitiveness, real convergence) are also an issue. The thesis will combine quantitative and qualitative research strategies. On the one hand, it will be necessary to examine the nature of wage level convergence on empirical data and to explain the role of productivity and other driving forces (the contribution of changes in labor productivity to wage convergence, the contribution of the growth of labor scarcity, the contribution of structural changes in the economy and other factors). At the same time, also using case studies, the work will explain some specifics in countries' approaches to influencing wage levels (the case studies will be focused on situations in which some countries tried to influence the development of the wage level with specific procedures) - and it is beneficial to examine these phenomena in their real context).</p> <p>Data from the System of National Accounts will be used. For the sake of international comparability, wage levels will be expressed using the category 'wages and salaries' (part of compensation of employees) converted per unit of labour used (per hour, per worker). The necessary data are available to the researcher in the OECD and Eurostat databases (under National Accounts and Institutional Sector Accounts, respectively).</p>		

<b>prof. Ing. Eva Muchová, PhD.</b>	<b>Economic costs of children's disadvantaged environment</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra ekonómie</b>
anotácia	<p>Growing up of children in a disadvantaged socio-economic environment brings significant social and economic costs (Autor, 2019; Blanden, Hansen et al. 2010, OECD, 2018). Individuals coming from a disadvantaged socio-economic environment lag behind in achieving educational goals, achieve lower results in tests of cognitive skills. Moreover they finish the educational process earlier compared to their classmates with a standard background. Differences are also manifested in the field of health, where emotional and behavioral disorders occur. A disadvantaged environment in childhood also shapes a variety of opportunities in adulthood, and economic effects are manifested over time. The economic consequences of a disadvantaged environment occur in the form of insufficient employment, low levels of pensions and a deteriorated quality of life in adulthood. The macroeconomic impacts on public finances are significant, which are manifested in the form of reduced output, reduced tax revenues and an increased burden on public finances. The economic consequences of a disadvantaged environment will be evaluated according to the OECD methodology (2022) using statistical databases of the European Union (EU SILC, Eurostat), OECD and qualitative research methods.</p>		

<b>doc. Ing. Eduard Nežinský, PhD.</b>	<b>Inequality of Opportunities and Human Capital Accumulation in Slovakia</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra hospodárskej politiky</b>
anotácia	<p>No later than since Okun's "Equality and Efficiency: The big trade-off" has the problem of efficiency and equity attracted a lot of theoretical and empirical attention. Besides the description of unequal distribution of benefits, the research focuses on possible causes this phenomenon. Egalitarian social justice theories state that if rights and resources are spread among society's individuals equally, the differences in their prosperity levels due to the differences in their approach to life and behaviors cannot be considered unfair (Rawls, 1971). On the other hand, differences in initial resources, i.e. opportunities, preclude higher socio-economic benefits and should be compensated for. A comprehensive theoretical framework offering models and algorithms for equal-opportunity policies is provided by Roemer (2018). Empirical investigations employ parametric and non-parametric approaches and rely heavily on microdata such as labor market surveys, social security data, SILC, HFCS as well as survey data of own provision (Qualtrics, commissioned survey). This offers a space for a whole range of identification strategies and assessment techniques to be employed.</p> <p>World-Bank-led investigation (Bourguignon, 2007) presents a sound theoretical basis for regression and decomposition analysis. For Slovakia, EU-wide study by Brzezinski (2018) may serve as a benchmark for results comparison.</p> <p>The role of human capital in economic growth has been proved by a multitude of works. In Slovakia, human capital could be assessed by means of educational attainment, PISA, PIAAC or other relevant source of data. Value added of the research could consist in empirical examination of the first part of the causal chain leading from socio-demographic determinants to human capital accumulation, continuing further towards economic growth.</p> <p>New pieces of evidence that may occur in the course of the research period could enrich the discussion as to automation or AI affecting income inequalities.</p>		

<b>doc. Ing. Eduard Nežinský, PhD.</b>	<b>The Impact of AI on wealth distribution</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra hospodárskej politiky</b>
anotácia	<p>The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on wealth distribution is multifaceted and dynamic, shaping economic landscapes worldwide. On one hand, AI has the potential to contribute to wealth concentration by creating new opportunities for innovation, productivity gains, and the creation of new industries (Stiglitz, Korenok, 2018). Wealthy individuals and corporations with the resources to invest in AI technologies may reap significant benefits, leading to the further accumulation of wealth among the already affluent.</p> <p>However, AI's impact on wealth distribution is not solely characterized by concentration. It also holds the promise of democratizing access to wealth and economic opportunities. AI-driven automation has the potential to streamline processes, reduce costs, and increase efficiency across various sectors, potentially leading to the creation of new jobs and income sources. Moreover, AI-enabled platforms and digital marketplaces can lower barriers to entry for entrepreneurs and small businesses, enabling them to compete more effectively in the global economy.</p> <p>Yet, challenges persist in ensuring that the benefits of AI-driven growth are equitably distributed. Access to AI technologies, digital literacy, and infrastructure are critical factors that can determine who benefits from the AI revolution. Addressing these disparities and fostering inclusive growth through policies that promote education, skill development, and equitable access to opportunities will be essential in shaping a more equitable distribution of wealth in the AI-driven future. New pieces of evidence that may occur in the course of the research period could enrich the discussion as to automation or AI affecting income inequalities.</p>		

<b>Ing. Marcel Novák, PhD.</b>	<b>The Economic importance of financial literacy in 21. century and its consequences: Theory, Evidence and Practice</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra ekonómie</b>
anotácia	The current situation in the global economy has necessitated a revolution in the financial services industry regarding to the financial needs of consumers and the right financial decisions necessary for financial well-being. The dissertation deals with the evaluation of a rapidly growing set of economic research in financial literacy. It is based on an overview of theoretical research that builds financial knowledge as a form of investment in human capital. The endogenization of financial knowledge has important economic consequences for the social well-being of the people of the countries, as well as policies aimed at increasing the level of financial literacy. Most studies (Lusardy, A. and Mitchel, O. 2014; Messy, FA 2012; Chhatwani, M. 2022; Roa, MJ 2022; Shankar, N, Vinod, S., Kamath, R. 2022, Hasan, MM, Noor, T., Gao, J. 2022) focus on the correlations between financial literacy and financial behavior and not on the causal effects of low financial literacy. OECD / INFE studies (2012, 2018, 2018, 2020) compare the level of financial literacy of children, the adult population, or pensioners based on international data collection. The ambition of the dissertation is based on personal data collection methods (relevant questionnaire survey) to examine the causality of financial illiteracy using quantitative and qualitative data analysis, which will result in the identification of determinants (personal, socio-demographic characteristics, education, family background, financial technologies, etc.) which cause of financial illiteracy. The expected results of the thesis can help the government authorities to better set educational policies in relation to different targeted groups of the population (majority and minority population) and financial institutions to signal inadequate behavior of their clients in time (estimation of the probability of defaulting on mortgages). The dissertation is part of the VEGA project entitled "Macroeconomic and microeconomic aspects of indebtedness of countries and economic entities in the European Union".		

<b>Ing. Marcel Novák, PhD.</b>	<b>Economic theory &amp; policy responses to the changes in the macroeconomic environment</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra ekonómie</b>
anotácia	In response to the global situation in economy, there was a complementary approach to monetary and fiscal policy not only in the United States but also in the European Union and its Member States. The 2020 pandemic had major shocks on both the supply and demand sides that halted the global economy for months. The macroeconomic effects of pandemic shocks (demand and supply) are analyzed, for example, in Eichenbaum, Rebele and Trabandt (2020), Fornaro and Wolf (2020), Baqaee and Fahri (2020) Guerrieri et al. (2020), Bigio, Zhang and Zilberman (2020). 2020). In our dissertation, we have the ambition to examine the crucial role of monetary policy in offsetting these shocks and the role of providing support through fiscal stimulus by the government. Baldwin and Weder di Mauro (2020), Bartsch et al. (2020) argue that neither monetary nor fiscal policy alone can protect the economy from extreme fluctuations in macroeconomic variables (GDP, employment, inflation, debt, financial stability). A successful stimulus in a time of pandemic requires that fiscal and monetary authorities have sufficient, efficient space for each other. In examining the relationships identified in the goal of the dissertation, we rely on standard scientific methods used in economics, which together with quantitative and qualitative data analysis will contribute to the fulfillment of the goal of the thesis. We expect the results to confirm the hypothesis that the combined fiscal-monetary response in the US and the EU has helped prevent the Covid-19 crisis from turning into an even greater economic recession, mitigating the impact of the pandemic, and helping to achieve faster economic recovery to pre-crisis levels. The dissertation is part of the VEGA project entitled "Indebtedness of economic entities and countries in the European Union".		

<b>doc. Ing. Eva Pongrácz, PhD.</b>	<b>The creation of shared values and the social value chain in the context of the sustainable development concept</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra sociálneho rozvoja a práce</b>
anotácia	The thesis is focused on the issue of creating shared values in connection with sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental fields. Creating shared value is both a future factor of competitive advantage and an important factor of economic development (Ravenscroft, 2019; Von Liel, 2016). Shared values benefit all stakeholder groups, society and the economy as a whole (Young, 2008) and the creation of shared values increases an entity's competitiveness (Porter, 2011). The social value chain includes social value that generates other positive social influences (Kassim, Habib, 2020; Porter, Kramer, 2012). It is a topic that is very important in relation to the current social challenges. According to previous research by the supervisor, a knowledge gap has been identified - the dimensions of the social value chain have not yet been sufficiently explored. The thesis will seek answers to the research question: What are the dimensions of the social value chain and the determinants influencing the development of shared value creation? The research will emphasize the triangulation of data (primary data collected by the survey and EU-SILC data, OECD Social and Welfare Statistics, OECD Factbook Statistics, DatabaseSTATdat., SHARE data), methods and approaches in relation to mixed research and the application of the exploratory model (questionnaires, focus groups, statistical methods). The output will be the development of a conceptual framework for the social value chain creation. The topic is related to the project „SHARE - Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe" (the supervisor is Country Team Leader Slovakia), VEGA project "Social Economy as a Modern Tool for Building an Inclusive Society in the Context of Global Changes and the Challenges of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (the supervisor of the thesis is the principal investigator) and the VEGA project "Socio-economic Challenges and Opportunities Related to Ageing Policies for Sustainable Economic Growth and Innovation" (the supervisor of the thesis is the co-investigator).		

<b>Ing. Andrej Příklad, PhD.</b>	<b>Integration of Immigrants into the Slovak Labour Market</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra ekonómie</b>
anotácia	The number of migrants in Slovakia is continuously growing, highlighting the significance of implementing an effective integration policy. This dissertation thesis will analyse both individual determinants of integration (such as the socio-economic characteristics of immigrants) and institutional determinants (including integration strategies within the labour market). Research question of the dissertation thesis is as follows: What are the integration problems of immigrants in the Slovak Republic? Given the nature of the topic, qualitative methods of economic analysis will be primarily employed in this research. Primary data will be collected through a survey and interviews. The secondary data will be collected from Eurostat and the World Bank database. The research within the proposed dissertation topic will be connected to the VEGA project "Socio-economic challenges of the Slovak migration policy in the context of the labour market situation."		

<b>Ing. Andrej Příklad, PhD.</b>	<b>Labour Migration in Slovakia: Exploring its Dynamics within the Framework of Labour Market Evolution</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra ekonómie</b>
anotácia	The labour markets of nearly all EU countries have encountered a challenge of increasing job vacancies in recent years. Apart from the cyclical fluctuations in individual economies, this issue is caused by the ageing population across Europe. One potential solution for the shortage of skilled workers in both Slovakia and other EU nations is the proficient management of migrant flows from third countries. The research question is as follows: What are the problems of and the solutions for the Slovak labour market in the context of labour migration? The data sources of the dissertation topic are Eurostat and World Bank. In the framework of the current dissertation thesis the methods of regression, statistical and graphical analyses will be used. The research within the proposed dissertation topic will be connected to the VEGA project "Socio-economic challenges of the Slovak migration policy in the context of the labour market situation."		

<b>Ing. Andrej Příklad, PhD.</b>	<b>Impact of Digitalization on Firm Performance: Insights from Slovak Enterprises in the Industry Sector</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra ekonómie</b>
anotácia	With the increasing digitization of business operations and processes, understanding how digital technologies affect firm performance is crucial for policymakers, business leaders, and stakeholders. The research question of the dissertation topic is as follows: How digitalization influences the performance of enterprises in the Slovak Republic? The study will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative analysis of firm-level data with qualitative insights from interviews with key industry experts. The study will assess the extent of digitalization among enterprises in the Slovak Republic, including the adoption of digital technologies, investment in digital infrastructure, and integration of digital strategies into business operations. It will also examine the impact of digitalization on various dimensions of firm performance, such as productivity, profitability, innovation, and competitiveness. The research within the proposed dissertation topic will be connected to the Horizon Europe project "Overcoming Digital Divide in Europe and Southeast Asia – ODDEA."		

<b>doc. Ing. Štefan Rehák, PhD.</b>	<b>Academic cooperation and scientific productivity of European cities</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra verejnej správy a regionálneho rozvoja</b>
anotácia	Science is a complex activity, which means that the creation of new scientific knowledge usually requires the cooperation of several scientists with different but complementary knowledge. The production of academic knowledge is therefore typical of the collaboration of scientific workers (Wuchty et al. 2007; Jones et al. 2008, Jones 2021). The creation of scientific knowledge is usually an urban phenomenon because cities enable frequent local interactions between scientists. The so-called urban scaling law (Bettencourt et al. 2007, Bettencourt, 2013) describes the relationship between the size of the city and the number of scientific outputs. All empirical results show that large cities produce significantly more scientific output than their population size predicts. The beta scaling coefficient ranges from 1.26 (Balland et al. 2020) to 1.29 (Bettencourt et al. 2007) for US patents, and in Europe from 1.07 (Italy) to 1.66 (Spain). In the case of academic publications, this coefficient was as high as 1.78 in the USA (Nomaler et al. 2014). This suggests that larger cities are more productive in science, and therefore it makes sense to concentrate scientific research in larger cities at the expense of smaller ones. However, a less explored area is the extent to which academic production in cities is actually based on local interactions. Indeed, academic cooperation usually exceeds not only the boundaries of the organization but also the boundaries of cities (Hoekman et al., 2010, Hoekman, Rake 2024). The aim of the work will be to examine urban scaling law from the point of view of academic cooperation. In this work, we will focus on the analysis of geocoded data on the publication outputs of authors of all European universities from the Scopus database, which was compiled in the dissertation of Špúrek (2022). We will be interested to what extent the size of the scaling coefficient is influenced by intercity cooperation. If it is proven that the superlinear relationship between city size and scientific productivity is the result of greater inter-city academic cooperation, it will have a significant impact on the policy of concentration of research activities in large cities. The research is part of the projects APVV 22-0183 European dimension of knowledge creation in regions and VEGA 1/0384/23 Evolution of knowledge creation of universities in EU regions.		

<b>doc. Ing. Štefan Rehák, PhD.</b>	<b>Slovak „Lef-Behind Places“: Impact of deprivation of public services on election results</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra verejnej správy a regionálneho rozvoja</b>
anotácia	The increase in support for populist parties, especially from the spectrum of the extreme right, can be observed in most European countries. Its typical feature is that the support of these parties in the country is concentrated in several regions. These are referred to in the literature as "left behind places" (Rodríguez-Pose, 2018), i.e. regions that are lagging behind as a result of poorer adaptation of the economy to external shocks (globalization, financial crisis...) and related changes in demography and migration. These processes often result in changes in the provision of public services such as healthcare, education, transport, security, etc. Since these services are financed by taxes, changes in their provision are interpreted by residents as changes in the state's approach to their communities and can be reflected in voter preferences (Nyholt, 2023; Cremaschi et al. 2023; Stroppe, 2023). The aim of the work will be to analyze changes in the availability of selected public services in Slovakia and their impact on regional discontent measured through voter support for populist radical right-wing parties. During the period of the planned economy, the availability of public services in Slovakia was not organized on the basis of market principles and was therefore historically very high. However, in the process of transformation of the economy, some public services were reduced, because their provision turned out to be inefficient. We assume that this process affected rural and peripheral regions more. We assume that the reduction in the availability of public services in these regions has caused dissatisfaction with the fair distribution of public resources and with politicians who do not pay enough attention to these regions. This should be reflected on the one hand in reduced support for the incumbent party and, on the other hand, in an increase in support for right-wing populist parties that are traditionally against the elites.		

<b>doc. Ing. Peter Sika, PhD.</b>	<b>The silver economy as an economic opportunity arising from the aging of the population</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra sociálneho rozvoja a práce</b>
anotácia	Theoretical analysis of the investigated issue in the Slovak Republic and in selected countries of the European Union, as the concept of the silver economy is still being formed and requires detailed research. The projected growth of the number of old people in the Slovak Republic and the decrease of economically active people is perceived not only as an economic but also a social threat, but it is necessary to realize that older people are able to contribute significantly to the creation of social and economic value in our society. Increasing the number of older people can lead to changes in demand, as older people tend to look for different products and services than younger people, which will lead to changes in the economy and stimulate the creation of new products and services, resulting in the creation of jobs. For this reason, it is necessary to shift the negative perception of the aging process as a burden on public finances to the perception of aging as an opportunity for sustainable economic growth. The dissertation will be focused on identifying the importance, potential and quantification of the silver economy in individual branches of the economy of the Slovak Republic in the coming period with an impact on labor market changes. In the theoretical part, we identify the importance and role of the silver economy in individual sectors of the economy of selected European Union countries. We will analyze examples of good practice abroad with the possibility of application to the Slovak environment. In the practical part, we will focus on the quantification of the economic opportunities of the Slovak economy resulting from the aging of the population, resulting in proposals and recommendations for the decision-making sphere. The dissertation is a follow-up to the research project of supervisor VEGA no. 1/0226/23 Socio-economic challenges and opportunities related to aging policy to ensure sustainable economic growth and innovation.		

<b>doc. Mgr. Miroslav Šipikal, PhD.</b>	<b>Joint exercise of competences by local self-government in Slovakia - Driving forces and barriers to success</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra verejnej správy a regionálneho rozvoja</b>
anotácia	<p>The fragmented structure of municipalities brings several shortcomings in the provision of public services (Swianiewicz, 2010). The cooperation between municipalities is one of the ways to reduce the negative impact of a fragmented administrative structure on provided public goods and services in Slovakia. The most well-known method (also enshrined in Slovak legislation) is joint municipal offices. Despite the clearly positive impact on the cost of provided administrative services (ZMOS 2021; Ferraresi et al. 2018) and the improvement of the quality of public services (Dollery et al. 2016, Giacomini et al. 2018), this option is not sufficiently used by the Slovak self-government (Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Report on state of public administration 2021). Municipalities created joint municipal offices mainly to ensure the construction agenda, but there was no cooperation in other administrative agendas (competencies) or public services. At the same time, it is not possible to identify patterns on the basis of which joint municipal offices would be created. In addition to common municipal offices, it is possible to find other forms of cooperation, e.g. joint ventures, special-purpose associations of municipalities, local action groups, etc. Through cooperation, municipalities can provide services for their citizens that they could not provide independently (Kehlet, Aaraas, 2015).</p> <p>The aim of the dissertation is to identify the driving forces and barriers to cooperation at the local level through field research (interviews with representatives of local governments and inter-municipal organizations) and then to confront these with other forms of joint exercise of competences or provision of public services implemented in other countries and to assess the possibilities of their application in Slovakia (personnel capacity, economy).</p> <p>The results of the work will contribute arguments to the debate on the reform of public administration and will help to identify the appropriate nature and level of municipal cooperation for Slovakia.</p> <p>The research focus of the dissertation follows the VEGA projects implemented at the Department of Public Administration and Regional Development - Economics of joint performance of competences and Generational exchange and ensuring the provision of public services and administration</p>		

<b>doc. Mgr. Miroslav Šipikal, PhD.</b>	<b>Digital transformation of public administration in Slovakia</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra verejnej správy a regionálneho rozvoja</b>
anotácia	<p>Digital transformation takes place within organizations, companies or even entire industries and marks the transition from traditional ways of working to the use of digital technologies to improve performance, efficiency and competitiveness. This process involves the transformation of processes, culture and working methods to harness the potential of digital technologies and innovation.</p> <p>Slovakia faces several challenges of digital transformation in public administration. It is not just about the transformation and integration of outdated information systems or the retraining of employees or limited financial resources, but about its overall transformation to an electronic one. Despite significant investments, it was not possible in Slovakia to transform public services into a "digital default", i.e., those that would be primarily provided electronically, and only in case of need, "analog". In the same way, the possibilities that the digitalization of services with significant data integration in the background enables - simplification and reduction of labor for both citizens and officials and an increase in the overall output (availability of the service, speed and quality of its provision as well as the creation of new services, improvement the quality of public policies and decisions in public administration and the sector) (Charalabidis, Flak, Pereira 2022; Crato, Paruolo, 2018). A separate category is insufficient preparation for "advanced" digital services involving the deployment of AI, big data and robotics (Desouza, 2018; Manzoni et al, 2022; Tangi et al. 2022). This situation was also reflected in the placement on the last rungs in several categories of the DESI indicator processed by the EC (DESI 2022) or the last third in the case of the eGovernment Benchmark (2022).</p> <p>The aim of the work will be a case study of "digital transformation" on a selected public service/agenda in the conditions of public administration in Slovakia with identification/quantification of benefits and costs for individual groups of stakeholders (citizens/ public administration).</p> <p>The research focus of the dissertation follows on from the APVV and VEGA projects implemented at the Department of Public Administration and Regional Development - Possibilities of applying "smart governance" methods and tools at the local and regional level and Innovative concepts and approaches in the development of territorial self-governing units in the conditions of the knowledge economy.</p>		

<b>doc. Mgr. Miroslav Šipikal, PhD.</b>	<b>Development trajectories of regional innovation systems - case study of the South Moravian and Bratislava regions</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra verejnej správy a regionálneho rozvoja</b>
anotácia	Regional innovation systems (RIS) play one of the key roles in the overall innovation performance and subsequent economic growth of the regions (Asheim et al., 2019). Upon joining the EU, the innovation performance of regions in Central European countries was significantly lower than in developed Western countries. At the same time, the regional innovation systems in them were considerably fragmented and ineffective (Stejskal et.al, 2018). Individual regions thus looked for ways to create systems that could help catch up with more advanced regions. Theories define several possible scenarios of the evolutionary development of RIS (Capello et al. , 2017). Empirically, in most cases, metropolitan regions have been more successful. One of the exceptions outside of these regions is the South Moravian Region, which is developing better than the EU itself in many innovation indicators. On the contrary, the Bratislava region, as one of the metropolitan regions, does not achieve such development and its position is rather deteriorating. The starting position of these regions was similar in many aspects, or the Bratislava Region dominated more. For example while at EU entry more patents were registered in the Bratislava Region, currently it is in South Moravia, at the entry R&D expenditures were 70% higher in the BA Region, now they are only 20% higher (Eurostat). The aim of the work is to identify the key factors that influenced the development of these regional innovation systems after joining the EU. We will specifically focus on the role of universities and state support in these processes. The research will take place in the form of qualitative research through interviews/questionnaire surveys with relevant institutions and stakeholders as well as in the form of desk research of key documents and implemented activities. These methods are among the most common when investigating regional innovation systems (Doloreux, D., & Porto Gomez, 2017).		

<b>doc. Mgr. Miroslav Šipikal, PhD.</b>	<b>The role of Public policies in Innovation activities of the universities</b>	<b>denná forma</b>	<b>Katedra verejnej správy a regionálneho rozvoja</b>
anotácia	The universities are important force in support of regional innovation. Their contribution to regional development is not automatic. One of the key factors is the supporting role of the government (or the public sector in general), which is pointed out by several theoretical concepts such as triple helix model or the concept of regional innovation systems (Asheim et al., 2011, Etzkowitz and Zhou, 2017). In the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, this support took the form of funding through the European Structural and Investment Funds (Lešková and Šipikal, 2019; Baláž and Jeck, 2022). At the same time, regions have different conditions and structures and therefore different types of regions require different forms of support (Toedling and Trippel 2005; Capello and Lenzi, 2013). The aim of the thesis will be to identify effects of public support in university innovation activities within different regional environment. The quantitative modelling of support effects for individual regions, especially focusing on the effects of EU support in the new EU member states, which will be based on the knowledge production function used in previous research (Charlot et al. 2015). At the same time, the research will be supplement with a qualitative survey in the form of interviews with relevant providers and recipients of support to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the implemented support, specially from EU funds as well as the importance of regional specifics in providing this support in selected regions. The research is part of the projects APVV 22-0183 European dimension of knowledge creation in regions and VEGA 1/0384/23 Evolution of knowledge creation of universities in EU regions.		