

Foreword

The scope of the 7th International Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference “Society. Health. Welfare” is intended for different aspects influencing common life of human being in modern world. This Conference brings together researchers from various fields: sociology, psychology, law, public health, social work, welfare and political science. The proceedings of the conference – Part I – consist of 48 papers written by authors from Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

In this collection articles are arranged according to the main idea of the conference – to address the interaction society – health – welfare. The studies included in the publication serve as guidance and proposals for improving the social environment, legal environment and welfare of human society offering practical proposals for improving life of different communities facing positive and negative challenges of contemporary society.

The first part of the proceedings: *Society* begins with the article *Differences in selected areas of social capital regarding residence* (Slovakia) where authors assume that there are significant differences in selected areas of social capital due to size of the residence. Following the theoretical analysis and research, in all social capital areas surveyed, respondents from smaller venues reached higher values.

The study *Relational place-making in Latvian countryside Straupe and Kaldabruna outlines* how this approach is powerful and able to bring up new ideas and implement social activities. This case study developed relational place-making as a natural response to global challenges inspiring thanks to synergic effect also neighbouring counties.

The study about foreigners in the small town (Slovakia) reveals how voluntary immigrants consciously or unknowingly integrate into the majority society. Through interviewing these immigrants from Poland, Ukraine, Haiti, UK, etc. evaluate their positive and negative experience. The authors propose that social workers activities focus on creating social connections of the immigrants to overcome barriers related to the life in the country.

The article *Public opinion in Slovakia about physical punishment of children* is aimed at the research whose aim is to find out how citizens of Slovakia perceive physical punishment of children and how they apply them in the educational process. Despite the fact that parents seek to follow humanistic principles in the education, in many families the physical punishment is used. However, these sanctions are contrary to the child’s fundamental right and explanatory educational methods.

Two following studies *Modern youth’s values orientations and activity in a cross-cultural context* and *Comparison of adolescent’s values: Riga and Vidzeme region* are aimed at young generation, analysing them from different points of view. The first analysis shows significant differences between young people from post-Soviet countries Russia and Kazakhstan in their values orientation at the individual level as well as cultural level. On the contrary, the second pilot “regional” study reveals that there are no significant differences related to classical values between adolescents of Riga and rural areas of Vidzeme region (between years 1998 and 2018).

The article of Slovak authors about violence against women in urban and rural community defines significant factors which determine violence against women: aggressor’s and/or victim’s childhood vitiated by physical violence of father, alcohol, poverty, physical

punishment and patriarchal model of the family. The survey shows that the majority of the victims as well as aggressors live in rural areas. This survey can contribute to more efficient prevention in this area.

The last article of the section Values and Human behaviour: *Comparison between the risks in road safety behaviour in urban and rural areas in Latvia in 2016* offers a view into attitude regarding road safety displayed by urban and rural adults. The study demonstrated that there is a greater risk of being involved in a traffic accident in a rural area than in urban one. Further improve of road safety behaviour especially among certain critical group can increase the road safety.

The section *Society – Justice and Security* begins with articles dealing with cybercriminals and cybercrimes. *Meaning of profiling of cybercriminals in the security context* study responds to the fact that at present, cybercrimes are the fastest – growing criminal offence compared to others. The aim of this study is to describe the criminological aspects of the criminal profile of a cybercriminal. This legal psychological method has practical meaning within criminology. The second study deals with sexual exploitation of children in e-environment, including child pornography and propose identifying of security enhancement models.

The study from Ukraine mapping method in research of drug crime regional criminological features analysis regional specifics of drug crimes in different regions of Ukraine and via method of criminological cartography proposes a possibility to redistribute properly the powers of the state's law enforcement in certain regions of the country.

Several articles cover a criminal law in Ukraine and Latvia. The article *Preventative role of criminal law for traffic safety* shows via concrete cases a necessity to improve the preventative role of criminal law in the field of road safety. As the traffic safety is a responsibility of the state, this must be ensured through clear legal mechanism. The study about human trafficking from Ukrainian cities and villages shows modern trafficking trends in Ukraine and states that rural residents have a higher risk of becoming victims of human trafficking than urban residents. The obtained results can be used to reduce the incidence of human trafficking from Ukrainian rural areas. The study from Latvia about mandatory nature of criminal proceeding in Latvia reveals current controversies in the Criminal Procedure Law.

The study *Individual's level of education as a guarantee of the right to defense* proposes to adjust national legislation by supplementing the relevant provisions of the procedural law through more precise defying of the level of education.

As assisted reproductive technologies face a number of legal obstacles in many countries of the world, the study *Social and philosophical background and legal mechanism of assisted reproductive technologies regulation* illustrates by the example of surrogate maternity needed international initiative regarding the creation of a system of international legal regulation of relations connected with surrogate maternity.

The right of access in the context of the rights of the child is covered by study from Latvia. Right of access is independent legal institution governing legal relationship between the parents and children in building their direct contact.

In the study dealing with problems of access to justice in rural areas, the author from Ukraine concludes that in need of application to a court the rural dwellers face territorial, economic and organizational problems. To break down these barriers, the author proposes several steps such as general development of infrastructure in rural areas, uniform territorial distribution of judicial system, reduction of court expenses and development of the institute of lay justice in rural areas.

The study dealing with the electronic petition in Ukraine highlights that electronic petition is potentially capable of acting as an effective tool to express the will of citizens regardless

their place of residence. The article also analyses the status of legal regulations regarding the institute of electronic petition in Ukraine.

Regulatory framework of strike and its problems study points out that Latvian regulatory framework can be used only by part of general practitioners employed under an employment agreement in order to protect collective rights and does not comply with the principle of equality included in the Constitution.

Since the means of communication are powerful tool in the investigation of hard crimes the authors from of the study from Ukraine ask where are the limits of the right of private communication and protection of personal data. The authors answer that “taking into account different functional purposes of technical means of telecommunication, access to and collecting evidence contained therein should be carried out on a case-to-case basis...considering specifics of telecommunication technologies in each particular case”.

The two following articles are from the area of international law. The study *Conditions for the legal commencement of an armed attack* explain why in certain cases, it is difficult to find a clear answer to the question – what action is recognised as an armed attack according to the Article 51 of the UN. The second study deals with the legal status of the honorary consular officers declared in Vienna Convention on Consular Relations from 1963. The author proposes to introduce a special number sign for cars of the honorary consuls in Latvia showing special respect for foreign consuls.

Following article deals with legal and practical aspects of establishing servitude of right of way of court judgment within urban and rural development. As many proprietors face challenges in terms of inability to access their immovable properties due to the reason that they are not adjacent to the public road, the author identifies the problems of this topic and offer solutions to identified problems by studying relevant legal framework.

Several articles are dealing with the legal regulation in several fields: pharmaceutical workers' labour, legal implementation of blockchain technology in pharmacy and medical practitioner's legal regulation. In the first study the authors state that differentiation of legal regulation of pharmaceutical workers' labour is necessary to provide additional privileges and benefits in one general systematized document. The second study notes that the use of blockchain technology in pharmacy could provide a reliable legal protection of the supply of pharmaceutical products and their tracking to prevent sale and consummation of falsified medical products. The next study describes duties and responsibilities of medical practitioners and studies the rights of medical practitioners in Latvia and the medical practitioners' knowledge of patients' right in Latvia which are insufficient especially in rural areas.

The study *Legislative framework of in-house procurement* (Latvia) examines the importance of the concept of the in-house transactions in Public procurement analysing the Legislative framework from the perspective of the principle of free competition.

The section *Health* begins with articles dealing with health policy, health promotion and healthcare accessibility in Latvia. The study on future health policy impact on regional disparities and healthcare in Latvia predict that regional disparities and healthcare accessibility problem for rural areas will rise also due to political negligence of right-wing-parties in national parliament and lack of middle-term objectives that can reduce the regional disparity. The next study of the Institute of Public Health evaluates the experience of health-promoting schools and municipalities in Latvia in implementing health promotion interventions. Health promotion schools and municipalities reported several significant differences in experienced difficulties and future needs. Latvia is experiencing problem of insufficient human resources in health care institutions. Despite the fragmented positive impact of the programmes attracting human resources, the availability of medical staff, both nurses and doctors will still be the urgent topic in the future.

The following article analyses the outpatient physiotherapy services provided in the regional hospitals of Latvia in 2017 and the profile of their receivers. The research proves that there are significant differences in the volume of outpatient physiotherapy services provided to one patient with similar clinical diagnosis and age. The problem is that Latvian regional hospitals still do not have electronic records. Moreover, it can be concluded that outside of the range of service receivers stay seniors.

The article *Palliative care in Latvia: availability and the role of family doctor* evaluate satisfaction with palliative care, its accessibility and factors influencing overall satisfaction with provided care. The results highlight the necessary improvements in palliative care even in view of rapid population ageing.

Following study from Slovakia focuses on patient's attitude towards the diagnosis and possible proximity of death. The study concludes that for many patients facing fatal disease are important psychological and spiritual needs as interconnection, peace, transcendence.

Following articles are devoted to specific target groups: pregnant women and their antenatal care in rural and urban contexts, young adults with cerebral palsy and breast cancer survivors. The first study indicates health education gap in receiving antenatal care in regions, the second one examines the readiness for adult life, the independency in health care management and the most important factor influencing this independency – cognitive status. Article about aerobic capacity for breast cancer survivors highlight importance of their physical reconditioning and aerobic exercise training.

Articles *Physical activity in healthy urban adults and its association with body composition parameters*, *Fatness and thermoregulation of qualified rugby players* as well as article *Readiness of military personnel for high intensity combat training course* examine physical activities of different target groups, followed by analysis and recommendations.

The retrospective study *Smoking and alcohol abuse – predictive factors in oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma* reveals significantly better survival for patients without mentioned hazardous habits. The data show that smoking has a higher predictive value than alcohol abuse.

The purpose of the article *Discourse through Photovoice: “lived experience” of epilepsy* is to help medical students through live stories acquire knowledge about different types of epilepsy and to learn how to maintain close professional contact with people having epilepsy. Also following study provides very unique medical study on how 3D dissection tools (virtual scalpels) in Anatomage can support interactive human anatomy teaching and learning.

The last Section of the proceedings *Welfare* offer studies examining results of social rehabilitation programs for young people with behavioural problems thanks to implementation of the social rehabilitation program. The study proves greatest improvements in the category “Emotional Stability”. The challenges arising when implementing the restructuring of children's care homes are reflected in the second study concluding that inter-institutional cooperation is extremely important in order to safeguard the child's well-being and to represent his interests.

The objective of the study *The specifics in the work of social workers when rendering social services at the person's home* reveals a wide spectrum of the activities of the social worker when organising the provision of social services at home. Despite the fact that home care is bringing positive effects for recipients, the social workers face numerous difficulties.

Experiences of persons with epilepsy in labour market are examined in the study based on research investigating their own experience. Data shows that persons with epilepsy have high motivation in searching job as they need financial stability and social inclusion. Despite this motivation they face difficulties in various areas of economic and social system.

The collection of articles is concluded by a detailed research dealing with competences of older people to use smartphones as a factor of wellbeing. As the study shows, after the training course the old people appreciated the practical applicability of the acquired competences and these educational activities helped older adults stay valuable members of their communities.

The collection of studies covers current issues in social life, healthcare as well as welfare that could promote future expert discussions. All studies provide theoretical information on different issues and offer concrete suggestions and desirable improvements. The studies are comparing different lifestyle in urban and rural areas and highlight regional disparities as well as the gap between centre and periphery. The reader will become aware of important topics of modern society and also get practical proposals for their improvement.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Janas', is positioned to the right of the author's name.