

Proceedings

**17th Annual International Conference of Institutional Partners
“The role of Technology in the Shaping of Society”**

&

**2nd Annual Conference of Center for School Leadership:
“Leadership and Management in Education”
(CSL – AADF)**

Organizing Institutions:

Public University Kadri Zeka Gjilan, KOSOVA
CSL – AADF Center for School Leadership, ALBANIA
(2nd Annual Conference)
University Ismail Qemali of Vlora, ALBANIA
AAB College, KOSOVA
University of Montenegro, MONTENEGRO
University Nënë Tereza Scopje, NORTH MaCEDONIA
University of Sarajevo, BOSNA & HERCEGOVINA
University Aleksandër Moisiu Durrës, ALBANIA
University of Prizren Ukshin Hoti, KOSOVA
University Fan S. Noli of Korca, ALBANIA
University of Mitrovica Isa Boletini, KOSOVA
Albanian Academic Diaspora Italy & St. Louis International School – Milan, ITALY
LTC Training Agency & Boti’s Polis (1st Annual Conference)
Institute of Science and Technology (INSI), KOSOVA
Institute of Sociology, Demographic Research and Innovation (ISDI) KOSOVA
Academy of Stublla, KOSOVA
International Sociological Association, ISA
Albanian Institute of Sociology - Albanian Sociological Association
(17th Annual International Conference)

Place & Time:

Public University Kadri Zeka Gjilan, KOSOVA
11-12 November 2022

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ALL ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (2006-2023)

18th Annual International Conference

“Social Capital and Public Sphere in Contemporary Society”
University Ismail Qemali Vloera, ALBANIA: 10-11 November 2023

17th Annual International Conference:

The role of Technology in the Shaping of Society
University of Gjilan Kadri Zeka, KOSOVO: 11-12 November 2022

16th Annual International Conference:

Education and Culture in Contemporary Society
University Fan S. Noli of Korca, Albania: 5-6 November 2021

15th Annual International Conference:

Comparative Studies in Modern Society; Balkans in European and Global Context
Universiteti of Prizren Ukshin Hoti, KOSOVO: 6-7 November 2020
(Postponed from November 2020 to 19-20 March 2021, due to Covid-19 Pandemic)

14th Annual International Conference:

Social institutions in Contemporary Society
[The Interaction between Education, Family, Religion, Politics, and Economy]
Durrës-Albania: 15-16 November 2019

13th Annual International Conference:

Continuity & Change; Balkans in European, and Global Context
[Balanced Perspective of Past, Present & Future]
Mitrovica-Kosovo: 16-17 November 2018

12th Annual International Conference:

Good Society - a multidimensional Approach
Tirana-Albania: 17-18 November 2017

11th Annual International Conference:

Education & Sustainable Development: the future we are creating
Skopje-Tetovo, North Macedonia: 18-19 November 2016

10th Annual International Conference:

How Migration is shaping the Contemporary Society?
Pristine-Kosovo: 20-21 November 2015

9th Annual International Conference:

Law and values in contemporary society
Tirana-Albania 21-22 November 2014

8th Annual International Conference:

Democracy in Times of Turmoil; A multidimensional approach
Durrës -Albania: 22-23 November 2013

7th Annual International Conference:

Identity, image, and social cohesion in our time of interdependence
Vloera-Albania: 26-28 November 2012

6th Annual International Conference

Education in turbulent times: The Albanian case in European and global context
Tirana-Albania: 21-22 November 2011

5th Annual conference:

The social problems: their study, treatment, and solutions; Albania in global context
Tirana-Albania: 7-8 June 2010

4th Annual International conference:

Twenty Years of Democratic Transformations: Albania in East European Context
Tirana-Albania: 10 December 2009

3rd AIS International Conference:

World Economic Crises and its impact on the Albanian Economic and Social Life
Tirana-Albania: 22 May 2009

2nd Annual International Conference:

Issues and Models of Communitarian Organization
Tirana-Albania: 27 June 2008

1st Annual International Conference:

Political pluralism and Albanian political thought
Tirana-Albania: 15 June 2007

Funding Meeting and the Founding AIS Conference:

Sociology in Albania and the need of its Institutionalization
Tirana-Albania: 21 November 2006; Tirana International Hotel

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I. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chair of the Conference:

Prof. Dr. Bajram KOSUMI – *Public University Kadri Zeka Gjilan, KOSOVA*

(by alphabetic order)

Aida GOGA – *University of Tirana, ALBANIA*

Ali PAJAZITI – *Albanian Sociological Association (ALBSA); Southeast University of Tetovo, NORTH MACEDONIA*

Alush MUSAJ – *University of Mitrovica Isa Boletini, KOSOVA*

Besim GOLLOPENI – *Balkan Sociological Forum; University of Mitrovica Isa Boletini, KOSOVA*

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Ermioni CEKANI – *LTC & Boti's Polis Agency, ALBANIA*

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Lea YPI – *London School of Economics and Political Science, UNITED KINGDOM*

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Sergiu BALTATESCU – *University of Oradea, ROMANIA*

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Coordinator of partner institutions:

Leke SOKOLI – *Albanian Institute of Sociology (AIS) & UAMD*

Dukagjin LEKA – *Public University Kadri Zeka Gjilan, KOSOVA*

Conference Coordinators:

Xhevdet THAQI – *University Kadri Zeka of Gjilan, KOSOVA*

Geron KAMBERI – *Center for School Leadership, CSL-AADE, ALBANIA*

Chair of the Local Organizing Committee:

Bajram FEJZULLAHU – *Public University Kadri Zeka of Gjilan, KOSOVA*

Chair of the conference Secretary:

Elda KUTROLI – *Albanian Institute of Sociology, AIS*

II. GENERAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Place & Time:

Public University Kadri Zeka Gjilan, KOSOVA
11-12 November 2022

1ST CONFERENCE DAY:

11 NOVEMBER 2022: 08.00-17.00

REGISTRATIONS (Online and in person):

Registrations:

Registrations (Online and in person):

Registration Desk: 11 November 2022, beginning 08.0

Public University Kadri Zeka Gjilan, KOSOVA

University Campus, Rr. Zija SHEMSIU, Gjilan KOSOVA

[Conference program, conference book/proceedings, journals, and detailed information for the participants]

OPENING CEREMONY AND WELCOME ADDRESS

Conference Hall

Public University Kadri Zeka Gjilan, KOSOVA: 10.00-11.15

Chairs/moderators:

Prof. Asoc. Dr. Xhevdet THAQI

Vice Rector for Teaching, Research and Students Affairs

Public University Kadri Zeka Gjilan, KOSOVA

Welcome to KOSOVA and Public University Kadri Zeka, Gjilan

Prof. Dr. Bajram KOSUMI - Rector, Public University Kadri Zeka Gjilan, KOSOVA

Welcome to the 2nd Annual Conference of School Leadership

Geron KAMBERI - Executive Director of Center for School Leadership (CSL)

Representatives of the Organizing Institutions:

Prof. Dr. Dhimitri BELLO

Rector, University Fan S. Noli Korçë ALBANIA

Prof. Dr. Vladimir BOŽOVIĆ

Rector, University of Montenegro MONTENEGRO

Prof. Dr. Roland ZISI

Rector, Ismail Qemali University, Vlora ALBANIA

Prof. Dr. Bujar DEMJAHA

Rector, AAB College KOSOVA

Prof. Dr. Izet ZEQIRI

Rector, Mother Teresa University, Skopje NORTH MACEDONIA

Prof. Dr. Kseanela SOTIRIFSKI

Rector, Aleksander Moisiu Durres ALBANIA

Prof. Dr. Alush MUSAJ

Rector, University of Mitrovica Isa Boletini KOSOVA

Prof. Assoc. Dr. Samedin KRRABAJ

Rector - University Ukshin Hoti Prizren KOSOVA

Prof. Dr. Ali PAJAZITI

President of the Albanian Sociological Association (ALBSA)

Prof. Assoc. Dr. Besim GOLLOPANI

President of Balkan Sociological Forum; UMIB, KOSOVA

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTICIPANTS:

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60 issues of the International Journal “Studime Sociale” [Social Studies] & Award for Excellence in Research and Practice

Prof. Dr. Leke SOKOLI – Coordinator of the Conference Partner Institutions (UAMD & AIS)

From Gjilan - KOSOVA to Vlora - Albania

Next International Conference:

“Social Capital and Public Sphere in Contemporary Society”

18th International Interdisciplinary Conference of International Partners &
3rd Conference of the School Leadership (CSL-AADF)
University Ismail Qemali Vlora, ALBANIA
10-11 November 2022

PRESENTATION OF THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Prof. Asoc. Dr. Xhevdet THAQI – Conference Coordinator; Vice Rector of Public
University Kadri Zeka Gjilan, KOSOVA

17TH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

“THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE SHAPING OF SOCIETY

Presentations of the first day: Conference Thematic Sessions (TS01-TS14)

11.30 – 17.00

2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP (CSL – AADF)

Presentations: CSL Sessions Conference

11.30 – 17.00

Conference Rooms: Faculty of Education

SPECIAL & JOINT SESSIONS

“The Universe of Fan S. Noli”

Special Session on 140 Anniversary

Chair: **Prof. Irena NIKAJ**, ALBSA & UNIKO

11 November 2022: 11.30

“Education in the Early Childhood”

Coordinator & Chair:

Ermioni CEKANI, LTC Training Agency & Boti’s Polis

2ND CONFERENCE DAY: 12 NOVEMBER 2022

17th International Interdisciplinary Conference

Presentations of the second day: Conference Thematic Sessions (TS01-TS14)

09.00 – 15.00

“Special Session of the Albanian Academic Diaspora, Italy”

Coordinators & Chairs:

Viola SHAHINI - University of Milan, Italy

Agri SOKOLI – St. Louis International School – Milan, Italy

10.00 – 12.00

Conclusions, Closing Ceremony, and Certificates “For participating and presenting the Paper”

After the last presentation of each Conference Session

III. ABSTRACTS

17TH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

THEMATIC SESSION 01: CULTURE, ARTS, PUBLIC SPHERE & COMMUNICATION

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 04/01

Re-presentation of self in Selfies

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Since last twenty years, human race has experience digital revolution. This revolution has three major dimensions i.e. penetration of internet in society, growth of social media and social networking and growth of mobile (smart) & wearable technologies. With quick surge in technologies, an idea of 'selfie' has emerged and transformed. In sociological terms, the emergence of 'selfie' can be located in domain of new culture that transformed representation self, social relationships, social interactions and social consumptions. The study adopts quantitative and qualitative Netnography techniques to explore and describe sociologically relevant theories to grasp this phenomenon of selfie. For this purpose, the study adopts dramaturgy, sociosemiotic and dialectical frameworks. Based on descriptive diagnostic explorations the study provides sensibleness for symbolic utilization, discursive stratagems, communicative representations and performance tactics with reference to (re) presentation of self within various social interactions and social order.

Keywords: *Selfie, presentation of self, dramaturgy, technology and society, social fact*

N° 2022 *Gjilan Int. Conf.* 06/01

The dictatorship of the image in the anthropological and political shaping of man in Sartor's thought

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The essay presents Giovanni Sartori's philosophical-social conception, particularly in analyzing television as an instrument of mass communication and the consequences it represents in the anthropological aspect and in the collective organization of human life. The applied methodology is based on an analytical approach to his works, related in particular to television. The presentation of his opinion will resonate with other thinkers in communication studies, but it will also contradict some theses and theories widely held in this area of study. With a dose of realism and using data from quantitative studies, Sartori will criticize contemporary theories and conceptions that conceive television only as a tool that democratizes, pluralizes and promotes the debate of ideas in contemporary social reality. In this analysis, the important role of television as a central means of social life in today's society will be underlined, with a global impact in pedagogical, anthropological, cognitive and political terms. The focus of Sartori's thought is concentrated in the consequences that television has produced, in the individual and collective aspect of human life, radically shaping and showing negative consequences in the organization of collective human life. The aim of addressing these criticisms is not to neglect television as a means of communication, but to avoid its negative consequences in order to preserve and restore the human condition as an 'animal' that uses abstraction and a critical attitude to understand reality and relationship with the other.

Keywords: *Television, image, video-politics, video-child, symbol, anthropology*

N° 2022 *Gjilan Int. Conf.* 18/01

Presenting RESILIENCE

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RESILIENCE is a unique, interdisciplinary and invigorating research infrastructure for Religious Studies, building a high-performance platform, supplying evolving tools and big data to scholars from all the scientific disciplines crossing religions in their diachronically and synchronically variety. RESILIENCE recently entered the ESFRI Roadmap 2021 and has

received funding from the European Commission for its Preparatory Phase (2022-2026). The first initiatives to build a Research Infrastructure date back to 2016, which finally led to the launch of RESILIENCE in September 2019. RESILIENCE has since worked on the design of a sustainable European infrastructure for all Religious Studies. This design has now proven to be mature and was successfully evaluated by the ESFRI forum, allowing RESILIENCE to take its place in the strategic Research Infrastructures for the European Research Area. Characteristic in the infrastructure design is that it includes physical as well as digital access to knowledge about religion. Via this infrastructure, academics who are working in the broad field of Religious Studies will be supported in many ways: they will be able, among other things, to access more resources, to enhance their digital skills, to participate in projects, to promote their research, and to build a professional network. Also, other professionals, such as those working in galleries, libraries, archives and museums, policy makers, and representatives of religious communities can benefit from the knowledge offered by RESILIENCE.

Keywords: *Religious studies, ESFRI, research infrastructure.*

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 60/01

“The Person Who Doesn’t Use Social Media”: A thematic analysis through Ekşi Sözlük Comments

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The place occupied by social media in the lives of individuals is increasing day by day and the studies on it are also diversifying. Social media, which has an important place in the shaping of today’s societies and individuals, is also becoming an important subject of sociology. This study is based on a qualitative analysis of the comments made under the title of “person who does not use social media” on the online sharing platform called Ekşi Sözlük (Sour Dictionary). Ekşi Sözlük has gone beyond being a “dictionary” as an interactive interaction environment. It is an interactive and digital environment where users can interact through different topics, people, events, agendas, information, concepts, observations or surveys. It is possible to say that in addition to providing a basis for both interaction and communication of individuals, it sometimes has an impact on determining the agenda. In summary, this platform can be considered as an electronic dictionary in which different topics are explained by users based on their opinions, knowledge, experience or observations. This electronic dictionary, which has no subject and title limitation, also has no limitation on membership. For this reason, the comments under the subject headings allow many different views and information to circulate. This diversity causes Ekşi Sözlük to be of interest to researchers. Within the scope of this study, the comments made under the title of “people who do not use social media” on Ekşi Sözlük, which is actually a social media platform, will be analyzed with content analysis. Thus, different positive or negative opinions about not using social media can be determined thematically and chronologically. In this way, it will be examined what the prominent satisfaction or complaints of dictionary

commentators, who are social media users, are about not using social media, and whether these satisfaction or complaints have changed over time. Thus, it will be understood how technology and its effect on individuals, who are members of a community, are met by these individuals. It is thought that the results obtained will contribute to the social media literature in terms of providing an insider view.

Keywords: *Social media, thematic analysis, electronic culture, communication*

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 76/01

Technology in Welfare and Policy Ethics: the case of India's Public Distribution System

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Welfare policies in India have evolved through several amendments and reforms in law and governance. The National Food Security Act 2013 mandate the state's obligation and responsibility to enforce the rights – based entitlements for food, implemented through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Some of the major problems in the PDS have been exclusion, corruption, and or lack of accountability in governance. To solve the problem of corruption and to achieve appropriate targeting of beneficiaries, technology tools are utilized. Technology – driven solutions have the potential to resolve some challenges in governance but the many realities – of exclusion, corruption, and lack of accountability in governance remain unsolved. While technology in governance aims to improve public service delivery, access to welfare in hindered or unequal owing to the digital divide, complexities and exclusions from the use of technology tools and further lack of accountability. The ethics that guide policy and governance inform inclusion in welfare and the feat of a democratic society. This paper presents an overview of policy ethics toward inclusion in welfare while aiming to address the many practical challenges of governance including the use of technology in service delivery.

Keywords: *Ethics, inclusion, PDS, policy, technology, welfare*

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 97/01

Aesthetics in Institutional Art

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The lack of a ballet school in the city of Shkodra, and in the entire northern area, as well as the request of many parents for the state public school to have a ballet-dance art sector, gave me the impetus to develop and present this ambitious and at the same time realistic project. Taking into consideration my experience and dedication, I have

put to this work or project voluntarily, aiming to perfecting and increasing the quality of teaching and bringing it closer to contemporary standards, both in the music sector and in that of visual arts. As you know, Shkodra inherits the musical values of great colossus such as Česk Zadeja, Tonin Harapi, Pjetër Gaci, Gjon Kapedani, and other musicians, as well as in that of figurative arts, that has been inherited by the art work and culture of Idromeno, Lulan, Danish Jukni, etc. The “Prenk Jakova” Artistic High School, it is the only art school in the Northern Area of Albania, which includes the District of Shkodra, Puka, Malësi e Madhe, Lezha. Through this project, which I have been working with great effort, and I managed to finish it, within a very short time, I attempt to reach contemporary European standards and the students who will qualify in this school will be ready to compete at all levels of contemporary schools. Within this project, the introduction of the art of classical dance, ballet, is also foreseen, with the expansion of environments in “Prenk Jakova” school that will impact directly to the increment of students registration, as a result the school will never suffer or have exhaustion in the registrations of the first cycles, an issue that our school has always suffered from and had deficiencies. Allow me to express my conviction that the ancient city of Shkodra deserves this project in aid of Albanian art and culture. The extension of the classical ballet dance to the primary cycles, (not limited to piano –violin - cello – bass) will give to the only existing art school for the northern area, longevity as well as a flow of enrollments and a high number of students in primary schools.

Keywords: *Art, school, ballet, inheritance, culture*

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 108/01

Neo-Marxist critical approach to consumer society and technology as its dominant element

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There is no doubt that industrial and technological developments have greatly facilitated the processes of work, production and services. People in all developed societies use technology more and more in almost every aspect of their lives, from performing daily tasks to entertainment. And it must be admitted that technology has given and gives an extraordinary help in human well-being since modernity. However, the purpose of this paper is to treat, not the positive aspects, but the negative aspects of the impact that technology has on our lives. The approach will be theoretical, and will be based on the criticism that Marx himself, and especially the neo-Marxists (Frankfurt school), made of the modern capitalist society. For Marx, man's relationship with working tools has alienated man himself, while for neo-Marxists, consumer society, with technology

as its main instrument, is manipulating the true needs of man, cultivating other needs. For Marcuse and Fromm, technology has extended its influence in every sphere of life, including art, music and culture in general. Based on these views, this paper aims to firstly make a synthesis of the neo-Marxist critique on the role of technology in our society, and secondly, to highlight the dangers that come to us from the ever-increasing extent of technological development. Here, an important role will be played by the treatment of the relationship between technology and communication.

Keywords: *Modern society, technology, manipulation, communication, neo-Marxist view*

THEMATIC SESSION 02:
POPULATION, MIGRATION
AND DIASPORA

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 02/02

**Influence of migratory flows in the
city of Rio de Janeiro and the emergence of slums**

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One of the significant changes witnessed in the city of Rio de Janeiro, which lasts until today, is based on the context of the urbanization process, influenced by the different migratory flows that took place. When analyzing the displacement of families who lived in slums, located in the center of the city of Rio de Janeiro, and who were moved to more remote areas, we can then see the presence of two concepts derived from this flow, namely the concept of double dwellers (Bodnár, 2011) and islandness (Baldacchino, 2006). This work will analyze the migratory flows witnessed in the city of Rio de Janeiro in the light of the concepts of double dwellers (Bodnár, 2011) and islandness (Baldacchino, 2006). Will be exposed from the perspective, on the one hand of the context of migratory flow from other states of Brazil to the city of Rio de Janeiro, and on the other hand, the change of housing in the central area of the city to more remote areas. It was noted that the city of Rio de Janeiro is positioned as a place of reception for immigrants and migrants in search of better living conditions and job offers. As a direct result of this industrialization process, the lack of affordable housing, together with the increase in the number of people settling in the city, ended up increasing the number of inhabitants in the slums, and thus, a kind of invisible barrier between the asphalt and the hill.

Keywords: *Double dwellers, Islandness, Migratory flows, Rio de Janeiro, Slums*

N° 2022 *Gjilan Int. Conf.* 17/02

**Exploring the migration process
of Iranian asylum seekers in Europe:
A case of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina**

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Understanding the irregular migrants' motivations for leaving their country of origin and their experiences in the host country has always been seen as an important topic in the field of migration studies. However, there is currently a gap in the literature on this subject area especially in the case of Iranian asylum seekers in Europe. Therefore, the current paper serves as a preliminary study for more comprehensive research that explores the migration process of Iranian asylum seekers in two main European transit countries based on semi-structured interviews. In total, there were 17 Iranian asylum seekers (M age=36) recruited from Serbia (n=8) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (n=9). It explored their motivations for leaving Iran and the greatest difficulties they faced on their way to Europe. We found that the main motivations of Iranian asylum seekers for leaving Iran were due to lack of the job security, lack of social freedom, economic and political issues, family issues, and religious persecution respectively. All interviewees claimed that they did not have any idea about the difficulties faced by irregular migration when they were planning to leave Iran irregularly to Europe.

Keywords: *Iranian, irregular migrants, asylum seekers, transit countries, refugee camp*

N° 2022 *Gjilan Int. Conf.* 29/02

**Exploring migrant family relationships,
a sociological analysis
of literary creations about kurbet**

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Transnational family seems not to be a new phenomenon. In Albanian context, families “where family members live some or most of the time separated from each other and yet hold together and create something that can be seen as a feeling of collective welfare and unity, namely ‘familyhood’, even across national borders”

(Bryceson and Vuorela, 2002), in the second half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, are related to the phenomenon known as the “kurbet”. It was mostly associated with the emigration of men to Istanbul, Egypt, Romania, Russia, etc. Albanian literature of the early twentieth century is very rich in poetry and narratives related to the consequences of kurbet, the emotions of family members living in these transnational conditions, their exchange, etc. The article, based on a qualitative methodology, through text analysis and the data obtained from secondary sources, gives a picture of how these dynamics are shaped. Through the literature and poems of the time, it aims to explore how emotions were socially constructed between family members: husband and wife, son and mother etc., in the transnational context of the period. Very differently from today, where communication through electronic means and virtual platforms helps to preserve familyhood in transnational conditions, in the 19th and 20th centuries, some important cultural values such as: trust, the given word, spousal fidelity, etc., helped to preserve the institution of the family in “kurbet” conditions.

Keywords: *Transnational family, kurbet, cultural values, Albania*

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Yannis Behrakis:
Reshaping society through photographic lens

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Dogmatic theology and aesthetics can be the way to interpret and recodify the today's world idol and shape. Orthodox theology and the holy fathers wrote about the importance of the hospitality (filoxenia) to the stranger (plesion). Saint John the Chrysostom in his speech on charity and hospitality sets the foundations about the Christian thinking and action. The Greek Yannis Behrakis (1960-2019) was a worldwide recognized and multiple awarded documentary photographer whose work focused on migration. Yannis Behrakis covered photographically the funeral of Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran, the changes in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, the wars in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo, Chechnya, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Afghanistan, Lebanon, the first and second Gulf wars in Iraq, the Arab Spring in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, the civil war in Ukraine, the Nato bombing of ISIS in Kobane, Syria, the Greek financial crisis and the refugee crisis in 2015 and many other great events worldwide. Can a photographer depict the migration, or it is just an aesthetical photo that does not concern the public? Can a photographer enliven the theology speech, or it has nothing to do with it? Yannis Behrakis gave another dimension to photography and humanity through his sacrificial action for a better society and through an aesthetical, awakening technological tool.

Keywords: *Theology, photography, society, migrant, action, awaken*

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Gender roles, women participation in preserving intangible cultural heritage in Arbëresh communities of Italy

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The purpose of this paper is to consider, from a sociological perspective, the relationship existing between ethnicity, gender, and culture, referring to the specific situation of women belonging to the Arbëresh communities in Italy, who were settled in different regions of Italy after the Ottoman invasion of Albania, during 1400s until 1700s. Women's cultural heritages are collections of oral histories, songs, narrations, dances, culinary and traditional knowledge that are preserved and passed from one generation to another, to document and honor the contributions from the society/community as whole. In Arbëresh communities, women play nurturing roles in the family. As mothers, they raise babies, nurse and teach them the norms and values of the society. They are the primary caretakers of children and elders. They also play an important role in transmission and conservation of language as an important pillar of Arbëresh identity to the new generations as mediators between the culture of the country of origin and the culture of the country in which the Arbëresh community resides. A major part of the society's collective memory is women's intangible cultural heritages. Over hundreds of years of historical evolution, women in Arbëresh communities managed to synthesize some or all of these influences.

Keywords: *Gender roles, women, intangible cultural heritage, Arbëresh*

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Emigration and Brain Drain: Contemporary Tendencies and New Trajectories Changes of Albanian Emigration

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Albanian society, in last few years, faces a different form of emigration flows, towards development states such as E.U countries and beyond. From 1990's till the last few years (no longer before than 2017), Albania as a country, sent huge waves of labor force of emigrants all over the world, especially in western countries. After that, the tendencies

of emigrants' waves have been changed. It is still continuing these new trends, and forms the new trajectories in Albanian emigrant history (especially after 1990). High skill workers and new alumni of universities form the upgrade of the new emigrant wave in Albanian society. In nowadays, Albanian society is facing for the first time the 'brain drain' in all professional fields and a huge lack of social background to fulfill this gap. The trend of emigrate in different development countries is as personal as social choice. For this reason, this study aims to analyze the factors (pull and push), Albanian actual economic, social, political and cultural situation, social policies of achieving and supporting high skill workers and brain gaining, and trend of attractive of social policies in E.U countries. To conduct and reach the aim, this study focuses descriptive and analytical (field research) analyze.

Keywords: *Albanian emigration, brain drain, social and political current situation, high skill workers as emigrant*

THEMATIC SESSION 03:
LTC TRAINING AGENCY - BOTI'S POLIS
& EDUCATION AND SPORT

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**The role of technology
and the impact on early childhood**

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This paper aims to give a description of the role that technology plays in early childhood. For this reason, this topic (study) will after a detailed analysis of the positive role that technology has in teaching and the development of a child. In today's technological world, learning how to use it is a necessary life skill. However, students are not the only ones who benefit from the use of technology. It also provides early childhood educators with abundant access to the latest and most innovative teaching methods which allow them to ensure an active learning environment for their young students. Technology supports the social and emotional development of the child. It is of great importance in this study the recognition and the importance that early childhood educators intentionally put on technology the same way they deal with other teaching materials such as: artistic supplies, notebooks, books, toys etc. The main aim of this paper is related to the question: How and to what extent the use of technology in early childhood would stimulate the motivation of children to learn, socialize and to include them in the teaching and learning activities as well as how much would technology support the methods of constructive learning? To have an answer which would explain the aim of the study, we have based our findings on direct observation and foreign bibliography which would lead to an effective answer.

Keywords: *Early childhood, active environment, innovative methods, social development, constructive learning*

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National identity and global sensation in the social sciences in the Albanian-speaking area

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The aim of this statement is to highlight through the current teaching curriculum some details related to interdisciplinary integration and national identity, especially in social sciences in higher secondary education in the Albanian-speaking area, mainly Albania, Kosovo and the feeling that has been given to the global identity in these discipline. The announcement affects the textbooks determined by the Ministry of Education of Albania, Kosovo, such as social subjects as a whole, but also workbooks in all high school classes. The data studied from the books used as textbooks, in addition to the Albanian language, literature and history; show us that, sometimes, there is a higher percentage of elements of global identity than of national identity. Another important finding is, e.g. that the English textbook in grades 10-12 includes elements of global identity more than elements of national identity. The primary object of study remains language as a form of communication and as a powerful tool of culture and identity, integrating experiences that focus on the patterns of daily life, such as: social customs, professions and family life, as well as history, literature and fine arts. We think that some social studies efforts have failed by presenting a fragmented view of the world. The approach to this topic, even today and all day, in relation to the identity of our society, will give us the direction where we should go, but relying strongly on our polar stars, our founding fathers, who will serve us as guide and as a return to their values and lessons, materialized in various social science texts. The paper offers some recommendations that may be useful to consider when designing a text of our social sciences and the relationships it should contain, such as interdisciplinary integration, national identity and global sensibility.

Keywords: *Interdisciplinary integration, national identity, globalism, curriculum*

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Impact of technology use in teaching English to elementary school students

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Effective use of technologies in education can enhance both learning and teaching and the introduction of multimedia into foreign language instruction seems to conform

to the statement. The goal of this study is twofold: first of all, to explore the impact of the use of technology, such as computer, internet, smart board and multimedia projector on English language teaching at the elementary level in the secondary school “Sotir Gurra” in Korça, and to provide teachers and educators with more insight in understanding technology and introducing it in their teaching methods. Second, the study aimed to shed more light on the challenges it poses for teachers as professionals, as well as for educational institutions, at the macro-level. The results showed that, although the use of technology greatly helped in student motivation, classes were more productive, lively and effective, and teachers experienced a boost in their confidence, it also had its drawbacks such as, lack of modern technology in schools, as well as lack of teacher training on how to effectively use technology. Finally, this study suggested that, in order for schools to take the great advantages of introducing technology to classes, trained teachers and assistance of the higher institutions were important to implement technologies in teaching English at the elementary level students.

Keywords: *EFL, technology, teaching, learning, elementary school students*

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The new curriculum and the difficulties of teachers applying it in Albania

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Teachers have the important responsibility to educate the next generation; they play a key role in the teaching process and in student achievement. Also, they have multiple roles and responsibilities: teachers, administrators, observers, advisors, etc. Although the teaching profession is often seen as an “easy” profession, researchers consider it to be one of the most difficult, comparing it to that of a doctor, a policeman, and other social service professions (Johnson, Cooper, Cartwright etc. 2005). This study aims to evaluate the teachers’ perceptions of the working conditions as well as the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the curriculum due to the continuous changes of recent years based on: (a) individual data; (b) job characteristics and (c) school location. Due to the changes in the curriculum, the teacher is faced with the need to make a series of modifications in his work, during which difficulties are noticed, which may be related to the conditions of the school, but also to special characteristics of the teacher, such as education, school experience, gender, age, professional identity of the teacher (Beauchamp and Thomas, 2009). The revised curriculum in our country emphasizes the connection of learning content with the learning environment, teaching methods, learning resources, assessment practices and the many ways of interaction between students, teachers and the community. However, a number of problems have been noticed in the implementation of the curriculum by teachers, which we will try to analyze in this study.

Keywords: *Teacher, curriculum, working conditions, pre-university education, etc.*

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Multiple intelligence and their implications in educations; in their way since early childhood

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Individuals learn and express their strengths in different ways. Gardner's assertion that, if we all had exactly the same kind of mind and there was only one kind of intelligence, then we could teach everyone the same thing in the same way; we would also evaluate them in the same way and that would be fair. But once we realize that people have very different kinds of minds and strengths, then the type of education which treats everyone the same, is actually the most unfair one. Multiple intelligence is not a new concept. Plato (1952) quotes "...do not use imposition, but let early education be a kind of entertainment; then you will be better able to discover the natural inclination." Maria Montessori developed teaching systems based on techniques similar to multiple intelligences. The purpose of this paper is to provide a more accurate definition of multiple intelligences and identify the effects and implications focusing on education and training. The methodology used will be literature and comparative research in the form of meta-analytical analysis including/merging pedagogical and psychological studies. Research question: Does the theory of multiple intelligences have effects on education? What are the positive effects? Is there a progressive increase in the application of multiple intelligences in education and training from the 80s to the present era? If so, what are the factors responsible for this?

Keywords: *Multiple intelligence, early childhood, education*

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The use of teaching methods in mathematics

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This paper focuses on different teaching strategies adapted to the object of learning and students' needs. The purpose of teaching and learning in mathematics is to encourage and enable students to understand the importance of mathematical concepts and rules, the connection of mathematics to real life and its value. It also aims at developing abstract, logical and critical thinking in order to reflect critically on our own work and that of others. The purpose of this paper is the analysis of some of the teaching methods which are used by teachers. The methodology used in the given research is the quantitative one. Two high schools and two lower secondary schools were included in the study. Structured questionnaires were used

for data collection, which show the impact of methods on stimulating different types of thinking in students, depending on whether they are learning a new material, processing information or habits while reading, or consolidating / elaborating new learning into their existing memory “files.” The study concluded that well-planned instruction fosters successful learning and makes it easier for both the teacher and the student to complete their tasks.

Keywords: *Methodology, teaching, learning, techniques, etc.*

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Learning and communication alternations as result of the social media usage in youth

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Online social websites have achieved a phenomenal global growth over the last decade, attracting attention by millions of people worldwide. Using social media web sites, such as Instagram and TikTok is among the most common activity of today's children and adolescents. Such sites have grown exponentially and offer today's youth a gateway for entertainment and communication. Researchers have explored the consequences of such overuse, defining the positive and the negative impacts of the social media usage. However, there is limited research about the direct impact of these new trends on the daily activities of the young people, such as learning, mutual communication as well as their ethical behaviour. This paper, throughout research among more than 500 scholars aging from 10 to 16 years provides an insight of the social networking influence on the behaviour and the lifestyle of the youngsters in North Macedonia. The findings show that the majority of the youngsters use social media on a large scale, mainly for communication purposes. Beside the positive effects, like faster and easier communication, the results of the research show that there are several negative impacts. Namely, many young people place too much emphasis on the virtual interaction and ignore the real world, which leads to introversions and influences on their learning process. Moreover, the findings show that most of the young people are not aware that the social media usage can diminish their privacy and thus make them vulnerable to various negative virtual impacts. The results show that habitual social media use is the single biggest predictor of individual victimization in such influence. Thus, this paper suggests that frequent social media use among young people shall be monitored by the adults in order to avoid negative impacts like cyber bullying, “social media depression” and exposure to inappropriate content.

Keywords: *Social media, learning, behaviour, communication*

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The childhood education in Albania

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The paper presents the findings from an evaluation research project “Monitoring and Evaluation Services for the 21st Century Schools Program in the Western Balkans”, realized by LSE Enterprise with a network of researchers from the region. The research question is how the ministries of education and schools in Albania supported the introduction of new technologies and critical thinking in primary education. The research also evaluated schools’ capacities in infrastructure, quality of staff, teachers and school leaders, for implementing innovative teaching methodologies to teach coding skills to pupils in primary school. Theoretical framework is theory of change and methodology is a mixed of quantitative and qualitative methods including questionnaires with teachers and pupils. The main findings relate to the way the critical thinking and microbit usage is improved for pupils in the 6th -9th grades in primary schools during the period 2020-2022. The context of Covid-19 gave a special importance to the research findings with the necessity of using online learning platforms. The findings are highly relevant to the theme of the conference, given the importance of educating young people in skills that will be in much demand in the future.

Keywords: *Childhood education, critical thinking, microbits, primary education, capacity building*

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“Webometrics” Ranking of Universities in Albania Facing the Labor Market Challenges

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There has been a discussion recently in Albania, in the political environment and in the media about the results of one of international ranking of universities, “Webometrics”. “Webometrics” ranking started in 2004 and is carried out by the National Science Council of Spain (Cybermetrics Lab). It has been popular recently and is used by many countries that do not have their own evaluation structures or institutions. Part of this classification are usually only “World-class universities”, those that do scientific research, while other universities and colleges which are focused only on teaching are not included in this ranking. This is where the analysis and the whole discussion on the ranking of public Albanian universities begins. It has been rightly concluded that our universities are ranked between 3,700th and 31,000th universities of the world included in this ranking. Our universities are lower in ranking than those of Balkan region, even lower than the

University of Pristina. There has not been discussed the real causes of this ranking, at least of our public universities, among which the main ones have a history of about 70 years. In this study, it is clearly shown that the main causes are: the funding of public universities, which is completely insufficient, or at least just surviving; the new challenges of universities should not only focus on institutional accreditations and those of special programs, but should go deeper on teaching programs, syllabi, texts and specialized literature, teaching practices, teaching quality and their teachers, etc.; in addition the comparison between the quality and standards of university offer, the professional qualities of the human capital i.e. of graduate students with specific standards and requirements of labour market.

Keywords: *University, accreditation, funding, scientific activity, teaching quality, graduate students, labour market*

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Reliable and effective school-family-community partnership

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'Reliable and effective school-family-community partnership', is a very interesting topic of study. How much can effective thing are done? It can be said that it's just an ability, which one must study and improve with the collaboration of the teaching staff and the community. The purpose of this study is to submit a clear depiction of the partnership level between school, family and community in Albanian schools, but also in the European and American ones. The study is divided in three parts:

1. Theoretical meaning of the partnership between families, school and community and how this partnership model works in European and American Schools
2. The real level of functioning of the 'family, school, community' model in our school. How to improve this partnership?
3. Which are the strengths and weak spots of the 'family, school, community' model? The study is based on bibliographic studies and personal observations.

In conclusion; school-family-community partnership is very important, students, parents and teachers benefit from it. Teachers can prepare the parents to help the students. The parents who have been involved think positively of the teachers, which increases his/her moral. Greater knowledge of the students' family life helps the teachers prepare lessons that are more aligned with the students' needs and work alongside with the families. Students are more supported; the classes and involved parents perform better. When parents and teachers come together, we all win. It's not late for a parent-teacher communication in schools. But sooner the better, so our students will have more tools to reach their academic potential.

Keywords: *Reliable, school, family, community, partnership, very important*

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Game, an important psychological factor in preparing the child for starting school

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This research is an attempt to understand that the game is the main activity in the period on the basis of which the child is educated and prepared for life. Through the games and work, children develop their versatile personality. In building games, addition to constructive skills, the development of creative imagination, aesthetic feelings, control of movement, calculation of force and its direction also increases. Active participation in various games helps the child to overcome shyness, to believe in himself. Based on the object of the study, research questions, study hypotheses, its purpose, variables and the methodology that was used to validate the study hypotheses were drawn up. All the literature and scientific studies show that play and toys are very important educational tools and that their benefits are numerous in the child's development. The study aims to evidence the impact of attending and involving children in on the development of social skills and learning skills through games and toys. The focus of the study is focused on the game, which represents the form through which children develop both socially, emotionally, intellectually, but also physically, that is, they develop in different areas that are interconnected. In this way, the development of children is also more efficient. Participants of the research are a total of 150 children and 80 parents, from two preschool institutions (one in the village Koretin and one in Kamenica). The questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection. The data are presented in tabular form.

Keywords: *Game, toys, personality, imagination, preschool education*

THEMATIC SESSION 04: POLITICS, DEMOCRACY, INTEGRATION AND LAW

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Critical analysis of Albanian legislation related to public services for local communities

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In law no. 139/2015 “On local self-government” are defines the duties and services of elected local government bodies that should be provide to communities. These do not include services for employment, pensions, mortgages, health, electricity, water supply. These public services are offered to citizens by operators or regional institutions, which are part of ministries and central institutions. Citizens’ perceptions and opinions on the possibility of access to these services and on the quality of these services highlight the need to address the possibilities for changes in the legislation, in the implementation of which these services are provided. Among the legislative solution, with greater support from citizens, local elected officials and university academic staff is the change in the organization of local government, replacing the district with the region, the number of which should be small. The regional council, as the main self-governing body at the regional level, should be elected directly by the citizens, through open list voting, respecting the principle of proportional representation. The law on local self-government should include provisions that will enable the regional council to access, control and decide on the services provided to local communities by institutions and regional directorates that depend directly on central government. The law should well regulate the coordination of tasks, and responsibilities between the region and the basic units of local government that are part of it.

Keywords: *Legislation, public services, communities, local government*

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Components of human security

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The concept of human security is a continuation of efforts to expand traditional concepts of security. Human security is a new concept, emerged as a result of the need to improve the weaknesses of general security. Human security is essentially an effort to build a global society, where the security of the individual is at the center of international priorities, where international standards for human rights and the rule of law are advanced and built in order to protect the individual. The human security strategy aims to create a global culture based on human rights. Human security is promoted in society, starting from the basic needs of people, from the problems of personal security, poverty, discrimination, social justice and democracy. Security is valued by individuals, states and other actors. One way to determine the value of security is to ask what life would be like without security. The most famous answer to this question is the one given by Thomas Hobbes, on the effect of life without security, "lonely, poor, dull and short". By this we mean that security is a precondition for enjoying values such as prosperity, freedom and whatever else. The concept of human security continues to develop and is constantly enriched from a theoretical point of view. The United Nation Organization, in the United Nations Development Program in 1994, aimed to change the concept of security, not interpreting it simply as territorial, national, or global security, but by expanding the focus on human security, including seven components of its: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, political security.

Keywords: *Human security, national security, protection of the individual*

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On the criticism of intellectuals' indifference in the face of concrete problems of people and society

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When it comes to the attitude towards the real problems of the people, of the society, and also to the participation in politics, the intellectuals are involved in

continuous debate. Over the last century, this debate has become quite intense, involving philosophers, writers, sociologists, etc. The French writer and philosopher Paul Nizan has a critical and unwavering stance on this issue. He, in the pamphlet titled *Watchdogs*, considers non-participation in politics treason. He calls intellectuals “deserters” of the war for civilization and the civilization of society. According to him, philosophers are lost in search of pure knowledge that is not in itself a value. They sit and think, but do not intervene. One thing happens to people, another thing they think. It would be the moment to place the intellectuals with their shoulders against the wall, asking them which side they stand on: with the oppressed or the most oppressors. Although from different perspectives, this issue has been addressed by several different authors such as Sartre, Mannheim, representatives of the Frankfurt School, Lyotard, Norberto Bobbio, etc. It is precisely on these points of view and on the actuality of this issue, and in our society, that the paper that I thought to present at this conference focuses on.

Keywords: *Intellectual indifference, Paul Nizan, Mannheim, Frankfurt School, Lyotard*

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Legal aspects of the concept of contractual damage caused by “broken vacations”, a comparative approach

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Compensation for contractual damages is a fundamental concept of private law. The obligation to compensate damages due to non-fulfillment of obligations constitutes an important institution of private law. In this article, our goal is to focus on the legal analysis of damage in the package travel contract. Our study includes a comparative analysis of the legal regulatory framework of damage from “broken vacations” in the legislation of European countries. We estimate that the way of applying the obligation to compensate damages in the conditions of non-fulfillment of the package travel contract in addition to the advantages, brings the need for an expansion of the legal regulatory framework, raising the special need to guarantee the basic rights that arise from consumer relationship. The special focus of this study is the analysis of the legal situation of the buyer in the package travel contract and the request for the extension of legal protection. I support my arguments on this article in a comparative analysis of the determinations of the Albanian legislator and the European ones, bringing concrete suggestions on how to implement it as fully as possible.

Keywords: *Contractual damages, the package travel contract, damage from “broken vacations”*

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Fintech and its role in strengthening and maintaining democracy

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This research will primarily focus on how the development of financial technologies can positively impact the development of democracy in parts of the world not universally recognized as sovereign nations. By strengthening democratic institutions within these areas, the evolution of fintech allows them to play much larger roles in the global economy, which then allows their sovereignty to be less threatened by surrounding nations. Using Kosovo and Taiwan as case studies for this research, the positive societal consequences of financial evolution will be shown, starting with the West being much more likely to support the sovereignty and integrity of those areas the more important they are to the rest of the world. Kosovo and Taiwan provide excellent case studies on this topic being that neither are official voting members at the United Nations. Further inquiry will be conducted on how the increasing use of fintech in areas like Kosovo and Taiwan also means the increasing importance of data privacy, cybersecurity, and protecting information from hostile external actors. What policies can be developed at the national level and how much should they adapt and change as financial innovation continues to evolve? What responsibilities do financial services firms, social media companies, and the tech industry have in helping shape these policies that not only strengthen democratic institutions, but also prevent those same technologies from causing destabilization? Many who are negative on tech companies, financial companies, and suspicious about fintech argue that technology has too much power over us. But those criticisms when it comes to the issue of democracy are not valid. Those aspects are what can be used to strengthen democracy, especially in contentious areas like Taiwan and Kosovo. This can also help bridge whatever gap might exist between global capitalism and democracy and make those words far more synonymous than they currently are.

Keywords: *Fintech, democracy, Kosovo, Taiwan, global capitalism, international finance*

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Sami Frashëri about civilization, races and nations

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Sami Frashëri is one of the most distinguished and reformist intellectuals who lives in the last period of the Ottoman Empire. He was knowledgeable in the anthropological

discoveries and theories of his time and debates about the genealogies of languages, races and nations. The article is an attempt to shed light on his use of the terminology of “civilization”, based on a survey of the texts that he himself wrote in Albanian, or which are now available in the Albanian language. The article argues that the meaning of “civilization” in various text is more or less consistent. Through it, Sami wanted to organize his conception of the formation of the cultures, races and nations during the evolution of mankind. Also, “civilization” is employed by Sami in his explanations about the origins and the evolution of the Albanian nation and about overcoming this nation’s material and cultural backwardness, when compared to the most developed European nations at the end of the 19th century.

Keywords: *Civilization, race, nation, aryan, Albanian*

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**European Union’s support,
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The tendency of the European Union, to create common and equal standards for all member states and all citizens of these member states, is greatly influencing the rapid change and adaptation of state public administrations in the member states but also in the non EU member states. Due to these changes the EU is supporting financially its entire member states of setting global standards for their public administration. In this regard, Public Administration of the Republic of Kosovo benefits financial assistance from the EU’s Instrument of Pre-Accession (IPA).

Keywords: *European Union’s assistance, Instrument of Pre-Accession (IPA), The US Agency for International Development.*

THEMATIC SESSION 05:
RELIGION, COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR
& SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

&

THEMATIC SESSION 06:
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, WELFARE,
SOCIAL POLICY & COMMUNITY

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 08/05

**Artificial Intelligence and its application
in the field of religious preaching:
Principles and Ethics**

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The 21st century is characterized by the greatest technological development that society has ever seen. Technology has touched almost every sphere of life, offering each time, more qualitative services. The prestige of an institution, whatever institution that may be, now is measured also by the technology it possesses. On the other hand, technology is each time and more being used for religious purposes too. This research aims to shed light on the usage of artificial intelligence in the field of religious preaching. Precisely, the research aims to document the legitimization of the usage of this technology in the religious realm, by referring to the basic sources of religion, and to continue further with the fields in which it may be applied, stopping

particularly to preaching, and finally describing the principles and ethics of its usage. The importance of this research lies in the fact that, according to the knowledge the researcher has, it is the first of this kind in Albanian, and consequently, it is offered as a guide for the application of this technology in the religious realm. The findings of the research confirm that the usage of artificial intelligence does not confront religion and that its usage helps much in the advance of religious sciences and services. The main recommendations of the research instruct the responsible religious institutions of technology in general, and those of artificial intelligence, in particular, to pay attention to it and make it a priority, especially in the field of preaching and education, and to also contribute to the establishment of adequate ethics for the usage of artificial intelligence.

Keywords: *Technology, artificial intelligence, Islamic religion, religious sciences, religious education, preaching*

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Concept of Religion, as a dynamic unifying category and man, a beings Imago Dei

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Imago Dei, as the expression of the highest values of human dignity, which originates from the First Cause (Causa Prima), as well as the time-space relationship, where man holds the role of a seeker of the finest quality reality, bearing responsibility for it through: religion, being patriotic, with human dignity and knowledge, in accordance with the Christian doctrine, were the primary goals of the platform, which encouraged quite important developments of the era, such as collective and national behavior and consciousness and social movements.

The paper, through the method of analysis, approaches the Augustinian and D'Aquinian philosophical, religious and metaphysical judgment on man and the contributions of the Catholic clergy in the collective and dynamic movement "For Faith and Homeland". As will be seen, this patriotic, educational-pedagogical, social-cultural and literary-artistic movement, from the first editorial of "Hylli i Dritës" in 1913 and onwards, also results in the contribution of the sacred religion, as solidarity and a cooperation, adding to the transcendental dimension, the real human values of knowledge and social action. Thus, the symbolic and hierarchical religious model approaches the interactive and cooperative one, beyond the unitary organic vision in certain historical and political contexts of the country and contributes to the inclusive social development, re-contextualizing it against the secularist and individualist forms of modern society today.

Keywords: *Religion, Imago Dei, man, collective behavior, social movements*

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Religion in time of pandemic: The Global context and that of North Macedonia

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Sociological data show that modern society is in a deep crisis from which different profiles seek a way out. The pandemic we are facing today, Covid-19 has created powerful oscillations in the physical and mental world of man. In times of crisis, religion is one of the most important social agents that comes to the aid of man. It manifests itself as a moral prophylaxis, as a hopeful, comforting element. Thus, there is a fair correlation between the increase in the size of the crisis and the strengthening of spirituality or religiosity. In situations of crises, believers experience intense spiritual activity, a closer connection with the supernatural, and even more extreme cases are recorded when even agnostics, non-believers change their perception of “truth here and there.” Especially when science, even the most advanced, the most sophisticated, is left without a text in front of a virus that shakes us all, that has plagued us and closed us planetary. According to Gallup research conducted between March 28 and April 1, 2020, it was found that mental, dietary and exercise life has deteriorated, while religious life has advanced to 19% of respondents, a figure which Newport (2020) describes as a religious renaissance. In this context, the same analyst also mentions the ascending curve of religious persons and entities that perform positive, integrative, charitable tasks. Prof. Bentzen states that interest in information about prayer in Google increased sharply (in 95 countries) during March 2020 when Covid 19 became a global phenomenon. (Catholic Herald, 2020). This paper is based on historical, analytical methods, on empirical data on this very sensitive issue of 21st century, focused on global and local dimensions. Findings from our field research show an increasing religiosity in Covid-19 times: more than 2/3 of respondents feels themselves more religious in the period of Covid-19 and the most frequent words in the interviews were ‘belief’ and ‘God’.

Keywords: *Covid 19, global crisis, religion, spiritual renewal, North Macedonia*

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The impact of technology on socialization communication skills

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Socialization has a great importance in the appearance of children in many aspects of life. This process that interacts them effect in many actors of life. Socialization is conceptualized as a programming process with the goal of several tasks within a

complex system. It includes the totality of processes through which the individual is constructed by the global and local society in which they lives. Family, school, peers, media, public opinion and more play an important role in the socialization of the children and directly affects their education. In the modern world, digital media play an important role during the life every day both in communication between individuals and their socialization involving every age group. In the modern world, digital media play an important role in everyday life both in communication between individuals and their socialization involving every age. In this digital environment, children are active participants and the way they communicate and create relationships directly affects their socialization process.

The purpose of the study is to understand the social relationships that are created between the development of communication skills and socialization in children about the use of technology. In this study for data collection were used qualitative methods by applying 10 interviews the parents of children 3-6 years. The results of the data show that digital socialization is a feature of a new form of socialization in modern life. The way that is used by each group has a great importance in the development of the child and their society that these effects the development of skills communication and aspects of socialization. Some of the recommendations that are given in this study focus in the importance to conduct more studies in the importance of digital socialism and its impact on socialization and wider.

Keywords: *Communication, skills socialization, digital socialization, technology, gender identity*

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 124/06

Institute of Marriage and its solution

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Marriage is an important legal and social institution. It is protected by the state and society because it is the basis of the family and has many social functions. From the legal point of view, marriage is defined as the continuous cohabitation of a man and a woman, regulated by legal norms. Just as there is the right to marry, there is also the right to dissolve it. According to the legislation in Albania, the marriage settlement is regulated by the Family Code of Albania. During the treatment of this paper, a brief historical overview is given on the institution of marriage in general and the institution of divorce. Then some general notions related to the institution of marriage are treated such as: the notion of marriage, the conditions for the connection and validity of marriage as well as obstacles and marriage prohibitions. To continue then with the treatment of the divorce institute, the types of divorce, its procedures as well as striking the verdict, etc.

Keywords: *Marriage, procedural element, formal-procedural, marriage settlement, family code*

THEMATIC SESSION 07:

CHILDHOOD, YOUTH, LEISURE, AGING AND GENDER

N° 2022 *Gjilan Int. Conf. 10/07*

Beyond Binaries: Exploring how new-media technology in India promotes inclusion of transgender persons

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High-speed internet connections and availability of a variety of Over-The-Top (OTT) media services have ushered in a new era in India media history. Platforms like Netflix have introduced an array of global programs to the Indian audience. Live streaming channels like YouTube have provided a multi-way interaction platform, where the viewer can upload videos and comment on posted videos. These new forms of media are emerging as spaces that are gender-sensitive, avoiding misrepresentation of the marginalized. The transgender community in India have been largely ignored or negatively portrayed by the Indian media. The NALSA judgment (2014), followed by the Transgender Person's Bill (2018) legally reaffirmed the transgender identity in India, making them visible, through these new forms of media. However, these new forms of media ignore the diversity within the trans-community, often oversimplifying the struggle for establishing a trans-identity. This research examines two Indian shows to explore how ideal OTT platforms are for the realistic portrayal of the transgender experience in India and explores the roles that transgender persons play in representing their community on these new-media platforms. Of particular interest is how transgender portrayal on media platforms determines status of transgender persons in real-life. A mixed-method approach of content analysis and critical discourse analysis has been used to examine these shows. This research found that new-media platforms allow greater representation of the trans-community. Representation, however, reiterates stereotypes like viewing the trans-person as a sexualized commodity or viewing them as victims. The transgender voice is not silenced but controlled.

Keywords: *Transgender, new-media, misrepresentation, marginalization*

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Young people's relationships after the period of physical isolation and social distancing

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Young people represent a unique demographic group, characterized by intense relationships, needs, and psychosocial experiences different from other age groups, which affect their development. The social distancing due to the covid-19 pandemic potentially affected the life and activities of young people and also reflected the importance of the physical environment and face-to-face contact for them. The lockdown and social distancing effectively meant that life and services had to be delivered online and this presented many challenges in the communication contexts among young people. The purpose of the study is to explore the nature of young people's relationships after social distancing. The study was realized using the qualitative research methodology with two instruments: observation and group interviews. The observation was carried out in three environments frequented by young people: the large lake park of Tirana and two youth coffee shops. The three group interviews were conducted with students who had been living in Tirana for over a year. The two main research objectives were: 1) the description of the typology and permanence of relationships/fellowship that young people had/frequented and 2) the intensity of interpersonal, emotional, intimate, and confidential exchanges and relationships. The observation sheet was compiled with 9 variables. The data collection was carried out during the period of may-june 2022. The results show difficulties in defining friends: many acquaintances, but few friends. Communication to share personal problems was done only with someone with who has been known for several years. All young people participating in the study declare that physical and social distancing taught them to stay more with themselves, not feeling the need to communicate with their peers. The removal of the distancing rules brought the need to reevaluate behavior, creating new ways of interacting with friends in society.

Keywords: *social distancing, physical distancing, interaction relationships, young people, relationship intensity, interpersonal exchanges*

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Deviant behaviors in Adolescence and family relationships

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This study aimed to analyze the changes related to the family and the impact on these relationships. Adolescence requires other transformations in every area of functioning. The family is by far the most effective driver of many policies on teenagers, and studies are needed to move to their families in the life of teenagers and other changes of this period. The research was carried out in secondary schools in Kosovo. The participants in these studies were 222 students, of which 129 were male or 58.1% and 93 were female or 41.9%, of the tenth (10), eleventh (11) and twelfth (12) grades, aged 15-18 years. As an instrument, the questionnaire is divided into two parts: the first part answers demographic questions such as gender, age, class, name of the school, then the questionnaire has nineteen (19) questions which are related to some deviant behavior in adolescence, actions of such as: use, vandalism, theft, running away from school or lessons. While the second part includes the questionnaire with five (5) questions related to measuring teenagers' satisfaction with family life including: family situations, living conditions, and achievements from a good family lifestyle. The results have shown that there is a significant negative correlation ($r=-.491$) and significance ($p=0.7$) which indicates the level of reliability. This means that the greater the family connection, the smaller the chances of deviant behavior among adolescents, and on the other hand, the closer the family connection, the less chance of substance use among adolescents.

Keywords: *Behavior, deviant, teenagers, parents, family*

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The suicide of the youth in Albania; cultural background and the gender gap victimization

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This paper aims at understanding the phenomenon of suicide and other psychiatric disorders of young people in our country. During the last year, there is a higher

prevalence of the young people who have committed suicide, especially in young males. There are also foreign scholars and different evidences that agree that there is a growth in the number of the suicides in the younger age (Charlton, 2002). Every year in the world there are almost one million of people who commit suicide and ten-twenty millions of people who attempt to commit suicide. Among them there are a lot of young people, who reflect psychiatric disorders and other forms of mental health disorders. In this paper we will try to shed light at all the variables that affect the numbers of suicide commitments at the young age. The cultural background is also an essential factor, in which the adolescents are engulfed.

Keywords: *Suicide, adolescents, homicide, gender gap victimization*

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**The influence of social media
and technological advancement
on young people's identity development**

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Adolescence marks the climax of the identity formation process, which is a very complex and significant process. However, at this point, developmental aspects, including cognitive, emotional, social, and behavioral maturation, have not yet occurred. Because of this developmental stage, young people accurately view adults as their role models and make every effort to emulate those who they perceive to be successful. Adults have the power to positively or negatively affect young's behavior through the example of their own actions. The impact that youthful people derive their role models from has dramatically changed because of technological advancements. Today, regardless of their knowledge, talents, or professional training, more and more youngsters are being affected by celebrities who have the most followers on social media. This research assesses how celebrities influence young people's perceptions of role models to mirror in this constructed reality and how this may prompt the decisions they make about higher education or the selection and development of their future careers.

The quantitative method was applied, with semi-structured interviews conducted in three high schools in the city of Durres. The interview focused on probing questions such as which these young people see as their ideal role models, what qualities they value in them, and how they envision their future. In conclusion, we can state that the role models they emulate are significant factors in the development of teenagers. Teenagers used various social media or copied the model to place them in a reality

where the most successful individuals “get all the perks.” This survey found that the majority of teenagers rated artists and micro-celebrities as their role models and those they valued many of their role models’ qualities, such as achievement and physical attractiveness.

Keywords: *Social media, teenagers, role models, identity formation*

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 114/07

Aging as a natural process and social service for the elderly

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Aging is a natural and inevitable process which turns out to be a multidimensional process. The World Health Organization defines the elderly as people over 65 years old. This definition is recognized and approved in most developed countries but also in our country. The increase in the number of older people in the coming years in our country tends to be even higher starting from various factors where we can mention: emigration, decrease in the number of births, increase in life expectancy, change in lifestyle, etc. This increase in the number of older people will also highlight the importance of services with older people.

Today, the placement of the elderly in social care institutions is becoming more and more acute. Social services with the elderly are of great importance in contributing to the well-being of the elderly. Elderly care institutions have a direct impact on increasing the quality of life. Having a range of positive social support can contribute to the psychological, social and physical well-being of older individuals. Support from others can be important in reducing stress, improving physical health, and overcoming psychological problems. In this paper is taken as a case study the Day Care Center for the Elderly in the city of Durres, where are reviewed and analyzed the services that this center offers and the profile of the elderly who attend this center. The purpose of this research is the importance that social services have in the contribution of Well-being to the elderly. In this paper, the research method used is qualitative. Where in the data collection was used interviews, where the interviews are 10 elderly people who attend the Day Care Center for the Elderly in the city of Durres, as well as 3 social workers in this Center.

Keywords: *Elderly, care, social services, social worker*

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**From legislation to reality checks:
an overview on the expansion of women's
Rights in Albania**

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Amendments in the domestic legislation play an imperative role in the improvement of women's rights in society. The practice shows that when women have the right to divorce – followed by the right to alimony – altered with other rights – naming here the right to possess property and freely control their income, their right to be legally protected from domestic violence and sexual harassment at the workplace, and whether they receive equal remuneration for work of equal value, these amendments are decisive in guaranteeing social, political and economic equality for citizens. Even though the legal corpus on its own, might not eradicate the discrimination towards women, altogether with social and cultural components, it might be a good starting point for the expansion of existing rights.

The 'de facto' enforcement of 'de jure' legal rights might be a plodding process, but exceptionally necessary. The 200-year-old-practice of the Western societies puts a historically unprecedented example of the expansion of women's economic and political rights. In almost every country, the social status of women has transitioned from having few to no legal rights, thus being under the ownership of their husbands and/or fathers, into enjoying the equal political and economic rights as men, 'de jure' and 'de facto'. Thereupon, against this backdrop, this article takes a critical look at the Albanian context, analyzing its internal legal corpus and social-economic background. With reference to this, the authors aim to assess the compatibility of Albanian domestic laws with the needs of society and whether it is in harmony with the standards of International Law. To this end, this paper provides an analysis of the development of social, economic, and political rights of women in Albania from the period of the National Renaissance until today.

Keywords: *Albania, women's right, Albanian law, Albanian context, Western Balkan*

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Social assistance for the elderly in day care centers

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This paper provides an overview of various important aspects of the social assistance in day care centers for seniors, social services offered and their implications on the quality of life. The analysis of this paper is based on information available in the database of European Commission- Long-Term Care (LTC) Report.

Keywords: *social assistance, day centers, social services*

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Changing structure of later life care in rural area of Turkey: Experiences of older women villagers

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The proportion of older people in Turkey constituting approximately 10% of total population brings later life care in question. Although institutional and paid home-based care is increasing in urban area, informal family care for older people has continued to be dominant type of care in both urban and rural areas of Turkey. There are many changes in rural structure in many aspects such as dissolution of traditional extended families, population decline, mass-out migration, structural change in agricultural production, and de-ruralization has transformed later life care from traditional care to more complex structure. The fact that the majority of older population consists of women and that care needs in rural areas is about twice that in urban areas reveals the importance of examining the care of older women in rural areas. In this framework, main objective of this study is to understand how older women experience ageing, how they are cared for, their relationship with family members and relatives, in brief, rural patterns of later life for older women including caring needs, costs and care responsibilities. It will be presented preliminary findings from primary qualitative data, based on face-to-face interviews with older women in a village of Ankara, Turkey. Carework is gendered/feminised work embedded in the tension between intergenerational female solidarity and traditional responsibility. It is seen that the older women go back and forth between the rural and urban areas due to the sharing of care responsibilities by children, the desire of the stay in their “home”/village is clearly seen.

Keywords: *Later life care, ageing, carework, gender, rural areas, Turkey*

THEMATIC SESSION 08:

WORK, PROFESSIONS AND ORGANIZATION

N° 2022 *Gjilan Int. Conf.* 38/08

Social workers' experiences using technology for providing social services online, during Covid-19 pandemic

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The most disadvantaged groups in society were not supported by psycho-social network services, during the institutional closure and social distancing created by the Covid-19 pandemic. The aim of the paper is to describe the experiences of social workers directly engaged in providing online counseling services, for these groups during this period. The study was realized in Tirana based on a qualitative research methodology and using two main instruments: semi-structured interviews and focus groups. The data were collected from April-June 2022 including eight interviews with SW of Tirana`s municipality, three interviews with SW in non-profit organizations, and three focus groups, conducted by seven SW, each, including also four volunteer SW engaged during this period. Data analysis went through four stages: (1) transcribing focus group recordings and interviews independently; (2) verbal discussion of data and familiarization with it; (3) identification of main themes and reorganization of collected data; (4) interpreting participants' themes and ideas

in the research aim context. The results highlight the dissatisfaction declared by the majority of professionals, regarding the long-term use of technology for counseling services; the lack of an online platform dedicated to the diversity of online services for SW services; dilemmas declared about the safety of technology use and the quality of the provided intervention. Based on the limits of the study the researchers suggest further studies to explore social workers' communication technology dimensions in offering social services online.

Keywords: *Social worker online counseling service, online social services, Covid-19 pandemic, quality of intervention, communication technology*

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Youth digital skills and the labor market requirements

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It is unquestionable that we live in the digital age, every day we see how the use of technology is replacing and changing every aspect of our life. What is noticeable is that it has become difficult to resist the use of technology and even those who until now with fanaticism may have succeeded in keeping its use under control; it seems that it is becoming impossible to do so nowadays. Education is one of the institutions that is in challenge with technological advances and their incorporation in the educational system. In the other hand the job market is increasing noticeably its demands for digital skills from their employers. Through this article, it is intended to explore the possibilities that our young people have to prepare themselves with the digital skills they are required to have in the labor market. To accomplish this article, besides analyzing secondary data gathered from various articles, reports, and relevant literature to the subject, 100 semi-structured interviews are administered with students attending their university studies at the University of Aleksander Moisiu, Durres. Are our young people being prepared with the right digital skills they need to be fit for the workplace? What are the opportunities offered to them during their studies by the education system? These are some of the research questions that are addressed within the article, highlighting the challenges faced by young people in their efforts to adapt and meet the increasing demands for digital skills of the labor market.

Keywords: *Digital skills, education, labor market, youth, challenges*

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Unemployment rate among young people in Kosovo

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Youth unemployment is a major socio-economic problem especially for developing countries. Securing a job and encouraging young people to stay and work in developing countries, with special emphasis on Kosovo, is an almost impossible process and mission. Youth employment and unemployment is a major concern because it affects the well-being of young people, families and potentially the long-term performance and stability of the rest of the economy. The study aims to provide an overview of the youth unemployment rate (15-24 years old) over the years in Kosovo, the causes and consequences of youth unemployment. The study presents some of the difficulties faced by young people in the search for a job and the aggravating consequences. For the realization of the study, primary data from local and international institutions and secondary data from the literature were used. Among the methods that have taken place in the study are: analysis method, comparison, regression analysis. The main findings of the study show that the youth unemployment rate in Kosovo is high and the highest in the region. Employment as a process is difficult characterized mainly by the lack of new jobs and by the lack of equality and meritocracy in capturing a job, describing this process as not equal and fair.

Keywords: *Unemployment, employment, education, causes, consequences*

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The role of education in choosing profession, career and its management based on modern technology and methodology

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The purpose of the article is the role of Information and Communication Technology in adapting the personal interests of individuals, for choosing professions, re-evaluating the efficiency of science in finding new ways, in post-Covid conditions and realities,

in education, as well as continuous formal, informal professional qualification. The methodology used is based on the identification of needs, data analysis, orientations, and contemporary methodologies, information paths to search of job, knowledge, habits, attitudes and new strategies for the development of the profession. Identification of research is based on surveys, questionnaires, interviews, experiences using modern technologies and collaborations between two universities, exchanging and receiving suggestions from their specialists, in collaboration with leaders, teachers from formal or informal institutions. The article, we think, helps to highlight the needs for career development in different fields, efficiency in choosing a profession, according to the position at work, age, gender, forms of employment, etc. The results of the article relate to practical methods, effective programs to encourage and support individuals for employment, career development and work recognition legislation. Suggestions on improving online communication, implementing the code of ethics, improving professional and managerial skills for orientation in the free market. Successful completion of the article orients individuals towards the desired profession, continuous development in increasing performance, through innovative technologies.

Keywords: *Efficiency, identification, motivation, evaluation, legislation, innovative technology*

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Leader-Member Theory (LMX): The Prisons as an organizational approach

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The direction and management of institutions require the implementation of ideas and the realization of relevant programs. This can be achieved by having the right leadership, the ability to lead, and an effective approach to other people. Concepts of what leadership consists of, who can be a leader, and what role they should play have changed over time. Early concepts focus on high positions in the organizational hierarchy, while more modern views assert that leadership can and should be exercised at all levels of the organization. Research on the responsibilities and sensitivity of the leader to the followers in their lives, suggests that leadership is a process with a distinctly moral dimension that affects the lives of those who are led. Leader-Member Leadership (LMX) is a comprehensive approach; it conceptualizes leadership as a process that is based on interactions between leaders and followers. The LMX theory makes the relationship between the leader and the followers a central point of the leadership process. Studies on exchange theory have evolved from Dyad theory or vertical linkage (VDL) to LMX theory, to Leadership Making, and in recent decades to LMX-7. The theoretical approach focuses on the three dimensions of leader-member relations; respect, trust, and obligation. The approach assesses the degree to which leaders and followers have mutual respect, one another's abilities, a sense of mutual trust, and a strong sense of obligation to one another. The theory implemented

in the Albanian Penitentiary Institutions, as an organized unit with multifunctional staff, is a guarantee for the proper functioning of laws and regulations on the employees of detainees and the basis of strong partnerships. This approach serves change, creates a clear vision, and empowers followers and organizational life.

Keywords: *Penitentiary institutions, leadership, organizational performance, safety, rights and equality, society*

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Corporate Social Responsibility and Urban Regeneration

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The idea of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has gained a international influence and attention in recent years in business and cities development. In this context we can talk about urban social responsibility (USR). USR considers the necessity to monitor urban development in the diverse sectors, from public policies to architecture, from urban design to local administrations, from environmental to social issues.

This article aims to designate on the importance of partnership and how CSR is a multi-dimensional tool for cities to use for their development.

Keywords: *Urban regeneration, social responsibility, enterprises, local communities*

THEMATIC SESSION 09:
COMPARATIVE, HISTORICAL, REGIONAL,
GLOBAL & FUTURE STUDIES
&
THEMATIC SESSION 10:
SECURITY, PUBLIC HEALTH,
DEVIANCE & SOCIAL CONTROL

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**The methods and techniques
used in field of archaeology in Albania**

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The archaeological research is transforming our knowledge of human past. To discover and recognize the past of humanity in general and civilizations in particular, the archaeologists use various archaeological methods and techniques. This paper is an attempt to detect all possible methods and techniques used in archeology in Albania in the modern time. The methods help a lot in the discovery of archaeological sites and in the analysis of artifacts, especially in relation to their dating. Of course, the excavation is one of the most important methods of archaeology. But the archeology is not just the practice of digging. Once a dig is complete, the hard work of examining and interpreting the artifacts begins. Over the decades, the archaeological methods have been refined to extract as much data as possible about the traces left by societies. In this paper we will try to make a classification of the methods and techniques used in archeology from the

moment of identification of a site until to the analysis and study of the sites and the artifacts extracted during excavations. Of course, in this paper it will not be left without mentioning the archaeological sites which were discovered based on the use of methods and techniques that are mentioned in the paper. For the realization of this work, were used the descriptive and analysis methods. The qualitative data were examined, consulted and interpreted to highlight the issues related to the archaeological methods and techniques, using of bibliographies, studies and articles of Albanian and foreign researchers.

Keywords: *Method, technique, site, excavation, archaeological analysis*

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The History of Albanian-American Catholic League in New York (From Genesis to Present Days)

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It has been considered a historic date, June 16, 1962, as it preceded what is today, the first Albanian Catholic parish in America, “Our Lady of Shkodra” Parish in Hartsdale, New York, and at the same time marks the beginning of an activity of diverse religious, national, linguistic, and cultural activities for Albanian-American community. The visionary idea of creating the Albanian-American Catholic League came from the priests of the Catholic community, Dom Zef Oroshi and Father Andru Nargaj, supported by a small but enthusiastic group of collaborators. For historical purposes, it is worth mentioning the fact that the Catholic League was founded based on the aforementioned principles, but was part of any political grouping, favored and continues today to cooperate with any group or individual that tries to serve the interests of the Motherland and the Albanian nation regardless of religion or region. It was originally composed of members coming from Northern Albania, most of them fleeing to escape from the clutches of communism, coming from mountains and valleys, from the Albanian lands around the Balkans, custodians of our centuries-old traditions, but also educated people. The difficulties were great, but one of the most energetic and inspiring steps of Dom Zef Oroshi was the appeal he made, in 1968, to the entire Albanian-American community, regardless of religion, region or idea, to support the creation of a religious-national centre. Catholic, Muslim and Orthodox Albanians responded to this call contributing morally and materially, marking as always, a living and concrete testimony of tolerance, cooperation, and brotherhood between Albanians. In addition to religious services and in full accordance with the historical tradition of the role that the Albanian Catholic Church has played over the centuries, in the protection and cultivation of the values of national history, language, culture and folklore to preserve and further develop traditions and national consciousness of the Albanian tribe.

Keywords: *Catholic League, patriotic activity, Catholic clerics, Albanian-American community, historical tradition.*

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Teachings Books of History and Heritage of the Albanian Communist Totalitarian Regime in High Schools

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In Albania, the fall of the totalitarian political and economic system that controlled all aspects of life with an iron fist for half a century drastically affected all areas of society. Among the concerned areas, the humanities, which once helped to satisfy and consolidate the ideology of the Communist Party in power, were the most affected by the change. Historiography, as in other countries of the former communist bloc of Central and Eastern Europe, had been one of the most dialogized disciplines for its use in the legitimation of communist domination and therefore in the claim of the historical truth of certain ideologies. Therefore, the need to rewrite and re-teach history was a clear result of the new policy after the collapse of the Iron Curtain in 1989 in Europe. With the fall of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Albania, there was a need to, on the one hand, discredit the communist mythology, on the other hand, and establish new historical agendas, refashioning historical events and figures. The present study of the above-mentioned reconstruction of history begins with certain events during the Second World War. It was at this time that the Albanian Communist Party took the reins of the war for national liberation. The attempt served the party to continue with the consolidation of a new communist state and the repression of political opponents. The study ends with an investigation of the crisis of the totalitarian regime up to the arrival of political pluralism. In parallel, an analytical survey of the main interpretations of the role of some historical characters and events, which have characterized contemporary Albanian history represented in post-socialist history books, will be provided. Content analysis will, therefore, constitute the primary methodological approach. The process of demythologization in postsocialist Albanian historiography will be explained through an analysis of history manuals used in high schools. The selection of these manuals, published in different political periods, is systematical. Comparing the history manuals published before the 90s with the manuals published in the thirty years of political pluralism, the study will demonstrate if the latter achieved the purpose of narrating the history of the Albanian people in an objective way. Finally, we come to conclude whether, in these texts, history plays its role as a source of information and a means of interpretation or has been manipulated to satisfy the needs of the political forces in power.

Keywords: *History, post communism, historical memory, communist heritage, Albania*

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Obesity and its relationship with unhealthy lifestyle among children aged 10-15 years in the city of Shkodra

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The problem of obesity during childhood and adolescence has increased significantly, reaching epidemic proportions. Obesity is one of the easiest medical conditions to identify, but which is difficult to treat. The prevalence of overweight has tripled in the last three decades. The causes of obesity are complex. They are related to the social circle, family, educational institutions, media, etc. Overweight and obesity are a risk factor for individual health, especially for non-communicable diseases. This risk factor acts from childhood, causing social and emotional distress. The purpose of this study is to observe and study obesity and the relationship it has with lifestyle, especially the way of feeding and physical activity among students aged 10-15 years, from 9-year schools taken for study in the city of Shkodra. 50 young people, 30 women and 20 men participated in this study and a questionnaire was completed. Results of the study: From the data obtained from the sample, it was found that overweight was more present among boys compared to girls of the same age. 70% of young people were conscious of their body image and wanted to improve this image. At the end of the study, some recommendations are given which aim to help school psychologists, teachers and students to get more information about overweight and obesity in childhood as a public health issue. The data emphasize the need for a special focus on improving eating habits and being active during childhood and adolescence for a positive impact on psychological and physical well-being, but also on the impact on health in adulthood in the future.

Keywords: *Obesity, overweight, children, prevention*

N° 2022 *Gjilan Int. Conf.* 99/10

Technology and mental health

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Mental health problems impact a large number of people globally now days. COVID-19 pandemic brought into focus the need for mental health services in large population and also has increased the utilization of online services and mobile mental health technologies.

Technology has the potential to provide expanded opportunities for access to mental health services, but at the same time there are challenges to be faced. The main purpose of this paper is to explore the relevance, efficiency and difficulties related to the use of technologies in mental health services. The international growth in access of technologies presents great possibilities towards augmenting traditional mental health care and bridging the gap between the need for treatment and the capacity to deliver it. Challenges and opportunities regarding the use of technology in mental health will be further discussed in the paper.

Keywords: *Mental health, technology*

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We gather in Noli's library

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In the 140th anniversary of the birth of Fan S. Noli, we propose the scientific session dedicated to his figure, starting from his comprehensive assistance and extension in the field of writing, diplomacy, religion, politics, history, oratory, etc. Fan Noli's Library has been repatriated and rediscovered through new publications and the opening of a special fund in the Scientific Library of the University "Fan Noli" in Korça called Centre of Nolian's Studies, which contains photos, correspondence, musical works, politics, his articles and articles about him, religious activity, studies on Noli, telegrams, etc. Contributions from the scientific environment in Kosovo and Albania are welcomed, by scholars and researchers who have shown scientific interest in relation to the polyhedral work of Fan Noli.

Keywords: *140th anniversary, Fan S. Noli, Scientific Library, University "Fan Noli"*

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Fan Noli's Universe (On the 140th anniversary)

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This paper is based exclusively on the review of the complete work of Fan Noli and the evaluations of researchers and academic institutions. From this analysis it appears that Fan Noli is the most multifaceted figure in the Albanian world. He was the tribune poet, who raised a whole people in times of great historical turning points; was a distinguished scientist, with two doctorates from the most prestigious American universities - one in historiography and another in musicology; was an orator, enough to shock the Assembly of the League of Nations in 1924; he was a polyglot, enough to speak in their languages not only to the peoples of the Balkans and Europe, but also to the Persians of the classical period (in the last years of his life he devoted himself to learning Aramaic); he was an incomparable interpreter; he was a priest, bishop and archbishop, the main figure and with a decisive role

for the autocephaly of the Albanian Orthodox Church, the first (chronologically) to hold a mass in the Albanian language; was a composer and musicologist; spiritual leader of the Albanian diaspora in the USA, founder of “Vatra” and “Dielli”; a revolutionary in civic missions and a conservative in cultural and literary choices; undoubtedly the most cultured prime minister that Albania has produced. Noli is the man with the greatest contributions to the westernization of the Albanian culture and civilization, to the liberation of the Albanian mentality from the Anatolian heritage and to the emancipation of the Albanian society; he was an emancipating insurgent, a civilizing democrat, a quality enricher of the Albanian cultural-literary treasure, a popular ruler, an original thinker, a sarcastic polemicist, an excellent translator, publicist and promoter of Albanian history in the world...

Keywords: *Fan Noli, multifaceted figure, Albanian world, Noli's Academy*

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Criminology

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Criminality, as a social and criminal-legal phenomenon in society, represents the totality of crimes committed in a given state and time, it is measured by quantitative and qualitative indicators that show its level, structure and dynamics. It represents a juridical-social phenomenon born in society, historical category with social risk, changeable and inevitable. Criminality, as a socio-legal phenomenon, is the totality of special crimes that occur in a certain society, time and place. This “totality” is not a simple arithmetical collection of them, but a phenomenon that has its own laws, interaction and internal contradictions, which are also related to other phenomena and social factors that sometimes determine it.

Keywords: *Criminality, personality of the criminal, criminal-law legal and social criminology*

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Gambling and the effects on married life

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This study compares the perspectives of 19 pathological gamblers with those of 13 pathological gamblers' spouses (N=31) with regard to family (family functioning and quality of life), marital variables (dyadic adjustment and marital satisfaction) and individual variables (congruence, differentiation of the self and psychopathological symptomatology). Financial restrictions as a result of gambling had a direct impact on their family well-being. In Albania, there are no genuine and specific studies on gambling and its impact on married life, so references were taken from the few studies found in other countries. The sample was easily found as there are open casinos in the US but the difficulties were in convincing the management structure to follow the gamblers while maintaining their anonymity. The

psychopathological problems of gamblers are distinct in their reactions and behaviors while they are in the process of playing at the gambling tables. Psychotherapists in our country encounter obstacles in their treatment because gamblers are not coherent and correct with the periodic continuation of therapies and intend to deny the facts. Regarding individual functioning, the gamblers and spouses presented with psychological symptomatology, as both had values that are typical for emotionally disturbed population. Moreover, the gamblers showed additional difficulties with regard to congruence. The results show that the gamblers' perspectives on family and married life were less affected by difficulties, yet this difference was most pronounced in marital life. The primary limitations of the current study are regarding the independence of the subsample (i.e. the participants were married or had marital life partners but were not couples) and the small sample size. Nevertheless, the current results call into question the 'truths' that are taken for granted by previous literature (gambler's perceptions of marital problems) and highlight the challenges that couples' therapists face regarding perspective differences in couples experiencing a gambling problem.

Keywords: *Gamblers, spouses, families, couples, individuals*

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The role of Technology in the Shaping of Society

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The creation of new mindsets in human society is already dependent on technology. Existence and non-existence are already dependent only on some "touches" which can change the individual's life completely. Today we have to think with the brain of technology, even run with this kind of avantgarde to face the challenges of life. It was born casually, to explore in this kind of science, or as a human ambition, now it is no longer a coincidence, but millions of people involved in its world of jobs, earning time, make online tours from one corner of the world to journeys in the cosmos, today more than that is Need, it is money, it is passion, it is science, it is piracy, it is Frankenstein, and why not is "GOD". The technological creation is exceeding expectations by offering endless benefits to the human being, but at the same time it is the Camorra of RAM's, Megabit's driving underground in our world between physical and virtual. It looks like an animation seen somewhere in the films of the most famous directors where with a movement of the finger everything is with you, where with a movement of the finger you are and you are not, you have and have no identity. Bitcoin, cryptocurrency, microchip, robots, software, and the latest equipment... Normal, we love these, and we are exalted by the whole range and technological development. But I would really like to ask myself the question "What is the vision of neotechnology for the human being?" People who are focused behind screens, phones, people who will slowly not be able to move, because technology leads them to a sedentary life. Everyone, according to their own possibilities, tries to absorb the technological language, the way of communication, which sometimes flattens inequality and sometimes gives priority because never in any kind of society and circumstances, time, social economic opportunity will be under the equal sign, creating grounds not pleasant or not economically comfortable.

Keywords: *Teknology, ICT, society, human being*

THEMATIC SESSION 11:
ETHNIC RELATIONS, NATIONALISM,
HUMAN RIGHTS

&

THEMATIC SESSION 12:
ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY,
TOURISM & DEVELOPMENT

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 48/11

**Islam and the anti-Islamic emblems
of cultural difference
in Danish neo-nationalism**

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This paper argues that constructions of Danisness and Danis culture in neonationalist right-wing discourse have increasingly become structured around a marked opposition to Islam and Muslim immigrants. My analysis draws on Frederik Barth's understanding of ethnic identity as constituted through processes of demarcation of boundaries vis-à-vis other groups. In such processes, certain cultural phenomena, both material and immaterial, can be elevated to emblems of cultural difference or symbolic markers of an in-group's shared identity. This paper explores how different phenomena such as freedom of speech, pork, winter swimming/mixed gender swimming and handshakes have become salient topics of political and public debates about integration and Islam

in Denmark. I argue that these phenomena have all become emblematic of an allegedly distinctive Danish culture because they serve the purpose of demarcating symbolic boundaries vis-à-vis Islam.

Keywords: *Neonationalism, Denmark, Islam, ethnicity, symbolic boundaries*

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Legislation, Digital Technology and the Right to Protect People's Privacy: What Paradoxes?

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It is known that Digital Technology is an effective tool that contributes to human progress and protects their rights. On the one hand, it has positive impact, in general, but on the other, it leads to a negative impact on various social, economic and legal perspectives. Perhaps, among such negative effects on society lies the emergence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In addition, the challenges arising from the digital technological revolution and its paradoxes, with which the right to the private life of people has become subject to violation and scandal, has made it imperative for the international community to confront this phenomenon by enacting legislations that seek to reduce the resulting crimes amid the technological revolution. This is stated in Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in 1950. Morocco, in turn, knew these repercussions of the technological revolution and sophistication, starting in the nineties of the last century, and the beginning of the third millennium. This was manifested in the occurrence of many abuses in the private lives of people, which prompted them to enact a legislative body of regulations/laws that limits attacks on the right to privacy and their harms. Therefore, based on the foregoing, this paper argues about the extent to which the Moroccan legislation keeps pace with technological development to protect the right to a person's private life. Finally, this paper endeavors to question the daily practices that are filtered into public life as violating the laws that affect people's privacy.

Keywords: *Law, human right, private life*

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Slovenia über alles: The Garbo nationalism

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Nationalism means the consciousness of community of the people of a country, the sense of common being, interest and ideal of the nation. As a concept that gained

importance especially in the twentieth century, nationalism means the ideology of defending the values of a people, their glorification, even deification – a degree when nationalism turns into pseudo-religion. Post-communist nationalism is a phenomenon of the awakening of national feelings and nationalist extremism after the fall of the communist system. According to Warren Zimmermann (1999: 71), the last US ambassador to Yugoslavia (1989-1992), now a senior consultant at RAND, the term Garbo nationalism is a form of modest nationalism, “a unique nationalism, without victims and enemies.”

It is about a nationalist spirit of the period when the Slovenes just wanted to be left alone; of the Slovenian national consciousness and Romanticism of the ‘90s on their road to independence. In this research the analytical, comparative, historical, content analysis and quantitative methods were used. Our findings show that the Slovenian Garbo nationalism is non-aggressive, apologetic, self-defensive, while later on it took other negative, even racist nuances, as may be seen from the graffiti, the treatment of national minorities, of refugees/migrants, etc.

Keywords: *Slovenia, former-Yugoslavia, Garbo nationalism, Zimmermann, de-Balkanization, Europeanization*

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Technology and anthropogenic water scarcity in South Africa

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In the 21st century, global warning as a result of industrialisation has proliferated most of the world’s environmental problems like climate change and water security issues. Some of them are water-related issues like water scarcity, lack of water quality, water sanitation issues, and lack of proper water resources management. In South Africa, poor access to water had generally been attributed to the country’s natural and biophysical limitations. Through a review of literature on water scarcity in South Africa, I argue that water scarcity in South Africa is human-induced – anthropogenic. For the country to ensure the realization of the right water, state actors in the water sector and other stakeholders need to appreciate the anthropogenic nature of water scarcity. The main findings point to six “real” anthropogenic drivers of water scarcity in South Africa: population growth and urbanization; pollution and environmental degradation; derelict infrastructure; human resources issues in the water sector; financial mismanagement and corruption; and consumer debt. With technological advancement in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, this paper interrogates how South Africa can leverage technology for water democratisation.

Keywords: *Anthropogenic Water Scarcity, corruption, Fourth Industrial Revolution, human-induced, South Africa*

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Constitutional fiscal principles in the Albanian legal order

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The history of human society is a work to show the unceasing aims of the idea of justice in its life. These prove a series of legal norms, principles and institutes of law that have appeared and operate in different places and times, but basically wanted to express the idea of equal and fair treatment of human society. The system of binding norms that the government creates represent the legal regulation of society, where every citizen is familiar with the obligations, prohibitions and rights, aiming to preserve the conditions for an effective and democratic social cooperation on the basis of mutual respect among citizens seen as free and equal. Man's ability to act and think is not enough to judge without error in all life cases, that is why efforts have been made and are being made to create a complete package of laws. The principles and set of fiscal norms have the same objective, the existence of which regulates the relationship between the active and passive subject, defining the rights and obligations inevitably associated with them. Of course, the fiscal activity of a state is vital as it provides that part which is needed for the existence and evolution of the nation. But it is at the same time a delicate aspect since it is based on the collection of income by forcing a part of the society to pour a part of their income to the state. And who is the person who would agree to voluntarily pour out a portion of his income without receiving something directly in return? Naturally, no one, the selfish part of human nature would allow such an action. But if the state, the competent bodies and every other institution will work to convince and make citizens aware that this contribution is based on law, justice, and equality and will serve to improve social life, we can say that it has basically been fulfilled purpose. The obligatory purpose in this presentation is to search in the archives of the history of our state for the existence of the basic Constitutional principles on which the legislation and fiscal institutions are based and operate.

Keywords: *Fiscal legal provisions, contributor, public entity, active subject, passive subject*

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The effects of the fiscal stimulus on the increase of employment in Kosovo after the pandemic (Covid-19)

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The rapid spread of COVID-19 and the restrictive measures are causing concern about the economic impacts. To ease the financial problems of citizens and businesses,

the Government of Kosovo took measures to grant subsidies. The informal economy, especially informality, has taken an important place. The crisis has affected everyone, but especially the informal workers were unprotected in this situation. To understand the situation in more detail, the study aims to investigate the effect of the fiscal stimulus on the increase of formal employment in Kosovo after the pandemic. To analyze the importance of the fiscal stimulus in increasing formal employment in Kosovo, primary data collected through an online questionnaire were used. The questionnaire was conducted with employees in the private sector in Kosovo, who did not have employment contracts at the beginning of the pandemic. To prove the impact of fiscal stimulus on the increase of formal employment, the econometric model was built by regression analysis. The results show that fiscal stimulus have a positive impact on the increase of formal employment.

Keywords: *Fiscal stimulus, employment, covid-19, Kosovo*

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The spatial evolution of Gjerbës commune in the context of sustainable development, Albania

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This paper addresses the territorial evolution of Gjerbës, in the the municipality of Skrapar, Albania, in the context of sustainable development. The main purpose of this paper is to reflect accurately the natural conditions and the socio-economic development of this commune, highlighting the role of sustainable development. The principal methodology used in this piece of work has been that of direct observations on the ground, through a scientific evaluation of the natural conditions. Based on the research method used, this paper draws many conclusions on the development of population and economy. There have been many surveys with the local residents related to different economic indicators. This paper has a scientific importance for the scholars of economic geography, tourism and local government. The commune's economy is also assessed by focusing on the basic branches throughout the years. An important place is covered by the economic results after 1992. The last part of this paper provides a general assessment on of the evolution and conditions for a sustainable development and the related conclusions.

Keywords: *Spatial, evolution, territory, economy, demography*

**THEMATIC SESSION 13:
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
DIGITALIZATION & INNOVATION**

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**The Digital Pregnancy.
A study of Danish women's
use of pregnancy apps**

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Based on an interview-study with Danish women, this article explores how the frequent use of pregnancy mobile applications (apps) shapes the lived or experienced pregnancy. More specifically we look at a reported dilemma between on one hand using the information of pregnancy apps on bodily and fetal developments to gain a sense of control over individual pregnancies and, on the other hand, an experience of the apps is becoming something of a controlling factor in the lives of pregnant women. Respondents reported that the information of the apps created different kinds of concerns and that they became almost obsessed with the comparing their own symptoms with the apps' standardized information on what they could expect to experience at specific stages of the pregnancy. Our analysis draws on a socio-material perspective that acknowledges the ability of technology to enact certain kinds of experiences and shape concerns. We argue that the power of the apps (so to speak) is related, in part to the abundance of information they provide, which may contribute to a sensation of never knowing enough, but also in part to the use of apps becoming an integrated part of everyday cell phone routines.

Keywords: *Digitalization, health, apps, smartphones, pregnancy*

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How the democratization of the web has radicalized online hate speech

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The etiogenesis of online hate speech can be traced back to the emergence and usability of the Internet by those who fall into the category of prosumer (Toffler, 1978), a figure born precisely with the new technological discoveries. Prior to the emergence of social media, stereotypes and prejudices were delimited to well-defined boundaries of nations, territories, communities or deviant subcultures. Now, however, the amplification of hostile attitudes and conduct manages to reach a much larger and more heterogeneous audience, and conversely, there is even more violent and intersectional hatred – in this case, the targets of hatred are chosen for the co-presence of characteristics that are the object of prejudice. This proposal aims to pose itself as a theoretical framework capable of explaining how new technologies have inevitably contributed to the proliferation of hate carriers (haters) and have been the main vectors of a radicalization of hatred in a context characterized by hyperconnection, in which there is no dividing line between the Web and real life. In this way, everything we see happening behind the blue light of a screen has consequences in everyday life, generating contrasts, discrimination and fertile ground for hate crimes. In addition, the various methods of countering hate incitement that use technology in pursuit of this purpose will be outlined and evaluated.

Keywords: *Hate speech, online, communication technologies, hate, crime*

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Technological Divide and Paradigm Shift of Social relations in India: A Theoretical Analysis

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Social relationships are changing, and technology is a driving force in many of these changes. There are some fears that the digital technologies are killing society, but studies conducted by the Pew Internet Project show that these technologies are not isolated or isolating systems. Manuel Castells linked the rise of the Internet with a pattern of forming relationships that Barry Wellman (2006) subsequently dubbed as ‘networked individualism’. The term ‘networked individualism’ suggests a historical shift in emphasis from long-term loyalties to family, friends and place-based communities to more fluid

and dispersed social networks. This implied automatic opposition between loyalties of a more relationally embedded nature and a particular form of 'individualism' is an old manoeuvre which is open to challenge theoretically and empirically. Neither Castells nor Wellman are as radical as Rose in their theoretical declarations concerning the irrelevance of face-to-face personal relationships but they make it clear that the Web has helped shift the focus of individual and social development away from strong to weak ties. In India, impact of culture and technology on children's relationship with families are changing. Both are contributed to a growing divide between the traditional roles that children and their parents play while, at the same time, blurring those same lines between parents and children. This divide has grown due to the increased use of technology among children in several ways. The present research paper is the framework of Manuel Castells theory of network society and focuses on how technology enables the individuals for changing their relations with their families and other members in India. The analysis is based on the reports published by various organizations both in India and abroad.

Keywords: *Technology, social relationships, individualism, networks, children*

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Algorithms as 'Iron Cage': A Study on Algorithmic Bias and Technological Rationality among Software Engineers in Turkey

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Artificial intelligence (AI) and algorithms affect societies and social life in a wide range from everyday life to finance, security, entertainment fields and the nature of work. Thus, sociology has taken AI under its scope and a new literature has been building up on the social effects of AI and algorithms have on society. A substantial subfield in sociology of AI focuses on algorithmic bias and analyzes its effects on society. This paper following this line of sociological inquiry, aims to look at production of AI systems through a case study of software engineers in İzmir, in Turkey. The study, based on in-depth interviews with the engineers, examines how software engineers approach to algorithm production process and their understanding of AI systems. The engineers, even though they are aware of technological bias involved in the application of algorithms in several fields of social life, have a strong tendency to approach this bias as a purely technical problem. They believe that an unbiased, thus totally neutral AI can be achieved through technical fixes. Algorithmic bias is conceptualized as "undesirable results" that AI systems and algorithms produce and it can be avoided by 'right' technical interventions. Hence, social and political dimensions of algorithms are often ignored by engineers and they hold a techno-rationalist view which

regards technology as efficient, objective and fair in solving social problems. In reference to Weber's idea on the dark side of rationalism in modern society, it can be argued that the capitalism-bound production of algorithms and AI traps individuals into an 'iron cage of algorithms' in which everything is purely technical and rational. This way of thought and the 'purely technically mediated' algorithmic bias understanding should be considered as one of the main reasons behind algorithmic bias and lack of any consideration of its effects on the reproduction of inequality and discrimination in society.

Keywords: *Algorithms, Algorithmic Bias, AI, Sociology, Iron Cage*

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Sociological analysis of student's perceptions of the e-learning process

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E-Learning is a modern way of learning, which involves the use of technology in education. This study put on focus some primordial issues from students' perspectives on learning process. Besides gathering and exploring the literature, reports, and data related to our study, about 100 semi-structured interviews were collected with students, who frequent the teaching studies program, at the 'Aleksander Moisiu' University of Durrës. It was found that: the majority of students (75%) agreed that they like the idea of e-learning. also, most, think that e-learning is a new concept and should be encouraged (80%). It was also found that combining online and face-to-face learning is the best way to learn. Data was gathered and analyzed using thematic analysis. Specifically, the research paper should cover five elements to achieve the goal of the research. As so the following research questions were raised:

1. What are the benefits of e-learning according to students' perceptions?
2. Do students think that e-learning tools are easy to use?
3. What is the student's attitude towards e-learning?
4. What is the purpose of the students to use e-learning in the future?
5. How do male and female students' views on e-learning compare with each other?

Some of the main findings from the data analyzed showed that educational institutions have to make more efforts to develop some of their teaching and learning activities, in able help students experience e-learning, as well as to invest in technological tools for the development of learning through e-learning.

Keywords: *E-learning, perception, education system, technological methods*

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Data-driven learning approach and web-applicative tools fostering Internationalization vs. Collaboration in learning foreign languages

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Today's headlines in the educational area is to highlight the importance of learning foreign languages in a faster and easier approach, without time and space limits especially in the Higher education. Provided the galloping speed of technology, innovation and its integration in today's global education researchers, web-designers, and language educators have struggled to disseminate knowledge and to contemplate to the maximum each one's appetite for a successful accomplishment of the foreign language learning process. In the world of Corpus Linguistics, the plethora of corpora, its main bottom up/and or down approach that is Data-driven learning and free online web-applicative tools (among them majoring hypertext), have transformed the process of learning foreign languages into challenging, innovative and thrilling. The researcher's observations in addition to the student learners' remarks embrace as novelty the usage of virtual contexts in mastering foreign languages. The dissemination of the current technological advancements and its asset of tools provided respectively would no doubt yield to what social endeavours require urgently that is: internationalization vs. collaboration among foreign language learners in all levels of education but with a particular interest in higher education.

Keywords: *Foreign languages, DDL, corpora, web-applicative tools, hypertext, internationalization vs. collaboration*

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Croatia on the Path towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Potentials, Obstacles, Perspectives

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Many authors hold that current societies have been undergoing through epochal shift driven by rapid development of the most advanced technology. The central aim of the paper is to present key findings of the research projected 'Artificial intelligence and

robotization as a developmental resource – potential, controversies and perspectives’ which inspected perspectives of Croatian society to pass through the Fourth Industrial Revolution or to switch on Industry 4.0. The main part of the project was series of semi-structured interviews conducted in early 2020 with 14 stakeholders, experts, officials from companies, state administration and scientific organizations who are connected with fields of artificial intelligence, robotics and generally might be considered as a part of Industry 4.0. Conducted thematic analysis of collected data indicated that, according to views of our respondents, some elements of Industry 4.0 already exist in Croatia and there are potentials for its firmer development. It is most likely that its further emergence will appear as the smart specialization on particular niches and types of products, and as primarily regional phenomenon in some traditionally industrialized region in the north-west of the country which in movements towards Industry 4.0 may found their chance for post-socialist reindustrialization. On the other hand, the respondents pointed out on some barriers towards the path to the Fourth Industrial Revolution transformation such as: bureaucratization, fear of technological development, lack of entrepreneurial initiative, lack of productive communication among key actors, gap between scientific and economic sector, and deficit of properly skilled workforce. Due to its heritage of socialist type of industrialization and its position on the European (semi-)periphery the case of Croatia concerning its socioeconomic and technological transformation might be instructive for other Balkan societies, as well.

Keywords: *Croatian society; European (semi-) periphery; the Fourth Industrial Revolution; post-socialist development; technological transformation*

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The influence of social networks on the youth of Kosovo

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Humans as social beings always felt the need for socialization, therefore over the time; they created social networks for communication opportunities and in a way, closeness to society. However, the creation of social networks every day is losing the purpose of creation, bringing with it advantages and drawbacks for society, especially for the younger generation.

Since the first creation of social networks, the feeling and enjoyment of moments is increasingly losing its meaning and importance. The use of social networks to an indefinite extent created negative effects on young people in various areas, in that of communication, family commitment, privacy, learning, psychological and physical aspects, physical focus, making them addicted to them and on the basis of such influences the main purpose of the research was established. Therefore, this research aims to understand the negative as well as positive impact of social networks on youth. The methodology used in this paper is in function of achieving the objectives of the study goal and the established hypothesis, while the chosen model is the descriptive model. The main purpose of this research is

to understand the hypotheses raised in the research, bearing in itself the main focus, the impact that social networks reflect on young people. Based on the problem and purpose of the study, to collect data for the study, the quantitative method (surveys) was used, interviewing young people from primary, secondary schools and faculties in the main cities of Kosovo. Also, the theoretical method was used in the research by framing different books, studies or reports related to the purpose of the study. Based on the findings of the study, the raised hypothesis was supported, because the respondents admitted that social networks are affecting them in the way of communication, commitment to family, privacy, learning, focus, physical and psychological aspects, and it is also creating an addiction to the extent that the phone has become the main tool in their life.

Keywords: *Social networks, influence, young people*

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The Role of the Internet in Learning at Alternative Schools (Study on Alternative Schools of Salam and Qoriyah Thoybah)

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The decline of the Covid-19 outbreak in various regions in Indonesia are the impact of the successful implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination policy in the wider community, in addition to the strict use of masks among community members, especially the academic community in the school environment. However, it is undeniable that the outbreak of Covid-19 symptoms some time ago has caused the effectiveness of the use and institutionalization of the internet, so that many teaching and learning activities in schools involve the use of the internet to support the existing learning process post Covid-19 pandemic. The above phenomenon also occurs in two basic education institutions that have been known to the Indonesian people as alternative schools. Both are SALAM and Qoriyah Thaybah schools, which are located in Yogyakarta City and Salatiga. These two schools were originally intended for the economically disadvantaged or the lower class. These two schools apply various aspects of learning which are their distinctive characteristics compared to other schools. These differences include; the background of the students who generally come from the lower classes, the educational process and learning methods which are different from public schools, besides that the curriculum also has differences with public schools too. This paper wants to analyze the extent to which internet technology has encouraged the development of teaching and learning processes that take place at the two alternative schools, especially related to aspects of curriculum, methods and learning development that are taking place now, after the Covid-19 pandemic? By using theory of alternative educations and qualitative method this research come to the result that internet make more and more effective in alternative school.

Keywords: *Internet, post-covid-19, institutionalization, learning, alternative schools*

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The impact of digitalization on the need for training of age groups (40+)

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One of the main drivers of technological change in the foreseeable future of work is digitization. Intelligent automation will probably not cause overall job losses the upper age groups (40+) if the training and lifelong learning will be taken in consideration. It may lead to significant changes in the structure of employment, e.g. in relation to industries, occupations, skills, and tasks, and in positions of the upper age groups (40+). The paper aims to show that in the future, it will be difficult to deal with structural issues of the labor market, such as the lack of skills, the continuity of unemployment, or the inequality related to the forms of employment. Due to the increasing demand for new tasks, skill gaps between job requirements and workers' skills may also occur to a greater extent. The prerequisites (e.g. regarding qualification level) to re-enter the labor market will be higher in the future. In this paper, it is assumed that the lack of a proactive approach to digitalization for people of the high age group referring to training, education policy, employment promotion strategies, will produce inequality in the income of the age group (40+) compared to the youngest age group.

Keywords: *Education, training, digitization, labour market, digital divide, digital government*

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The critical theory of Frankfurt School on technology and its impact in societies

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The world and human life today is completely influenced by scientific and technological developments. Technological devices shape our culture and environment, change patterns of human activity, and influence who we are and how we live. Rapid technological development has recently transformed the global order, and we need to understand the role of technology in social structures. It is precisely for this reason that it is important to have a critical philosophical reflection about the nature of technology and its effects on human knowledge, activities and societies. The critical theory of Frankfurt School provides a basic

principle on which we can evaluate technology today. Although some elements of critical theory thinking cannot stand today, we can still use some other elements of it to understand the role of technological developments for human society and its environment. In this paper we will first stop at outlining some of the main concepts of Frankfurt School about technology, then trying to understand the relationship that exists among technology, science, capitalism and more importantly analyses the impact of technology on society through critical theory. On this basis, the paper tries to argue that critical philosophy on technology can help us understand how technology affects the individual as a social being in capitalism and the world and self-perception. Critical theory of technology provides a platform to reconcile many conflicting strands of reflection on technology. Only through an approach that is critical and empirically oriented can we understand what is happening around us.

Keywords: *Critical theory, philosophy, technology, society*

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Tourism in technology

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Tourism is one of the most important economic elements in Albanian territory. With better and more technologically sophisticated tourism, we will have happy tourists and service businesses with more money. Implementing technology in tourism is like reviving it from the beginning. My idea is to create an application on the phone, when in it, to display all the tourist spots in every season in all the cities in Albania and Kosovo. This will help tourists and citizens of Albania and Kosovo to get to know their neighboring countries more.

Keywords: *Tourism, technology, Albania, Kosovo, software, developing*

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Management of education institutions in times of pandemic. Challenges and prospects of future education

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The coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) pandemic created austerity and kept the world in suspense by bringing us all face to face with an unprecedented multidimensional

international crisis. At such a time when fear prevailed, anxiety and uncertainty with everything that was expected, it was necessary to take action, where decisions were often taken in the dark because we didn't have enough information. After science and important institutions, this time at the international level, got together in the development of strategies that should be implemented in the different fields, there was a need to make new rules. Incapable of being physically present, virtual methods were found and applied. The management and administration of this unusual situation highlighted problems how would educational institutions function without physical buildings and daily meetings. Leaders and the staff should not only embrace other ways to deliver service at the required level but should be ambitious and efficient in implementing them. Success or failure as a result of these circumstances does not only depend on dedication but collaboration between students-teacher- parent. Through this project, it is intended to know the methods and principles for a successful leadership in times of crisis. The harmony between theory and examples will aid the practitioner towards more efficiency of educational institutions.

Keywords: *Management, educational institution, pandemic, technology*

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The Trajectories of the Construction of Mathematical Concepts

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In the spirit of a potentially guided approach to managing heterogeneity in the classroom, this enables students to acquire and apply mathematical thinking, knowledge and skills, to solve various problems in everyday situations, to understand processes and activities, to develop functional mathematical knowledge and skills. It is the development of mathematical thinking, knowledge and skills, in order to solve various problems in everyday situations based on mathematical competencies. Mathematical competence includes the ability and willingness to adopt and use other forms of mathematical thinking and the presentation of their application (formulas, models, constructions, graphs, mathematical modeling, etc.) The research is based on the Mathematical Competence Model (MCM), and seeks to generate highly reflective processes in teachers working with students in grades 5 to 9 (LSS), which allow them to influence classroom practice. To this end, a methodology of teaching based on joint work will be developed, which is performed within the seminar, in the sessions of which a group of teachers will participate. In doing so, teachers study MCM, and its implementation in the classroom (clinical cases), which consists of mathematical organization in relation to additional approaches in LSS. The intention is to improve

the tools, knowledge and experience that a teacher needs to design and manage a process that we call the trajectory of forming mathematical concepts and knowledge based on MCM. On the other hand, a case study will be conducted to analyze the impact of teaching methodology, through a change in the approach adopted by teachers.

Keywords: *Trajectories, teaching, mathematics, education, mathematics competencies*

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Building a stick for blind people through Ultrasonic Sensor and Buzzer with Arduino Uno microcontroller

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This work is a combination of the hardware part such as the Arduino Uno Microcontroller, the sensors and the programming part. The ultimate goal is how to connect the Ultrasonic sensor to the Arduino Uno and the speakers that emit sound, then coding it as a component to perform the sensors actions as designed, and finally testing them to see if they are working in order. Looking at the development and use of sensors, working methods and techniques, we reach to present artistic era, where materials and working techniques have reached the culmination and they can be used for different purposes such as our case, where with the construction of the stick we try to help blind people who face many obstacles during their walking and everyday life. The basics are described in a theoretical and practical way, with a creative, interesting project that can be of great service to individuals with disabilities who encounter problems and difficulties. Once we have mastered the basics, we will have a stick designed with a beautiful appearance but also with the main role of detecting nearby objects and warning the blind person through the buzzer to change his path.

Keywords: *Arduino Uno, microcontroller, sensor, building a stick*

N° 2022 *Gjilan Int. Conf.* 144/13

Security in telecommunication networks and systems

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The recent publications of the personal data of Albanian citizens, the cyber attack on the e-Albania platform in July and the information systems of the Albanian and Kosovo police in September 2022 have shocked not only government structures, NATO partners, diplomatic emissaries, but also security specialists of all levels. The efforts to possess the competitor's information, as well as the unbridled passions with and without purpose of various "specialists", not always motivated by their hobby, have made it possible and require that security in computer networks and telecommunication systems be re-evaluated maximally in all its dimensions, physical and intellectual. We now know the power of information in general and that of the competitor (adversary) in particular. The attempts of pirates of telecommunications networks are obviously uncontrollable, in time, space and technology. On the other hand, the indifference or tolerance of different operators of networks and computer systems, sometimes intertwined with the lack of ability to respect and implement the most elementary security rules in networks, increases the risk to have and administer unsafe information. The fight between the parties, who want to own the information, even without meeting you, requires, among others, the strict implementation of technical requirements in the construction, administration and use of telecommunication networks and systems. Technological developments have created all the possibilities for the the party that produces the information to be the winner in this "war" among interested parties for that information. Precisely, the respect and implementation of some of these technical requirements are the focus of this study, adapted for a company level, the individual, and which should be the same for other levels regardless of the dimension. The well-known popular expression that speaks of the stolen and the hidden sounds more current than ever, as it turned out that the one who stole and knew how to hide, won. Adapted to the context of this study, we could say that the one who works in the networks and provides the information is the winner. The conclusions of the research orient us towards a more secure use of networks and telecommunication systems.

Keywords: *LAN /WAN, hub, switch, modem, route, firewall*

THEMATIC SESSION 14:

STUDENT'S SECTION

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 145/14

Geometrical interpretation of the number π

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In school education, in the subject of mathematics, physics, etc., we use the number π in many formulas, such as the formula for the length of the arc, the formula for the area of the circle, etc. In this paper, we aim to give a more complete interpretation of the meaning of number π , connecting concepts from different disciplines of mathematics, and more specifically, geometry with mathematical analysis. Thus, through the comparison of regular polygons inscribed (out scribed) in the circle as well as the ratios between them, we use the understanding of the limit value of the string of polygons, and from this mathematical analysis considered as a process, we arrive at the concept of the number π .

Keywords: *mathematics, number π , geometry, polygon, range, limit of range*

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The risk faced by the banking system

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The objective of this project is to make thematization and identification of risk in a given sector, in that banking sector and normally to show how it should manage the situation in order to prevent losses as a result of negligence, non-control and careful monitoring. Overall, mistakes that are made in a company are mostly caused by a lack of

control and good melioration, which then leads to a loss and faces various and difficult to overcome, requiring a job and commitment to return the company to its previous situation, why not even stronger. However, it must be deepened that to this day, the Albanian banking system has not yet faced a proper banking crisis. This system has experienced problems that are rooted in both macroeconomic and microeconomic aspects, such as fiscal problems, increased budgetary spending in periods of election campaigns, temporary increases in inflationary pressures, the existence of the informal market, problems with the reform process of the banking system, the low degree of knowledge of the general public on the financial market. Bank risk management is a much broader concept than that of limiting the risk of loans to customers. During the exercise of their jobs, banks face the kinds of risk that could have a potential effect that acts to damage their business. Banks are obliged to create a comprehensive, reliable and ensure that the bank's profile is always in line with its expectations.

Keywords: *Management, risk, bank, banking system, banking crisis*

SPECIAL SESSIONS

N° 2022 Gjilan Int. Conf. 01/AADI

The evolution of tourism in the world: digital and metaverse

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The integration of new technologies in the field of tourism undoubtedly offers great opportunities for further development to a sector that has been conditioned in the last two years by the pandemic effect but which now finds great opportunities for relaunch and also offers tourists / travelers a new perspective concerning the planning of a trip with a more engineering development. The evolution of tourism proposals is therefore the new condition of “knowledge” and will allow an increasing number of people to undertake travel itineraries never thought before. The knowledge of the various digital tools and their specific application will therefore make it possible to plan, structure, organize and conduct a trip whether it is an itinerant or permanent one. A fundamental element therefore to arrive at that concept called “experience” which, integrated with sense, think, feel, act and relate, is currently the best combination to be able to say that you are no longer buying a trip but an experience, All this is combined with the concept of application of the tourism sector to the metaverse, an opportunity to increase the concept of suggestion and pre-purchase experience that can further increase the concept of programming for tourists / travelers by recreating real landscapes or environments and projecting them with appropriate digital visual communication tools. This new concept, more realistic than the so-called “augmented reality” increases the knowledge of a particular destination or the vision of a hotel or an airline or maritime and river navigation with digital experiences that help potential guests to understand what they have to do. Offer individual companies in the tourism sector. In addition to providing inspiration, the tourism solutions of potential metaverse applications will significantly improve booking processes by providing detailed and precise information that can hardly be provided in other digital and paper delivery systems. Ultimately, this means that the metaverse can help

suggest potential tourists / travelers to induce them to subsequently purchase a tourism service or product. In a nutshell, therefore, digital tourism will develop an appropriate comparison between the tourism offer and the digital transformation, already underway in many sectors at an international level.

Keywords: *Digital, metaverse, tourism, knowledge, experiential*

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The Limits of Bismarckian Social Insurance Model: Reforming Pensions in Albania

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Contrary to other post-communist countries, in the early 1990s the Albanian government did not adopt the “new pension orthodoxy” promoted by the World Bank, which favoured typically partial or full pension privatization. Instead, it opted for a public insurance-based approach, which was said to represent the “good way”, from a reliable and especially a sustainable social protection system. From the policymakers’ viewpoint a policy paradigm oriented to the individualisation of the pension contracts through the reciprocity mechanisms, would bring the pension system into a more fiscally sustainable path. Thus, the choice for a Bismarckian pension system was framed by a discourse related to fiscal sustainability. Nevertheless, despite the long-term goal to link benefits with contribution records, after three decades of reforms the pension system failed to shift to an insurance-based approach only. The 2014 reform changed the pension system into a mixed-occupational model made up of a social assistance scheme – means-tested, poor-relief measure – and a social insurance scheme – contributory, income maintenance scheme. It aimed, on the one hand, at “rationalizing redistribution” in pensions so that future benefits will more closely reflect past contributions; and on the other hand, at introducing more explicitly redistributive social assistance pensions in order to prevent those who did not qualify for the old-age pensions from falling into poverty.

Against this backdrop, this article aims at understanding and explaining Albanian pension system institutional development and policy change. In particular it aims at answering the following research puzzles: Why did the implementation towards insurance-based only fail? What explains subsequent development towards a mixed-occupational pension model? In order to provide an answer to these questions, this article will first show how the distinguishing features of the Albanian economic and labour market conditions do not allow a Bismarckian system alone to work effectively and secondly it will address the political imperatives that led to the recent policy changes.

Keywords: *Albania, pension reform, limits, Bismarckian model*

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Global Best Practices in Academic Diaspora Engagement

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Following the worldwide mass migration of Albanians in the 1990s, Albania is increasingly seeking to view the ‘lost talent’ of their diaspora as ‘agents of development’ rather than a ‘brain drain’. There is ample scope for cooperation between the Albanian diaspora and their native country that goes beyond the simple economic benefit of remittances. This study seeks to examine potential programs and targeted policies that could be employed to motivate the Albanian academic diaspora to collaborate with and contribute to the academic institutions of its native country. There are multiple motivations for tapping into the academic population living abroad, from extracting knowledge and skills obtained overseas to grounds for common research. This study draws parallels from notable international research conducted on the successful partnership building between native countries and their diaspora, moving away from the original one-sided philanthropic initiatives, to mutually beneficial collaborative undertakings. Although Diasporas outreach programs vary significantly from country to country, there are common elements that allow us to draw conclusions in the Albanian context. These include multiple motivations for Albanian institutions tapping into the academic population living abroad, from extracting knowledge and skills obtained overseas to grounds for common research. Albanian diaspora mobilization projects can and should be initiated, and be viewed through the lens of mutual engagement and collaborative partnerships wherever possible.

Keywords: *Best Practices, Academic Diaspora, Engagement, Albania*

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Social policy convergence in Central Asia and the Caucasus

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This article analyses social policy convergence in post-Soviet states from 2000 to 2019. Those countries have undergone through a series of political and economic transformations since their independence as well as radical changes in their welfare state. Building on the literature on policy convergence, I investigate whether welfare state changes in post-Soviet states follow similar trajectories and tend to convergence towards similar levels. Contrary to what happened during the transition period when national governments adopted different policy choices in the social sphere, the empirical analysis demonstrates that trajectories of welfare state changes in post-Soviet countries

convergence towards upper levels of social spending. Overall, the findings provide strong evidence that policy convergence can take place also in authoritarian context, such as in nondemocratic regimes located in Central Asian and the Caucasus. Additionally, the article demonstrates that, despite different initial policy decisions to liberalize their economies, post-Soviet countries still remain very similar in their welfare system.

Keywords: *Policy convergence; authoritarian regimes; welfare state changes; post-Soviet countries*

2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP (CSL – AADF)

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Teacher qualification challenges in Albania

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The educational institutions of Albania place a high priority on the professional development (qualification and self-qualification) of teachers during the span of their careers. Over the years, our teachers have faced a strong demand for continuous professional development through various official forms, such as participation in the internal qualification of the school; participation in subject commissions of the area (at the district level); attending lectures and conversations for 5 and 10-year-olds; commission verified obtaining of qualification degrees; participation in trainings with or without credits (ordering for credits to enrich the personal file in cases of job competition or to keep the job); written tests to obtain any degree of qualification with the aim of an increase in salary etc. All requirements and forms of qualification, training and professional development of teachers are defined in the legislation of education. The ongoing debates focus on the work overload teachers are facing, their effort to overcome the challenges of testing, the low effect of training, the insensitive salary increase for three levels of qualification, etc. The paper aims to provide answers to questions such as: What can be improved in regards to teacher qualification? Is a new qualification system for professional development and teacher performance evaluation necessary? Why should higher education institutions offer continuing education programs for teachers? The main effort is to overcome the challenges and improve the teacher qualification procedures in accordance with contemporary developments and the experience of other countries.

Keywords: *Qualification, professional development, promotion, assessment, performance*

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Institutionalization of the performance evaluation system of the school principal

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The study provides ideas and experiences for the establishment and operation of the school leader’s performance evaluation system (SEPLS) (principal/deputy principal), as it is essential for school improvement and student success. It is guided by the idea that good performance appraisal of managers is necessary to provide them with the support, knowledge and guidance they need to improve their performance. The study reflects the experience from the implementation of the project “Development of professional competences of the school principal” and the model developed by Dr. J. Strong, in collaboration with the Association of American Schools in South America (AASSA) team. This model is supported by the US Department of State and was adopted by the Victoria State Board of Education (USA) in 2015.

Instruction no. 2, dated 09.02.2022 of the Minister of Education and Sports, defines the Local Education Office (LEO) as the institution that conducts the annual performance evaluation of the school head. However, it is established that this process has been officially carried out. The persons responsible for performance evaluation do not carry out the process properly, as the necessary standards / indicators, methods and instruments are missing with which formative evaluation can be done to improve the leader’s achievements and summative evaluation to determine merits. The study - in the context of the state and needs of our education system - elaborates the basic concepts of SEPLS, the procedures, the levels of evaluation of the performance of the leader and the necessary documentation. All in all, all of the above can also be considered as a useful contribution to the design of training programs for LEO assessors, so that they can professionally identify the cause-and-effect relationship that helps them explain the achievement from the manager of a certain performance and the real reasons for its achievement.

Keywords: *Performance of the School Leader; performance evaluation system, performance standards, performance appraisal procedure, performance achievement level, performance evaluation instrument*

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Empowering the reading club and enriching the school library with new books

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The main aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between pupils' engagement in reading activities and their success. These terms/notions, as the main variables of the study, are new for the Albanian literature and thus they serve as a direct contribution for the topics in the field of Leadership in school. Moreover, the study was conducted in Albania therefore its findings will offer the biggest contribution in school leadership here. The aim of this study is to empower reading club among the school and to engage children in school activities.

This will help them in achieving high academic, cultural, social outcomes and to be successful in life. One of the main objectives is to create a bridge between parent, teacher and child in school life through specific programs and practices offered by them. After theoretical foundation was established, appropriate measuring instruments were found and dispersed after approval by the scientific leader of this study. For the empirical study, a questionnaire was applied to collect data. Data were collected through Likert scale method, and were analyzed using excel and spss. The study included a sample of children, parents and teachers. The credibility of the instruments reinforces their validity and the results showed a positive outcome. Also, in terms of demographic variables, there are differences between demographic variables such as gender, age, and so on for each of the above variables.

Keywords: *School, books, reading club, children success*

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Assessment of school principals' knowledge and understanding of the Standards for Professional Practice

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The aim of this study was to analyze the level of knowledge and understanding of standards for professional practice by school principals and deputy school principals. Researchers argue on the impact of leadership training programs on improving leadership practice since there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate a direct impact of leadership training programs on improved school outcomes. However, there is widespread consensus that professional training has an impact on participants by improving leaders' knowledge, skills and attitudes. As such, it is argued that training can contribute to more competent and effective leadership behaviors, and eventually lead to improvements in teaching and learning. In Kosovo, different programs for educational leadership provided at master's level or in-service programs, apart from elaborating various professional and practical topics for school leadership, also deal with the standards for professional practice of school principals. Completion of such a program recognized by the Ministry of Education is one of the main requirements for the selection of principals and vice principals. Therefore, it was important to analyze the current situation in relation to the level of knowledge and understanding of the standards by principals and deputy principals. An online survey questionnaire was administered with 200 school principals and vice principles that completed a school leadership training program in the last three years. Survey data were analyzed using SPSS. Findings will contribute to further improving the content and methodology of school principal training programs, both in-service and graduate level training programs.

Keywords: *Standards, school principals, professional development, school improvement*

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Stress and its coping; Stress in labor relations

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We live in a society that is developing. People are always on the move and their time is precious. They demand a lot from themselves and for this reason they work for hours to reach their goal. To work means to survive, and to move forward with will, honesty

and fatigue. Often times, the act of working are accompanied by stress, that is, a stressful psychological state. Stress is the main factor in reducing effectiveness, and in terms of work, we cannot say that this is an inevitable element in the chain of cause-and-effect relationships where in every sector, be it administration, implementation, maintenance, health, education, culture, order. This stress is present and always dependent on the cause that caused it to be born. Every field of life, every step towards progress requires great perseverance to face and triumph. Who? How? Why? And where do the obstacles come from that burden us emotionally and perhaps as a result of the first and physically. These occasional and sometimes constant harassments are caused in most cases by the non-objective criticism of colleagues, subordinates or superiors. The purpose of the study Stress is evident in everyday life, this is the non-objective perception that is created at work without which life would have no meaning and this is the reason that I will observe, survey and collect a lot of facts who spoke, speak and they will always talk about this phenomenon that accompanies life.

Keywords: *Stress, inevitable, phenomenon, emotional state*

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The role of the director in the culture and climate of the school

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School is an educational institution, complex in itself. A school director as the leader of this institution has to combine many factors. A director is an appointed or elected person according to law and rules. He is the leading authority and he is responsible to the general management of the school. In other word the director is the person who has the power. A school director should be based on two principles. First school management based on people rights and values, then school management based on legal provisions and tasks definitions. The work of educational institution is based on the relationship with the staff and this is a real challenge. A challenge related to the academic staff management and administration and of other actors who participate. They are responsible for the school environment that should reflect

knowledge, culture of communication, attitude, values and collaboration. The purpose of this study is the role of the school director who has to create an environment of collaboration and ethical communication at school. This study is related to pedagogical and psychological conditions in order to maintain a professional, ethical environment between all the participant actors of this institution. This study is generally focused on managerial skills and the director role in order to improve the school performance. This is a qualitative study including teachers and four school directors in our country. Those data are collected by semi-structured and analyzed interviews based on local and foreign literature. This study indicates us to reflect on the ways of how to manage school. This is helpful for those who think that culture and school environment depends on the leader. A school director is the catalyst who adjusts ethical, professional, legal and human relationships between all school actors.

Keywords: *School, school director, leader, school management, school performance*

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Murals: A form of communication through art

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‘...a real image civilization has arisen...’ according to Fulchignoni, 1969, images in communication followed interpretations linked to the decoding of images. According to Barthes, 1964, messages complete the image. According to Durand, 1981, the natural evolution of individual communication results in institutionalization. Remaining here, a form that leads to social changes is also considered mural art, which combines the social value of communication and change through it with the artistic idea. Social themes make murals contributors to social issues. The purpose of the study consists in the presentation of murals as a form of communication through art. The applied approach is the qualitative one, carried out through systematic review of the literature and observation (Mural Festival, Tirana). The library and articles on online platforms were considered, where it was searched: murals, history of murals, murals and social value, communication, social communication, art and its history, visual communication, communication and art, social value of art. The main research questions: what is the history of the Murals?; what are the legal definitions in reference to the Mural Festival?; how are social messages presented through Murals?; what are the social messages of Murals at Mural Festival 2022? The main findings consist in the evidence of earlier forms than murals, known for social messages. Tirana, through the Decor Agency, projects such as the Mural Festival and international artists, communicates social value through murals on facades. Over the years, the messages communicated are related to the figure of the girl/ woman, 100 years of Albania, the earthquake and the pandemic, and recently the youth, in the year of Tirana - European Youth Capital.

Keywords: *Murals, communication, art, social, message*

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The role of counseling in making smart choices among Youngers

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The main purpose of this study was to strengthen as much as possible the orientation and counselling of high school students so that they can make the “right choice” for their future. By conducting meetings with students of different levels, i.e. students who cannot complete an average grade to gain a university, but also those who have an average grade but are confused, the aim is for each of them to know their abilities and tendencies and to be oriented towards the “right choice”. After the theoretical foundation was established, appropriate measuring instruments were found and dispersed after approval by the scientific leader of this study. This evaluation was done through questionnaires which highlight in what field these students can be successful. The success of this study is the presentation of a webpage, entitled “My career”, as a connecting bridge between several important institutions that work together. This webpage was built to help all students after they finish high school, to give the orientation to these students to be as effective and successful as possible for each of them. The use of technology today is a very important part in almost all areas of life. We evaluated that it can be also helpful in career guidance and counselling, so we worked for this webpage to be a great help for the students. For them to find support for acquaintances or to achieve their dreams in life.

Keywords: *Guidance, counselling, career, success, right choice*

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A case of suicide attempt in adolescents

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Suicide attempt can be defined as extreme personal dissatisfaction where the individual deliberately tries to commit the act of murder. Adolescents who experience this event can have long-term emotional and cognitive consequences if they do not receive appropriate treatment. This paper presents a case study with suicide attempt. The patient was presented to the general pediatrics ward. The child E.K, 13 years old. The patient lives with her father, who has been diagnosed with schizophrenia 11 years ago. She also lives with her grandmother. Her mother abandoned her since she was born. Her condition was very agitated, she refused to speak, and she burst into tears and screamed. Communication with her at this time was very difficult. During the psychological assessment she looks tired and sleepy. While speaking she was unstable and denied the things that already said in the beginning, she also presents emotional instability. She refused her grandmother. The patient shows difficulties in relation to others, as well as painful experiences in important relationships. She also shows many concerns about her own abilities, occasionally referring to herself as useless. The patient refers that her grandmother systematically abuses her. She did not want her to be present in the room. From the clinical interview with the grandmother, we learned that the girl's behavior is aggressive, and very difficult to manage.

The working hypothesis are; Focus to help her actualize the positive force within herself, also focusing on unresolved problems or unresolved issues in relationships with others. The goal of treatment is to reduce irrational assumptions, also ensuring personal growth.

Keywords: *Suicide attempts, irrational assumptions, personal growth*

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Knowledge and the class size, as key elements of management and leadership in education (a historical&comparative approach)

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The idea of this paper came to me by a debate on the portal “Teacher for teacher” – a professional network with 38 thousand members), which began with this declaration: “It’s time for no more than 15 students in a class!”. This was considered a key factor of the education reform. In this debate about one thousand teachers have been included, and many ideas, personal experiences, figures and ‘interviews’ have been given. This was the first step of my paper, and a good reason to go ahead. Studies on management and leadership in education, especially in the last decades, have included even the impact of class size (number of students) on students’ academic achievements. This problem has been dealt even historically. In the Jewish tradition, for example, the “Rule of Maimonides” has been applied, associated with the name of a rabbi who in the 12th century who issued the first decree on the number of students in a class. Today’s studies are mainly based on “natural experiments” (which often have more advantages than formal experiments). In many countries, such as the USA, UK, the Netherlands, Canada, Korea, China, Singapore, Greece, Ireland, etc., have been implemented policies (often aggressive and expensive) to reduce classes, although they have not been based on statistically significant studies. We also examined the experience of three schools of the IB system (Madrid, Milan, and Rome) and three schools of the pre-university system in Albania (two public, one private). From this assessment it follows that the impact of class size (number of students) on students’ academic achievements follows an inverted U shape: reducing the number of students in a class is estimated to be an advantage for academic achievements, but only up to a certain degree. When this critical mass is passed, this advantage turns into a disadvantage... In this paper some conclusions have been drawn and some practical recommendations have been made.

Keywords: *knowledge, class size, management and leadership, education, comparative studies, Albania*

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Stages of educational technology development

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The study was carried out through “desk research”. It presents the stages of development of educational technology, since the beginning of the XX century, to

the present day. Among the topics covered in the study are the “visualized learning movement” and “audio-visual”, the use of media during World War II, educational television, and the value of using the computer and the Internet for learning. Philosophical, pedagogical and psychological theories are also in focus as contexts of the paradigms “visual learning movement”, “communication paradigm”, “development of learning models” and “constructivist approach” that guided the above movements. Paradigms that, through the concepts, processes, procedures and technological instruments they promoted, promised to create frameworks and environments for effective teaching and learning, which would qualitatively improve the achievements of children, young people and the public as a whole.

The study elaborates the contributions, at different time stages, which created learning environments, where verbal and visual media, such as educational silent films, radio broadcasts, audio-visual media, educational television, mobile phones, tablets, can be combined with explanatory lessons, problem - solving laboratories, collaborative workspaces or their hybrids and create for the public learning opportunities and methods, such as: “situated cognition linked to cognitive practice”; “anchored instruction”, “problem-based learning”, “cooperative learning”, until then impossible through traditional schools. The paper concludes with an overview of the effects that instructional technology has had on pedagogical practices and provides a prediction about the effect that computers, the Internet, and other digital media will have on such practices over the coming decades.

Keywords: *Learning technology, verbal media, visualized learning, behaviorism, constructivism, learning strategies based on technology*

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Positive impact of the books on students and digitization of the library a necessity of time

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The book is our closest friend who accompanies us every step we take, is our best co-author who strengthens our minds and gives us vitality. Are generations growing up the same appreciation or love and passion as we once had? In these years, education experience has been noticed a fading desire to read, fading that is deepening and deepening even more.

Our children have focused on technology and forgotten the book. The purpose of this study is the great desire to find an opportunity to get as close as possible to our students with books. Since there are many artistic books at school and students

occasionally avoid going to the library, we decided to find a way to attract them to reading. The most beautiful way to attract them to reading we thought it would be to digitize the school's artistic books where students have access and can read them online at any time they want.

School has no magic formula and in no case education can be successful if it opposes the tendencies of the time. Finding forms that harmonize and serve each other, book and electronic information technology will be constant efforts at school. In this way, apart from educating young generations with love for the book, we also educate them on how to use information technology soundly.

Keywords: *Book, digitization, library, student*

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Shaping forager societies by technology and population reduction

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Elite-directed cultural innovations and social transformations led to increases in energy consumption. Anthropologists like John H. Bodley have provided these insights. The revolutionary nature of the global transformation of production and consumption that accompanied commercialization can be readily seen in the changes in per-capita energy consumption in different cultures over time. As technology and form of society are intertwined, or as Patrick Nolan has found, the effects of technology are generally more powerful, more widespread, and more robust, than ideology can, the question arises if a fourth regime (Goudsblom) could lead a way out of climate change, pollution and devastation.

Findings: Foragers have as energy consumption an estimated 5.000 kilocalories per capita per day. Now, global energy consumption reached 122 quadrillion kilocalories annually by the year 2007. This level provoked global climate change, pollution and the devastation of many low levels like in Fidchi. It is estimated that the per-capita weight of raw material consumed per year grew from one metric ton in the tribal world to an average of nearly 20 tons in the industrialized nations by the late twentieth century, where „only a few are wealthy and powerful. Elite-directed growth has flipped the social pyramid in comparison with the tribal world (Bodley 2011: 343) results and conclusions: From this point of view societies of foragers become much more desirable. This contribution discusses ways to reduce population voluntarily and fast, thus enabling more forager life for more humans soon.

Keywords: *Foragers - energy consumption - per-capita tons of raw material - climate change*

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Identification of the involvement of students in the management structures in the school, especially girls

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The success of girls in school governance structures is the core aim of the study. One element that stands out is the opportunity given to all students to be involved in solving various problems of school life. Also, the study aims to measure the impact of school management bodies such as management staff, parents' council, school board, etc. in promoting the values and importance of girls' education, including their roles and contributions in development and decision-making. For the study, teachers and principals as well as the school psychologist were interviewed and questionnaires were developed with the students. Study questions: Are students discriminated in Albanian schools because of gender, economic level, physical appearance, origin and ethnicity? Why are women more discriminated against? How motivated do the girls feel to be part of the organizational and leadership structures in the school? What do students learn from textbooks about gender equality? Are the texts sensitive to gender education? How much do teachers influence the mitigation of gender inequalities within the school institution? The study shows that poverty affects the growth of social inequalities in education, especially in areas with poor household economy where children from poor families are less educated, as they are forced to interrupt or abandon education due to economic impossibility and the need to contribute to welfare of the family. Girls are particularly affected not only for economic reasons, mainly helping families, but especially because of social and cultural attitudes that consider investing in education for girls as a low priority. Students who come from informal or rural areas feel marginalized compared to other students. Also, the students who belong to other communities feel the differentiation in their relationships with their peers but also in relation to the treatment by the teachers.

Keywords: *Law, provision, institution, discrimination, inequality, decision-making*

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The use of internet in secondary schools

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The use of the internet is a necessity in human social life. It offers opportunities information and communication for everyone. Are our schools capable of developing this ability? This study aims to highlight and stimulate the factors for improving the situation. This study consists of 3 parts. The first part presents the current situation in

some Albanian schools, whether public or private. In the second part, examples from practice are described successful use of the internet in schools and the third part includes some suggestions what schools can do better to improve conditions and not only them (educations policies). Data collection it was done using two different instruments, questionnaires and structured interviews. In this study, the physical and technological elements of internet access that schools have are included. 220 students and 1313 teachers take part in this study. The data showed that the use of the internet for educational purposes is low. Students use the internet in games, movies, music and mainly in social networks, according to the teachers, the loss of time, the delay in submitting assignments leads to low results, but this is not the only reason. The lack of conditions in schools brings low results in the development of digital competence. In the end, the study suggests policy makers and teachers to create the right conditions for students to be effective in using the internet in schools.

Keywords: *Teacher, student, conditions, internet*

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The role of instructional feedback in increasing teachers' Self-Efficacy in Students Engagement

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The study of self-efficacy and its impact on teachers' performance has intrigued a lot of scholars during the last two decades. This study analyzed the perceptions of teachers on the role of administrator's instructional feedback during the process of teacher's performance evaluation in increasing their self-efficacy and how it affects students' engagement. Since self-efficacy plays a vital role in determining teacher effectiveness and student achievement, little is known about the impact that the teacher evaluation process has on teachers' self-efficacy and the development of student's engagement skills. To conduct this research quantitative methods were used, the sample was selected by using simple random sampling where 280 teachers from the primary and lower secondary of the Republic of Kosovo took place. Data was collected through the Teacher Sense of Efficacy Scale (TSES) long-form, which was adapted and modified to achieve research goals. This modified questionnaire helped us to identify the role of feedback in teacher self-efficacy with a focus on students' engagement. The Pearson correlation technique was used to analyze the data on SPSS 20.0. The results indicated a moderate positive relationship between evaluation frequency with feedback frequency, feedback frequency with teacher's self-efficacy, and feedback on students' engagement with teacher's self-efficacy on students' engagement skills. Thus, it can be inferred that the more frequently teachers go through the process of performance evaluation, and the more feedback they receive during this process, the more teachers improve their self-efficacy believe and develop better students' engagement skills.

Keywords: *Students' engagement, instructional feedback, teacher self-efficacy*

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Suburban children and the Shaping of their Social Identity

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Albanian society is going through relatively complicated and unknown social processes. New cultural, economic and spiritual elements are shaping the present and the future of children, young people and families. In the meantime, the issue of silent marginalization, but with important consequences for the future, of children living in suburbs, outside the centers of urban development, becomes more and more sensitive. Due to reasons mainly of economic nature, their status of social interaction tends to go towards reduction, which has resulted in stigma and self-stigma, the development of traumatic processes, mainly in terms of social identity, namely its lack. The future of these identities determines to a significant extent the quality of life, the psychological and moral balance of the communities in which they are or will be included. This paper aims to present data about the issue in question, for the children of a suburban school in Vlora, in Akërnia area, to show the possibilities of intervention and the results of a relevant experiment, in order to build a social identity that avoids stigma and supports self-confidence based on their own values.

Keywords: *Suburban children, new conditions, social identity, stigma, building self-confidence, school's support*

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Exploring Productive Use of Feedback in Higher Education by Encouraging Online Interaction

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The current paper aims to shed some new light on the role of feedback and interaction in higher education, more specifically, exploring on productive use feedback and interaction in online environments in higher educations. As instructors, we are

quite aware that feedback is a powerful weapon to improve learning outcomes, but the way feedback can be made more productive to everyone's benefit does still deserve due attention and exploration. We begin the paper by delving into relevant literature review that pinpoints the conceptualization of feedback and interaction as a social practice, moving beyond the shared conception that feedback and interaction involve just positive comments and good communication qualities. We are constantly guided by the principle that impact deriving from feedback is the result of ongoing interaction and commitment, beyond the limitations of classroom walls. The larger the networks of social interaction, the greater the rewards. To fulfill the aims of the current paper, we bring some examples from actual courses at UNIKO and UBT, illustrating the way feedback and interaction are perceived in these higher education institutions and outline some suggestions that facilitate more productive use of feedback, based on quoted literature review and online learning contexts. The paper is enriched with conclusions and recommendations that, it is hoped, will help reconceptualize the role of online feedback and interaction in higher education, and, more specifically, the way learners and instructors benefit from such a reconceptualization in the long run.

Keywords: *Social, online, teaching, feedback, impact, learning, interaction*

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The perceptions of students attending higher professional education 'Educator 0-3' regarding the labor market

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Vocational education in Albania is gaining special importance as the labor market is looking for professionals, related to various aspects of the social life and development of the country. The latest perspectives show a great importance of educating children from early childhood and this requires educators to have professional knowledge to understand child psychology. Based on this, I have undertaken a study, the purpose of which is related to the perceptions of students who attend higher professional education for "Educator 0-3 years old" regarding the labor market. A questionnaire consisting of 16 questions was completed by 56 first- and second-year students studying in the "0-3 year old educator" branch at the "Aleksandër Xhuvani" University of Elbasan. The results of the study show that the students are convinced of their choice and that they work hard to become qualified professionals, but their concern is related to future employment as they are unsure if the years of study in this field will be recognized and that they will be able to be employed as professionals in this field. What the students perceive is related to the fact that the role of the educator in our country is not properly recognized and has not yet received the appropriate importance, since the educators in the care institutions for children aged 0-3 are still non-professional individuals who lack knowledge regarding child psychology. Therefore, it is recommended that

students be better informed about the importance of this branch of study as well as the opportunities offered in terms of employment.

Keywords: *Educator; professional education, early childhood, labor market*

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How teachers' performance is impacted by transformational and interpersonal school leadership style

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The purpose of the study was to investigate the relationships between the school transformational, interpersonal, and teachers' performance, as well as the influence of these school leadership styles on teachers' performance. The quantitative approach was the method used in the empirical study. A structured questionnaire, and a random cluster sample of respondents were taken. The study found that, according to teachers 30% of the variance on students' achievements is explained by transformational leadership; meanwhile, according to principals 40% of the variance on students' achievements is explained by transformational leadership. It is demonstrated that, 32.3% of the variance on students' achievements is explained by interpersonal leadership according to teachers; meanwhile, according to principals, 45.6% of the variance on students' achievements is explained by interpersonal leadership.

Keywords: *Transformational leadership style, interpersonal leadership style, teachers' performance*

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The impact of tests on leadership development

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Tests are generally and commonly valued as a powerful means of measuring the success or failure of students, teachers and administrators in acquiring knowledge.

Teachers develop them regularly and in the end issue the corresponding grade for each student. The same process happens with the evaluation of teachers and school leaders. The fundamental issue arising from this evaluation is related to the ability to translate the achievement of the test results into a concrete result. How many of these results are substantive and how they are reflected in the daily life of students, teachers and principal's school, always keeping in mind the practical application of knowledge, is a concern not only for students but also for teachers, parents and the general labor market. We are often faced with cases of pupils and students who graduate with excellent grades but in practical terms they fail to meet the minimum levels of commitment. In this paper, we will try to investigate the relationship between the tests that are conducted periodically and in a standard way by teachers for students, but also by institutions for teachers and school leaders, in the development of leadership. Using questionnaires, interviews, data analysis, direct observation, we will summarize the results. The aim is to highlight how the connection between exam results and leadership development is reflected in the reality of schools in Albania.

Keywords: *Students, teachers, school leaders, test, achievement, knowledge, leadership*

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The role of school in emotional education

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Emotions can positively or negatively influence thinking processes and cognitive processes can influence the development and understanding of emotions. And it is precisely in the cognitive processes that the emphasis of education is placed on feelings. The Delors Report of the European Commission 1993 points out the objective of 'learning to learn throughout life' and in order to acquire this competence it is necessary for young people to acquire skills. The World Medical Organization sees these skills as essential in an official document in 1993 entitled 'Life skills education in school'. So, through school, the ways are identified to equip individuals from childhood with that knowledge, skills and competences that enable them face to face and solve the various problems of life. The goal is to encourage people to be responsible citizens and active participants in social life, able to assume their role independently and face life's circumstances. What is the role of the school in emotional education? The school plays an important role in the psycho-physical well-being of the students and this attention can be seen in the presence of psychologists in our schools. The Pre-University Education Law requires the director to direct the activity of the educational institution, being responsible for improving the quality of the educational service, for the implementation and development of the curriculum, for the management of human resources, as well as for the management of material and financial resources. This encourages us to support and provide the possibility of emotional education in our schools.

Keywords: *Education, emotional, development, skills*

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Globalization in the education system

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One of the questions that must concern all is: What is education for the first century? Another argument is that the impact of globalization in the educational culture and system is an evident concern for those in support of a more traditional approach to educational institutions. This study will analyze the impact of globalization on the education of developing countries, such as Albania. Nowadays it is the appropriate time to prepare for the unexpected and not to survive in panic, especially in the midst of challenges posed by illnesses and natural phenomenon. Being aware of the natural phenomenon and illnesses, we must be able to plan and put into practice all specific, feasible objectives, side by side with the annual subject planning. 2020 has clearly demonstrated that our educational system is far from perfect and found us unprepared. This lack of preparation caused for the educational system to be disoriented after the pandemic, and caused for a less stable goal and fundamental objectives. Efficient educational systems are the foundation for opportunities to create a good life. The certainty that children must have an adequate access in education is an essential function; hence I would like to suggest some gaps where the curriculum may allow for intervention.

Keywords: *Globalization in education, phenomenon, planning, feasible objectives, pandemic*

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Quality in education as a measure for the development of the society

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Education is one of the areas that are discussed in every society and this discussion happens all the time. This is because the development of societies happens precisely on the basis of a good and quality of education. The higher is the quality of this education, the faster is the development and even the transformation of societies, even our society. However, in practice it happens that a discussion on education does not mean that governments, starting from the central to the local level governments have as priority the education and on the basis of this priority to decide adequate measures for the development of a quality education on their institutions. This paper

will try to explain how important it is to approach that the priorities for a higher quality education become such with support plans, especially in financial terms. This paper will present a paradigm in the case of Kosovo, where all Kosovo governments without distinction since the declaration of independence of Kosovo have given priority to education, while on the other hand the allocation of the budget for education has been ridiculous. Therefore, this paper will rightly bring to the reader how important it is for the state not only to prioritize education, but also to support it with strategic plans, and above all in financial terms, because prioritizing the education only in strategic documents with no further actions means a big failure towards the quality in education. And if this does not happen, then surely quality of education will be lacking, and with it will lack the results, especially the international results, as is the case with the PISA results.

Keywords: *Education, quality, transformation, societies, financial, priority*

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Covid-19 and its impact on learning and schools

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Our paper focuses on the processing of data collected from focus groups conducted with children in the Elementary education cycle in the schools of the Korca region. We designed a set of questions based on contemporary techniques for their preparation and collected information about the learning experience of children, teachers, and parents during the time of the Covid-19 pandemic, especially during the time of closing their schools. The questions are related to their experience, to their answers, which are not seen as they are: right or wrong, they are seen as their opinion, which serves to learn more about the problems, experiences, and good practices that were created during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Keywords: *Covid-19, focus group, best practices*

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Pedagogical aspect of learning letters based on phonological-graphic frequency

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The purpose of this study was to analyze the frequency of use of letters in Albanian writing. Another aim of this study was to identify the letters with the highest frequency of use in writings of different types. The research argues that the order of letters according to the density of use in writing differs from their order during the initial reading-writing lesson. The findings prove that the design of the initial book for teaching reading and writing, Abetare, is inconsistent with the principle of the density of the initial teaching of letters. The frequency of appearance of a sound and grapheme in speech and writing affects its easier acquisition, both from its appearance and from its sound, its melody. Based on the name Alphabet, almost all languages begin the learning of literacy with this sound-letter A. For the analysis we used different texts with about 80,000 words, with over 300,000 letters. The order of the letters according to the frequency of use was: E=11%, Ë=10%, I=9%, T=8%, A=7%, followed by the letters R, M, N with 6% of the frequency of use. The letter A ranks fifth in terms of frequency of use. The letters E, Ë, I and T are easier for beginners to write. So, should the sequence of learning the letters be done according to the frequency of use and the ease of writing and pronouncing them by beginners? This study will facilitate the work of the drafters of the initial book for learning to read and write, but also for the easier acquisition of reading and writing by students.

Keywords: *Letter frequency, reading-writing, teaching method, pedagogical importance, facilitating learning*

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Effectiveness of teacher training, challenges and perspectives

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The continuing qualification of teachers is one of the biggest challenges that pre-university education teachers face today. Various agencies offer training on different topics to meet the needs of teachers that are to be trained. This paper aims at exploring the efficiency of these training topics for the continuing qualification of pre-university

teachers. This paper includes some research questions also that aid the purpose of this study. - Are these offered training topics in accordance with the real needs of teachers? - What is the level of efficiency of these training topics according to the point of view of the teachers and according to the point of view of the training providers?

- What are the challenges faced by these shareholders?

- How are these challenges to be faced in the future?

The methodology used is qualitative. The data are obtained from 27 in-depth interviews with teachers, managers, and providers of teacher training, combined with secondary data obtained from institutions that have in focus this issue. The study highlighted that the topics offered for training are not always in alignment with the real needs of the teachers. The majority of training topics are held because teachers are more interested in getting credits, to fulfill legal obligations, or moving to higher rankings for the sake of qualifications, rather than getting trained for their professional development. Teachers suggest that there should be a mechanism added to these training topics. The mechanism includes training topics according to the contracts they sign when they enter a position and also training topics that are free of charge in this regard.

Keywords: *Training, teachers, professional development, continuing qualification*

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The role of sociocultural diversity in students' behavior and results

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As a rights-based approach that incorporates all aspects of education and their contribution to the full development of the child, multiculturalism in education helps to lay the foundation for shared understanding and the building of a cohesive society. This study looks at the impact of socio-cultural diversity in society, particularly in education, and we will look at issues and questions of interest to contemporary education and the development of our society. Students should feel motivated, respected, valued, and more involved in developing a learning atmosphere where communication between all is open, honest, continuous, and trusting.

Acceptance of diversity in our country is a very controversial topic that was not considered as such in the past, but today the need to accept it is revealed to us all around

us, in school, in society, in the workplace and in life. The research to be conducted will be qualitative and quantitative; there will be a sample of subjects and defined. The respondents of this study will be 70 primary and secondary school teachers with whom we will fill in a Likert scale questionnaire and 30 students of grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 with whom we will conduct a semi-structured interview. The data will be analyzed using the Statistical Package of Social Sciences - SPSS 21 and descriptive, reliability, correlation and regression analyses will be carried out.

Keywords: *Education, diversity, communication, society*

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**Reflection on the implementation of policies
for the assistant teacher
in the public pre-university education system**

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The development of inclusive education, as one of the important objectives of the National Strategy for the development of pre-university education, has conditioned the drafting of policies for the assistant teacher. The implementation of these policies aims at the inclusion and integration of children with special needs in the public education system. The current legislation defines the role and duties of the assistant teacher, the conditions and requirements that must be met for their implementation, the relationships that must be built with other teachers and parents, the requirements related to professional skills and ongoing training, the teaching load inside and outside the classroom, needs for development of alternative curricular programs in accordance with PEI, assistance to students with disabilities for the development of social, emotional, developmental and other life skills. The assistant teacher must be equipped with a second cycle diploma in the field of education. The teaching assistant profession is part of the list of regulated professions. During the period 2015-2021, the number of assistant teachers in the public education system has increased from 65 to 1408 teachers. Their average workload for the school year 2021/22 is estimated at about 3.5 students / teachers. The service with assistant teachers is more effective in urban areas. In peri-urban areas and especially in rural areas this service has not yet started to be implemented. Parents' perceptions of the quality of education of children with disabilities and their expectations are not enthusiastic. In our society, beliefs have not yet been formed and there are significant shortcomings in the attitude towards the effort for inclusive education, which are often accompanied by a negative reaction, especially from parents, to the implementation of policies for non-discriminatory education of children with disabilities.

Keywords: *Politics, public pre-university education, inclusion, students with different abilities, assistant teachers*

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Technology influencing art education

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The world is characterized by numerous and rapid changes, part of which has come from the rapid development of information and communication technology. Education must adapt to the continuous changes in technology, and use them widely in the learning process. Education must respond to these changes, at a rapid pace, with internal quantitative and qualitative developments to transmit systematic, coherent and stable knowledge and skills to students, then reflecting these in society for the creation of a future more positive for everyone (Ejupi B., 2021; 1). The digitization of education is expressed in the Pre-University Education Development Strategy (2014-2020), where the promotion of digital skills among students remains a high priority. The using of the technology can be considered as a methodology in art education, bringing not only benefits. In the qualitative study undertaken with 30 teachers of the artistic school “Jan Kukuzeli” in the city of Durrës and the quantitative one with 148 students of this educational institution, it was confirmed that the development of technology, the widespread use of the Internet and digital skills, have influenced in a double way. The increase in motivation and interest in digital skills has been significantly reflected by the findings of this study, but at the same time, the impact on the reduction of motivation for original creativity in the field of visual art and musical instruments has also been reflected. Traditional art forms remain solid against the influence of technology because of the resilience of teachers to this art. The education of art such as visual art and musical instruments should be combined with the developing technology and its integration in teaching. It is necessary to prepare teachers in this process by being as updated as possible with the needs of art development and contemporary methodologies in pre-university education.

Keywords: *Art, technology, education, musical instruments*

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Management in education; the challenge of the 21st century

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“What greater or better gift can we offer the republic than to teach and instruct our youth”- Cicero. Management in educational system is a mobilization of human and material resources. It is a basis to plan, observe and direct the processes within

an institutional system. It can be affirmed that it is a process based on determined objectives which ensure well-functioning of the educational system and educational institutions. The management, as an action, impacts and motivates educational group and all other factors in achieving the mutual goals and efforts of the school, teaching and learning quality, results and performance of the students, school culture, qualitative management, access for all in the favor of teaching, inclusiveness and optimal certainty. Developing positive relations at school demands a need for good cooperation, give opinions and attitudes for effective communication and results. Management as a process cannot be applied if the leader's influence does not exist, it may be overridden or it is simply a name for administrative tasks.

Leadership is a capability to foresee the future. It is a vision in managing an institution that is a successful school according to the needs of this challenging century, so we must do a good and capable management and be a leader of cooperation. The role of a manager has a great importance in planning the school needs, quality and carefulness in progressing and professional support. He or she must be also a smart individual in every case; an organizer and motivating, inspiring leader for new and progressive achievements. Evaluating and raising hypotheses for education and management means that you have precise information on the process of changes that occur in education mostly in recent two decades even though it can be affirmed that education is always in progress since its beginning. However, in essence the progress is still incomplete because education in the society of the 21st century is an experimental field but in favor of positive achievements.

Keywords: *Education, revolution, management, reform, society, progress*

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Lidership and management in education after the pandemic period

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Leadership is the art of creating a group of people to do something as a single team and each of them to believe that this is the right thing to do. The leader is the 'nerve' of school improvement. When leadership is weak, schools fail or have a poor performance (Fullan 2008). Leaders are not important for improving the school, but they are the key to improving it. Fullan (2008) emphasizes that nothing can be more important in the 21st century than learning to manage change. Therefore, managing an educational institution is a challenge for anyone who takes on the task. The challenge on the verge of almost unbearable was the management of the educational institution in the conditions of a global pandemic. During the pandemic period, the problems that arose were numerous in both online teaching and the psychological care of school members. The purpose of this paper is to shed light on the importance of the school leader in having an effective teaching by teachers. This raises the research question:

How does the role of the leader affect an effective teaching? To answer this research question, the study hypothesis was raised that: The leader plays an important role and positively influences the effective teaching of teachers, giving positive effects on student achievement. In these conditions, to realize the findings of this paper we have completed the questionnaires from 45 teachers and semi-structured interviews with 2 principals of the 9-year school “Selim Alliu” regarding the difficulties encountered during the first year of the pandemic the realization of online learning and what has been the role of the leader for an effective teaching in these times. The conclusions drawn from the questionnaire are interesting and concrete, not ruling out that they are a valuable sample to generalize the whole situation that education has gone through during the pandemic period.

Keywords: *Education, management, online teaching, physical education, pandemic*

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How can schools promote health and well-being?

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The covid-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have increased the pressure on many aspects of life, especially for the peoples of Europe. As a result of successive crises, the importance of health and well-being is being emphasized even more. Schools as the main educational institutions among the many challenges are required to put more attention in promoting the health and well-being of students and their families in these difficult times. This paper analyzes the salutogenic approach based on the Salutogenic Theory, of medical sociologist Aaron Antonovsky (1979). The authors analyze the concept focusing on children’s rights. They identify the variety of stressors faced by students and their families as well as the ability of individuals to cope with these stressors in the school environment, as well as family and community environments. The paper discusses the resources that the school and the community have to meet the needs of students in cases of exposure to stressors and strategies to increase the resilience of students.

Keywords: *Salutogenic Theory, salutogenic approach, health, wellbeing*

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**Education is key tool in development of society;
educational leadership is a key element
for effective school and education**

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Albanian society and the global society are facing more and more economic difficulties to ensure a good well-being and mental health. These problems were created by the lack of human and material resources, but also by bad governance. The key instrument that improves the lives of citizens and regulates their governance is education. Education is a very important area for investment and development prospects of families and society. In the 21st century, the challenges are many and varied education for the contemporary citizen, the citizen to cope terms of new circumstances that surround him. Investing in education is the key to success. This study is based on qualitative research methodology and its analysis is that of comparative analysis in which the importance that other developed countries determine for school leadership as well as the path followed for its development and continuous improvement is compared. Educational results depend heavily on the leadership and development of school leadership to meet the needs of society. Decentralization of educational structures, decentralization of powers and increased responsibility of school leaders requires a new school structure and a new leadership in education. The school leadership training program, considering the relevant training topics, is more like a reinforcement of the master's degree in teaching than a program for the formation and practice of educational leadership. How does school leadership affect the achievement of high student results?

Keywords: *Education, effective school, education, leadership models, school leadership*

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**Reading through technology.
Today's challenges in reading education**

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The transformation of the future requires an urgent rebalancing of our relationships with each other, with nature as well as with the technology that permeates our lives, offering opportunities for progress, raising serious concerns for equality, inclusion and democratic participation," the UNESCO Report states - As for the future of education. Our study aims to determine that the development of technology has also influenced

the culture of reading, where the traditional written book seems to have been forgotten. This phenomenon is challenging in terms of education, because our life has changed vector, its journey now belongs to the digital world. E-book (electronic book) and audio books should be the main word today in terms of reading and listening in the digital age, which affects the shaping of generations and the expansion of the horizon of human knowledge. The research methodology is based on case studies: observations, conversations and group discussions, the involvement of students during the years of study in activities such as: seminars, trainings, workshops, where evaluations and interpretations using modern technology were shown. We suggest that reading e-books and audio books in a group: encourages discussion, questions, expands knowledge, enriches vocabulary, increases personal development; intergenerational education from early childhood and beyond; the qualification and training of students through research and scientific projects, workshops, intensive practices to have successful teachers in relation to the challenges and demands of the time and digital era. If we want to transform the future, if we want to change course, we must rethink education, because knowledge and reading have great value, it helps to better understand ourselves and the times; yesterday, today, and the future.

Keywords: *Development, technology, e-book, education, reading.*

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The survival of Albanian education and the parallel system in Kosovo 1990-1999

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Throughout the entire decade of 89-99 the Kosovar society has been confronted with hard situations at all levels, such as at the political, social, health level and especially in education. This reality has certainly made the survival of this society in general very difficult, especially in the educational field. The attempts to destroy Albanian education in Kosovo during this time period are known since the tendencies for the imposition of joint curriculums, which aimed educational and cultural destruction. The attempts for destruction were answered precisely through self-organization, especially in the field of education. These efforts for self-organization have resulted precisely in the survival of Albanian education in Kosovo, thus bringing to life the parallel system in general, in education in particular. Self-organization in the educational field, gave evidence of concrete and tangible results which thus resulted in the survival of the Albanian education, and practically also in the preservation of the cultural and national identity. Therefore, the survival of Albanian education comes as a result of all that work and continuous efforts of society to preserve education and to enable a continuity of the teaching and learning process.

Keywords: *Kosovar society, survival, self-organization, parallel system*

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Factors that affect the stress and job satisfaction of the teachers

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This study investigates and seeks to find a correlation between stress, influencing factors and job satisfaction of teachers. 150 teachers from 9-year-old schools participated in the study. The study used as a theoretical basis a rich literature regarding the new findings on the factors that influence the increase in the stress level of teachers. The aim of the study was to build an inventory of stressful factors that affect the level of stress and job satisfaction of teachers. A comprehensive and detailed survey program on teacher stress was designed by the researchers through a probability sampling procedure using the simple random sampling technique. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16.0 was used to conduct an exploratory factor analysis. The results of the factorial analysis revealed three factors. To assess the reliability of the instrument, the Alpha Kronbach reliability coefficient was used for the three subscales. The results showed that the average level of stress experienced by teachers is $M = (58)$ out of a total score of 70. Overall the study produced an average value of "Job satisfaction" of teachers $M = (29)$, out of a total score 35. It is hoped that these results will help teachers, managers of public and non-public preuniversity education institutions to find mechanisms that increase teachers' job satisfaction. In addition, the findings will also fuel a scholarly debate about the stress experienced by teachers. Therefore, we suggest that other researchers should consider using the triangulation method. The limitation of this study was the non-inclusion in the inventory of academic stress factors and other factors such as the environment, equipment, salary, direction, etc. The evidenced results have limited generalizability, but the researchers suggest the replication of this study using a wider inventory of factors in future studies to validate the findings.

Keywords: *Stress, stressful factor, job satisfaction, stress level*

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The impact of the teacher-parent relationship on the child's educational process

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Parents are a great support for the child's progress in school. Everything starts with what is called "Authority" because if the parent gives the right authority to the teacher figure then a great job is done. Authority is the daily part that the child must feel in the two

most important places for him; school and family, being accompanied, naturally, by the love of each of them. If the trinomial school - child - parent is not working properly, then the problem must be found and fixed, because without one part of it we cannot have well-educated children. Parents also have a key role in monitoring their child's progress to help and achieve the best results. Their observation consists of what is called "active participation in meetings with parents, where the main problems for each child are focused on and the aim of eliminating them". If the parents do not stay active in, then their observation, for the progress of the child's education, is not complete. In addition to observers, parents can work very well and make a fruitful contribution as volunteers, encouraging even more cooperation as well as giving an important message about cooperation between children; because children are very good imitators of their parents' behavior. A study that brings in focus the role of parents in the good education of children; and a coherent comparison in several schools in the city of Durres.

Keywords: *Cooperation, education, progress, regress, communication, parenting*

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The dropout phenomenon in suburban schools of the city of Durres

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Dropping out of school is a phenomenon that affects the future of our country more and more every day. This is due to the fact that compulsory education is a right that everyone enjoys by law. Dropping out of school is the departure from forced education towards other things which can be influenced by many factors such as: economic, social, cultural, religious and ethnic. The purpose of this study is to identify the causes and make it possible to improve the possibilities so that this phenomenon is not repeated at the same rates as in previous years. The methods used are qualitative and the instruments used are unstandardized and semi-standardized interviews. In the study, two schools located in the outskirts of the city of Durres were taken. The conclusions of this study are that dropping out of school is influenced by a number of individual factors of the child, but also those caused by the community, the family and the local government. What was noticed was that Roma students had a higher probability compared to Egyptian students but also other children. Many of the practices of school programs have shown that schools can play an active role in preventing the phenomenon of dropping out of school by creating different programs based on the needs of children. A friendly, safe and student-friendly school environment helps children at risk of dropping out of school to feel protected and motivated to attend classes regularly. The recommendations go directly to school leaders, pedagogical staff, but also to the school's psycho-social staff.

Keywords: *Abandonment, illiteracy, socio-economic problems, Roma children and Egyptian children*

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The role of technology in the educational system

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Global society is facing numerous and rapid changes, where part of them has come from the rapid development of information technology. The educational system must adapt of these changes and use them for the learning process. The development of technology has influenced a successful teaching. Extensive of the technology in education has also influenced in the organization of the learning process by continuously using contemporary teaching methods. In this study will be analyzed issues the impact of information technology on the learning process will be analysed. This study will focus on what the technology of information is mostly used for, so much the use of technology creates autonomy in the learning process, how much students are adapted to the use of technology, how much the use of technology in the learning process motivates students, how much it affects the use of technology in students outcome, etc. The study was able to demonstrate that the use of technology has a positive effect on students, both in motivation and success. In today's digital age, students not only benefit from knowledge but also become individually skilled in the profiles they have chosen to study and in their future work. The study also showed that continuous training is needed for the academic staff so that they can also be guides for the students. Communication, processing, critical thinking and problem solving skills as well teamwork are essential in today's technological and socio – economic society.

Keywords: *Role of technology, education, acquired skills, social impact, economic impact*

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The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in the education system in Albania

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Albania, as a member of the United Nations together with 192 member states, approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda is a 15-year global framework focused on 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United

Nations, where 'Quality Education' is included in goal 4. Since education is a good public, the treatment of this paper will be important for independent researchers, teachers and university lectures to become familiar with the objectives of sustainable development and adopt them for quality education. In this paper, we will discuss how the objectives of sustainable development are included in the development of higher and pre-university education in Albania, as well as the strategic documents, the legal basis, the action plans drawn up by the government of the Albanian state for the implementation of 2030 Agenda (SDG 4) 'Quality Education'.

We will deal the connection between higher and pre-university education in the framework of SDG4 and how it affects the preparation of teachers to respond to the objectives for Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda. The purpose of this paper is to show how ensure inclusive quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities. In this paper, we are going to treat the mechanisms that will be used to achieve the goal will be addressed by analyzing the 7 goals of SDG4 included in the National Education Strategy 2021-2026. Also, we are going to treat how the professional development of pre-university education teachers and university lectures will be improved.

Keywords: *2030 Agenda, goals, education System, teacher*

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The role of technology for teaching coding in compulsory education

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The purpose of this session is to present the findings from an evaluation research project "Monitoring and Evaluation Services for the 21st Century Schools Program in the Western Balkans", realized by LSEEnterprise with a network of researchers from the region. The program involved the distribution of small computers known as Micro: bits to all primary schools in the region by the British Council, accompanied by teacher training to raise the capacity of education systems to provide instruction in computer coding and programming to young people. The research project evaluated how the ministries of education and school leaders in the Western Balkans supported the introduction of new technologies and digital education in primary school. The research also evaluated schools' capacities in infrastructure, quality of staff, teachers and school leaders, for implementing innovative teaching methodologies involving critical thinking and problem solving and in using Micro: bits to teach coding skills to young people.

Given this background, the main findings relate to the way the project improved the coding skills and critical thinking and problem solving skills of pupils in the 6th

-9th grades in primary schools during the period 2020-2022. The context of Covid-19 gave a special importance to the research findings with the necessity of using online learning platforms. The increased interest of pupils in IT and new technologies are necessary for the digital transformations as the priorities of education. The researchers will provide an overview, followed by presentations of the findings from the research project in three countries. Professor Merita Xhumari, University of Tirana and Professor Ardiana Gashi, University of Pristina will present the results of each country research. The findings are highly relevant to the theme of the conference, given the importance of educating young people in skills that will be in much demand in the future.

Keywords: *Digital transformation, coding, microbits, primary education, capacity building.*

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The perception of school principals on the use of personal leadership resources in time of crisis

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This study is an attempt to present an overview of the use of Personal Leadership Resources (PLRs) in times of coronavirus during the confinement and post-confinement periods due to the COVID-19 crisis. The question raised in the study was: “What is the degree of adaptation of the Personal Leadership Resources (PLRs) used by leadership in times of crisis?”. The study’s main activity was the description of Personal Leadership Resources (PLRs) utilized by a group of school principals from some part of Albania. This is accomplished through critical review of the literature, data collected from questionnaires of the principals and teachers. The results indicate that there was a high degree of adaptation of the PLRs during the crisis from the principals. Three categories of the PLR-s (Leithwood 2012), cognitive resources, social resources, psychological resources were mostly used by principals. The lowest level of use of the principal’s personal resources is seen in perception and management of emotions and acting in an emotionally appropriate way, proactivity, job satisfaction and cooperation with other schools. According to the perception of the teachers, the principals have a lower degree of use of some personal leadership resources, as in the social and psychological resources in comparison to the perception of the principals.

Keywords: *School leadership, Personal Leadership Resources (PLRs), the perception of principals, time of crisis*

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Art and Craft in schools

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The study is dedicated to the cultural heritage especially of the area for which the project was designed but it is also dedicated to the Albanian heritage, the weaving of fabrics with taste and love. This work aims to awake desires and love for the tradition, the art inherited as one of the priceless assets to concretely make a promotion of the creation of the atelier in school where students learn the art of handwork. The reader will like the way the paper presents to embrace and enjoy it nowadays. We have intentionally chosen this topic for the study because the technology development has left in the shadow the incomparable handwork. We want to give voice to long-standing tradition, ethnographic taste and to our identity. The mythology used is simple, starting with a historical research, key person meetings, discussion groups and questionnaires. The study showed that cultural heritage reinforces the sense of belonging; it is a value for the community. The study is also important as it fulfills the need for documentation and for enrichment of the historical information of the area related to heritage. We also convey this need as a recommendation: to intervene, help and enable the transcendence of values and traditions in future generations. It is very necessary to return to our traditions as they have almost been extinct. Young people need to know their country to love it more.

Keywords: *Tradition, art, craft, heritage, weave, handicraftsman*

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The Importance of Teaching English for Specific Purposes

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Teaching English for specific purposes in the context of language learning has gained a special place and prominence in different language programs, where English is relevant to different professions. Thanks to the latest developments in the field of language teaching, there are many English textbooks specified for different professions. In the wide range of textbooks, pedagogues can choose what textbook is appropriate to use in English classes. It does not matter if the number of classes is small. One can always adapt a course book for the syllabus design, choose and use it as the main literature to teach English for specific purposes. The benefits of using such textbooks are great, relevant to specific vocabulary, using different life conversations related to specific job. The goal of ESP teacher is to help specialist students for their vocational training or job where English is used as an international language. Other additional materials to develop

listening, reading comprehension as well as writing skills take a special place. Internet sites or teachers blogs offer a wide range of materials that can be used by the English instructor to use language in and for communication. In this context, in this paper are presented some key elements of teaching ESP from theoretical to practical uses, to help novice teachers to design and implement ESP in the English classes where English is learned for specific purposes.

Keywords: *Specific vocabulary, syllabus design, interactive language*

THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE IMAGE IN THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL FORMATION OF MAN IN SARTORI'S THOUGHT

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ABSTRACT

The essay presents Giovanni Sartori's philosophical-social conception, particularly in analyzing television as an instrument of mass communication and the consequences it represents in the anthropological aspect and in the collective organization of human life. The applied methodology is based on an analytical approach to his works, related in particular to television. The presentation of his opinion will resonate with other thinkers in communication studies, but it will also contradict some theses and theories widely held in this area of study. With a dose of realism and using data from quantitative studies, Sartori will criticize contemporary theories and conceptions that conceive television only as a tool that democratizes, pluralizes and promotes the debate of ideas in contemporary social reality. In this analysis, the important role of television as a central means of social life in today's society will be underlined, with a global impact in pedagogical, anthropological, cognitive and political terms. The focus of Sartori's thought is concentrated in the consequences that television has produced, in the individual and collective aspect of human life, radically shaping and showing negative consequences in the organization of collective human life. The aim of addressing these criticisms is not to neglect television as a means of communication, but to avoid its negative consequences in order to preserve and restore the human condition as an 'animal' that uses abstraction and a critical attitude to understand reality and relationship with the other.

Keywords: *television, image, video-politics, video-child, symbol, anthropology*

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From alphabetic to image man: the anthropological redefinition

In his work *Homo videns*, Sartori refers to Cassirer's anthropological definition of man as a "symbol animal", that is, capable of producing symbols to articulate and communicate his spiritual products through language. In this respect, what determines and defines its nature is a language, so "l'uomo è un animale parlante, un *animal loquax* "continuamente a colloquio con se stesso" (Sartori, 1999: 6).

But language is not only the ability to communicate, but also to think. Sartori defines this element with the term "onomatology" where logos is built in words and through words. For this reason, in the history of the development of civilization, it is writing that marks culture in the way we know it today. The transition from oral to written culture created a radical break in our being as *Homo sapiens*. In cognitive terms, writing is closely related to the ability to produce and understand through symbols, defining man as a rational being who understands and knows the reality through mental abstraction skills. But the biggest change, according to Sartori, comes only with the advent of television. And this situation is created not simply because this communication instrument does not transmit messages through the written word. Sartori refers to the earlier technological inventions of mass communication tools such as the telegram, telephone and radio, which, although they did not display and transmit symbols in written form, they did not annihilate the ability to transmit symbols as they transmitted words. "E dunque libri, giornali, telefono, radio, sono tutti – in concordanza – elementi portanti di comunicazione linguistica" (Sartori: 1999: 7–8). This aspect has also been mentioned by other thinkers such as McLuhan when referring to cinema or photography. "The mode of the TV image has nothing in common with film or photo, except that it offers also a nonverbal gestalt or posture of forms" (McLuhan, 1994: 312-313). Mentioning the transformation of an anthropological nature caused by communication instruments, Sartori shares and emphasizes McLuhan's position that it is "TV has changed our sense-lives and our mental processes" (McLuhan, 1994: 332).

In the premises of an anthropological materialization, Sartori ranks among those thinkers who accept that the advent of a material tool (in our case, communication) determines and modifies the anthropological nature of human capacities: the way in which he speaks, thinks and organizes socially. Due to the technicality of the functioning of television, the human sense, to which one appeals to enter into a relation with it, is mainly the visual rather than the auditory one. The ontic nature of television is precisely the gaze, the wordless image that transforms man into a spectator. So the man turned into a television viewer, "... è più un animale *vedente* che non un animale simbolico. Per lui le cose raffigurate in immagini contano e pesano più delle cose dette in parole" (Sartori, 1999: 8). This last aspect is essential for man's relation with the world as it redefines his condition. Therefore, for Sartori, the advent of the television anthropologically redefines man where, while the symbolic faculty clearly distinguished him from the animal, "il vedere lo riavvicina alle sue capacità ancestrali, al genere di cui *l'homo sapiens* è specie" (Sartori, 1999, 8). But even in the perspective of seeing, compared to other technical instruments that use this ability, television carries a special typology. If we refer for example to the microscope (magnification of seeing the smallest part of matter), binoculars or a telescope (far seeing), their operation had a direct and close relationship with the physical object being analyzed. Meanwhile, television sets the priority of seeing in a completely opposite ratio. TV "...ci consente invece di *vedere tutto* senza andarlo a vedere" (Sartori,

1999, 11). Television even carries the possibility of showing things that do not really exist (media products of science fiction, or manipulation of reality images). Through it, we are informed mainly by seeing and shifting the discourse from word to the sight.

The little box that builds “the big reality”: the new demiurge

Television, due to its technical typology, transmits messages to a much larger number of recipients than the book itself. However, the quantitative dimension does not necessarily lead to a progressive qualitative development. According to Sartori, the improvement that manifests itself only in quantitative terms does not constitute a sign of progress in terms of quality, but only in that of expansion. However, like any technical tool, television does not have a positive or negative meaning per se, but depends on the purpose of use and the content it transmits. And in this perspective, the role it plays in the process of understanding and thinking is essential. For Sartori, television fundamentally models the anthropological nature of man. If in the case of writing, there is an “aristocracy of the intellect” (symbols and written language must first be understood), with television, there is a “democracy of the intellect” since the transmitted image does not require any particular skill but only the normal functioning of the sense of sight. Thus, television is powerless to define through image display or show the meaning of abstract words which are sometimes even more essential in social and political prism such as love, justice, economic welfare, justice, etc. The abstract nature of these words is determined by “*pensare per concetti*” (Sartori, 2011, 22), not through images. The latter, even though they try to illustrate a part of their meaning, cannot fully and exhaustively give it, or the cause of the phenomenon. “Far vedere un disoccupato non fa capire in nessun modo perché esista la disoccupazione e come sia curabile” (Sartori, 2011: 22.) Therefore, human knowledge revolves around an intelligible world and not a sensory world (of images). But television works by producing images through the annihilation of concepts, dialectics and their historical connection with each other, atrophying the abstracting capacity of man, which is, understanding itself.

On a more philosophical dimension, Sartor’s critique of television is related to the critique of empiricism about the process of knowledge. Contrary to what the empiricists believed, the senses (seeing, hearing, etc.) do not produce ideas, but they are sorted and classified by the latter to gain meaning. Therefore, the establishment of cognitive ability in images, atrophies the conceptual language by replacing it with the perceptual one, which is significantly poorer and incomplete.

However, the criticism of television does not seek to annihilate television as a means of mass communication, but to filter it through healthy criticism, minimizing the negative effects it brings. In the prism of this critique, Sartori highlights the presence of a concept which affirms the idea that through television understanding is integrated through seeing, that is, the word with the image. But, for him, this attitude seems overly simplistic from the statistical data of various studies do not confirm this situation. Throughout the world, over the years, there has been a sharp decline in the number of readers of books or newspapers while the time spent in front of the television has increased. To further criticize this point of view, Sartori says that “l’immagine deve essere spiegata; e la spiegazione che ne viene data sul video è costitutivamente insufficiente” (Sartori, 2011: 27.) Even the dense transmission of television footage cannot make up for the lack of understanding of the concepts as

they have an abstract character that cannot be eliminated through images.

On the other, even the world of cyber-surfing, which has been exalted by many researchers as a world of opportunities for analyzing, filtering and classifying reality, is seen with great skepticism by Sartori since, through it the border between the real and the imaginary, truth and virtual fiction, cannot be determined. This situation has been analyzed mainly by Baudrillard under the term "hyperreal". "A hyperreal henceforth sheltered from the imaginary, and from any distinction between the real and the imaginary, leaving room only for the orbital recurrence of models and for the simulated generation of differences" (Baudrillard, 1994: 4). Thus, today the technology of virtuality demonstrates how reality is fabricated and transmitted through media filters, posing an even greater risk because virtuality creates and integrates what we consider reality.

Pedagogical problems created by the small technological box

As mentioned above, the advent of television does not simply symbolize an anthropological expansion of human sensory abilities (hearing, seeing) as it shapes in a new perspective the relation between understanding and seeing. "La televisione non è soltanto strumento di comunicazione; è anche, al tempo stesso, *paideia*, uno strumento "antropogenetico", un medium che genera un nuovo *anthropos*, un nuovo tipo di essere umano" (Sartori, 2011: 14). In this definition, Sartori refers to the ancient Greek term, 'paideia', which means the formation of the child. In the case of the latter, the relation between television and man becomes even more problematic. In today's era, the images transmitted by television are omnipresent and specially affect the child. Given that due to anthropological and cognitive circumstances, the child learns to see before reading, television constitutes the child's first educational teacher in its cognitive and social dimensions. Psychologically, at a quite young age, the child adapts by uncritically absorbing the images broadcasted on television, being educated, and getting to know the world only through images. Metaphorically, Sartori states that on nowadays the phrase "in the beginning was the word" is no longer found, but the image, which slowly shapes a video-child, "e cioè il bambino allevato dal video-vedere" (Sartori, 2011: 16). And over time, under the rule of television, even though the child learns to write and read, he is constantly cultivated to understand the world, mainly through images, to know audio-visually as socially detached.

Furthermore, some researchers have presented the example of the computer as a communication instrument that positively exceeds the harmful cognitive effects highlighted by Sartori as it is a tool where you have to be actively mobilized and through which you can write, read, etc. However, even though these qualities of the computer are true, they do not fix the situation because "l'ostacolo lungo questo percorso è che il bambino di tre-quattro anni comincia con il televisore. Pertanto quando arriva a Internet il suo interesse cognitivo non è sensibilizzato..." (Sartori, 2011: 31). The Internet or other communication instruments arrive on a second time as educators and therefore it is too late to start a new education model. In this context, the image-based logic and cognition cultivated by television serve the child as a basic model through which he constructs and filters the other communication instruments he will come into contact.

Further, according to Sartori, the advantage of television will continue to rule in consumer preference as it has a lower cost of use, and the passivity through which

it transmits images makes it more enjoyable as it requires less commitment than the computer or the world of virtuality.

Redefining the human political condition: from democracy to video-democracy

All the dangers that television carries, discussed above, become more prominent if we consider the consequence and form of influence from a wider perspective: that of the socio-political organism of society. The central role that television has acquired and the deep anthropological-cognitive influence on the minds of individuals has transformed it into a demiurge of reality. Thus, “dopo aver «formato» i bambini continua a formare, o comunque a influenzare, gli adulti “informandoli” (Sartori, 2011: 39). In political terms, it shapes our political being and the way we exercise power and conceive politics, creating a redefinition of it under the term ‘video-politics’ (Sartori, 2011). Since democracy in liberal-democratic systems relies on the voice and attitude of public opinion, television plays a central role in their formation. Sartori focuses on three issues of how television shapes the character of politics: 1) the formation of public opinion through the function of polls; 2) the concentration and orientation of those elected to public positions; 3) the way television prevents the articulation of ‘sound politics’. About the first issue, it should be emphasized that the opinion takes the term ‘public’ not simply because it appears and is organized collectively in a public way, but also because it concerns and protects the ‘res publica’, the interest, and the common good. But while the opinion constitutes an unscientific conviction and democracy is decided by the will of the majority, then the role of mass communication instruments is fundamental in the formation of these opinions among individuals. Sartori appreciates that neither the newspaper nor the radio violated the delicate balance between the public opinions distributed by them and the individual opinion of people as private beings. Only the advent of television has threatened this balance since there is no longer a critical plurality of opinions and the authority of appearance has become the only judge and criterion of the validity of reality. Under the TV, “l’occhio crede in quel che vede; e quindi che l’autorità cognitiva più creduta diventa la cosa vista. Ciò che si vede appare “reale”, il che implica che appare vero” (Sartori, 2011, 45-46). However, democracy works if there is a critical public opinion that is articulated through plurality of opinion and not through the presentation of a hegemonic view for the purposes of entertainment while “the “culture” propagated by the mass media is a culture of integration” (Habermas, 1991: 175). Then, the downward spiral of television content over the years and the return of fashion and spectacle programming have accelerated the harmful effects of television. Transmission of pseudo-events (Sartori) has gained the attention of television time and the global influence of television has created what Godard calls the “society of the spectacle”. “But for the present age, which prefers the sign to the thing signified, the copy to the original, representation to reality, appearance to essence...” (Debord, 2005: 6). Consequently, this brings and creates a mass of people dedicated to entertainment and gossip where through the influence of television creates “the replacement of a reading public that debated critically about matters of culture by the mass public of culture consumers” (Habermas, 1991: 168).

On the other, disinformation is another negative consequence that television produces nowadays: “non l’informare poco (troppo poco), ma l’informare male, distorcendo”

(Sartori, 2011, 61). In this sense, according to Sartor, contrary to McLuhan's conclusion, television has not created a global but a local village because "la telecamera entra facilmente e liberamente nei paesi liberi; entra poco e con circospezione nei paesi pericolosi; e non entra per nulla nei paesi illiberali" (Sartori, 2011: 61). Thus, in addition to circumstantial factors such as the cost and availability of televised images, the televised product in the broadcast content naturally contributes to the transmission of a shallow or flawed view of reality. The media product, always made possible by the photomontage, selects certain images while excluding others that is, going out of the context of the event it broadcasts. In this prism, the science of communication asserts that the media does not broadcast, but construct reality, according to their editorial interests affected by economic, ideological, political aspects, etc. But, in this situation, the viewers fascinated and educated through the television image losing "... la capacità di astrazione perdiamo anche la capacità di distinguere tra vero e falso" (Sartori, 2011: 71).

The second moment of exercising politics through the influence of television has to do with the process of voting and governance. Many studies have been conducted on this occasion and almost all of them prove the strong influence of the television screen on electoral processes. In the USA, for cultural reasons, this phenomenon is even more acute. The tendency of the television, during electoral processes is to personalize this process, because more and more attention is focused on political figures and not on their electoral programs. This aspect becomes more powerful depending on the electoral system, where it reaches its peak in the USA (the electoral system is based on the party candidate). Sartori thinks that "la video-politica tende a distruggere – dove più, dove meno – il partito, o quantomeno il partito organizzativo di massa..." (Sartori, 2011: 79) affecting the transformation of their form. If previously elected officials depended on the party and its ideology, today the personalization of politics has created the party's dependence on the candidate. The case of Donald Trump in the Republican Party is one of the most emblematic cases. What is commonly noticed, not only in the sphere of public opinion, is the fact that television appears as the primary space for the duel of political debate. Electoral campaigns of parties of different spectrums take place mainly in televised debates. Of course, the politician continues to speak in the squares, but the main duel takes place almost entirely on the stage of the television screen. How successful television is for the politician, is best proven by Kennedy's victory, where for the first time the political protagonist became televised and television, the political protagonist. This is the first effect that television produces on politics: its delocalization. In short, we can say that today's politics does not have a privileged place from which it can be produced as it was in the Agora of the Greek polis. In this perspective, the personalization of politics and making it always more local and territorial has also influenced the forms of legislative bodies. The Parliament, more and more, appears as a conglomeration of special interests, private lobbies, social groups, etc. Television itself appears as the creator as well as the reinforcer of this new physiognomy of politics. In a more global view, television creates not a "global village" (McLuhan), but many small global villages where individuals share common interests. According to Sartori, this multiple global polarization further cultivates premises for social conflicts because these global villages also share opposing interests. Thus, although it is claimed that television democratizes the world through the transmission of images without time and space barriers, it creates people who are uncritical and fixated on specific local interests. As a consequence of these negative phenomena, Sartori also emphasizes the decentralization of information

tools and information agencies, that is, the relation of how these sources of information should be systematized in the social-political space.

Conclusions

According to Sartori, man is a complex being who knows himself and the world through his natural abilities and the communication tools he uses. These communication tools are important as they not only facilitate human communication but also have a profound effect on the anthropological and cognitive aspects of man. Among all these tools, television has created negative effects by redefining man and modifying his natural capacities. Thus, Sartori's criticisms of the negative effects of television seek to restore the impaired balance and preservation of human cognitive abilities such as abstraction to more accurately understand reality and human relationships. For this reason, the solution must come from creating the conditions for a critical culture of debate to bring to life a plurality of subjects, politically and socially active, where their own identity is built and plasmed through rational critical discussion. This is precisely the situation that Sartori appeals to and invites us to restore.

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THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY USE IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Effective use of technologies in education can enhance both learning and teaching and the introduction of multimedia into foreign language instruction seems to conform to the statement. The goal of this study is twofold: first of all, to explore the impact of the use of technology, such as computer, internet, smart board and multimedia projector on English language teaching at the elementary level in the secondary school "Sotir Gurra" in Korça, and to provide teachers and educators with more insight in understanding technology and introducing it in their teaching methods. Second, the study aimed to shed more light on the challenges it poses for teachers as professionals, as well as for educational institutions, at the macro-level. The results showed that, although the use of technology greatly helped in student motivation, classes were more productive, lively and effective, and teachers experienced a boost in their confidence, it also had its drawbacks such as, lack of modern technology in schools, as well as lack of teacher training on how to effectively use technology. Finally, this study suggested that, in order for schools to take the great advantages of introducing technology to classes, trained teachers and assistance of the higher institutions were important to implement technologies in teaching English at the elementary level students.

Keywords: *EFL, technology, teaching, learning, elementary school students*

Introduction

During the last years, one of the most exciting changes in education is related to the word 'technology'. Although some debates regarding the effectiveness of technology have existed (e.g. Kleiman, 2004; Kozma, 1994), most researchers agree that technology can be used effectively as a cognitive tool as well as an instructional media. For example, Bruce and Levin (2001) suggest that technology can be helpful in classroom settings

by encouraging inquiry, helping communication, constructing teaching products, and assisting students' self-expression. If COVID-19 taught the world anything, it was the power of technology and just how many digital tools are at teachers' and students' disposal especially in the foreign language teaching classroom. Albania has also been heading towards technology enhanced teaching since last decade. Like other spheres, technologies like computers, multimedia projector, mobile phone, sound box, social media, CD and DVD player are being widely used in foreign/second language teaching.

The landscape of language teaching and language learning has transformed so rapidly that the formal classroom does not serve as the primary learning site anymore. Mohammad Reza Ahmadi (2018) argued that educational technology tools appeal greatly to language teachers due to their contribution to enhancing students' active engagement and maximizing positive language learning outcomes however, the teachers have big roles in making it successful or not. The teacher needs some skills in using those technology tools in the classroom though. Then to have a good result in using technology, the teachers should also have a good attitude towards the technology used.

The teachers in our school need specific digital competences that enable them use technology to support, improve and transform the teaching-learning process. Technology inclusion in language teaching is still a challenge in our school because the improvement of digital infrastructure, the continuous professional development of teachers and school headmasters as well as maintenance of appliances etc. is still a priority in the future.

Literature review

Technology has become an indispensable tool in all dimensions of the modern world, and education makes no exception. The impact on the teaching and learning processes is making teachers and educators reshape methodology, in order to meet the needs of the latest developments. According to Thomas C. Reeves, half a century study on education shows that media and technology has a great impact on education (Reeves, 1998). In the same vein, English language teachers at every level of education can benefit from opportunities and advantages of technology. Digital technology provides elementary school students with a great number of opportunities to practice their English. Children growing up in a supportive digital environment are learning the skills that they will need for their future studies and careers.

But, although these opportunities provided by use of technology are widely accepted, parents, educators, educational institutions, and society as a whole are hesitant to embrace them in full, fearing that overreliance on technology does more harm than good. The argument brought forth by the author of Byron Review Byron (2008) should suffice to accept that use of technology is now inevitable: "Having considered the evidence, I believe we need to move from a discussion about the media 'causing' harm to one which focuses on children and young people, what they bring to technology and how we can use our understanding of how they develop to empower them to manage risks and make the digital world safer" (Byron, 2008).

In this sense, the 2006 European Recommendation on Key Competences recognized the importance of technology, and acknowledged Digital Competence as one of the 8 key competences for Lifelong Learning by the European Union. Digital Competence can be broadly defined as the confident, critical and creative use of ICT to achieve goals related to work, employability, learning, leisure, inclusion and/or participation in society.

Digital Competence is a transversal key competence which enables acquiring other key competences (e.g. language, mathematics, learning to learn, cultural awareness). It is related to many of the so-called 21st Century skills which should be acquired by all citizens, to ensure their active participation in society and the economy.

It was because of technology that students and teachers could still actively participate in education during the pandemic, a time when education suffered massively. Without it, that period would have been completely lost for an entire generation of students. In a broader sense, without technology, teaching is restricted to a geographical area, a specific school, or a specific classroom; with it, the reach is endless. According to Bransford, Brown, and Cocking (2000), the application of computer technology enables teachers and learners to make local and global societies that connect them with the people and expand opportunities for their learning.

Although digital competence is relatively recent as a term, technology and language teaching and learning have long been allies. According to Singhal, technology and English language are linked with each other (Singhal, 1997). Teachers were already using it more than half a century ago to monitor the process of language acquisition, when teaching by using cassettes, microphones and headphones. A great advantage of this early process of using technology was that the students were improving and festering their learning of the second learning language because of speaking the new language (Singhal, 1997).

When learning this new language, the ultimate goal is being able to use it outside the classroom, therefore teachers who teach English as a second language recognize the students' need to use English away from the classroom in order to improve communicative competence. In light of the latest developments on technology, this has become more tangible, as students can use it to expose themselves to a more natural environment. The same is argued by Chapelle (2003), who says that technology is necessary to improve the language ability of students simultaneously inside and outside of the educational setting. Learners must use technology as a significant part of their learning process. Teachers should model the use of technology to support the curriculum so that learners can increase the true use of technology in learning their language skills (Costley, 2014; Murphy, DePasquale, & McNamara, 2003).

Therefore, use of technology in the classroom comes with *several advantages for the teachers*. *The first advantage* argues in favour of improvements in the entire practice, especially in the content and approaches to teaching and learning, which are stimulated by technology. In terms of content, Salaberry (2001) points out that through Multimedia and network technology teachers can offer students not only rich sources of authentic learning materials, but also an attractive and a friendly interface, vivid pictures and pleasant sounds, which largely overcome the lack of authentic language environment and arouse students' interest in learning English.

Another advantage is mentioned by Hennessy, Ruthven, and Brindley (2005) and Pourhosein Gilakjani (2017), who point out that technology integration is defined in terms of how teachers use technology to perform familiar activities more effectively and how this usage can re-shape these activities.

A third advantage is what Dockstader (2008) defines as technology integration, i.e. the use of technology to improve the educational environment. It supports the classroom teaching through creating opportunities for learners to complete assignments on the computer rather than the normal pencil and paper. By the same token, technology brings forth *a great number of advantages for the students*, as an effective tool. *First of all*, learners'

cooperation can be increased through technology, and since it is widely accepted that cooperation is an important tool for learning, the benefit is great. Second, the use of multimedia texts in classroom assists learners to become familiar with vocabulary and language structures. The application of multimedia also makes use of print texts, film, and internet to enhance learners' linguistic knowledge. The use of print, film, and internet gives learners the chance to collect information and offers them different materials for the analysis and interpretation of both language and contexts (Arifah, 2014).

Dawson, Cavanaugh, and Ritzhaupt (2008) and Pourhosein Gilakjani (2014) provide *another advantage* of the use of technology for the learners, They maintained that using technology can create a learning atmosphere centered around the learner rather than the teacher that in turn creates positive changes. They emphasized that by using computer technology, language class becomes an active place full of meaningful tasks where the learners are responsible for their learning. Motivation is arguably *one of the biggest and most important advantages* for the learners. Technology provides endless information which can serve as a great motivator for the learners to learn (Pinto-Llorente et al., 2017; Keung & Ho, 2009). So does the internet: The internet has come as a very important tool of teaching and learning, because the teachers have more opportunities to teach and the student is more motivated to learn. Teachers should have the appropriate training to assist the students how to use the internet in their beneficence. It should be included in classroom learning and integrated in the curriculum education (Cabansag, 2013).

According to United States Department of Education, if technology is correctly used it can "increase students' learning opportunities, motivation, and achievement", it provides the students with all the needed information which are necessary in the future place of work, and "it breaks the barriers of time and place", giving to the students' the opportunity to navigate in every area besides the faced difficulties, to be capable of having great instructions (Riley et al., 1996). *Another advantage* is related to the results proved by many studies which have shown that technology plays a very important role in ameliorating student writing too (Riley et al., 1996). A *very important aspect* is also the fact that technology has many positive effects on learning and students achievement, because it is more inclusive in new methods of teaching and learning, and it provides opportunities for every student, including the students with disabilities to acquire the needed skills. While technology can be a great addition to the classroom, it also can be a source of frustration for both the teacher and the student. Unless the teacher is well trained in technology and can support the hardware in the classroom or apply it appropriately it will affect the quality of the teaching methods used in the English language class.

As a conclusion, given the many benefits for all the actors in the process of education, the discussion is no longer whether, but how we can bring our schools, students, teachers and institutions closer to the use of technology to their advantage.

Objectives of the Study

Because traditional teaching has hampered students' capacity to comprehend certain language and also understanding to structure, meaning and function of the language, which makes the students passive recipients of knowledge, it is hard to achieve the target of communication. Therefore, teachers currently use technologies in different ways in teaching English language at the undergraduate level in our country. Teaching English language by using technologies encourages students to learn the language, develops their

ability to use it, and helps them overcome the language barriers.

Therefore, the objectives of this study were: (1) to find out the various use of technologies that teachers use to teach English at elementary level (2) to point out both the negative and positive impacts of using technologies, and (3) to suggest solutions to overcome the problems in using technologies

Methodology

Type of research

The type of research employed by this study is a combination of the quantitative and the qualitative research methods accordingly using interviews, questionnaires with teachers and elementary school students, as well as observations in the classroom.

Participants

The participants of this study were 5 English as Foreign Language (EFL) Teachers and 60 elementary school students studying English in Secondary School “Sotir Gurra” in Korçë. Since the main focus of this paper is to identify the impact of technology use on teaching English to elementary school students, the researcher chose this pool of participants.

Materials

The materials used for the purpose of this research were interviews with teachers, questionnaires for teachers and students, as well as observation notes during lessons in the classroom in terms of technology usage. The qualitative method mainly included interviews with the teachers, and analysis of the class observations. The questionnaires’ main goal was to find out the perceptions of teachers and students on different aspects of technology use while teaching and learning English. The questionnaires comprised 10 structured questions. Teachers and students were requested to give their views in a 5-Point Likert Scale: strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree.

Procedure

Each phase of the research was conducted separately on different days. In the first phase in-depth interviews were conducted with the English teachers of the school. Then questionnaires were shared among the teachers and students. The fifth grade students were chosen for the questionnaires and mixed grades of elementary level were observed during their lessons in terms of technology usage.

Data analysis

Findings from teachers’ interviews

The first question of the interview guided teachers towards the types of technologies they use in class. Most teachers mentioned different kinds of technology: some of them used a computer or laptop, and multimedia projector. In addition, some of them used a mobile phone, internet, tape recorder, and TV as well. One of them did not know about a specific website for language teaching. Another one said that he never thinks of using blogs and Facebook for education.

When asked about the ways these technologies were used, while emphasising the fact that technologies help them to make the language classes interesting and to prepare the class content. As one of the teachers has said, "...Technology, especially the internet, is great support for me to make my classes interesting and effective." The teachers get new ideas about teaching English through the internet which shows them various new ways of teaching English in the classroom, and it brings a new dimension to their tasks. It was found that in technology-affiliated class most of the students feel comfortable and involved. Teachers have used technology to make classes more interactive, and bring them closer to real life communication.

While all teachers agreed that technology is an aspect that can no longer be ignored in today's education, it comes with its own shortcomings. Teachers have said that technologies have a mixed impact. During the interviews, the teachers mentioned some of these impacts, which are specified below.

The first aspect mentioned by the teachers is that, in the beginning of each class they planned to use technology, they felt uncomfortable and not very confident. They admitted that it takes time for them to adjust themselves in technology affiliated class. They also commented that their discomfort was to some extent transmitted to the students as well, as they sometimes felt reluctant, unable to keep up or concentrate on the things being taught. The teachers have also observed that technologies reduced students' opportunity of speaking and writing, and students become less interested in using technologies. The second aspect mentioned is management: one of the teachers remarked, "...Technology has a negative impact on time management. It needs time to set up a class with the help of technology." The other management problem is what they called the "incompatibility of the teaching-learning system with the use of technology." Another very important issue that was mentioned by the teachers was the fact that students are reluctant, and sometimes not interested in following any activities that do not appear in the examination. "...Most of the students want to get good marks rather than earn something new," a teacher said.

What is perhaps the most negative issue is that technology needs to be outsourced, and that sufficient resources are not always available. Repairing a damaged machine was not easy when technicians are not available. Many teachers were not well-trained to use modern technology properly, so they need assistance. Meanwhile, because of low incomes, teachers usually cannot buy technological machines with their own money.

As a final aspect of the interviews, the teachers suggested some solutions to the problems they usually face. They think that motivation and support from higher authority, proper funding, and more training for the teachers are essential. While the first two solutions are important, the teachers highlighted training as the most important for every teacher. Training on workshop basis should be given at the beginning of the career of a teacher. As one of the teachers strongly suggested, "...There are no alternative ways except practical training to solve the problems."

Findings from teachers' questionnaires

The questionnaire comprised structured questions. Teachers were requested to give their views in a 5-Point Likert Scale: strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree.

Table 1: *Teachers' perceptions on different aspects of ICT use in teaching English*

Statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Technology is a valuable instructional tool for teaching the English language	5 (100%)				
I am very confident when I use technology in delivering a lecture	1 (20%)	4 (80%)			
Students pay more attention when I use technology in my class	2 (40%)	3 (60%)			
Technology promotes the development of communication skill	5 (100%)				
I can learn many new things by using technology that enhances my teaching ability	5 (100%)				
It is too costly in terms of resources, time and effort	4 (80%)	1 (20%)			
Teachers usually face problems in using technology		5 (100%)			
Adequate training in the use of technology can help to solve the problem	5 (100%)				
Successful only when a teacher has access to a computer properly	3 (60%)	2 (40%)			
Using technology in teaching English is not necessary				1 (20%)	4 (80%)

In response to the statement one, all 5 teachers strongly agreed that technologies are valuable instructional tools for teaching English. In response to the statement two, one of the teachers strongly agreed, and other four ones agreed that they are very confident when they use technology in conducting a class. In response to the statement three, two strongly agreed and the other three agreed that students pay more attention when they use technologies in their class. Then, all five teachers strongly agreed that technology promotes the development of communication skill. Four teachers strongly agreed and one teacher agreed that technology is too costly in terms of resource, time and effort. All five of the teachers agreed that they face some problems while using new equipment. All the teachers strongly agreed that adequate training in the use of technologies could help to solve the problems they face. Three teachers strongly agreed and two of them agreed that teaching with technology would be successful when the shortcoming will be overcome. Finally, one of the teachers disagreed and other three teachers strongly disagreed that using technology in teaching language is not necessary.

From the responses given by the teachers, it has been observed that technology is an essential part in teaching English at the S.S.C. level in present time. Teachers largely depend on the mode of technologies to update themselves and to make their classes more interesting and effective. Technology helps them in wide range and they accept the blessings of technology though they sometimes feel problems in using technology. In this situation, to keep pace with the rest of the world, teachers think that, technology should be made friendly in our country. If problems in using technologies can be solved,

the impact will be positive, and technology will be useful media for teaching English in our country. In order to achieve this, the authorities should come forward, as it is their job first and foremost to think about the development of teaching. They should support their teachers both financially and technically so that the teachers will be encouraged in using technology. At the same time, training and workshop should be arranged in different phases to make the teachers more active and to make them understand how to use modern technology. Finally, the teachers should be more assertive and technical in choosing different technological tools in the classroom.

Findings from students' questionnaires

The questionnaire comprised structured questions. Students were requested to give their views on a 5-Point Likert scale: strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree.

Table 2: *Students' responses*

Statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Technologies help in learning English	18 (30.06%)	30 (50.1%)	12 (20.04%)		
Technologies make the language class more interesting	8 (13.36%)	40 (66.8%)	10 (16.7%)	2 (3.34%)	
I pay more attention when teachers use technologies in the class	11 (18.37%)	38 (63.46%)	8 (13.36%)	3 (5.01%)	
Technologies promote the development of communication skill	35 (58.45%)	15 (25.05%)	10 (16.7%)		
Technologies have a good impact on my learning the English language	37 (61.79%)	15 (25.05%)	5 (8.35%)	3 (5.01%)	
Using projector in English class is effective	35 (58.45%)	15 (25.05%)	10 (16.7%)		
I feel comfortable in technology affiliated classroom	12 (20.04%)	38 (46.76%)	7 (11.69%)	3 (5.01%)	
Teachers use relevant technologies for teaching English	15 (25.05%)	39 (65.13%)	6 (10.02%)		
Teachers motivate me to use technologies for learning English	23 (38.41%)	25 (41.75%)	7 (11.69%)	5 (8.33%)	
Teachers often engage me in using technologies for learning English	28 (46.76%)	32 (53.44%)			

Here, the students expressed their own feelings and attitudes toward the technologies used in their class. They showed mixed attitudes. Most of the students (i.e. 50.1% and 66.8%) agreed that “technologies help in learning the English language.” and “technologies make the language class more interesting.” Majority of the students (i.e., 63.46% and 58.5%) said that they paid more attention when teachers used technologies in the class and technologies promoted the development of communication skill. Similarly, 61.79% and 58.45% of the students strongly agreed that technologies had a good impact on my

learning English language and using projector in language class is effective respectively. The students felt comfortable in technology-affiliated classroom, were of the opinion that teachers used relevant technologies for teaching English language, and teachers motivated them to use technologies for learning the English language. Majority of the students (53.44%) agreed the teachers often engaged them in using technologies for learning the English language. However, they acknowledged that technologies make the learning environment easy and enjoyable. The findings showed that all the teachers used different types of technology according to the topic and content. In technology-affiliated class, most of the students felt comfortable. They enjoyed the course with a laptop and projector. However, some of the students felt bored in the class.

To make the teachers comfortable with computer and technology and to solve the negative impact, there is no better alternative than training. In this regard, all the teachers believe that training is necessary for them to develop their IT skill. Training will help them to understand the advantages of technology and to know the use of different software and e-tools.

Findings obtained from the observations

The purpose of the observation was to detect the impact of technology on teaching English language to elementary school students. The observation was focused on taking notes on ten important points, which were revised while the teaching and learning process was occurring. During the observation notes were taken towards the process of teaching by the teachers and the process of learning by the students.

The observation came up with a lot of information about the way the teaching and learning was occurring. The teachers used different strategies to teach English to the elementary school students, such as games, giving exercises to be worked at home using the internet, and bringing new materials to enrich the teaching of the English language in classroom. The teachers engaged the students to learn English by giving them different works to prepare in the computer and present it in the next lesson. The students were motivated by the teachers to work in groups to create projects in English language about different kinds of topics, while the work was completed by taking information or materials from the internet. The teachers were very supportive towards students by helping them in everything they didn't understand. Different activities were used in the classrooms such as: computers, tape recorders, video projectors some digital tools and these motivated students to learn English through technological tools. The observation of the study, and its results brought valuable information about the use of technology in teaching and learning process.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, some suggestions could be considered for the successful implementation of technologies in English teaching at the elementary level in the school that helps to solve the problems that the teachers face in teaching English with the help of technology. Teachers should use relevant technological tools to teach different language skills or topics. Topics and objectives should be clarified before using technology so that students can easily understand the various uses of technology. Modern technical ways should be introduced in entertaining manners for effective learning and teaching the English language. English teachers should encourage their students to use technologies in developing language skills. Training for one-to-one or small group tutoring is a must,

so that teachers can develop computer literacy skills and can be competent in different modern technologies in their context. Educational institutions should modernize their technical instruction capabilities by using new technologies and laboratories for supporting the teaching process.

Conclusion

In conclusion, all the teachers who were interviewed and surveyed for this study used technology though they faced some difficulties to run the tools and have the adequate ones. Though some of the students felt bored in the technology-affiliated class, most of them enjoyed their lessons when their teachers used technology in the classroom. However, most of the schools were not able to provide sufficient amenities for using technology and most of the teachers were unconscious of this issue. The teachers were also not very aware of the facilities of different technologies, and they mainly used computers for typing and browsing the internet and sometimes for short videos or songs on their mobile phones. However, this study presents some ideas for using technology proposed by the teachers. Based on the findings, it can be asserted that in the school Sotir Gurra's context, technology-based English teaching will be successful and use of technology will be fruitful and effective only if there is coordination and training of the teachers by education authorities and the provision of necessary technological tools is ensured.

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AGING AS A NATURAL PROCESS AND SOCIAL SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY

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ABSTRACT

Aging is a natural and inevitable process which turns out to be a multidimensional process. The World Health Organization defines the elderly as people over 65 years old. This definition is recognized and approved in most developed countries but also in our country. The increase in the number of older people in the coming years in our country tends to be even higher starting from various factors where we can mention: emigration, decrease in the number of births, increase in life expectancy, change in lifestyle, etc. This increase in the number of older people will also highlight the importance of services with older people. Today, the placement of the elderly in social care institutions is becoming more and more acute. Social services with the elderly are of great importance in contributing to the well-being of the elderly. Elderly care institutions have a direct impact on increasing the quality of life. Having a range of positive social support can contribute to the psychological, social and physical well-being of older individuals. Support from others can be important in reducing stress, improving physical health, and overcoming psychological problems. In this paper is taken as a case study the Day Care Center for the Elderly in the city of Durrës, where are reviewed and analyzed the services that this center offers and the profile of the elderly who attend this center. The purpose of this research is the importance that social

services have in the contribution of Well-being to the elderly. In this paper, the research method used is qualitative. Where in the data collection was used interviews, where the interviews are 10 elderly people who attend the Day Care Center for the Elderly in the city of Durres, as well as 3 social workers in this Center.

Keywords: *elderly, care, social services, social worker*

Aging is a multifaceted phenomenon. In Albania, such a phenomenon is growing more and more, where different families seek the assistance of qualified people to take care of an elderly person, especially when the latter has a physical or mental disability. Since the elderly feel better emotionally and psychologically in the family environment than being institutionalized, their families hire someone who will take care of them. Like children, the elderly also need a service in specialized multidisciplinary geriatric facilities. Aging is a multifaceted phenomenon, and if death is inevitable, aging can also be prevented. Every person should be satisfied and as independent as possible both throughout his life and in old age. But many of the rights and opportunities are still unknown to them now days it is progressively becoming necessary to increase society's interest in the elderly. Albania is starting to face the phenomenon of population aging, caused by two main factors: the increase in average life and the decrease in the number of births. The elderly should continue to have a voluntary social contribution, this as a way to revive their lives, but also to enrich their roles and contributions in society (Dule, Hartig & Pici, 2014:17). Daily services are a new type of services, which are being developed and spread throughout the country. Daily services are necessary for the elderly group, because they give you the possibility of care while living in the community and can simultaneously use other resources such as family, relatives, friends, etc. Daily services for the elderly, in addition to the caring character, also have an entertaining and informative character, which help to keep the elderly as active as possible.

The purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to explore the perceptions of the elderly on the role and importance of the social worker, as well as the perceptions of social workers towards their work with the elderly.

Literature review

Aging-characteristics

Aging of the population is a very important demographic phenomenon for society, which will be more acute in the future with all the consequences that this phenomenon brings. Aging is a multifaceted phenomenon, and if death is inevitable, aging can be prevented. Although some diseases become more common with age, it is not at all fair to think that it is normal to suffer from diseases and disabilities in old age. Currently, human society is facing a new social and health reality. Social support includes perceived and real resources provided by others that make it possible to feel cared for and valued and part of a communication network. The elderly go through stressful situations, such as the loss of one of their partners, family members, friends that lead to loneliness, health problems and isolation more than the younger age groups (Holmen & Furukawa, 2002). Different forms of social support are associated with different mental health

outcomes. For example, the elderly can have emotional support from their relatives and feel valued when they are included in their lives. A study of 1200 elderly people in Spain found that high emotional support was associated with good physical and mental health (Zunzunegui, Béland & Otero, 2001). Another study of 3400 elderly people in the US confirmed that satisfaction with social support was associated with good health reported by the elderly (White, Philogene & Fine, 2006).

Social support is important for activities of daily living in the context of the community where they live. Many studies have shown that there is a link between social support and cognitive functions. A socially engaged lifestyle is associated with high levels of cognition in the community and the service the elderly provide. Since social activities offer opportunities and challenges for effective communication and involvement in interpersonal exchanges, social support is thought to be a preventive factor for the decline of cognitive functions in the elderly (Berkman, 2000).

Studies report a link between increased levels of social support and increased well-being and quality of life (Holmen & Furukawa, 2002; Golden et al., 2009, Shin & Sok, 2012). Social support promotes health by providing the individual with positive experiences, active social roles, or improved adaptive skills to stressful situations. Social support is critical for older people who suffer from a certain disability or chronic illness, or social isolation due to the loss of a partner. As a result of the absence of family or significant others and the minimization of social relationships, the elderly may experience loneliness and physical and emotional health problems (Golden et al., 2009; Shin & Sok, 2012).

And in the study undertaken by Shu-Chuan Jennifer Yeh & Yea-Ying Liu (2002), it was found that social support is an important element for the daily activities of the elderly. In this study, it was found that there is a relationship between social support and cognitive functions in the elderly in the contexts where they live. High levels of social support were associated with high levels of cognitive functioning in the community. Lifestyle management provides social activities for the elderly that promote a high quality of life.

Also in a study undertaken in Barcelona in 2006, it was found that 65.4% of elderly women showed a deterioration in quality of life and functional capacity when they faced isolation and non-involvement in various social activities (Orfila et al., 2006). In a study undertaken with 160 elderly people living in care facilities, the relationship between quality of life and symptoms of depression among this target group was studied. In this study, the relationships between the physical, social, psychological and medical dimensions of quality of life and symptoms of depression were analyzed. The findings showed that attention is needed in terms of policies and interventions that should be undertaken to promote the quality of life in the elderly to prevent depression (Sinaj, Elsidia, Melonashi & Erika, 2014).

The major psychosocial problems that the elderly show and have are to a certain extent related to the limitation of their opportunities not only and simply for reasons of age but also for other reasons to have abundant social relations that help the elderly in finding of the meaning and value of life even at this age. The poverty of social connections is rightly considered as one of the major reasons for the increase in psychosocial problems they have. If the elderly will have more chances for richer affective social and relational lives, it means that they are doing the right thing to have healthy social and biologically longer lives. It should not be denied that in the social situation of the elderly, their social inequality is related to the fact that they have less social cohesion and more limited social relational ties (Tushi, 2014).

Methodology

The purpose of this study is to identify the perception of the elderly on the roles and functions of social workers, the level of experience of social support, the qualities that a social worker should possess, as well as the importance they give to family service. During this study, it was aimed to explore the benefits and challenges that social workers encounter in their daily work, in caring for the elderly in day care centers, contributing to the enrichment of the literature on this issue, especially at the local level.

The population from which the sample of the study was selected consists of 10 elderly people, members of the Day Center for the Elderly in the city of Durrës, Albania. In the study there were also three social workers in this institution.

Table: *Characteristics of the elderly sample*

No.	Gender	Age	Center attending time
1	Male	82	21 years
2	Female	81	20 years
3	Female	73	15 years
4	Male	80	5 years
5	Male	70	4 years
6	Female	75	5 years
7	Female	70	8 years
8	Male	80	10 years
9	Female	62	2 years
10	Male	81	5 years

Data analysis

The analysis of research data, the drawing of conclusions and the drafting of the research report as a text constitute the last stages of the research project (Sokoli, 2016: 300). Qualitative data analysis is related to the interpretation and good understanding of words, stories and life stories (Matthews and Ross, 2010). Easy identification of the main categories. The data analysis was done according to the following categories.

With the elderly:

Categories

- Attendance time at the Day Center
- The reason for coming to the center
- Relationship with social workers
- Services in the Center
- Importance of services
- Time spent in the center

With Social Workers:

Categories

- Referral of cases to the Day Care Center for the Elderly.
- Following the membership of the elderly in the Center
- Social presentation of the elderly in the Center
- Services offered by the Center.
- Psycho-social support

In this chapter, the results of the study are presented, which were generated by the process of analyzing the data collected from the interview.

Data obtained from interviewing the elderly

Attendance time at the Day Center

The analysis of the data collected from the interview with the elderly people of the center showed that the elderly people had been attending the day center for a relatively long time. They claimed that they had been members of the center for a very long time and would attend the center until the moment. The end of their lives. Some of the elderly interviewees say:

- I have been a member of the center for 21 years, I have been coming here for a long time, and I may be the first of all to have visited this center. (1, man, 82 years old)
- I have been coming here for almost 20 years. I am forced to come here because I am all alone. (2, woman, 81 years old)
- I have been attending the center since 2006, it has been almost 15 years since I came here regularly. I want to visit it on the weekend but it is closed, I have nothing to do, I just sit there in vain. (3, woman, 73 years old).

The analysis of the data collected from the interviews with the elderly showed that the reason that the elderly came to the center was economic impossibility and loneliness. They stated that they had a low income for living and that the pension they received was low. Another reason was that the children and other family members had already created their own families and were far away. On the other hand, the collected results show us that the elderly during their stay at the center have created friendships with other seniors. They see staying at the center as a way to get away from loneliness and to have fun and spend a large part of their life. Day with the society created in the center.

In the data collected during the interview with the elderly, it turned out that the elderly had a very good relationship with the social workers who were in the center. They knew the figure and role of the social workers in the center and often showed respect for them. According to the results social workers were very important to the elderly with the support they offered. According to the elderly, meetings with the employees were daily and not only in cases of problems. They often described the employees as excellent and perfect. Some of the elderly interviews say:

The social workers who work here are very, very good. They respect us a lot and every morning they serve us tea and show us affirmation. (2, 75-year-old woman)

We are very satisfied with the social workers here.

They take good care of us and with every problem that we have, they are always there for us. (3 Man, 70 years old).

The data collected from the interview with the elderly showed that the services offered by the Center were considered important by the elderly. According to the results, coming to the Center created a good emotional state for the reason of socializing with other elderly people. They often express that upon coming to the Center, they outgrew loneliness as they spent part of the day in the company of others and activities.

The data collected from the interview with the social workers showed that the vast majority of the elderly who attend the Center have problems with their loneliness and economic situation. They claimed that the elderly who come to the Center live only after their relatives have left. The elderly come to the Center more to spend time in the company of other elderly people. And in terms of economic opportunities, many elderly people find it impossible to afford living, even though they may have children, they do not help them financially.

The data collected from the interview showed that the psycho-social support offered to the elderly in this Center is done according to the individual plan drawn up for each elderly person. The data showed that the psycho-social support for the elderly is provided individually and collectively with the aim identifying the problems that the elderly face both inside the environment of the Center and outside it. After identifying the problems or needs that the elderly face, the social workers undertake actions or provide the appropriate service to solve the problem or need.

Conclusions and recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions are reached:

With the elders:

- The elderly had a relatively long time of being active attendees of the Day Center. The time periods of attendance of the Center by the elderly ranged from 21 to 5 years.
- The elderly who join and actively attend the Day Center for the Elderly in the city of Durrës are due to economic conditions and loneliness. The elderly interviewed often expressed that the economic inability to cope with life and loneliness as a result of lack of family support, were key reasons they attended the Center.
- The services offered at the Center varied from food service, psycho-social service, health service, sanitary service to entertainment activities. During the interviews, the leading services received by the elderly were meals, social support and activities.
- In this Center, the elderly are provided with psycho-social support according to individual plans drawn up by social workers in cooperation with the elderly themselves.
- The services offered at the Center were of great importance in the well-being of the elderly. The data show that the elderly felt good emotionally, spending the day in the company of other elderly people. Spending time at the Center helped the elderly overcome loneliness by socializing with other seniors and engaging in activities.
- The elderly maintained a good relationship with each other, being considered as 'friends' or 'friends'.

- The elderly spent part of the day engaged in various activities such as games, watching movies, reading the press, etc.
- The elderly knew the figure of the social worker at the Center and had a good relationship and mutual respect. Often the elderly considered the social workers as ‘brilliant’ and ‘wonderful’.

With social workers:

- A large part of the elderly in the Center are addressed by the administrator of the unit where the elderly resides. The administrator of the unit where the elderly resides identifies the problems that the elderly have and directs them to the Center where the relevant verifications are then carried out.
- The criteria that the elderly must meet to become members of the Center are: elderly who are lonely, elderly who have insufficient income to cope with living and who live in difficult conditions, elderly who need services .
- After accepting to be a member of the Center, the elderly go through a process where they get to know the objectives of the center and the condition of the elderly is assessed based on the report for the assessment of needs and progress.
- During the interview, the social workers state that the vast majority of the elderly are for economic reasons and are lonely.
- The data showed that psycho-social support for the elderly is offered individually based on plans and collectively in order to identify the problems that the elderly face both within the environment of the Center and outside it.
- Social workers often contacted various organizations in the interest of the elderly.

Based on the findings and conclusions of this paper, it is recommended:

- Proposing as many activities as possible with different themes and more frequent organizations outside the institution. During the interview, the elderly said that the activities they performed in the Center were partly the same as; games, watching TV, reading the newspaper, which had become a daily routine.
- The social workers did not practice the issue of advocacy as much as they should. They often expressed that due to the conditions that the Center enables them, they had only created bridges with organizations and by handing over documentation of the elderly in special cases. I would recommend more mediation and bridging with different social service agencies, etc.
- It is also recommended for the development of reforms and policies to alleviate poverty among the elderly.

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LINKING THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Implementation of environmental policies in Albania)

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable development is not only the protection of the environment, but also a new concept of economic growth, to ensure justice and opportunities for all, not only for a privileged few, without the destruction of resources. It is a process in which areas of various policies such as economic, trade, energy, agriculture, industry, etc., have been made in order to create a development that is economically, socially and ecologically capable of a sustainable development, for this to be an economy, social and ecological. In the face of environmental risks that imply the violation of human rights, emphasis has begun to be placed more on social, economic and cultural rights. The collective grievance mechanisms of the United Nations and the European Court of Human Rights have given a number of rulings on issues that implicate environmental laws and policies. What is worth noting is the evolution of the guarantees offered under the European Convention on Human Rights, which refer to the substantive meaning of environmental protection, including also the procedural aspect related to the protection of the right to life, privacy, property, information and effective remedies? This evolution has occurred due to the growing need of states to undertake preventive measures and to design balanced policies according to the requirements for a sustainable economic development, avoiding environmental risks that imply the violation of human rights.

Key words: *Environment, sustainable economic development, public interest, individual rights.*

Introduction

The urban carnage that occurred due to Hurricane Sandy (Beychok, M.R., 2005) in 24 states of USA, from Florida to Maine, western Michigan and Wisconsin, with particularly severe consequences in New Jersey and New York, reminded us that such events should not be neglected when it comes to environmental issues. Her storm attacked New York City on October 29, covering the streets, tunnels, subways with strong currents. While years on July 11, the waters flooded Copenhagen with a rainfall intensity of 135mm in 2 hours (Pattberg & Stripple, 2008). Air pollution from high concentrations of dust (PM), O₃, NO₂, BaP (Flyvbjerg et al., 2003), SO₂, CO, benzene and heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium, nickel have become a danger to the environment as they cause eutrophication (Mason, 2010), acidification, heart disease, respiratory complications, lung cancer, or other diseases.

Some industrial pollution can lead to the reduction of agricultural crops to climate change. Among other things, the risk of transmission of environmental pollution is increasing due to the development of the global market. In addition to the advantages of supplying tomatoes or fruits throughout the year, from one country to another, many components collected together from all over the world are also forwarded.

This global interconnection can carry pollution caused by China right into your garden. In their complexity, they involve several levels of interests and relationships. Environmental pollution primarily targets individuals as citizens and consumers. State-individual relations, seen as a civil contract, entail the state's obligation to create a civil, political, social, cultural, economic environment in respect of basic human rights. The impact of environmental pollution on people's life, health, and property later gave rise to the need for the development of the concept of the environment from the point of view of law.

The protection of individual rights from the effect of environmental pollution became part of the political agenda of states, especially after the Second World War. States, in defense of the public interest, began to engage, among other things, in taking preventive and protective measures against the environment. In these circumstances, the need to have a definition for the environment arose for the first time. In 1972, the Stockholm Declaration, which was adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, shed light on the respect of human rights and the protection of the environment. According to its preamble "Both, like the human environment, whether natural or man-made, are essential to human well-being and to the peaceful enjoyment of human rights, including the right to life itself."

Further, this concept is broadly defined in Article 2 of the "Convention on Civil Liability for the Consequences of Damage from Activities Hazardous to the Environment" in Lugano, June 21, 1993. According to it,

The environment includes: natural biotic and abiotic resources such as air, water, fauna and flora and the interaction of the same factors; the property which is part of the heritage culture; characteristics of landscapes."... It is further emphasized that man has fundamental rights to freedom, equality and suitable conditions for life, in a quality environment that allows a life with dignity and well-being and that bears a direct responsibility for the protection and improvement of the environment for current and future generations.

The concept of the environment, a European or global phenomenon

The concept of the environment did not arise as a purely European phenomenon, but has had an intercontinental reach. Initially, the meaning of environmental rights was reflected in the International Convention on Political and Civil Rights (ICCPR), the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the American Convention on Human Rights (AmCHR), and African Convention on People's Rights (AfCHPR).

These Conventions, under the influence of jurisprudence, have provided solutions mainly in issues related to the environment and its impact on the individual's right to life, private life, health, water and property. However, specific provisions for the environment are given only in the ICESCR, in article 11 of the European Social Charter (1961), in article 11 of the Additional Protocol of the AmCHR (1988), in article 24/2/c of the Convention for the Protection of the Rights of Children (1989), always seen in the context of health protection. Whereas, ICCPR and ECHR do not contain provisions directly related to the right to a quality environment.

The green reflection in these conventions is fed only by means of rich interpretation from jurisprudence. The idea of creating a special provision for the right to an adequate environment has been discussed several times, but has been found impossible. The ICCPR treaty on civil and political rights could not extend rights in this area, due to the complex legal architecture. The environment found a better place in the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the provisions on the right to water, food and environmental sanitation. The United Nations has made the most valuable contribution in the field of environmental policies.

Articles 11 and 12 of the ICESCR have been broadly interpreted through the comments of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the framework of policies for the prohibition and reduction of exposure to chemical substances, including chemical radiation or other conditions harmful to the environment, which have a direct impact on human health. However, the ICESCR does not make an explicit reference to environmental protection. If in its article 1 it is emphasized "the freedom of people to pursue their goals for economic, social, cultural development", in its article 12 it is stated "only for the improvement of all aspects of industrial hygiene and the environment". Although the Convention recognizes the interdependence of the environment with economic rights, it fails to establish recognition of the notion of an adequate environment as a public interest that deserves special attention.

The concept of the environment as a requirement for sustainable development

Only after 40 years, from the Stockholm Declaration, in 1972, to Rio in 1992 and then to Johannesburg in 2002, countries found a consensus that the need for "sustainable development" is directly influenced by international policies of the environment. Article 3, of the Rio Declaration, as well as paragraph 11 of the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights emphasize that "the right to development must equally fulfill the development and environmental needs of generations in the present and in the future". In this way, balancing

the demand for economic development on the one hand with the need for environmental protection on the other hand, served as a condition for sustainable development, during the reasonable and uniform use of natural resources. Environmental policies have already resolved what weight should be given to the use of natural resources versus the protection of nature; industrial development versus air and water quality; the development of land use versus the preservation of forests and valleys; energy consumption against the risk of climate change.

Demand for sustainable development

Initially, UN human rights institutions tended to give unconditional priority to the right to economic development, leaving the way open for businesses and corporations to implement their own development projects, even when they were in conflict and violated human rights related to the environment. Later, various cases were identified that directly implicate producers with responsibility for human rights violations with environmental pollution factors. In order to solve this phenomenon, the states carefully re-evaluated on a reasonable basis the ratio of interests between environmental issues and economic development.

Even developed countries have had to improve legal regulations, avoid tolerance during law enforcement, and avoid corruption in order to establish balanced control over foreign companies in their activities for the extraction of minerals, oil, or natural resources which implied violation of human rights. After that, the idea of *sustainable development* has continuously guided the choice and definition of balanced policies for legal regulations, for control over businesses and corporations, for strengthening supervisory capacities for environmental permit licensing, for taking preventive measures against pollution, in order to such that in any case the public interest of individuals to have a quality living environment is respected. In these circumstances, the establishment of control over environmental issues aimed to strengthen the rule of law and increase the level of accountability, having as object:

- The activity of commercial companies and corporations
- Facilitating access to justice bodies
- Implementation of environmental law and court decisions

Balancing factors such as the state, businesses & corporations and individuals while committing to sustainable development expresses the will to preserve a healthy environment and curb risks for a long-term period. In the Ogoniland case of the African Commission according to which the conduct of foreign investments in an unregulated and unstudied manner only for local economic benefits but to the detriment of the health, livelihood, property and natural resources of the citizens in Nigeria, had led to the massive violation of human rights. It has also been noticed that different countries have followed different policy approaches in achieving this balance.

However, the wide discretion that states have to decide on the design of their environmental policies has been confirmed in the Hatton decision of the ECtHR. Moreover, the right to economic development is a legitimate economic right of producers, regardless of the need for environmental protection and the obligation to respect human rights. In these circumstances, states, in order to respect the public interest, have the discretion to choose those policies that ensure a stable balance between the interests of

the private sector, the public sector and the rights of the individual. International courts themselves have already confirmed the legitimacy of state governments to decide on these issues, since they are in a better position to assess local conditions and needs.

Environment according to the European Convention on Human Rights

An important role in the protection of the environment from the point of view of law has been the influence of jurisprudence in implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights. Initially, the interpretation of the environment according to its provisions, in article 2, 8, article 1 of protocol 1 was limited only to the causal connection of the damages resulting from environmental pollution in the health, private life, and property of individuals, seen in the status of the victim. In this context, the understanding of the environment was too narrow. Consequently, environmental issues often remained unresolved only because the Court did not find a causal link between the risk resulting from environmental pollution and the alleged rights violations.

Thus, for example, in the *Kyrtator* case, which had to do with the illegal draining of a valley, the ECtHR did not find a causal connection to the claims of the complainants regarding the violation of the right to private and family life or the right to property. Although the appellants lived near that area, they were deemed not to enjoy unlimited rights to live in any particular environment or to have the surrounding environment preserved indefinitely. This practice has also occurred with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which rejected the right of a Panamanian citizen complainant due to the protection of a natural reserve against development.

Integration of references to the environment according to Aarhus in the European Convention on Human Rights

The advantage of Aarhus in relation to the European Convention on Human Rights lies in the fact that it creates procedural guarantees to individuals for access to justice in the protection of the right to life, health and family life. Moreover, Aarhus expands the concept of public interest even more by activating NGOs. Thus, according to Article 15, non-judicial, non-confrontational and advisory procedures are provided, where members of the public or NGOs can complain before an independent Committee, whose members can be elected by the NGOs themselves.

The provisions under the Aarhus Convention are widely referred to in the interpretation of the ECHR. In this way, the solutions in environmental issues have overcome the European consensus, on a wider global level. In the expanded sense of the environment, the European Convention now operates when there is a sufficiently direct connection to environmental issues and civil rights, especially when a risk reaches the degree of probability to such an extent that it makes the outcome of the proceedings directly decisive in relation to with the interests of individuals.

The positive obligation of states under the ECHR towards environmental issues

According to the interpretation of the right to life (according to Article 2), the right to private and family life (according to Article 8), freedom of expression (according to Article 10), the right to effective means of appeal (according to Article 13), the right of

property (according to Article 1 Protocol 1), states bear the positive obligation to take regulatory measures:

- for the protection of the lives of those within its jurisdiction
- to provide all guarantees for property protection, including to a certain extent and ensuring environmental standards
- to ensure the rights to respect private and family life
- to ensure access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice

The positive obligation of the state means the commitment of the state with responsibility even when the threat comes from other private persons or activities that are not directly related to the state. It is about dangerous activities such as nuclear tests, the action of chemical factors with toxic radiation, or waste collection sites.

Implementation of environmental policies in Albania

In Albania, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration is the institution responsible for the design and implementation of policies, strategies, national plans and legislation for environmental protection. Other institutions that have an important role in the implementation of environmental policy, including climate change policy are: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Education and Science. The National Environment Agency is the competent authority for the management of the National Environmental Monitoring Network, which plays the role of the reference center for environmental monitoring and for the provision of high quality reference and general laboratory services.

The Environmental Inspectorate is the competent authority that ensures the fulfillment of the conditions of the relevant environmental permit through the control and monitoring of industrial activities that cause emissions into the air. The Institute of Public Health is constantly engaged in monitoring urban air quality.

Albania has been active in the negotiations for the adoption of the final text of the Aarhus Convention during the years 1996-1998. It contributed to the creation of the content of the agreement, and was ranked among those countries that signed the Convention on June 25, 1998 in Aarhus, and among those countries that ratified it before it entered into force on June 27, 2001. Since 1998 and especially after 2000, when the Albanian Parliament ratified the Convention, activities for the implementation of the agreement have intensified. The first Aarhus Information Center was officially opened on December 13, 2006. Later, in 2008, 3 offices called the Aarhus Information Center were established in Tirana, Shkodër and Vlorë. Albania joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in January 1995, while in January 2005 Albania joined the Kyoto Protocol.

Climate Change constitutes a challenge of global proportions, which requires the effort and cooperation of all the countries of the world regardless of their contribution to the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the negative impacts from these emissions. The total emissions of greenhouse gases in Albania for the year 2000 were 7619.90 Gg or about 2.47 tons of CO₂ eqv. per breath. The main emitting sector is Energy (44.00%) through transport, followed by Agriculture (27.12%) and

Land Use Change and Forestry (21.60%). Urban air quality monitoring was carried out for the most important air quality indicators, PM10 (particles under 10 microns), LNP (suspended solid matter), NO₂, SO₂, O₃, Pb, CO and Benzene in the cities of Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan, Shkodër, Korce, Vlorë and Fier. Automatic stations of European standards for urban air quality monitoring are located only in 4 main cities Durrës, Shkodër, Vlorë and Korce.

Within the framework of the implementation of Article 108 of the SAA, efforts are being made to align the environmental impact assessment legislation with that of the European Union countries. Parallel to the completion of the legal basis, the procedures for assessing the impact on the environment, the approval of the environmental permit, as well as the strengthening of local structures and capacities for the implementation of horizontal legislation, are foreseen. Meanwhile, the long-term National Waste Management Policy at the national, regional and local level is in its processing phase.

The progress report of the EU for 2012 estimates that there has been little progress in the approach of legislation to the *acquiscommunitaire* in the field of the environment, and very little progress in the field of climate change. Maintaining the concept of *tacit consent* is contrary to the spirit of European law. Existing legislation is not fully implemented. Progress is noted in the field of justice in environmental issues. The lack of financial means and human resources is noted. Currently, there is a lack of a fund for the environment, and the expansion of investments in equipment, the strengthening of capacities in the licensing of environmental permits, the monitoring of permits, the monitoring of the environment and the implementation of the law in this field are required.

Public awareness and advice on legal initiatives, or public investments is weak. Current resources are limited, and environmental needs must be integrated into other policy areas such as energy and transport. The budget in the air quality improvement sector and the capacities for water quality measurement are low. Regional waste management plans are still pending and procedures for managing and controlling waste areas are missing. While there is no progress in the field of industrial pollution control, risk assessment, as well as in the sectors of civil protection from chemicals, noise.

Conclusions

The economic development of countries is now a complex issue. State policies should be adapted subject to a proportional test of preserving and protecting a healthy environment. The vision of sustainable development requires a constant and measured progress of economic policies interdependent with policies for the environment, even for the generations that will come in the future. Developments in technology, infrastructure, energy and transport require compliance with policies for quality environment. Individuals, the state and corporations must cooperate to achieve as close as possible a fair balance in the creation of a social and economic environment and the respect of human rights, in the name of the public interest. Starting from the communist past, Albania should feel good about what it has achieved so far in the field of environment. Although about 40 years late in environmental protection efforts, current achievements are encouraging. In a future, with the explosion of rapid rates of economic developments, political calculations must be able to properly manage the new impulses against the expectations for a quality and healthy environment as a condition for the protection of the public interest.

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