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on
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5-6 June, 2015



**European Center of
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**3rd ICSD 2015
Rome, Italy**

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On
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ICSD 2015, Rome, Italy
Book of Abstracts



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Sustainable Development
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Introduction

The 3rd ICSD 2015 is organized by the European Center of Sustainable Development, at the Roma Eventi- Fontana di Trevi, Piazza della Pilotta, 4 Rome, Italy from:

Friday 5 June to Saturday 6 June, 2015.

3rd ICSD2015 will be an excellent opportunity to present your projects and discuss the latest results in the field of Sustainability Science. The general aim of the conference is to promote international collaboration in Sustainability Science and related disciplines.

The Conference theme is *Creating a unified foundation for the Sustainable Development: research, practice and education*. This theme emphasizes the strong foundation that is provided by using research to inform our everyday practices, policies, and research approaches. The 2015 Conference will once again provide a forum for the sharing of ideas, presentation of research findings, and discussion of professional issues relevant to Sustainability Science.

On behalf of the Scientific Program Committee, I have great pleasure in presenting this important event of the Scientific Community.

The Conference topics are distributed in the range of the following streams within the ICSD2015 program:

- 1. Economic Sustainability:**
- 2. Environmental Sustainability:**
- 3. Socio-Cultural Sustainability:**

All abstracts were reviewed by members of the ICSD2015 Steering Committee for rating of abstract quality and presentation content. Selected papers are also published at the European Journal of Sustainable Development.

Further details in accordance with the instructions of the ICSD2015 are provided on the [Call for Papers](http://www.ecsdev.org) page at: www.ecsdev.org

I would like to thank you for your scientific contribution to the Third International Conference on Sustainable Development and look forward to having the opportunity to showcase and disseminate your research. Special thanks also to the organizing committee, and all the people that worked hard, to bring in light this considerable event.

Yours sincerely

[Professor Gian Paolo Caselli](#)

Chair, 2nd ICSD2015 Steering Committee

International Steering Committee:

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University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

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CIT, Tirana, Albania.

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Conference Program

Sustainability through Informality

Cristina Dreifuss-Serrano

ABSTRACT

In precarious environments, such as squatter settlements, sustainability can be achieved as an economic resource. It is important, however, to start with assuring a sense of belonging in the members of the communities.

Through the observations of squatter settlements and conversations with their inhabitants, the paper presents a view on informal sustainability through participative processes. We argue that if we begin by looking at about cultural sustainability, people's sense of belonging becomes a key factor in taking care of the environment.

We aim to demonstrate that even if squatter settlements are regarded as areas of conflict in terms of pollution, occupation of the land, and waste disposal, through informal processes people can achieve a degree of awareness that will not only result in sustainable practices, but that can also propose new creative ways to achieve them, with economical considerations in mind.

Keywords: Cultural sustainability, informality, human development, squatter settlements, identity

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Guest lecturer at local and international universities. Writer for architectural magazines and journals.

From greenhouse to dwelling

Emil Osorio Schmied, Alex Becker, Carolina Sepúlveda

ABSTRACT

The complete lack of a sustainable housing market in the cold and rainy context of Valdivia, Southern Chile (39°49' S, 73°14' W), draws the need to find an affordable solution for the construction of energy-efficient living spaces. A team of architects undertook the challenge, whilst acknowledging other environmental issues such as the use of recycled materials. Based on research, the greenhouse principle was the focus of the design, as it dealt with prevailing weather conditions in a more proper fashion, by maximising daylight and solar gains during the long, cold winter, and also by allowing small-scale farming all year round, amongst other features. The greenhouse was thought to perform more as an in-between space -in terms of temperature and lightning- to all common zones in a house (e.g., a doorway or a living room), rather than applying to each inhabited space, individually. The architects researched on the above qualities to see whether they applied to the new prototype or not. Both potential overheating -in the short warm season- and glare risks were taken into account, by conducting specific environmental assessments (e.g., natural lighting levels) on both physical and virtual models.

Keywords: Environmental design, sustainable dwellings, Southern Chile, extreme weather

Emil Osorio Schmied, Architect PUC, Chile; MArch Environmental Design U. of Nottingham, UK. Lecturer at Universidad Austral de Chile. He has taken part in several project teams working on environmental commissions in both Chile and the UK. Emil follows a sustainable approach to architecture after years collaborating with a local development organization in Patagonia, with whom he achieved nationwide recognitions such as both the Bicentennial and the Good Urban Practices award, amongst others. Also, he keeps on working in private commissions and taking part in architectural competitions.

Dr Alex Becker, Architect U. Central, Chile; PhD UPC, Spain. He is a lecturer at Universidad Austral de Chile.

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Open Space Experiences: Example of the Sigacik Settlement of the Citta Slow City Seferihisar, Turkey

Assoc. Prof.Emine MALKOÇ TRUE

Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem KILIÇASLAN

ABSTRACT

The village of Sığacık attracts people with its castle, local products and narrow streets, along with its seaside lifestyle. The settlement is remarkable for its historical heritage, with an Ionian colony, founded approximately 1000 B.C, located 1 km south of the village. Sığacık, which is popular for its sights and tourist attractions, lies within the 'citta slow city' area of Seferihisar. For these reasons it was chosen as the research area and its open space experiences are examined in this study. The study was comprised of four main sections, namely; definition of the subject, data collection, results, evaluation and synthesis. After an initial search of the literature, a questionnaire form that evaluated the experience of the local people in relation to open spaces was prepared. The questionnaire was conducted with local people in Sığacık and the "Simple Random Sampling Method" was used to determine the number of users on which the questionnaire would be conducted, a 90 % confidence level and 0.1 sampling error were taken as the basis of the calculations. In the calculation, the total population number of 2.329 was used as the "Population Size (N)" and the number of users on which questionnaire would be conducted was determined as 66 (65.77). The questionnaire was aimed at evaluating the open space experience in a 'citta slow city' area. As a result; the Sığacık settlement is livable (62 %) according to the local people. They are pleased to live in Sığacık (86 %) and are pleased from its popularity (68 %). They are thinking that being a Citta Slow City member influenced their life positively (58 %). Daily life passes outside the houses in general and outdoor life style which forms the identity of the settlement needs to be supported.

Keywords: Landscape architecture, Cittaslow city, Open space, Seferihisar, Turkey

Emine MALKOÇ TRUE is an Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Ege University where has been a faculty member since 2000. Malkoç True completed her PhD, post graduate and undergraduate studies at the same university. Her research interests lie in the area of landscape architecture, ranging from design to use, with a focus on improving urban life quality. She is a member of Uctea Chamber of Landscape Architects since 2000.

Çiğdem KILIÇASLAN is an Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Adnan Menderes University where has been a faculty member since 2009. Kılıçaslan completed her PhD, post graduate and undergraduate studies at the Ege University. Her research interests lie in the fields of landscape architecture ranging from landscape design to use. She is a member of Uctea Chamber of Landscape Architects since 1994.

Is FSI dependent on land availability? A comparative review of FSI in Indian cities

Asst. Prof. Guturu Karteek

ABSTRACT

Thesis statement- In the present era of rapid urbanization, the prime concern is how to regulate development in our cities considering the present growth dynamics. FSI, (Floor space index-the ratio of built-up space on a plot to the area of the plot) is one such regulation predominant in the development control norms, which primarily dictates the overall urban form. In this article, the author investigates the current FSI norms in codes, guidelines and development controls across cities.

Methodology- Author takes the secondary data of six cities to find out how FSI is varying in cities with respect to the available land and densities through an empirical analysis. Sample study area building byelaws are taken to make a comparative study on FSI.

Results- The result shows FSI in study area are not based on densities or available land but road widths and setbacks and in other cities it varies based on nature of the building activity.

Conclusions and implications- Finally, it is found that the FSI is independent of the land availability and density in India and there is no standard model for assigning FSI.

Keywords: Floor space index, cities, development controls, density, land.

Asst. Prof. G.Karteek is an Architect and Urban Designer from India. He finished his Masters in Urban Design from School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi and presently working as an Assistant Professor in School of Planning and Architecture-Vijayawada (SPAV) since 2009. He has attained professional experience of high quality, working for large MNC's in India in the field of Architecture and Urban Design.

He has authored many technical papers in the field of Architecture and Urban Design and has been nominated as the member of the Scientific Committee in International Conference-Workshop for Sustainable Architecture and Urban Design 2012, organised by School of Built Environment, University Sains Malaysia and International Workshop on Liveable Cities- 2013, organised by Centre for Research Initiatives (CRI), Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Teaching Sustainable Design Practices in Environmental Design Curriculum

Associate Professor Magdalena Garmaz

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses a peculiar American design educator's dilemma: how to teach students (most of them with no previous urban experience) the values and possibilities embedded in sustainable urban design strategies. Configuring these strategies around systems thinking and design thinking is a particularly appropriate approach in an environmental design program. This paper will discuss some of the projects used in the author's teaching that are specifically tailored to shedding off the "non-urbanite" skepticism, and developing an appreciation and understanding of the inherently human-centric system of the livable urban environment. Emphasis on both designing with, rather than for the people approach; study of both global and local practices; use of divergent - in addition to - convergent thinking; and real-scale prototyping (mock-ups), are some of the most effective ways to communicate these ideas, and foster a shift from suburban mindset to urban design attitude.

Keywords: Systems thinking, Design thinking, Sustainable urban design, Scale, Global-local issues, Design education, Environmental design

Magdalena Garmaz is chair of Environmental Design Program in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction. Garmaz, who holds the Ann and Batey Gresham professorship, joined the CADC faculty in 1990 in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture. Her research and teaching has focused on the relationship of architecture and textiles, exploring different textile techniques and their application in the architecture making process. Her work has been featured in *Metropolis* magazine and in the book *Exploring Materials* by E. Lupton and I. Alesina (Princeton Architectural Press, 2010). She has won grants from the Alabama Arts Fellowship and the Graham Foundation and been a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome, Italy. Under Garmaz's leadership, the Environmental Design program has been re-designed as a flexible, multi-disciplinary degree that builds its strength on the understanding of the interconnected nature of all design and construction disciplines. The ENVD program emphasizes the blend of sustainable practices from a local and global context with comprehensive design and systems thinking.

Moving forward on sustainable energy transitions: The Smart Rural model

Francesca Poggi, Prof. Ana Firmino, PhD, Miguel Amado, P, PhD architect

ABSTRACT

Among the different aspects that promote Sustainable Development, energy is a critical concern to meet the needs of present and future generations in a global-scale and long-term vision. Going beyond the emergence of local responses such as “Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings” or “Smart Cities” models, a more comprehensive view on sustainable energy planning, which involves urban and rural areas as an energetically balanced whole, has to be promoted. Central to this approach is the concept of transition which urges to be conceived in a broader and incremental change of society as pleaded by Rob Hopkins in Transition Towns. Spatial planning is able to manage the complex relationships between environment, economy and society and can represent the driver to implement integrated approaches and adaptive strategies towards the transition from “the actual fossil fuels system” to “a future net zero fossil fuels system”. This paper presents how such questions are being addressed and developed within the field of the doctoral thesis entitled “Smart Rural: energy efficiency and renewable energies in rural areas”. The interdisciplinary research design flow and expected results that support the Smart Rural model are presented in order to debate the thesis statement : “Can an integrated planning process for energy efficiency and renewable energies in rural areas, support the “Net-Zero Energy” balance at the municipal scale?”

Keywords: Sustainable energy; transition towns; smart rural; energy efficiency; renewable energies; energy balance.

Francesca Poggi graduated from University of Bologna with a combined bachelor and master in Architecture and Construction Engineering in 2010. In the same year, she started her research activity in the fields of sustainable development, spatial and urban planning and energy at GEOTPU - Research Group in Spatial and Urban Planning of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa. Actually, she is a 3th year doctoral student in the Geography and Territorial Planning program at Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa. Her research focuses on energy efficiency and renewable energies in rural areas. She is particularly interested in the development of a spatial planning process which aims to promote the net zero energy balance at the municipality scale. Her other research focuses on solar urban planning with a special interest in smart grids and electric vehicles.

Prof. Ana Firmino, Ph. D. in Geography, is Full Professor at Department of Geography and Regional Planning, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal. Co-Chair of the Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems, International Geographical Union, she is co-founder of the Portuguese Association of Landscape Ecology and of the Portuguese Federation of Social Agriculture. She has been working as Invited Professor in different European and Brazilian Universities.

Miguel Amado, P, architect and urban planner, PhD in Engineering Sciences is Professor at Department of Civil Engineering, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal. He is coordinator of GEOTPU - Research Group on Spatial Planning and Urban Planning, and his main research topics are sustainable urban planning and environment. He also holds the Course of Graduate Studies in Sustainable Building and the course of Rehabilitation of Cities Urban Centres by UNESCO. He is international consultant of Public and Private sector of Energy and Development.

The residential subdivision under the influence of the unfinished densification

(Case study for subdivisions in Setif, Algeria)

Amor Ballout

Lacheheb Dhia Eddine Zakaria

ABSTRACT

Today, it is necessary to be thrifty for its planet, on one hand the space being a rare, nonrenewable resource, and on the other hand the ecological, economic and social cost of the urban sprawl.

It is commonly asserted that the promotion of a more compact and dense city has a positive effect in terms of public costs of investment, functioning and costs for the citizens and the users of the city. It is clear that the modes urban development management have to evolve profoundly, in particular towards a densification favorable to the raising of the urban quality through an ideal urban density on the scale of the individual housing estate.

The lot as an individual housing estate was adopted as an alternative development model to the collective housing, thought in an anthropocentric perspective to emerge as a quality model where the density plays an important role, by being included in operations of a global coherence, in an optimal organization without forgetting the main importance of the deadlines of construction and the finalization of the works.

The image of eternal construction site inflicted to our cities explains the renewed interest for the application of the regulatory framework and the completion of these limited operations without global coherence, which are summed up in our case to a ground cut in plots of land, sold then built independently without being finished, and support the relevance of the essential question of the improvement of the outside aspect bound to the appearance which can be revealed as a so important factor for a better use and a better acceptance of its housing environment, that the ratio of a number of houses on a plot of land or the number of square meters by house.

Keywords: Subdivision, Degree of completion, Densification, Urban Quality.

Mr Lacheheb Dhia Eddine Zakaria. Architect, PhD student in architecture preparing a thesis on the urban forms mechanism and management policies, Member of PUVIT Research Group where investigates on urban planning, cities status and urban project and also assess environmental impact.

Ph.D. student Ballout Amor is an architect and Assistant teacher at the department of architecture of the university of Hadj Lakhdar, Batna, Algeria. Member of PUVIT Research Group, Sétif, Algeria where investigates on urban and landscaping project. Preparing a thesis on the social and environmental impacts of urban parks.

Improvement of Thermal Comfort Conditions in an Urban Space. "Case Study: The Square of Independence, Setif, Algeria"

Amor Ballout

Lacheheb Dhia Eddine Zakaria

ABSTRACT

Several studies all around the world were conducted on the phenomenon of the urban heat island, and referring to the results obtained, one of the most important factors that influence this phenomenon is the mineralization of the cities which means the reducing of evaporative urban surfaces, replacing vegetation and wetlands with concrete and asphalt.

The use of vegetation and water can change the urban environment and improve comfort, thus reduce the heat island. The trees act as a mask to the sun, wind, and sound, and also as a source of humidity which reduces air temperature and surrounding surfaces. Water also acts as a buffer to noise; it is also a source of moisture and regulates temperature not to mention the psychological effect on humans.

Our main objective in this paper is to determine the impact of vegetation, ponds and fountains on the urban microclimate in general and on the thermal comfort of people along the Independence square in the Algerian city of Sétif, which is a semi-arid climate, in particularly.

In order to reach this objective, a comparative study between different scenarios has been done; the use of the Envi-met program enabled us to model the urban environment of the Independence Square and to study the possibility of improving the conditions of comfort by adding an amount of vegetation and water ponds.

After studying the results obtained (temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, PMV and PPD indicators), the efficiency of the additions we've made on the square was confirmed and this is what helped us to confirm our assumptions regarding the terms of comfort in the studied site, and in the end we are trying to develop recommendations and solutions which may contribute to improve the conditions for greater comfort in the Independence square.

Keywords: Comfort in outer space, urban environment, vegetation, water ponds, Public Square, simulation, scenarisation.

Ph.D. student Ballout Amor is an architect and Assistant teacher at the department of architecture of the university of Hadj Lakhdar, Batna, Algeria. Member of PUVIT Research Group, Sétif, Algeria where investigates on urban and landscaping project. Preparing a thesis on the social and environmental impacts of urban parks.

Mr Lacheheb Dhia Eddine Zakaria. Architect, PhD student in architecture preparing a thesis on the urban forms mechanism and management policies, Member of PUVIT Research Group where investigates on urban planning, cities status and urban project and also assess environmental impact.

The Evaluation of Thermal Comfort on Primary Schools in Hot-Humid Climates: A Case Study for Antalya

Hafize Nur Silay Emir

ABSTRACT

Thermal comfort provides undoubtedly a great contribution to sustainability. Thermal comfort of classrooms has a direct impact on both learning and energy conservation through a careful temperature control.

Urbanisation and modernisation have led to spend an essential part of people's lives in indoor spaces. This study is aimed to emphasize economic, environmental sustainability in schools. Targeted climatic comfort conditions do not change very much despite the fact that significant change of external climatic conditions depending on climate zones and periods during the year. Therefore, this topic has a great importance in terms of keeping at maximum level of expected performance of architectural structure and carrying positive samples to future. Thermal comfort threshold of the students will be determined so that a productive learning environment will be able to be prepared. After determining a primary school in Antalya, the level of thermal comfort of the students and thermal data of the classes will be examined in two stages according to both summer and winter climate conditions. Calculations can be done by comparing same or different cities in different regions to emphasize results. Costs can be calculated for each city. The survey will be implemented on 100 students (50 male and 50 female). In conclusion, at the end of the research best thermal comfort data in primary school classrooms will be obtained according to thermal comfort variables such as air temperature, relative humidity, activity level, air speed, clothing choice, air conditioning, health status, gender, age.

Keywords: Thermal Comfort, Sustainable Schools, Hot-Humid Climates

Hafize Nur Silay Emir is a researcher and fully sponsored to do postgraduate study (master and PhD) abroad by The Ministry of National Education in Turkey. She graduated from Landscape Architecture Department at Akdeniz University, Antalya/Turkey. Thanks to the scholarship by my Embassy, she finished MA Interior Architecture at Middlesex University in London and now she is a PhD candidate.

Inclusive design, sustainable education and school buildings, green design, sustainable urban parks, eco-conscious architecture, energy efficiency on structures are her special interests.

Sustainability in the Built Environment: Integrating Scales of Action and Evaluation

Prof. Emilia Conte

Dr. Valeria Monno

ABSTRACT

Urban sustainability is still far from being reached. This situation testifies the difficulties to plan, design, implement and manage sustainable development processes in an integrative perspective. There are several cognitive, political and technological challenges to be faced in order to change this situation and make sustainabilisation process of the city more effective. In this paper we focus on issues concerning our ability to learn to integrate social, economic and environmental aspects through evaluation of sustainability in the city. To oppose the inconsistency of action shown by the weak results we have obtained from our investments in sustainable development during last decades, this paper argues that we need to think about sustainability of the built environment and its evaluation taking into account spatial issues, usually underestimated or assimilated to a problem of scale in the current evaluation frameworks. Following the results obtained in relation to the construction of an integrated urban-building evaluation framework, the paper underlines that if approached as spatially sensitive, evaluation of sustainability carried out at any scale would be aimed at stimulating the regenerative capacity of places.

Keywords: Built environment; Regenerative Development; Spatial Sustainability; Integrated Evaluation

Prof. Emilia Conte is Associate Professor in Technology of Architecture at DICATECh Department of Politecnico di Bari. She carries out researches in the field of building technology, particularly with reference to the contribution of buildings and the built environment toward sustainable development. Her research focuses on sustainable buildings, using a holistic approach and recognising the essential features of sustainable processes beyond specific solutions for managing buildings and built environments.

Dr. Valeria Monno is assistant Professor in Urban and Regional Planning at DICATECh Department of Politecnico di Bari; her research has focused on the innovative and emancipatory contribution of alternative planning practices to the improvement of sustainable urban and environmental regeneration theories.

Understanding Barriers To Urban Sustainability: The Case of Selective Waste Collection

Prof. Leonardo Conke

Dr. Elimar P. do Nascimento

ABSTRACT

Among the many challenges concerning urban sustainability, one that deserves special attention is selective waste collection, an activity that creates wealth, employment and helps protecting natural resources, especially in developing countries. Usually, when studying urban sustainability, the focus is on the driving forces that support environmental behaviour. However, there also exist obstacles that interfere in such efforts, increasing the costs and inconveniences of acting. Therefore, the purpose of this paper was to identify the restraining forces that limit the expansion of selective waste collection programs. We studied the case of Curitiba (Brazil), a city known for its environmental initiatives. By interviewing the actors involved (operators, local administration, recycling industries and waste pickers cooperatives), we were able to find four categories of barriers: technological (lack of adequate material, equipment and management knowledge); cultural (beliefs in the effectiveness of selective collection and missing information about how, when and what to recycle); political (alternation in power and legislation problems); financial (expenditures overcome revenues, inexistence of pay-as-you-throw, environmental benefits neglected). Results suggest that these obstacles are similar to those existent in other urban activities (public transportation, pollution etc.) and their recognition can improve the accuracy of actions toward urban sustainability.

Keywords: Urban Sustainability. Sustainable Urbanism. Solid Waste Management. Selective Waste Collection.

Prof. Leonardo S. Conke is a professor of Environmental Management in the University of Brasília (Brazil). His graduation and master degree concerned Organizational Studies, and he is now finishing his doctorate in Sustainable Development. His research interest is the relationship between organizations and environment, with special attention to environmental behavior.

Dr. Elimar P. do Nascimento is PhD in Sociology (Université de Paris V) and professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Brasília (Brazil).

Improving the saliency of sustainable policy boundary objects: Integrating social power and political influence into social-ecological systems models

Dr. Damon Hall
Todd Swannack, Ph.D
Susan J. Gilbertz, Ph.D
Tarla Rai Peterson, Ph.D

ABSTRACT

Shaping policy for environmental sustainability depends upon decision-makers conceptualizing problems in ways that are either shared or similar enough to communicate about, diagnose, and act. The quality of this shared mental model of a social-ecological system (SES) is paramount to its effectiveness. Fundamentally, the mental model must integrate multiple kinds of knowledge about the system. If the decision-making body's assumptions about, description of, and solution for a problem do not to reflect the many ways stakeholders know a system, then the products of that decision-making process are viewed as illegitimate. Sustainability policy must fit the often subtle social order of the communities expected to implement it. In this essay, we discuss how a systems-based perspective can be a versatile tool for tackling these challenges of knowledge integration and decision-making in the context of a complex SES. Using social theory of Pierre Bourdieu, we construct a conceptual model that illustrates a route for integrating locally known social complexities (power, influence) gleaned from stakeholder interviews (N = 57). Stakeholders and end-user groups may dismiss any model that they perceive fails to satisfactorily account for specific, locally salient social nuances. Our approach leverages the overlapping notion of "capital" in social and ecological theory to demonstrate how reciprocal interactions between human and ecological systems can be adopted into tools for reaching viable solutions to SES problems.

Keywords: Sustainability science, Social capital, Power, Boundary object, Water resources management, Floodplain development, Riparian ecology

Damon M. Hall, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Sustainability, a graduate-degree granting institute, at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. His research examines interactions between social and ecological systems where science, policy, and culture meet. He was a Sustainability Science Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Maine's Sustainability Solutions Initiative: A National Science Foundation-supported interdisciplinary portfolio of projects in sustainability science. He completed a PhD in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences as a Boone & Crockett PhD Fellow in Conservation Policy at Texas A&M University specializing in water resources management and renewable energy policy. He holds a MA in Communication and a BS in Agriculture concentrating on Forestry and Natural Resources both from Purdue University. His current research involves developing stakeholder engagement approaches for US states' long-term water planning efforts in Montana and Missouri.

Todd Swannack, Ph.D. is a research biologist with the Environmental Laboratory of the US Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center. His research interest covers a wide range

of issues including ecological systems modeling, ecosystem processes and population dynamics of threatened and endangered species. He applies his research to a range of projects, basic and applied, including modeling theory and application, ecosystem restoration and oyster dynamics. He is the co-author of the textbook *Ecological Modeling: a commonsense approach to theory and practice*, (2008). He is a member of the editorial advisory board of the journal *Ecological Modelling* and serves on the adjunct graduate faculty of Biology at Texas State University. He collaborates with several universities and other federal agencies. Todd received his BA (Biology) and PhD (Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences) from Texas A&M University and his MS from Texas State University.

Susan J. Gilbertz, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Geography at Montana State University-Billings. Her research explores the energy-water-health nexus. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, US Army Corps of Engineers, National Science Foundation-Experimental Program to Stimulate Research, and several state agencies. She is the co-author of *Citizen discourse on contaminated water superfund cleanups and landscape restoration* (2011). She holds a Ph.D. in Geography from Texas A&M University, a B.S. and M.A. in Communication from the University of Wyoming.

Tarla Rai Peterson, Ph.D., is the Boone and Crockett Chair of Wildlife Conservation Policy and Professor at Texas A&M University. She is also a Guest Professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Adjunct Professor of Communication at University of Utah. She studies intersections between communication, environmental policy, and democracy. Her research has been funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation, Swedish Research Council for Environmental and Spatial Planning, and various government agencies (i.e., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Dept. of Energy, Swedish Nature Management Agency). Her books include: *Smart Grid (r)evolution: Electric Power Struggles* (2015), *The Housing Bomb: Why Our Addiction to Houses Is Destroying the Environment and Threatening Our Society* (2013), *Social Movement to address Climate Change: Local Steps for Global Action* (2009), *Discursive Constructions of Climate Change: Practices of Encoding and Decoding-special issue of Environmental Communication* (2009), *Green Talk in the White House: The Rhetorical Presidency Encounters Ecology* (2004), and *Sharing the Earth: The Rhetoric of Sustainable Development* (1997).

The Effects of Irrigation Methods on Water Conservation

Agriculture Engineer F. Ozge UYSAL
Research Assistant Onder UYSAL

ABSTRACT

In this study, the effects of irrigation methods was studied on water resources and conservation. Depending on increasing population, water resources scarcity takes place on the agenda. As known the major portion of the water supply is used in agriculture. Use of efficient for irrigation system is very important in terms of water saving. Only use of pressurized irrigation methods have been not sufficient. Deficit irrigation methods should be also preferred. Hence, both water is saved and there is not notable reduction in yield. This is statistically insignificant. Experiments indicate that strategies for conservation of water resources are important. Correct irrigation practices should be based on soil moisture. For this should be noted that effective root depth of plant. Because the water needs of the plant must be performed by measuring soil moisture. To do this, use of soil moisture sensors are required. We are talking about the scarcity of water resources in these days, at least the water management in agriculture attention is required worldwide.

Keywords: Water management, deficit irrigation, water conservation, moisture sensor, automatic irrigation

griculture Engineer F. Ozge UYSAL completed his undergraduate education in 2009. About a year ago, he was a Research Assistant in Süleyman Demirel University. He founded his company in the same university in Technopolis. He worked over; Irrigation methods, Design of irrigation automation systems, Agricultural projects, Waste water management, Bio-fertilizer, Agriculture structures, Biomass, Hydraulic, Microalgae production, Pomiculture, Soil moisture sensor.

Research Assistant Onder UYSAL completed his undergraduate education in 2007. About two years later, he began to work as Research Assistant in 2009 in Süleyman Demirel University. He has been still working in the same university and also his PhD training continues. He worked over: Microalgae production, Design of photobioreactors, Waste water management, Design of Aquaponic systems, Agricultural lighting, Bio-fertilizer, Agriculture machinery, Biomass, Bioprocess, Alternative energies.

Stakeholder perception of the ethics of an industry: The case of organic food in South India

Mr.Jubin Jacob John

ABSTRACT

Increasing reliance on artificial and non-sustainable methods of agriculture had resulted in negatively impacting both the soil and the health of agriculturists. Organic agriculture abhors such conventional agricultural practices and inculcates the implementation of safer, socially responsible and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. This paper analyses the stakeholders' perception of responsibility and environmental sustainability by conducting a qualitative research using case studies of several organic food supply chains based in Kerala, a southern state in India. The interviews with key stakeholders along the supply chain network illustrates that the rationale for organic agriculture is based on principles of fairness, responsibility and sustainability. Furthermore, the results depict that perceptions of ethics vary amongst each stakeholder groups. Though business ethics and sustainability has been studied extensively, research on the stakeholder perception along the entire industry is minimal within academic literature and the paper contributes to this area. Furthermore, from a managerial perspective, this paper sheds light on the influence of business ethics within an industry and exhibits the importance and influence of social responsibility and environmental sustainability within an industry.

Keywords: Ethics, food, pollution, responsibility, agriculture, organic, sustainability

Jubin Jacob John is a PhD student at Latrobe University, Melbourne, Australia. His research interests include Business ethics, Sustainability, social responsibility and supply chain relationships.

Trans Border Protected Areas and Regional Governance Arrangements: Case Studies of the Austrian-Hungarian border

Prof. Dr. Martin Heintel

ABSTRACT

Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPA) represent a potential strategy for sustainable development. Experts consider them to be versatile tools for cross border cooperation in the areas of environmental protection.

The paper will analyze the case of a nature park, Írottkő-Geschriebenstein and a national park, Neusiedlersee-Seewinkel, located alongside the Austro-Hungarian border. On the conceptual level, the analysis will focus on protected areas and sustainable development, and on the organizational institutional level, on regional governance. Both parks will serve as models for discussing the framework conditions necessary for protected areas to play a role in cross border cooperation at the interface of different political systems.

Which mechanisms need to be considered for TBPA to act as models of sustainable development? Despite common ideas in support of TBPA on the part of both Austria and Hungary, numerous barriers to cooperation seem to persist. From an analytical standpoint, trust, legal frameworks and jurisdictions, weak transfer links and bureaucracy, in addition to different manifestations of responsibilities as a civil society constitute those fields of action that are partly superimposed on the matters of content and need to be addressed on a deeper level in cross border cooperation.

In conclusion, it can be said that in the case of cross border cooperation, regional governance tends to be sluggish in organization, not least due to the overarching EU targets that are only partly adaptable to voluntary self governance in a TBPA scenario.

Keywords: Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPA), Regional Development, Regional Governance, Cross Border Cooperation (CBC), EU Structural Funds policy

Martin Heintel is Professor at the Department of Geography and Regional Research/ University of Vienna, Austria. Marshall Plan Chair (Economics with a speciality in Comparative Regional Economic Development) at the University of New Orleans/United States (2006/2007) Main areas of research:

- Regional Development, Regional Governance, Regional Management, Protected Areas, "Learning Regions"
- Spatial Development, Economic Geography, Rural Geography, Political Geography
- Enlargement of the European Union (Cross-Border Cooperation)
- Third World Mega-Cities (Urbanisation, Mega-City Management)
- Methods in Regional Planning, Methods and Techniques of Empirical Research

Evaluation of Microalgae as Microbial Fertilizer

Agriculture Engineer Onder UYSAL

Research Assistant F. Ozge UYSAL

Dr. Kamil EKINCI

ABSTRACT

Microalgal biomass is utilized in many fields such as food, agriculture, energy, and cosmetic sectors. It is very well known that chemical fertilizer adversely affect soil, plant, and environment. To reduce this effect in recent years, interest to organic farming has been increasing. In this study, microbial fertilizers obtained from microalgae was applied to maize and wheat plants. Microbial fertilizers at four different doses were applied, namely, S1 (control: 0,00 dose-non fertilizer), S2 (0.50 dose), S3 (1.00 dose), and S4 (1.50 dose). All measurements were made at the end of 30th days. The best results were determined for S3 dose applications. During the experiment, the soil temperature between 15 and 30^oC and soil pH values between 6.5 and 8.5 were maintained. The results showed that the amount of soil organic matter and the water holding capacity were improved. Finally, microbial fertilizers obtained from microalgae can be reported to have positive effects on soil, plants and therefore environment.

Keywords: Microalgae, biomass, agriculture, fertilizer, microbial

Agriculture Engineer F. Ozge UYSAL completed his undergraduate education in 2009. About a year ago, he was a Research Assistant in Süleyman Demirel University. He founded his company in the same university in Technopolis. He worked over; Irrigation methods, Design of irrigation automation systems, Agricultural projects, Waste water management, Bio-fertilizer, Agriculture structures, Biomass, Hydraulic, Microalgae production, Pomiculture, Soil moisture sensor.

Research Assistant Onder UYSAL completed his undergraduate education in 2007. About two years later, he began to work as Research Assistant in 2009 in Süleyman Demirel University. He has been still working in the same university and also his PhD training continues. He worked over: Microalgae production, Design of photobioreactors, Waste water management, Design of Aquaponic systems, Agricultural lighting, Bio-fertilizer, Agriculture machinery, Biomass, Bioprocess, Alternative energies.

Dr. Kamil EKINCI has a bachelor degree from Agricultural Machinery at Cukurova University in 1991 Turkey. Msc and PhD degree from the department of Food Agricultural and Biological Engineering at the Ohio State University in USA. He is working on Animal Manure Management Process Management in Composting Operation, Biogas Production and Integrated Usage in Energy Systems, Modeling and Simulation of Biological Systems, Briquetting and Pelleting of Agricultural Residues and Wastes, Monitoring Gases in Animal Housing Environment, Energy Analysis in Agriculture, Microalgal biomass and use in agriculture, Design for photobioreactors for algae

Energy sovereignty in rural areas: off-grid paradigm for strengthen the use of renewable energy.

Ph.D. Candidate Stefano Dell'Anna
Maria Elena Menconi, engineer

ABSTRACT

The policy guidelines for the UN General Assembly recognize the need of one universal and transformative agenda for sustainable development, based on the rights, and with people and the planet at the centre. This paper concerns a study of compact system designed to ensure energy independence and then energy sovereignty in marginal rural areas: the Off-Grid Box. This system is an integrated technical device, held in a 6 feet container, which provides - in a Plug&Play way - essential services and resources, namely electricity, hot water, rain water harvesting and storage for washing or irrigation and a water purification process to pasteurize or distill pure water (H₂O). Key objectives are reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing the exploitation of renewable energy sources, safeguarding the quality and the availability of clean water, promoting a more sustainable and healthy way of life. OGB can be modulated in different geographical contexts and demonstrate the feasibility and the strategic use of total off grid systems for individual units ensuring energy sovereignty of local communities. These systems should be designed in terms incorporated in the territory in order to realize the small-scale-smart-grid. These scenarios are interesting in rural areas especially for small family farms that adopt sustainable models and methods of production with low environmental impact and low energy demand.

Keywords: Energy sovereignty, renewable energy, off-grid system, small scale farming, rural development.

Dr Stefano Dell'Anna is an Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences - Landscape and Rural Buildings Research Unit, University of Perugia on "Sustainable rural development, land use and environment". From 2001 he was involved in a several programs and projects of applied research in Latin and Central America, Middle East, West Africa on the topics of rural development, agroecology, water management, food security and food sovereignty. Degree in Agricultural Sciences, has collaborated with NGO, University (Tuscia and Florence), farmers organization (Italian Association Organic Agriculture, European Coordination La Via Campesina, International Federation Organic Agricultural Movement), research centers, in several training programs and projects on development & cooperation (Europe Aid, FP7, LLP).

Maria Elena Menconi is an *engineer*, researcher at the Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences - Landscape and Rural Buildings Research Unit, University of Perugia. The scientific research developed continuously by Maria Elena Menconi since 2001 has involved a complex series of topics inherent the analysis and the evaluation of landscape resources. She has published altogether, between scientific reviews, books, congress papers and scientific seminars, 53 works dealing with the results of a complex series of experimental studies referring to the themes listed above. Maria Elena Menconi manage complex projects with advanced methodologies using software GIS and a *Laboratory for dynamic energy simulation of buildings*. Working with advanced GIS procedures (geoprocessing, visibility analysis, proximity analysis, density analysis, network analysis, cost modelling); multicriteria analysis; landscape and environmental models.

Monitoring The Use Of Resources Through Environmental Accounting: A Case Study In Ladakh (India)

Eng. PhD. Vladimiro Pellicciardi

Dr. PhD. Federico Maria Pulselli

ABSTRACT

Leh District is a part of Ladakh (Jammu & Kashmir State, Indian Trans-Himalaya) a "crossroad of high Asia" geographically classified "high cold desert" (altitude ranging from 2300 m to 7672 masl). For many centuries, the local population has led a self-reliant existence mainly based upon subsistence agriculture, pastoralism and caravan trade. Modernization, due to governmental programs, and the progressive opening to external influence and resources - i.e. globalization -are characterizing the current development paths. In this study, the eMergy evaluation, an environmental accounting methodology, was utilized to assess the sustainability of development from the point of view of the use of resources. The anthropic dynamics and resources flows in Leh District are investigated along with physical features and other relevant aspects. A set of synthetic indices is calculated in time series (1999-2011) - i.e. eMergy per capita (EC), renewability percentage (R%), eMergy investment ratio (EIR), environmental loading ratio (ELR), and more. Interpretation of the results provides insights of local development, monitoring how the system achieves a certain level of organization and assessing whether Leh District is moving toward or away from more sustainable states.

Keywords: Environmental sustainability, Sustainable development, eMergy methodology, Ladakh

Vladimiro Pellicciardi got his PhD in "Sustainable development and International Cooperation" at CIRPS, Interuniversity Research Centre on Sustainable Development, La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy. His research interests include topics of human-environment interaction and sustainable development studies in Asia with a regional focus on the Indian and Nepalese Himalaya. Dr. Eng. Pellicciardi was the Renewable Energy Suitable Technologies Consulting Engineer, UNITUSCIA, Viterbo, Italy for the "Promotion of olive production and consumption in Nepal" international cooperation project (MAE-FAO 2005-2008). In 1993, he was in Cambodia as UNV Engineer in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), an UN peacekeeping mission.

Dr. Federico M. Pulselli is researcher in environmental and Cultural Heritage Chemistry at the University of Siena, Italy. His research activity focuses on the study of the concept of sustainability and the application of indicators and systemic methods for the assessment of sustainability. He is author of two books and about 100 articles in international scientific journals, collective books and encyclopedias. His didactic activity focuses on environmental chemistry and sustainability theory. In 2014 he has been invited as visiting professor at the Universidade Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil.

The Canadian oil sands development: Management of land, air and water resources

Cesar A. Poveda

ABSTRACT

The Canadian oil sands -the third largest proven reserves of oil after Saudi Arabia and Venezuela- are located in Northern Alberta, Canada; these deposits of unconventional oil are an attractive investment for oil & gas developers and governments not only because of the size of the reserves but also the geopolitical stability of the region. Nevertheless, the development of the projects and current operations are facing opposition and struggling with a negative campaign around the world due in part to misinformation of the facts, lack of knowledge of the process throughout the projects life cycle, and years of stakeholder mismanagement. Indisputably, the development of the projects carries a series of impacts (environmental, social, economic, and health); developers and operators may dispute the intensity of the impacts but not the existence of them. The manuscript discusses the impacts on land, water and air resources based on indicators included in sustainability reports presented by oil sands developing and operating organizations. These reported statistics give a broader understanding of the current state of the Canadian oil sands and their development. The aim of the manuscript is to present these statistics four most common environmental impacts from oil sands development: greenhouse gas emissions, land use, water use, and tailing ponds.

Keywords: sustainability, oil & gas, oil sands, energy consumption.

Briquetting Of Aluminum Alloy Chips With Controlled Impact

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Todor Penchev
Stanislav D. Gyoshev PhD Candidate
Prof. Dr. Dimitar N. Karastoyanov

ABSTRACT

In this paper is investigated the possible to produce brackets from chips of two types of aluminum alloys. Chips of different shapes and sizes are compared, some of which are free of water and oil (cleaned chips), while the rest are left without cleaning (soiled chips). It has been found that the density of the briquettes produced by the cleaned and uncleaned chips is the same, and is about 93 % of density of the solid alloy. This high density allows obtaining a workpieces by subsequent plastic deformation. Upsetting and reverse extrusion of the briquettes were studied. The results show that may be accomplished a large extent of deformation of the briquettes when using processes with predominant compressive stresses.

Keywords: Briquetting, chips briquetting, impact briquetting.

Todor N. Penchev is a member of the Bulgarian Scientists Association. He was born in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1941. He has a master degree in Mechanical engineering. He graduated Technical University Sofia in 1967. The author received a doctoral degree in 1979, Industrial Technology from the Technical University Sofia. Dr. Penchev is an assoc. professor in Institute of Information and Communication Technologies (BAS). Dr. Penchev is an assoc. professor under AcomIn project at the IICT - BAS. He is conducting research on design, dynamics and mechanics of mechatronic systems and industrial processes. His professional interests refer to forging systems, industrial engineering and technology.

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Dimitar N. Karastoyanov is a member of the Bulgarian Scientists Association. He was born in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria in 1952. He has a master degree in Electrical engineering. He graduated Technical University Sofia in 1977. The author received a doctoral degree in 1982, Robotics from the Institute of engineering cybernetics and robotics (BAS). Dr. Karastoyanov is a professor in Institute of Information and Communication Technologies (BAS). Prof. Dr. Karastoyanov is a key professor under AcomIn project at the IICT - BAS. He is conducting research on design, dynamics and intelligent control of robots and mechatronic systems. His professional interests refer to real time systems, adaptive control, industrial engineering and robotics

The Use Of Solar Energy In Public Lighting (Albanian Case)

PhD Candidate Luçiana Toti

Dr. Mimoza Durrsi

Msc. Gerti Kallbaqi

PhD Candidate Ajakida Eski

ABSTRACT

Albania has ratified the draft law on renewable energy, according to which must reducing of the greenhouse gases and imports of the fossil resources, as well as more economical use of natural resources According to the duties imposed by International Institutions, Albania should provide 38% of energy needs from renewable sources up to 2020.

Photovoltaic panels are potentially installable anywhere in Albania and from any investor, unlike the use of wind turbines (which can be set only in rural areas), or by hydropower plants (which can be built near rivers). The use of PV leads environment and economic benefits.

One of the sectors, where it can be successfully used photovoltaic panels is power supply of the street lighting. The experiment started in the village Prush in August 2014 with the help of Development Fund (ELAL company). The installed system includes 80 lights in a road 2 km length.

In the paper will show practical way of realizing street lighting with photovoltaic panels, the advantages and disadvantages of their use.

Keywords: photovoltaic panels, street lighting, battery, pillar, conductors, LED&HEF light

Eng. Luçiana Toti is Electrotechnical Engineer and author of several scientific books. Lecturer of Information Technology Faculty, University "Aleksander Moisiu" of Durres, Albania. Member of Technical Working Group (TWG) for drafting the energy performance of buildings primary law for Albania

Dr. Mimoza Durrsi is Lecturer of Economic and Information Technology Faculty, European University of Tirana, Albania.

Msc. Gerti Kallbaqi is Lecturer at 'Aleksander Moisiu' University of Durres, Faculty of Information Technology. His main subject is 'Computer Architecture'. Although field of research include sustainable energy, green data center, Virtualization ect.

Ph. D. Cand. Ajakida Eski is Lecturer at 'Aleksander Moisiu' University of Durres, Faculty of Information Technology.

The perspective of fly ash use in concrete production for mitigating the CO₂ emissions from cement industry

PhD Candidate Mevlan Qafleshi

ABSTRACT

In the Republic of Kosovo, the energy sector is covered around 97% from lignite fired TPP. Annually there are produced around 6000 GWh electrical energy which consumes more than 9 Mt lignite. More than 1Mt fly ash as residue of combustion process of lignite is produced annually and unfortunately this ash is not treated at all. On the other hand, the cement industry produces around 1Mt cement annually. The specific emission of CO₂ from the cement production is 1t CO₂ per 1t cement. The contribution of this paper is the use of this fly ash from power plants in the concrete industry as partial cement substitution. Many test results of mechanical properties such as compressive strength and flexural strength, of concrete produced with different percentage fly ash as replacement of cement proved that this is an optimal option to reduce the cement production and consequently the CO₂ emission. The test result proved an optimal 25% replacement of cement with fly ash, which means 250000 tons CO₂ less in the atmosphere. This fly ash utilization has double positive environmental impact: the removal of fly ash as waste and the mitigation of CO₂ emission from cement production.

Keywords: Kosovo, fly ash, CO₂ mitigation, sustainability.

Mevlan Qafleshi was born in 1971 in Dragash, Republic of Kosovo. Primary and secondary school attended in his home town. He graduated from University of Prishtina, Faculty of Mathematical and Natural Science, Department of Physics. For his good results and performance, in 1995 he was awarded with a diploma "Distinguished Student". This is the highest award by the University of Prishtina to students with best performance. After graduation he started teaching physics classes in a high school, in Lipjan, a town near capital city Prishtina. Due to political instability and war time, he interrupted teaching to be engaged in other activities working with different organizations such as OSCE, UNMIK, The World Bank., etc. In 2006 he returned back to teaching physics in his home town. Currently he is a graduate student, PH.D. Candidate in Polytechnic University of Tirana, Faculty of Mathematical Engineering and Physical engineering. The scope of his study is the science of material, within department of physics. Hi has given a high contribution in the field of environmental physics, taking part in international conferences and publishing in international journals.

Use of eucalyptus bark as tannin source

Ms. Paloma Varela
Prof. Xana Álvarez
Prof. Angeles Cancela
Prof. Angel Sánchez
Prod. Enrique Valero

ABSTRACT

Wood industry has not only impact on first and second transformation market, but other processes such as the tannins production, source of biomass use are other remarkable values. The extraction of tannins from Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) bark was carried out by two extraction methods, first one was Soxhlet extraction and the second one was heating and stirring. Both methods were tested in an ethanol-water (80-20 vol/vol) solvent solution and water. The Eucalyptus bark came from forest in southern Galicia. It was dried to remove humidity, and sieved into 3 ranges of particle size according to UNE-EN 15149-2:2011. Therefore, the effect of particle size on tannins extraction was studied. Finally, the bark residue was reused for pellets production. In this study we have concluded that obtaining tannin eucalyptus bark is suitable, reaching yields between 11% and 26%. The best method was soxhlet extraction. Higher yields were obtained with small particle sizes (<0.5).

Keywords: Eucalyptus globulus, tannin, particle size, ethanol, soxhlet.

Ms. Paloma Varela is a Student of Forestry Engineering at Forestry Engineering College, University of Vigo.

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Angeles Cancela is Professor of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Vigo, teaching Chemical Engineering at the Industrial Engineering Faculty. PhD. On Chemical Engineering (University of Santiago de Compostela, 1997). Her principal research area are Renewable Energies, CO₂ capture, Rheology and Innovation in Education.

Angel Sánchez is Professor of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Vigo, teaching Chemical Engineering at the Industrial Engineering Faculty. His principal research area are Renewable Energies, simulation and learning.

Assessment And Minimizing Effects Of Infrastructure On The Landscape

Dr. Enrique Valero
Prof. Juan Picos
Prof. Xana Álvarez
Fran Abilleira

ABSTRACT

Studies of landscape have evolved to address practical problems of land management, needs vary from the assessment of landscape as a resource for the conservation and protection of natural areas, in which case the landscape acts as an essential factor. In this case study, we selected three areas of Galicia to evaluate a new methodology for landscape analysis based on GIS, with the aim of zoning the landscape according to criteria of landscape fragility. The cartographic base included communications, hydrography, towns, and land use. Finally, the effectiveness of this methodology for the integration of different sports infrastructures was tested. This work has shown that it is possible to use a methodology that considers complex variables such as visual fragility and visual quality to establish a zoning that takes into account the landscape variables in the processes of decision making. Also, it has shown that it is possible to adapt this general methodology to the specific circumstances and projected.

Keywords: visual fragility, GIS, landscape, visual quality

Enrique Valero is Professor and Director of Forestry School, University of Vigo. Head of AF-4 Research Group where we investigate on environmental monitoring of the water status and assess environmental impact: field sampling and study of the physicochemical parameters of the water, noise studies, habitat assessment in rivers, improvement of riparian forests, assessment of small hydropower plants, etc.

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Xana Álvarez is Professor at Forestry Engineering College, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Engineering, University of Vigo. Member of AF4- Research Group.

Fran Abilleira is a Student of Forestry Engineering at Forestry Engineering College, University of Vigo.

The importance of building the data warehouse in the management of natural disasters

Ph.D(c) Zijadin Krasniqi

ABSTRACT

The importance of data analysis has increased significantly in recent years as organizations in all sectors are being required to improve their decision making processes in order to maintain their competitive advantage. Traditional database systems do not satisfy the requirements of data analysis. They support the daily operations of an organization and their primary concern is to ensure fast access to data in the presence of multiple users, which necessitates transaction processing, concurrency control, and recovery techniques that guarantee data consistency. These systems are known as operational databases or online transaction processing (OLTP) systems.

Data warehouses were proposed in order to better respond to the growing demands of decision-making users. A data warehouse is a collection of subject-oriented, integrated, nonvolatile, and time-varying data to support management decisions.

Nowadays more than ever we see the need to establish an institutional coordinated system with all available resources and capacities planned for an immediate response in cases of natural disaster and other incidents. Is it about time for us to work in a more comprehensive way to coordinate our efforts in managing our response against emergency situations including natural disasters, high risk incidents, terrorism and other related incidents caused by human being.

Keywords: Data warehouses, natural disasters, OLTP, integrated, data analysis.

Examining The Sustainable Urban Environments

Berna DIKÇINAR SEL,
Banu ÇELEBIOĞLU,
Olçay ÇETİNER ÖZDEMİR

ABSTRACT

Cultural properties, as they narrate the design, art and architectural mentality of the entire periods that they went through from the date they were built until today, are museum-quality buildings that document the social and cultural status. The “Harran Houses” in the Harran city are among this cultural wealth. The typical conic domed houses date back to 150-200 years from today that are in Harran city which was registered as an archaeological and urban conservation area in 1979 and safeguarded. Within the scope of sustainability of these kinds of settlements to be transferred to the future generations; the importance of achievement of the effective contribution of the ruling authorities, users, local residents and visitors to the recommendations that set forth during the study, importance of development and keeping them alive can be understood.

In the study, the touristic purposed usage is recommended for the Harran houses; evaluating the current structural status and environmental requirements of the houses through the data obtained during the “Harran2014” workshop. Evaluation of sustainability of the cultural heritage in architecture from a tourism point of view by discussing sustainability is being transferred together with the distinctive characteristics and the design approaches of the functions.

Keywords: Sustainability, Historical City Centers, Architectural structures

Berna DIKÇINAR SEL, has received her B.Sc. and PhD. degree from City and Regional Planning - Yıldız Technical University. Phd topic is Using Information Technologies at the city planning. Main research interests are; Modeling at the city planning, Planning support systems, Urban conservation. She has been working as an academic staff of the Yıldız Technical University, Faculty of Architecture - City and Regional Planning Department.

Assist .Prof.Dr. Banu ÇELEBİOĞLU has received her B.Sc. and PhD. degree from Architecture and Restoration Yıldız Technical University. Phd topic is Restoration Main research interests are; She has been working as an academic staff of the Yıldız Technical University, Faculty of Architecture - Restoration Programme.

Assoc.Prof.Dr. Olçay ÇETİNER ÖZDEMİR, Yıldız Technical University. Having the background in architecture in Yıldız University, she continued with the certificate programme (1989) of construction business administration in Istanbul University and completed MSc (1995) and PhD (2004) in Architecture /Construction field in Yıldız Technical University. After her professional carrier, her academic carrier held in Yıldız University since 1991 includes educational and tuition works consisting of conducting classes, practical classes, internships within the disciplines BOAT-CBS laboratory, Structural Elements and Materials discipline, and Building Construction discipline, Developing Laboratory/Sound and Visual Processing Unit; besides all the academical duties and activities Main research interests are C AAD, GIS, Project Management Software, BIM, Sustainability Project Management and Sustainability Architecture at the historical center.

Experiences and participatory tools for evaluation of sustainability of local development projects

Dr. Silvina Manrique

Dr. Judith Franco

ABSTRACT

The Sustainability measuring is the strongest conducting force for the discussion of Sustainable Development (SD). A reliable measuring tool is a prerequisite for the assessment sustainability the processes, alternatives or systems. In Salta, Argentina, the bioenergy systems (energy systems based on biomass) could be implemented but it is necessary to define the baseline, in order to be able to monitor changes of the system as a whole. We build a simple and replicable methodology to estimate the level of sustainability - from a framework locally and participating defined- of the Central Region (system or unit of analysis), and test how this level of sustainability could improve or worsen from the implementation of an bioenergy project. By means of a multidimensional analysis and the calculation of indexes, a current image diagnosis was obtained. This image was observed then in the potential future evolution, if bioenergy systems are implemented in the zone. The failings and the imbalances of the system are clearly identified, and therefore, allow focus towards the dimensions and variables that need to implement policies and corrective instruments. The methodology developed could be used to test other projects for the region or to be retrofitted with new variables in other regions.

Keywords: bioenergy system, measuring tool, multidimensional analysis, sustainability assessment, sustainable development, participatory.

Dr. Silvina Manrique is Researcher of National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), and belongs at Non-Conventional Energy Resources Research Institute (INENCO), National University of Salta (UNSa). Head of Biomass and Bioenergy Group where investigates on natural resources management, biomass and bioenergy projects and collaborates with the group of Energy Planning and Territorial Management in the search for sustainable alternatives for the region.

Dr. Judith Franco is Researcher of National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), and belongs at Non-Conventional Energy Resources Research Institute (INENCO), National University of Salta (UNSa). Head of Energy Planning and Territorial Management Group in the search for sustainable alternatives for the region. She focuses on solar energy projects and water use in isolated communities.

Sustainable urban mobility as a tool for improving streets in historical districts; case study of historical Cairo

Dr. Dalia Abdel Moneim Osman

ABSTRACT

Streets influence the environment by mobility, emission of pollutants and their spatial structure. This research introduces the issues to involve sustainable transport modes in existing streets, especially in crowded historical districts as in Cairo. It is focusing upon the importance of encouraging cycling as an easy and clean transport mode, based on a hypothesis that the application of sustainable mobility would have an impact on the improvement of streets. The problem illustrated is the deterioration of the streets within the historical fabric of the city of Cairo, including the negative impact of the motorized transport modes on the environment, the historical fabric and people. The purpose is to improve the quality of the urban life of the streets, to reach solutions to implement sustainable modes such as cycling and to encourage people to cycle, through literary analysis of data, surveys and observations on a street as a sample. It is revealed that crowded streets with motorized movement within the historical fabric are causing the deterioration of both the historical area and the environment. It is concluded that using sustainable mobility preserve the environment and improve the streets, consequently enhance the historical structures, urban form and the quality of people's life.

Keywords: Sustainable Urbanism, Mobility, environment, cultural sustainability, streets, transport.

Dr . Dalia Abdel Moneim Osman is an Assistant Professor, Architecture Dept, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University, Egypt.

Investments in Electricity Production Sector in Albania

Aleks Palnikaj

ABSTRACT

Albania continues suffering from the lack of electricity in the market. For a period of nearly 22 years until 2007, time at which was signed the contract for the construction of a new thermal power plant in Vlora with an installed capacity of 97 MW, in our country was not done any other energy investment like this. Currently about 50% of the energy consumed in the country is secured from imports. Despite high investment after 2010 in this sector mainly by foreign investors, the increased consumption in the country continues with higher rates. After the 90s, there was an immediate increase in electricity consumption, but not the same thing happened with the production electricity. Power Plants have continuously stopped production, mainly as a result of outdated technology.

Albanian Electricity System operates based on the activity of generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. Unlike electricity production, transmission and distribution operators are entirely monopoly operators with 100% state assets.

KESH Jsc- Albanian Power Corporation is the largest public producer, which administrates three hydropowers of Drin River Cascade, hydropower of Fierzë with installed capacity of 500 MW, hydropower of Coman with installed capacity of 600 MW, hydropower of Vau i Dejës with installed capacity of 250 MW. Vlora Hydropower Jsc is part of KESH holding with 100% state capital, owned by KESH Jsc. It's installed capacity is of 97 MW.

Considering the recent changes in:

Global climate;

Consistently country crises of electricity;

Increase of fuel prices and their rapid depletion in the region and beyond;

Technological change and the increasing price of electricity;

Increasingly orientation of global policy towards renewable energy

It is really necessary to review national electricity policies and strategies.

This research aims at studying the policies and strategies applied in our country for attracting investments in the sector of renewable electricity and possibilities for improving them in order to increase domestic production, security of electricity supply and optimum use of the resources of our country in this sector.

Key words: electricity generation, Albania, small HPP, installed capacity

Aleks Palnikaj is a PhD candidate at the European University of Tirana.

A Green Transformation for Anadolu Airport Terminal Building

Assist Prof. Dr. Emre Kiyak

ABSTRACT

Energy is one of the basic necessities of life and, therefore, power management is extremely important these days. In this study, to reduce the electricity consumption and the use of renewable energy sources are considered to meet the current energy demand. Based on this, the lighting systems of Anadolu Airport terminal building in Eskisehir, Turkey have been analyzed. The lighting calculations and their evaluation meet international standards. Following these calculations, greener lighting approaches have been designed to reduce electricity consumption. The suggested lighting design includes new technology lighting production and shows the advantages of its use. Additionally, information on the installation of solar systems to meet the electricity energy demands of the lighting system has been included. When considering the paper as a whole, it follows from the analyses that energy saving applications to be carried out on the lighting systems are very efficient and the use of solar systems provides significant energy saving as well as contributing to the protection of the environment.

Keywords: Renewable energy; Green airport; Energy saving

Assist Prof. Dr. Emre Kiyak was born in 1978. He received the MSc degree (2003) from Anadolu University, Turkey, in Civil Aviation and he received the PhD degree (2008) from Anadolu University, in Civil Aviation. He is working as a Assist. Prof. Dr. at the same university since 2008. His research interest includes fault tolerant control, flight control systems, fuzzy logic. Emre Kiyak is the corresponding author and can be contacted at: ekiyak@anadolu.edu.tr

Analysis of extraction and transesterification conditions for *Phaeodactylum Tricornutum* microalgae

Ph.D. Student Jose Luis Salgueiro

Dr. Angeles Cancela

Prof. Angel Sanchez

Dr. Rocio Maceiras

Ph.D. Student Leticia Pérez

ABSTRACT

An increasing global demand for a biologically produced energy source has emerged due to the exhausted usage of non-renewable petroleum-derived fuels. Microalgae are a promising feedstock for biofuels because of their capability to produce lipids. In this paper, two operations for biodiesel production were studied from *Phaeodactylum Tricornutum* microalgae. This marine diatom shows a big potential to produce biodiesel due to its fast growth and lipid accumulation ability. In this research, first the microalgae was harvesting using an inorganic flocculant as copper (II) sulphate (CuSO_4). When the dose was 200 mg/L, the microalgae recovery was close 83% in the first five minutes. After that, the microalgal oil was separated by ultrasound extraction process, using ethanol as solvent. This allows to analyze the oil content of the microalgae which is used later in the transesterification. The obtained lipid content was 38% wt. Temperature variations were observed in this process. Finally, a direct transesterification reaction took place with base catalysis by three ways: traditional, microwave assisted and ultrasound assisted. Direct transesterification microwave assisted achieved 52% conversion to biodiesel versus 16% for the traditional method. However, the best performance (90%) was obtained for ultrasound assisted transesterification.

Keywords: microalgae; harvesting; transesterification: microwave; ultrasound; extraction.

Ph.D. Student Jose Luis Salgueiro finished the degree on Mining Engineering in 2010 at University of Vigo, Spain. Currently, he is PdD student in Chemical Engineering Department in the Industrial Engineering Faculty, University of Vigo. His principal research interest is Renewable Energy.

Dr. Angeles Cancela Carral is associated professor of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Vigo, teaching Chemical Engineering at the Industrial Engineering Faculty. Ph.D. on Chemical Engineering (University of Santiago de Compostela, 1997). Her principal research area are Renewable Energies, CO₂ capture, Rheology and Innovation in Education.

Prof. Angel Sánchez is professor of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Vigo, teaching Chemical Engineering at the Industrial Engineering Faculty. Her principal research area are Renewable Energies, simulation and learning.

Dr. Rocio Maceiras is associated professor at the Defense University Center. Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry (University of Vigo, 2001). Ph.D. on Chemical Engineering (University of Vigo, 2006), Postdoctoral studies at Transport Phenomena Research Center, Faculdade de Engenharia, University of Porto. Her principal research area are Renewable Energies, CO₂ capture, Rheology and Innovation in Education.

Ph.D. Student Leticia Pérez finished the degree on Mining Engineering in 2010 at University of Vigo, Spain. Currently, she is PdD student in Chemical Engineering department at the University of Vigo. Her research interests include: biofuels, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Carbon Footprint of Organization: Case Studies of the Petroleum and Petrochemical College and Office of the President, Chulalongkorn University

Asst. Prof. Pomthong Malakul Na Ayudhaya
Dr. Ampira Charoensaeng, Mr. Jukkapun Kaewprom

ABSTRACT

Carbon footprint is the cumulative amount of direct and indirect greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions associated with products, organizations or human activities. It is expressed in equivalent mass of carbon dioxide (CO₂e). Although, there are many of commercial products evaluated for carbon footprints, very few organizations in Thailand report their carbon footprints. Thus, this work aims to access the GHG emissions and investigate the options of the academic organization's carbon footprint using the case studies of the Petroleum and Petrochemical College (PPC) and Office of the President, Chulalongkorn University. All GHG emissions from various activities occurred in the organization will be gathered and evaluated in the units of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), based on ISO 14064, 14069 and Thailand Greenhouse Gases Organization (TGO) guidelines. The results showed that the major source of GHG emissions in carbon footprint of both departments was the use of energy (electricity), followed by mode of daily commuting of staff and students. Consequently, the electricity consumption and mode of transportation (daily commuting) were prioritized as measures to reduce carbon footprint of organizations in the University. In addition, the current energy-saving technologies and proper campaigns are an option to decrease the power consumption, including 3R strategies (reduce, reuse and recycle), and public transportation campaign. The results obtained from this work would provide guidelines for policy maker and management to support University to create a sustainable campus and profitable business application.

Keywords: Greenhouse gas, carbon footprint of organizations, carbon dioxide equivalent.

Dr. Pomthong Malakul Na Ayudhaya is Assistant Professor and Dean of Petroleum and Petrochemical College (PPC), Chulalongkorn University Thailand, and an expert Environmental Technology Management Group National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC), NSTDA. He received his B.Eng. (1986) in Chemical Engineering from the King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, Thailand, and M. App. Sc. (1989) in Biochemical Engineering from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. and Ph.D. (1999) in Chemical Engineering (under Fulbright Scholarship) from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. His main research interests are Separation; Adsorption; Environmental Remediation; Surfactant-Based Processes; Life Cycle Assessment (LCA); Eco-efficiency, GHG Reduction, Low Carbon Management. He has published his research articles in twenty four different peer-reviewed journals, including Life Cycle Assessment of Biodiesel Production from Microalgae in Thailand: Energy Efficiency and Global Warming Impact Reduction, Life Cycle Energy and Environmental Analysis of Bioethanol Production from Cassava for Alternative Fuel in Thailand.

Dr. Ampira Charoensaeng is a lecturer at the Petroleum and Petrochemical College (PPC), Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She received her B.Sc. (2002) in general science, and M.Sc. (2004) and Ph.D. (2008) in environmental and hazardous waste management from Chulalongkorn University. Her

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Mr. Jukkapun Kaewprom is a master student in major of the Petroleum technology at the Petroleum and Petrochemical College (PPC), Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. I'm receiving my B.Sc. (2013) in industrial chemistry from Chiangmai University. My research interests include the catalyst for fuel cell to improve an alternative energy. Additionally, the carbon footprint of organization also in my interested, which it's part of environmental management for sustainable development and life cycle analysis.

Selenastrum Capricornutum, Harvesting and oil extraction for biodiesel production

Ph.D. Student Leticia Pérez
Dr. Angeles Cancela
Dr. Rocio Maceiras
Ph.D. Student Jose Luis Salgueiro
Prof. Angel Sanchez

ABSTRACT

An alternative for biodiesel production is the use of lipids from microalgae. Although all steps to obtain this biofuel are important, harvesting and extraction are the most important. Advances in these areas are necessary in order to obtain third-generation fuels. The purpose of the present study is to compare different methods of lipids extraction and harvesting for freshwater *Selenastrum Capricornutum* microalgae. The method used for harvesting was flocculation with inorganic agent. Copper (II) Sulphate (CuSO₄) was used as flocculant, resulting in the best percentage of recovery (76%) for a dose of 2000 mg/L. Previously oil extraction, the collected samples were homogenized and their moisture content was analysed obtaining a value of 86%. Two extraction methods were used: Soxhlet and ultrasound. The use of ultrasound favours cell disruption and increases the extraction yield. In extraction methods, polar, non-polar solvents, and mixes of chloroform and methanol were used. N-hexane and acetone were used as solvents for Soxhlet extraction, and ethanol, acetone, methanol, chloroform, and a mixture of chloroform and methanol in 1:2 and 2:1 ratios, for extraction ultrasound assisted method. The use of the methanol-assisted ultrasound is the most efficient method for lipids extraction for *Selenastrum Capricornutum* biomass.

Keywords: Microalgae, Extraction, Ultrasound, Soxhlet, Solvent, Harvesting

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Synergistic effect of combining Titanosilicate and 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium acetate in mixed matrix membranes for efficient CO₂ separation

Dra. María del Mar López Guerrero,
Dra. Clara Casado Coterillo,
Dr. Angel Irabien

ABSTRACT

The separation and capture of CO₂ from these sources is becoming important for greenhouse emission. The membrane-based separation process use to remove CO₂ takes advantages in energy efficient and environmentally friendly aspects and has been recognized as an important technology for CO₂ capture and gas separation. The novel mixed matrix membranes (MMMs) were fabricated by incorporating microporous titanosilicate ETS-10 and a highly CO₂ absorbent ionic liquid, [EMIM][Ac] into a Chitosan (CS) matrix to improve CO₂ separation performance, and were prepared, characterized and tested for CO₂ and N₂. The solubility values show that the CO₂ solubility increases upon addition of ETS-10 particles. The N₂ solubility in the ETS-10/[EMIM][Ac]/CS was reduced, while CO₂ solubility remained constant. FT-IR spectra revealed a good interaction between the components in the MMMs. Subtle differences in the intensity and position of all individual bands, were observed in the region between 3600 and 2700 cm⁻¹ and 1700 and 900 cm⁻¹. These indicated bonding of the components in the film, confirming the good interaction existing among the components, and that may account for the higher flexibility of the hybrid membrane materials imparted to both CS and ETS-10/CS MMMs, due to the singular interaction between CS and [EMIM][Ac].

Keywords: CO₂ solubility, CO₂ separation, microporous titanosilicate ETS-10, Chitosan, mixed matrix membranes (MMMs).

Dra. María del Mar López Guerrero is Lecturer of the University of Málaga, Spain. Researcher of new selective membrane materials for CO₂ separation Project. This project is expected to contribute developing membrane technology as one of the best available techniques to solve practical problems faced by modern chemical industry and society (where environmental concern is ever growing), by providing materials of potentialities never exploited at larger scale than a laboratory in most cases. And she has been doing research in the Project called "Desarrollo de nuevos procedimientos de preconcentración en línea de metales pesados para análisis por espectroscopía atómica utilizando nanomateriales funcionalizados y diversos procedimientos de microextracción". She has been working in the detection and determination of toxic metal ions in seawater, lake water and river water using ferromagnetic nanoparticles binding with organic ligands, which can trap the toxic metal ions which are in the water.

Dra. Clara Casado Coterillo is Lecturer Senior Researcher at the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain, within the SOSPROCAN-DePRO research group (Desarrollo de Procesos Químicos y Control de Contaminantes). She is the principal researcher of the new selective membrane materials for CO₂ separation Project. She has just joined the SOSPROCAN-DePRO research group (Desarrollo de Procesos Químicos y Control de Contaminantes) from the Department of Chemical Engineering and Inorganic Chemistry of the University of Cantabria, with a contract under the programme

“Ramón y Cajal” in the 2011 call. In the last 5 years, she has been working at the University of Zaragoza, within the CREG44 research group acknowledged as “excellent” by the Government of Aragón and part of the European Membrane House, whose purpose is the promotion of membrane technology. She has been working in the research lines related to the synthesis and characterization of polymer-zeolite or related nanostructured materials for mixed matrix membranes for gas separation and pervaporation processes for more than 10 years, in different research centres (University of Cantabria, University of Zaragoza, Institute of Chemical Technology (UPV-CSIC), University of Hiroshima, University of Twente and Institut Européen des Membranes). She has published 30 articles in internationally peer-reviewed journals, 3 book chapters and 3 patents on the synthesis of novel nanostructured inorganic materials.

Dr. Angel Irbaien is Full Professor of the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain. Head of the research group where the new selective membrane materials for CO₂ separation Project is hosted. He started a research unit named SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION at a regional level (Cantabria) (SOSPROCAN), based on three main topics: Process Intensification, Process Integration, and Innovation in the production (processes) and consumption (products) according to sustainability criteria. He has coordinated more than 50 international, national, regional and industrial research projects. He has three Spanish patents referred to waste treatment, ecoinnovative processes for calcium fluoride recovery and wastewater treatment. And he has published more than 600 scientific articles in international journals.

Contribution of environmental risk factors including lifestyle to inequalities noncommunicable (chronic) diseases such as diabetes

Elzbieta Grochowska-Niedworok,
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ABSTRACT

Health inequalities: differences in health status or in the distribution of health determinants between different population groups. Some health inequalities are attributable to biological variations or free choice and others are attributable to the external environment and conditions mainly outside the control of the individuals concerned. 347 million people worldwide have diabetes. In 2012 an estimated 1.5 million deaths were directly caused by diabetes. More than 80% of diabetes deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. WHO projects that diabetes will be the 7th leading cause of death in 2030. Healthy diet, regular physical activity and maintaining a normal body weight can prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. Risk factors: 1. Age- the prevalence of diabetes rises steeply with age: *one in twenty people over the age of 65 have diabetes, *and this rises to one in five people over the age of 85 years. The diagnosis of diabetes may be delayed in older people, with symptoms of diabetes being wrongly attributed to ageing. 2. Ethnic: type 2 diabetes is up to six times more common in people of South Asian descent and up to three times more common in those of African and African-Caribbean descent than in the white population. It is also more common in people of Chinese descent and other non-Caucasian groups. 3. Gender: the frequency of diabetes usually is higher in men than in women. This may be because gender compounds other aspects of inequality- women often bear the brunt of poverty, and socio-economic differences in the prevalence of diabetes are more marked for women, probably because of differences in smoking rates, food choices and the prevalence of obesity. 4. Overweight/Obesity: every 1 kg/m² more causes increase risk: cardiovascular diseases 2%, coronary artery disease- 3% , myocardial infarction- 5% , heart failure- 5% , peripheral vascular disease- 5%. Health inequalities important in diabetes -- modifiable: social-economics (wellbeing, nutrition, education, physical activity, environmental...), health service (access to services for prevention and treatment diabetes) .

Keyword: Inequalities, diabetes, risk factors

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Possibilities of environmentally sustainable soil revitalization in Slovakia

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ABSTRACT

The quality of the environment in the Slovak Republic is considerably differentiated. Based on the comprehensive assessment of individual components of the environment, the territories with reduced quality of the environment (or some components of environment) were located in the process of environmental regionalization in the Slovak Republic. Damage and reduction of the environmental quality is mainly caused by anthropogenic activity and negatively influence the health and quality of life of the population living in these areas. To ensure sustainable development, it is necessary to eliminate negative impacts resulting from the reduced quality of the environment. The aim of this paper is to evaluate and propose options for soil revitalization in Slovakia, towards ensuring sustainability (especially in damaged areas). Soil recovery is now possible to perform using a variety of innovative and biological processes which are discussed in this paper. The realization of such soil revitalization could at least partially improve the current state of environmental quality (i.e. environmental sustainability) and, secondarily, in the quality of life and health of the population (social sustainability).

Keywords: Soil, revitalization, sustainability, environment

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- prof. h.c. prof. Ing. Ondrej Hronec, DrSc.**, works as a professor at the Department of Environmental Management, Faculty of Management, University of Prešov in Prešov (Slovak Republic). He is one of the most important personalities and one of the first founders of environmental education in the Slovak Republic. He is the author of many important scientific works in the field of environmental quality as well as a lot of textbooks.

Conceptual changes observed in pre-service teachers about sustainability

Assoc.Prof.Dr. Naim Uzun

Assoc. Professor Dr. Özgül Keleş

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study is to elicit the changes occurring in pre-service science teachers' cognitive structures as a result of the role-play technique used by the students throughout the environmental education course under the main theme of education for sustainable development.

Within the framework of the study, word-association test was administered to 40 third-year pre-service science teachers to determine the changes occurring in their concepts about sustainability and in the organizations between these concepts as a pretest and posttest.

After the administration of the pretest including key concepts such as sustainable development and sustainable life, the students were divided into 8 groups of 5 students. Each group designed their own subject related to the main theme of sustainability (water pollution, air pollution, global warming, recycling etc.) in the form of a television program. Each week, one group presented their program by using role-play technique to their peers. At the end of eight-week period, the same word-association test was administered to the students as a posttest.

Based on the data collected from the tests, each student's response to each key concept was determined. Frequency tables were prepared for key concepts. As a result, the total number of words used by the pre-service teachers was found to be 51 in the pretest and 132 in the posttest. Moreover, it was observed that the students gained information about the concepts such as ecologic footprint, carbon footprint they had no information about previously. These shows that one of the teaching techniques, role-play, helped the pre-service teachers to learn the concept of sustainability effectively.

Keywords: Sustainability, education for sustainable development, pre-service teachers, role play, active learning

Dr. Naim Uzun graduated from the Department of Biology Teaching of the Education Faculty, Hacettepe University in 2000. He received his doctorate degree in 2007 with the thesis "A Study on the Secondary School Students' Knowledge and Attitudes Towards The Environment".

He has been working as an Assoc Professor in the Department of Science

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are education for sustainable development, environmental education and science education. He has many scientific studies conducted in this field and worked as a coordinator, researcher and instructor in many projects.

Dr. Özgül Keleş is Assoc. Professor at Aksaray University, Department of Science Education. She received her doctorate degree in 2007 with the thesis "Application and evaluation of ecological footprint as an environmental education tool towards sustainable life".

Her research interests are ecological footprint, education for sustainable development and environmental education.

Reality and perspective of agricultural development in the Qendër Commune in Albania

Assoc. Prof. Mukli Lindita

ABSTRACT

Qendër Commune is located in Vlora, Albania. Part of the Commune's territory is located alongside Adriatic coast. The Commune has a population of 18 000 inhabitants and about 5 270 hectares of farming land.

It has an agrarian economic structure and that's why it displays all the difficulties that this field's development faces not only in Vlora region, but across the whole country. The agriculture of Commune has experienced major changes during the transition period. This area is known for its distribution of land in a large number of small farms.

This study is based on the analysis of the surveys which were developed in our study area with farmers, intellectuals, etc. Including also the data provided by Regional Directory of Agriculture and Food, Institut of Statistics (INSTAT), Qendër Commune.

The paper is focused on stimulating the farmers to continue the tradition of cultivating crops, fighting the concept of leaving the lands unplanted and reducing the level of youth migration. In conclusion, I will also include my opinion and suggestions which I think may help on finding efficient ways to solve the problem.

Keywords: Qendër Commune, agricultural, farmer, land area, region, rural.

Assoc. Prof. Mukli Lindita is a Professor of Mathematics and Dean of Faculty of Information Technology "Aleksander Moisiu" University of Durres, Albania and Part-Time lecturer at Epoka University. Has participated in several national projects with key institutional functions performed. Specialized in Mathematics, she has published several textbooks and scientific papers in academic journal, including Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies MCSER Publishing, European Scientific Journal, Journal of Life Science, Journal of Science, Innovation and New Technology.

Key tools for sustainable development and management of the transboundary water sources. Case study Romanian-Ukrainian Tisza River Watershed

Dr. Mihail Simion Beldean-Galea, Dr. Emilia Talpos, Dr. Virginia Coman, Dr. Georgiy Lysychenko, Modest Gertsyuk

ABSTRACT

This paper contains the actions performed in the frame of NATO SFP 984440 Project for the evaluation of River Basin Specific Pollutants in Upper Tisza River Watershed in order to develop new solutions for preventing the negative consequences of water pollution in emergency situations in Transboundary Rivers and improving the Environmental Security taking into account the available methodologies for the prioritization of emerging substances.

The applied methodology is based on the occurrence monitoring data of chemical substances, data on production/usage of chemicals, and on the evaluation of the Frequency of exceedance and the Extent of exceedance of environmental thresholds, referred to as predicted no effect concentrations (PNEC), for all organic compounds monitored in the river systems. The results of research include an inventory of the threats and hazardous sources on the territory of Romania and Ukraine, the list of the hazardous substances that can enter into the river in emergency situations and monitoring data of priority substances and emerging pollutants performed in studied area.

Keywords: Transboundary water sources, River basin specific pollutants, Priority substances, Prioritization methodology, Environmental security

Dr. Mihail Simion Beldean-Galea is lectured at Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Environmental Science and Engineering, where perform environmental monitoring and assess environmental impact of different classes of organic pollutants. Their field of research is focused on developing and applying of separation techniques for the analysis of organic pollutants in different environmental matrices and to assess their mechanism of transfer. He is NPD director of NATO 984440 SFP Project developed between Romania and Ukraine having as the main goal to develop a model to predict and prevent possible disastrous effects of toxic pollution in the Tisza River watershed.

Emilia Talpos is Senior Advisor of Monitoring and Laboratory Department at Maramures Agency for Environmental Protection from Baia-Mare, Maramures county, Romania. She is responsible for chemicals inventory in the Romanian Tisza River region.

Virginia Coman is Senior Research Scientist at Babes-Bolyai University, Raluca Ripan Institute for Research in Chemistry, Cluj-Napoca, Romania where perform analysis of different organic compounds in various matrices using chromatographic techniques.

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Customs Risk Management in Albania. An important step towards integration in the European Union

Ejona Bardhi

ABSTRACT

The customs are involved within the state administration; they are responsible in collecting the customs liabilities as well as for the international flux of goods. This responsibility is provided in the national legislation and in the international rules of trade. The customs are a unique body, among all the state bodies due to the fact that they have the position of both national and international agency. They are positioned at the international borders not only as an expression of the sovereignty of a country but as well as national guard against all the external threats against health, security, environment and domestic industry. The importance of the customs is increasing due to the increase of international trade as well as of the increasing request on security. The customs administration is reviewing all the operations towards the international standards and best practices to realize a suitable customs administration which would lead in easing the international trade. The importance of customs procedural requests is increasing as a consequence of the increase of the international trade during the latest years. The increase of customs procedural requests increased adding the costs of government, business and consumers. The customs are responsible for achieving the competitive objectives, as well as for controlling the borders and offering facilitations in international legal trade. The facilitation of the trade through the diminution of customs payments, is important in economies in development and in the developed ones, due to the contribute in exports growth, in improving the concurrence of goods and services at the global market, in attracting more FDI-s, in increasing the participation of small and medium enterprises at the international market. The customs are responsible for the facilitation of trade, for this reason they are in continuous process of reformation and modernization in the under development and developed countries. Due the rules based at the trade policies of WTO, it was made possible that the fees were decreased and non-fee barriers are in cancelations. The customs administration is expected to bring incomes, to stop the import of not safe or banned goods and to the fight the narcotics trade. It is expected to fulfill these targets effectively without hamper the commercial facilitations. This paper has as the main objective to treat the management of risk at the customs. During this paper I will treat the main problematic of the customs administrations in Europe and Albania, including theory and practice aspects. This paper treats: controls after the passing permission at the Customs, levels of risk management, costs and benefits of the techniques of risk management, management of facilitation and customs activity, the importance of information of customs system, important problematic in customs activity, rule of origin and its importance and finally the transit as the main mean of trade facilitation.

Keywords: Management, risk, customs, administration, trade

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Conflict Resolution Education and Social Learning: Analyzing University Student Projects

PhD Candidate Reina Shehi, Jubjana Vila

ABSTRACT

This study aims to reveal the importance of conflict resolution education as a key component of high quality education by promoting social responsibility and encouraging social action. The scholarly literature of conflict resolution education explains how an effective and efficient education makes an individual useful to the society s/he serves and contributes to national and global sustainable development. It will introduce social projects conducted by the 'Conflict Resolution Students Club' at Epoka University, Albania since 2011. The ideas on social projects came after students of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences took an intensive course on Conflict Analysis and Resolution in which they were educated and trained with techniques of negotiation, mediation, reconciliation and principles of justice for all and healthy relationships at all levels. All projects were conducted on the principles of diversity and equality. Target groups included orphan children, children with Down syndrome, high school and university students and involved issues of tolerance, developing a business dream, giving by donation, human rights, entrepreneurship and leadership. The main assumption in this research is that student involvement in social development projects is highly dependent on their awareness about local and global problems and their capacities to cope with those problems. The results of the research showed that it was only after equipping themselves with conflict resolution knowledge and skills that student started to think of using these skills in the benefit of the society.

Keywords: Conflict Resolution Education, Social Action, Quality Education, Social Development, Student Projects

Reina Zenelaj Shehi received her degree in International Relations from METU, Turkey (2009) and she received her MA in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from the Sabanci Univ, Turkey (2011). Currently, she is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Epoka University. She has worked as a teaching assistant in the Faculty of Social Sciences in Sabanci Univ and today, she is a lecturer at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Epoka Univ. She has participated in various distinguished international conferences and she is an author of many research works. In July, 2012 Kellogg School of Management granted her Dispute Resolution Research Center Scholar Award. Her research interests focus on international negotiations, mediation, foreign policy and conflict resolution in the Balkan Region

Jubjana Vila has a Bachelor Degree from International Relations Department and a Minor Degree from Economics Department at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey. She has finished her Masters Degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Sabanci University in Istanbul, Turkey. She has been working as a teaching and research assistant at this university in 2011-2013. Now, she is a PhD Candidate in Bogazici University in the Department of Political Science and International Relations in Istanbul, Turkey. Meanwhile, she works as a research assistant at Epoka University in the department of Political Science and International Relations. Her areas of interests include: conflict resolution, mediation, facilitation, conflict transformation, ethnic conflict, peace building, state building, security studies and EU security policies.

Modellization of metal hydride canister for hydrogen storage

Dr. Rocio Maceiras

Ph.D. Student Victor Alfonsin

Dr. Angeles Cancela

Prof. Angel Sanchez

ABSTRACT

Hydrogen shows very interesting features for its use on-board applications as fuel cell vehicles. This paper presents the modelling of a tank with a metal hydride alloy for on-board applications, which provides good performance under ambient conditions. The metal hydride contained in the tank is $\text{Ti}_{0.98}\text{Zr}_{0.02}\text{V}_{0.43}\text{Fe}_{0.09}\text{Cr}_{0.05}\text{Mn}_{1.5}$. A two-dimensional model has been performed for the refuelling process (absorption) and the discharge process (desorption). For that, individual models of mass balance, energy balance, reaction kinetics and behaviour of hydrogen gas has been modelled. The model has been developed under Matlab / Simulink© environment. Finally, individual models have been integrated into a global model, and simulated under ambient conditions. With the aim to analyse the temperature influence on the state of charge and filling and emptying time, other simulations were performed at different temperatures. The obtained results allow to conclude that this alloy offers a good behaviour with the discharge process under normal ambient conditions.

Keywords: Hydrogen storage; metal hydrides; fuel cell; simulation; board applications

Dr. Rocio Maceiras is associated professor at the Defense University Center. Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry (University of Vigo, 2001). Ph.D. on Chemical Engineering (University of Vigo, 2006), Postdoctoral studies at Transport Phenomena Research Center, Faculdade de Engenharia, University of Porto. Her principal research area are Renewable Energies, CO₂ capture, Rheology and Innovation in Education.

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Prof. Angel Sanchez is professor of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Vigo, teaching Chemical Engineering at the Industrial Engineering Faculty. Her principal research area are Renewable Energies, simulation and learning.

Integrated value chain and district approach to guarantee food sovereignty, improving access and management of land and water in the Occupied Palestine Territories

Dr. Agriculture Engineer Leone Magliocchetti Lombi
 Prof. Leonardo Varvaro,
 Stefano Dell'Anna, Ph.D. Candidate
 Francesca Cafolla

ABSTRACT

As reported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) the winding construction of the Separation Wall between Israel and Palestinian Territories exacerbated the situations of poverty and food security, hindering economics and development activities. The paper is based on the case study in the Bidu enclave where the challenge of transforming self-sufficiency agriculture into a household economic push-factor was met by a series of interventions from 2008 to 2013. The study focus on different sectors of intervention:

a) Water Management: increasing rain water harvesting storage capacities; developing an efficient water distribution system (drip irrigation); b) Soil fertility: creating a community crops' residues composting center to increase the organic matters soil levels; c) Food Processing: supporting the creation of a food processing center, including training on food safety good practices; d) Marketing support: improving the visibility of products and supporting the network of suppliers-demanders between the villages within the same enclave.

The impact as whole is that today over 20 different food products are locally cultivated (by 35 small scale farmers) , processed and marketed (by 20 woman organized in local cooperative), respecting local choices and customs, thus increasing resilience to external shocks and ensuring food sovereignty.

Keywords: Family farming, access to land water and local markets, food processing, soil fertility, food sovereignty

Leone Magliocchetti Lombi is an agriculture engineer expert on agriculture water access and management. Currently is serving the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO) in the Horn of Africa region on projects ranging from the resilience of pastoral and nomadic communities in arid areas, smallholders vegetables production in urban areas and refugee camps. Areas of interest are rainwater-harvesting systems and community based spate irrigation system for fodder production. Recently started exploring family-scale hydroponic solutions and the technology of connected devices (Internet of Things - IOT) applied to agriculture. He collaborates with AU-CS for over 15 years in several projects and development programs.

Prof. Leonardo Varvaro is Full Professor at the Department of Agriculture, Forestry, nature and Energy University of Tuscia, Viterbo Italy.

Stefano Dell'Anna is an Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, University of Perugia on "Sustainable rural development, land use and environment". From 2001 he was involved in a several programs and projects of applied research in Latin and Central America, Middle East, West Africa on the topics of rural development, agroecology, water management, food security and food sovereignty. Degree in Agricultural Sciences, has

collaborated with NGO (AUCS and other), University (Tuscia and Florence), farmers organization, research centers, in several training programs and projects on development & cooperation (Europe Aid, FP7, LLP). He worked also as a support team to social movements and peasant organizations (La Via Campesina) in the context of the processes, dialogues and activities with UN agencies and several international government bodies (FAO, IFAD, CFS).

Francesca Cafolla is an tropical and subtropical agriculture engineer. She works as consultant on projects of development and cooperation and has collaborated with NGO on items like water management, rural development, food security. She worked in Latin America, Middle East, North and West Africa and Asia, and collaborates with AUCS for over 15 years in several projects and development programs.

Modelization and simulation of an electric and fuel cell hybrid vehicle under real conditions

Ph.D. Student Victor Alfonsin

Dr. Rocio Maceiras

Dr. Angeles Cancela

Prof. Angel Sanchez

ABSTRACT

This paper presents a toolbox for the simulation of a zero emission urban hybrid bus, which combines batteries and fuel cells. This type of vehicle performs predefined routes with a certain frequency, then they are an ideal option to the replacement of combustion engines with renewable energy systems. The simulation of these vehicles can be made for different standard driving cycles (ECE-15, EUDC, NEDC, SFUDS) or for real routes from GPS device data. This will allow to consider the orography of the route, considering the slope that overcomes the vehicle at each time, generally this parameter is not included in other models, and it could become a determining factor for the applicability of these vehicles on certain specified routes. Moreover, this tool lets to study and to analyse other not easily quantifiable factors, such as the weather or peak-hour traffic. Finally, the performance of an urban hybrid bus was investigated to assess its theoretical range and the technical feasibility of zero-emission vehicles.

Keywords: Electric vehicle; Battery; Fuel cell; Hydrogen; Simulation

Dr. Rocio Maceiras is associated professor at the Defense University Center. Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry (University of Vigo, 2001). Ph.D. on Chemical Engineering (University of Vigo, 2006), Postdoctoral studies at Transport Phenomena Research Center, Faculdade de Engenharia, University of Porto. Her principal research area are Renewable Energies, CO₂ capture, Rheology and Innovation in Education.

Ph.D. Student Victor Alfonsin finished the degree on Mining Engineering in 2011 at University of Vigo, Spain. Currently, he is an Associated Professor in the Defense University Center. His research interests include: biofuels, fuel cells, renewable energy and simulation.

Dr. Angeles Cancela is associated professor of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Vigo, teaching Chemical Engineering at the Industrial Engineering Faculty. Ph.D. on Chemical Engineering (University of Santiago de Compostela, 1997). Her principal research area are Renewable Energies, CO₂ capture, Rheology and Innovation in Education.

Prof. Angel Sanchez is professor of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Vigo, teaching Chemical Engineering at the Industrial Engineering Faculty. Her principal research area are Renewable Energies, simulation and learning.

Economic Growth and Inequality

Dr.Eglantina Hysa

ABSTRACT

This paper tries to find out the relationship between economic growth and inequality for different groups of study. 159 countries have been included in the analyze and they have been classified in three categories: OECD, developed and developing countries. The conducted regression analysis takes into consideration the years 1992-2011 because of the availability of founded data. The aim of this paper is to look at the "reflection" of GDP growth into the solidarity in different part of the society, if the income level is equally distributed or not through the whole population of a country. As data for GDP growth it has been considered the average of GDP for 20 years of each respective country. The last data founded through the time period 1992 until 2011 of the Gini coefficient for the respective country has been considered as the measurement of the inequality level.

Keywords: Growth, Gini Coefficient, OECD, Developed Countries, Developing Countries

Dr. Eglantina Hysa is a Lecturer of Economics at the Epoka University where she teaches International Economy: Policies and Theory, Development and Growth, and Microeconomics courses. Eglantina Hysa's research focuses on International Trade, Development and Econometric Models. She has been part of some training programs related to the Public Interior Auditing and International/National Standards of Accounting. Her recent papers examine characteristics that cover the economical aspects such as the pension system, demographic change, corruption, inequality, human development and the foreign direct investment attractiveness of Albania. She is part of national networks by being either the founder or active member in associations related to economics and sociology.

Integrating Green Fiscal Reforms into the Agricultural Transformation Agenda: Panacea for Boosting Soil Enrichment and Water Conservation for Sustainable Food Production in Nigeria

Dr. Luke Ojesebhebho Okojie,
Dr. Rahman Sanusi, Dr. A. R. Popoola

ABSTRACT

Nigeria had a booming agricultural industry at independence. Groundnut, oil palm, cocoa and cotton were the major focal points of the agricultural export drive that constituted the main stay of the economy. Nigeria has since suffered a decline in the production and loss of her major world market shares in all these commodities. The advent and exploration of crude petroleum for export played a major role in this. The “old faithful” – agriculture has been relegated to the background.

This paper undertook the economic valuation of environmental services loss accruing with green fiscal policy reforms not integrated into the ATA resulting in deforestation through “slash and burn” food crop expansion. The essence of “green grabbing” in the ATA- the deliberate intervention to keep some lands in their natural green states - forest reserves, recreation parks e.t.c. was also investigated for their economic values and benefits if integrated through green fiscal policy reforms instruments. The profitability of the green agriculture based taungya agroforestry to promote environmentally sound and sustainable development was also undertaken to quantify the life support system it offers if integrated into the ATA. The area of study is Ogun state, Nigeria and several sampling procedures that included the stratified, simple random and purposive sampling were used depending on the objective. Primary data were collected through contingent valuation survey and from structured questionnaire administered to respondents. The analytical tools adopted were the contingent valuation method of the referendum type, travel cost method and the budgetary analysis.

Keywords: Sustainability, deforestation, green growth, value chain, green fiscal policy, willingness to pay, Marshallian consumer surplus

Dr. Luke Ojesebhebho Okojie, currently an Associate Professor at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria. He has earlier worked as a Research Officer with the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria. His research interest is in Agricultural and Environmental Economics.

Dr. Rahman Sanusi is a Senior Lecturer at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria. Earlier worked as a Chief Research Officer, Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria.

Dr. A. R. Popoola is an Associate Professor at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. Currently the Ag. Head, Crop Protection Department

Evaluation of the Sustainability of Tourism in Ihlara Valley and Suggestions

Assist.Prof.Dr. Funda Varnaci Uzun, Dr. Mehmet Somuncu

ABSTRACT

Study area of the present study, Ihlara Valley is located within the borders of Cappadocia region in central Anatolia. With its physical structure and cultural landscape, Ihlara Valley is an important international tourist destination. In addition to this, the area is under national protection as a specially protected environment area. Churches carved on the rock walls of Ihlara Valley, caves and frescos are some of the cultural landscape values in the region. In the present study, the purpose is to evaluate the sustainability of tourism activities in Ihlara Valley and to develop suggestions for the area to have sustainable tourism. Whether the tourism activities in Ihlara Valley are sustainable or not was evaluated based on the sustainable tourism criteria proposed by Gebhard et al. (2008). These four main criteria include 18 sub-criteria and in the present study, 11 of these criteria were found to have low values, 6 of them have medium values and only 1 of them has a high value and particularly the values found for the sub-criteria involved in the main criterion of management and monitoring are low, which shows that the tourism activities in the region are not sustainable. In the second part of the study, suggestions were developed for tourism to be sustainable in Ihlara Valley by evaluating the protection status of the cultural landscape that is one of the important components of sustainable tourism, tourist satisfaction and development of the local community through analytic hierarchy process method.

Keywords: Sustainable tourism, protection of cultural landscape, sustainable economic development, sustainable tourist satisfaction, local people, analytic hierarchy process

Dr. Funda Varnaci Uzun completed her undergraduate studies in the Department of Geography in 2004. Then, she continued her post-graduate studies. She received her doctorate degree in 2012 with her thesis "Sustainable Tourism in the Areas of Cultural Landscape". Since then, she has been working as an assistant in the Department of Social Studies of Aksaray University. Her areas of specialty are tourism geography, sustainable tourism, management of protected areas and environmental education for sustainable development.

Dr. Mehmet Somuncu is professor at Ankara University, Department of Geography. At the same time, he is the director of Centre for Environmental Studies, Ankara University. His research interests are environmental protection, planning and management of mountain areas, protected areas, sustainable development, rural development, pastoral nomadism and tourism geography.

Assessment of geo-tourism structure in Bojnoord city sustainable tourism development

Pegah kharazian

ABSTRACT:

Nowadays, issues such as population growth, gradual reduction of natural resources, increasing pollution, unbalanced distribution in resources, the crisis of ecological conservation, urbanization growth and increasing human awareness are as a result of social changes in human life. Even changes the attitude of people toward the trip phenomenon lead to several changes in this industry. The concept of ecotourism, geo-tourism, geo-park and sustainable tourism represent the evolution of ideas, including new solutions that will meet the modern world's needs with valued targets in its plan.

The emphasis of this article is on the utilization of morphological characteristics in line with sustainable development goals and ecological resources protection of the region to attract certain tourists through the identification and introducing the potential attraction of the area.

Analytical and experimental research methods are based on statistical data, quantitative analysis methods and data collection methods in library and field methods.

This case study (Bojnoord city) presents comprehensive image about geomorphological attractions of Bojnoord city.

The results indicated that through the internal and external processes of land phenomena, beautiful landscapes such as anticlines, synclines, straits and erosional forms, springs, waterfalls, peaks and valleys with special and unique effects can attract tourists in different ages and educational levels in different seasons of the year.

Keywords: Geo-tourism, Ecotourism, Geo-parks, Sustainable tourism, Bojnoord city

The Attitudes of Students and Young Professionals toward VolunTourism: A Study Abroad Perspective

Dr. Anke Anke Foller-Carroll

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the attitudes toward VolunTourism of students of Humber College, Toronto, Canada, who have either engaged in VolunTourism excursions within the context of Study Abroad programs organized through the college in the past, or soon will during an upcoming program. The research attempts to make a connection between altruistic travel motivations, the desire to gain personal growth, and the applicability of VolunTourism experiences on resumes in pursuit of differentiation in the job market. The results show that motivations are equally strongly influenced by purely altruistic reasons and the application of such experiences in the context of personal and professional development. This study provides strong evidence that a trend towards Personal Social Responsibility (PSR) appears to be on the rise, wherein private individuals emulate the behaviour of corporations who engage in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), aimed at giving back to communities in which a corporation operates its business.

Keywords: VolunTourism, sustainable development,

Dr. Anke Anke Foller-Carroll was born and raised in Germany, where she also began her career in the tourism and travel industry. Upon completion of an apprenticeship with one of the largest wholesalers/retailers as a certified travel agent, her career opportunities brought her to Toronto, which evidently became her home soon after. She has enjoyed a career in the tourism and travel industry through a wide variety of assignments in retail and wholesale, congress organization, research & product development, tour guide & staff training, and destination management. During this time, she had gone back to Germany for a few years to obtain her degree in Tourism Management at Heilbronn University. Most recently, she has completed a large project of overseeing the organization of a large conference here in Toronto. Anke has been teaching at Humber for over three years with great passion and continues to enjoy working in the private sector on a part-time basis.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is the Associate Dean and Professor in the College of Business and Economics at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. From 2004 to 2010, he was a member of the Faculty of Business Administration of the University of Regina in Regina, Canada. Dr. Charlebois is an award winning researcher and teacher. He also served as the Director of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (Regina Campus).

His current research interest lies in the broad area of food distribution, security and safety, and has published four books and many peer-reviewed journal articles in several publications. His research has been featured in a number of newspapers, including *The Economist*, *Wall Street Journal*, *the Globe & Mail*, *the National Post*, *the Toronto Star*, *MacLean's*, and *La Presse*, as well as on the *Business News Network*, *CBC Radio* and *TV*, *Global*, *CTV*, *TVO* and *TVA*. He is currently writing a fifth book on global food systems, to be published later this year. Dr. Charlebois is a member of the *Global Food Traceability Centre's* Advisory Board based in Washington DC, and a member of the *National Advisory Board* of the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency* in Ottawa. He has testified on several occasions before parliamentary committees on food policy-related issues as an expert witness.

Socio-Cultural Sustainability Between Traditional and Contemporary Omani Residences - A Comparative Case Study

Dr. Soheir Hegazy

ABSTRACT

In the twentieth century, majority of the countries were tempted to adopt up-to-date building designs. The fashionable designs neglected the context of its environment, cultural values, social performance and even economic perspective and sustainability. The year 1970 represented the starting point of shifting Sultanate of Oman from being a closed, listless society to a modern state. The aim to build a modern society did not compel this historic country to neglect its heritage or cultural principles. The main hypothesis of this research is that Oman has wonderful experience in cultural sustainability between traditional and contemporary residences. This research aims to derive lessons and principles from such successful models of Oman. This work is dependent on a theoretical foundation of previous related references, analysis, interpretation and a comparative case study. Some tools used were interviews, analytical site visits and questionnaire. The research succeeded in revealing the procedure used by Oman to keep the identity and continuity of its buildings. The wonderful response of both traditional and contemporary Omani residence to the surrounding, cultural aspects, and human needs is shown. This research provides a current example to researchers, students, designers and decision makers of a humanely oriented house design.

Keywords: Traditional Omani architecture; Contemporary Omani residences, , cultural sustainability, House Moqham, Bait el Dalalil

Dr. Soheir Hegazy is a faculty member in the Department of Architecture and Interior Design at Scientific College of Design in Oman. Her research interests fall mainly in both of upgrading traditional architecture and contemporary schools' design. Soheir earned her PH.D degree from the faculty of Engineering, Cairo University in 2007 in An Introduction to Re-qualifying Existing Governmental Schools in Egypt. She was awarded the "Consultant title in Architecture Design" in 2004. Soheir graduated with 5-year Architecture degree from Cairo University in 1984. She got her M.SC in Islamic Principles & House Design in 1991 from the same University. Soheir went into several working domains in architectural design, site engineering, academic researches and teaching. She began her teaching career in 2004, and she was appointed as a Head of Architecture and Interior Design Department in 2011 till now in the Scientific College of Design. She has participated in nine International conferences in Europe, United states, Asia, Africa and attending eight.

Sustainable landscape and community on the Greek island of Tinos

Maria Vidali, Architect, PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

My study focuses on the village of Kampos and its surroundings, one of the oldest villages of Tinos, with a catholic tradition and an agricultural economy.

The methodology for this paper was archival, research work on the history and anthropology of Tinos, complemented by observation and a series of interviews.

Low stonewalls and small terraces are a characteristic image on Tinos' landscape. As in most cases, in Kampos, these walls are there to serve as limits and divisions of land, but also to prevent soil erosion on steep slopes. What lies behind this phenomenon is a series of oral or written agreements (contracts), connected with human relationships, communal life, land, water, animals and plants. My work attempts to unveil how this situation sustains the social and cultural life of the village.

The village emerges as a living organism formed through the daily discourse about the permeability or lack of boundaries, seen through the lens of ownership, but also in the sense of bonding and living together. The small plots of land on the island, instead privately-owned, large-scale areas of land, create an in-between space of communication and social life relying on a spatial, social and ethical network.

Keywords: Socio-Cultural Sustainability, Farming landscape, Village life, Village communities, Sustainable communities

Ms. Maria Vidali, University of Thessaly Greece. She studied architecture at Portsmouth and Kingston University and History and Philosophy of Architecture (MPhil) at Cambridge University, in the UK. She has participated in national and international conferences and has lectured at universities in India. Her research work, "Village and Land. The outlying chapels on the island of Tinos", was published in 2010. Since 2007 she runs her own architectural practice with projects on architecture, industrial and landscape design. Since 2011 she has been a PhD candidate at the School of Architecture of the University of Thessaly in Greece, studying "The farming landscape on the island of Tinos, as a result of human activity". Recently she has also been a research trainee at the University of Mc Gill in Montreal of Canada.

Social Sustainability; Maintenance of Socio-Cultural Characteristics: A Case Study of El-Raml Station

Junior Architect Nadine Sakr
Assistant Professor, Architect Gomaa, Bakr

ABSTRACT

Social sustainability refers to "development that leads to the harmonious evolution of society". This paper explores the concept of social sustainability and the aspects it encompasses, with particular focus on the maintenance of socio-cultural characteristics deemed important by people. The research investigates the socio-cultural aspects in the case study area of El-Raml Station, the old city centre of Alexandria, Egypt, which is known for its historical value. The development of the area poses a number of threats, including the loss of its character. The case study examines these threats, setting a number of testable criteria to help evaluate and maintain preferred socio-cultural characteristics, and thus advance social sustainability. The used methods comprise literature review, interviews and a questionnaire. The research concludes with a number of findings that are expected to clarify the maintenance of socio-cultural characteristics in El-Raml Station. The area is found to have a strong sense of place, and is perceived by its visitors as an important shopping area. On the other hand, it suffers from social polarisation and compromised feelings of safety.

Keywords: social sustainability, socio-cultural characteristics, Alexandria, El Raml Station, cultural character

Junior Architect Nadine Sakr had her B.Sc degree in Architectural Engineering and Environmental Design from the Arab Academy for Science, and Technology, Alexandria, Egypt with high honours in 2014. She attended the "Renewable Energy: Technology and Sustainability" summer course at the Lincoln School of Architecture, Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design, University of Lincoln, UK in 2011. Nadine is a teaching assistant in the Architectural Engineering and Environmental Design Department at AAST, Alexandria. She holds RIBA part one and is currently pursuing her M.Sc. degree in Architectural Engineering from the same school. RIBA part two is scheduled to be completed by January 2016.

Assistant Professor, Architect Gomaa, Bakr; a PhD from the Arab Academy for Science and Technology, Abu Kier campus, Architectural Engineering and Environmental Design Department. Bakr had his B.Sc. in architectural engineering and environmental design from the AAST Alexandria campus in 2003, then he was awarded his M.Sc. In the same specialisation from the Same school. In 2007 Bakr was awarded a scholarship from the University of Nottingham for PhD studies in the field of environmental design. Bakr was awarded the degree in 2011 and ever since he has been conducting his research and teaching in his home school in AASTMT Alexandria. Bakr has conducted different research papers in prestigious conferences and journals; amongst is Gomaa, B. Gillott, M., 2010. Wind Ceiling: A Novel Passive Ventilation System for Deep Plan High-Rise Buildings. Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Indoor Air Quality, Ventilation and Energy Conservation in Buildings, pp. 116 - 151.

Gomaa, B., Innovation in Natural Ventilation in Buildings; Design and Application. in Plea2013, Munich 9 -12/9/2013

Bakr's final research efforts granted him a research grant from his home institute with an overall cost of 120,000 EGP.

Tolerance as the basis of polycultural education development

Diana Tektibayeva
Dr. Marfuga Absatova

ABSTRACT

The aim of this article is to analyze psycho-pedagogical literature directed to present the problem of the tolerance as the basis of the polycultural education development. On the basis of this analysis the essence and the content of the "polycultural education" and "tolerance" concepts are presented. Thus, nowadays increases the role of the research of the national culture and value systems, conscious investigation of the specific features of various ethnoses, of valuable and symbolic aspects of national and ethnical societies' existence. In this regard Kazakhstani experience presents a special interest, as here representatives of numerous nations, ethnoses and confessions having ancient cultural customs and traditions dating back centuries are concentrated. Complex multi-level process of the formation of tolerance should be considered as a dynamic process of continuous acquisition of skills of peaceful, conflict-free coexistence in a polycultural, polyethnic and multi-confessional medium, based on the acceptance, respect and understanding of each other. Moreover, the characteristics of tolerance and its components are given in this article.

Keywords: polycultural education; polyethnic education; culture; tolerance; intolerance; ethnical tolerance.

Miss Diana Tektibayeva is a 3rd year PhD student at Kazakh National Pedagogical University named after Abai. The specialization of studies is "pedagogy and psychology", and the theme of the thesis is "Students' self-development in polycultural medium". The basic specialization in foreign languages education was gained at Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages named after Ablai khan. Diana has several publications in international journals and the collections of conferences articles. Diana Tektibayeva has 7 years of pedagogical experience and works as a lecturer at Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages named after Ablai khan. The sphere of her professional interests mostly concerns the foreign languages education methodology, linguistics, comparative pedagogy, general pedagogy, polycultural pedagogy, pedagogical and cognitive psychology.

Dr. Marfuga Absatova is a professor of Kazakh National Pedagogical University named after Abai. She has the degree of the doctor of pedagogical sciences gained in 2009 at the dissertation council 13.00.01 - general pedagogy, history of pedagogy and education, ethno pedagogy. The theme of doctoral thesis is "Theoretical and methodological basis of the formation of polycultural competence of senior school students". In 2012 Marfuga Absatova was awarded as a "teacher of the year" at a ministerial award. She has a lot of publications, some of them are publisher in well known international journals that are indexed in Thomson Reuters and Scopus. The sphere of her interests concern the general pedagogy, polycultural pedagogy, integrative pedagogy, multi-disciplinary pedagogy, comparative pedagogy and others.

A teaching strategy that introduces pre-service teachers to environmental issues and basic bioclimatics.

Alexandra Gkioka, PhD student

Ana Leci

Dimitris Stavridis

Fanny Seroglou

ABSTRACT

In this paper, we present the design, implementation and results of a teaching strategy that introduces pre-service teachers to environmental issues and basic bioclimatics. Student-teachers create digital narratives

re-contextualizing simple sustainability principles and ideas. In our research, 200 students participated, at the School of Primary Education of the Faculty of Education at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece, during the academic year 2013-2014.

Our research follows 6 steps:

Step 1: Individual interviews and questionnaire distribution to record understanding and habits about energy resources and the environment.

Step 2: Introduction to current environmental issues and discussion on environmental values and attitudes.

Step 3: Teaching activities that require active collaborative participation of pre-service teachers in a wiki (wble).

Step 4: Production of digital narratives.

Step 5: Individual interviews and questionnaire distribution to record the impact of our application.

Step 6: The recorded interviews, the questionnaires and the developed digital narratives are analyzed using the GNOSIS research model (Guidelines for Nature of Science Introduction to Scientific literacy).

Data analysis initially shows encouraging results in terms of pre-service students re-contextualizing bioclimatics and sustainability concepts and attitudes.

Keywords: teacher education, bioclimatics, sustainability, wiki, digital narratives

Alexandra Gkioka is a PhD student in science education at the School of Primary Education, Faculty of Education, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Alexandra is an Msc Architect specialized in Environmental Planning, teacher in upper secondary and post-secondary education. Her research focuses on teaching about bioclimatic and sustainability. Alexandra Gkioka is a member of the ATLAS Research Group at the same university.

Ana Leci is a postgraduate student in science education at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Her research focuses on designing science activities and digital educational material for primary education. Ana Leci is a member of the ATLAS Research Group at the School of Primary Education of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Dimitris Stavridis is a computer engineer and an ICT teacher in secondary education in Greece.

Fanny Seroglou is an assistant professor in science education at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Fanny Seroglou is the head of the ATLAS Research Group and her research focuses on science for citizenship, science and culture, HPS and NOS in science teaching.

Experiences of participation of young people with intellectual disabilities in the transition process from school to working life – the contribution of education and support to a sustainable society

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mag. Helga Fasching

ABSTRACT

Aims: There is still a limited body of acquired knowledge about the life-historical experiences of people with intellectual disabilities.

This paper reports on a study of how young people with intellectual disabilities have or have not been able to participate in the transition process from school to working life.

Research project “Vocational Participation of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities” at the University of Vienna (financed by the Austrian Science Fund, project number: P 20021-G14, duration 2008-2013, project website: <http://vocational-participation.univie.ac.at/>).

Methods: The case presentation compares school leavers from special school settings with those from inclusive settings (secondary modern school, prevocational school). From an epistemological viewpoint and using the Grounded Theory research method, the experiences of participation during the transition from school to working life of 12 persons with intellectual disabilities were collected through biographical interviews (3 with each person).

Results: The results reflect the experiences of people with disabilities and reveal that the support provided by their families, and their disposition to collaborate with professional assistance, enables the target group to influence their own transition process from school to working life. The results show clearly that background-related disadvantages are related to family involvement in the transition process from school to working life of young people with intellectual disabilities.

Conclusions: Questions of a sustainable society must take into greater consideration the aspect of education and background-related disadvantages of people with intellectual disabilities.

Keywords: Transition from school to work, intellectual disability, parental support, sustainable education and society, Grounded Theory methodology

Associate Professor Dr. Helga Fasching, Department of Education at the University of Vienna/Research Unit Special Needs and Inclusive Education; her research topics are Inclusive Education and Vocational Participation with special focus on Transition from the educational system to the working life system for youths with disabilities and disadvantages; she is member of the board “Austrian Charity for people with special needs” and of the board Austrian Association for Systemic Therapy and Systemic Studies; Scientific Rapporteur on Disability for ANED (Academic Network of Experts on Disability in Europe); she takes participation in different networking groups about Participation .

A social intervention for foreigners – in a search for a space of understanding

Dr. Arkadiusz Urbanek

Dr. Kamila Gandecka

ABSTRACT

Suggested article concentrates on the conflict between different cultures, which occurs within conducted social intervention, directed to foreigners staying in Poland. In the article three different research perspectives are presented concerning this problem. One of them is the analysis of polish juridical solutions in a range of foreigners' staying legalization. The second aspect of the research concerns institutional forms' characteristics of a social support for refugees. The other area discusses indicators of cultural dissimilarity of a tested group and there is an attempt of determining potential areas of a conflict. The research exploration aims to assume in what degree a cultural differences indicate a process of foreigners' adaptation in a new social – cultural reality. Additionally there is an attempt of settling the answer for the question if institutions helpful for foreigners can be an area of achieving a compromise. In a consequence, a significant intervention is showing the differences on the level of expectations represented by a social - administrative line of duty and foreigners themselves.

Keywords: social intervention, foreigners, cultural diversity, borderland, conflict area

Dr. Arkadiusz Urbanek is the Assistant Professor of the Institute of Pedagogy in the Department of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences, University of Wrocław. His research interests revolve around social intervention, intercultural education, penitentiary pedagogy and criminology.

He published many articles, wherein he exposed specific situations of foreign prisoners, from different perspectives. Additionally, he is an initiator and coordinator of various research grants. Author of the following books: *Experiencing tensions in the relationship with the victim on the basis of homicide offenders expression* (2010), *Implementation of social worker's tasks in practice* (2010). Co-author of such publications: *Human in the situation (without)hope* (2011), *Suicidal death - criminological and pedagogical perspective* (2012).

Dr. Kamila Gandecka is the Assistant Professor of the Institute of Pedagogy in the Department of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences, the University of Wrocław. Her research interests revolve around social pedagogy, intercultural education, history of education. Author and coauthor of various articles, which are discussing following issues: multicultural communication, social support for groups at risk of exclusion, prevention of addiction among children and youth, educational opportunities for adults with intellectual disability. She is currently focused on diagnosis of conditions and areas of social support for immigrants and refugees, especially for their families. Member of international and local project teams, in which she organized workshops for socially excluded groups. Examples of projects topics: *Transnational Cooperation Against Violence* (Daphne III, 2011-2013), *Family Partnership - a program for families at risk of social exclusion* (Human Capital Operational Programme, 2010), *Peers as animators of prevention* (National Bureau for Drug Prevention, 2006-2007).

The Conflict-Inequality Nexus and the Measurement of Peace

Kyong Mazzaro

ABSTRACT

In the context of the Global Thematic Consultation on Conflict, Violence and Disaster in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the stakeholder consultative processes for the Development of Indicators for Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development), the conceptualization of peace, social inclusion, and their measurement have become paramount. The present article focuses on social inequality as a fundamental dimension of peaceful societies, and offers an analysis of income and non-income- based empirical theories of inequality as they influence conflict dynamics. We find that inequality conceptualizations that overly rely on income indicators fail to capture important dimensions of peace and conflict dynamics. Recent research findings on horizontal

inequality indicate that although income levels negatively impact conflict risk levels, other disparities such as access to education and ethno-political differences are stronger predictors. We conclude that the incorporation of alternative indicators that better assess horizontal inequalities from a non-income perspective to understand and measure peace in sustainable development is strongly needed.

Keywords: Conflict Resolution, Sustainable Development, Peace Inequality

Kyong Mazzaro is Manager of the Program on Peace and Sustainable Development at the Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity (AC4) at the Earth Institute, Columbia University. Currently, she is conducting research on social justice and political polarization, dynamics, effective mediation, and drivers and metrics of peace sustainability. She also works across institutions within Columbia University to ensure the implementation and promotion of research programs and knowledge exchange agendas under the peace and sustainability rubric. Prior to joining AC4, Kyong was a NGO representative at the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations and worked at different research institutions and non-profits on topics related to migration policy, social integration, natural resources management, and sustainable development. She holds MA in migration studies from the University of Rome "La Sapienza" and a BA in international studies from the Central University of Venezuela.

Culture and Sustainable Development: Towards Socio-Economic Sustainability in the Fashion-Garment Sector in Québec

Professor Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay
Amina Yagoubi, PhD

ABSTRACT

Thesis statement: Our paper will show how the fashion-garment sector has evolved over recent years to develop a sustainable development perspective from the economic, social and even environmental perspective. Indeed after the difficulties and crisis lived around 2005, the sector has moved partly to new ecological niches (fur recycling for example) and designers have taken a new place in the production chain to revitalize the garment industry and make it sustainable.

Methodology: Our paper is based on three series of interviews with garment companies, intermediary organizations and fashion designers done over the period of 2004 to 2014. The interviews were analysed on the basis of a thematic analysis and our results stem from this thematic analysis as well as a full documentary analysis on the fashion sector but also on the concepts of creative careers and clusters.

Main findings: Our paper will highlight the main trends in fashion and garment production. We will show how although it is a challenge for fashion designers to move closer to the production sector, many have done this move in order to favor their own and the sector's sustainability. Also some designers have moved to new niches such as fur recycling in clothes, use of ecological or bio fabrics, in order to ensure a more sustainable industry. We also want to refer to cultural and social sustainability and will show how the sector has moved to socio-cultural sustainability, by favoring the network and cluster concepts in order to develop interactions and cooperation in the sector, these behaviors in turn fostering creativity and innovation, and finally sustainability.

Conclusions and implications: We conclude that the fashion-garment sector has moved to a new mode of production centered around new niches of production as well as more designer-fashion and creativity, in order to foster long term sustainability of the sector. While not all firms and designers have moved in this direction, the main implications are that individual designers should follow this trend. In terms of public policy, it would be important to create organizations that can foster more interaction, cooperation and networking between firms and designers in order to ensure socio-cultural, environmental and socio-economic sustainability of the sector.

Keywords: Creative sectors; sustainable development; fashion; garment; Québec; fashion worlds; supply chain

Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay is professor at the Business School of the Teluq-University of Québec. She is also Canada Research Chair on the Socio-Organizational Challenges of the Knowledge Economy, and has done research on the fashion and multimedia clusters in this context. She has published extensively on these creative clusters, on creative careers, as well as on competitive strategies, work organization and working time issues. She is the director of the Teluq Program on Management of Creative Projects and has designed 4 courses in this program.

Amina Yagoubi is presently substitute professor at the Teluq-university of Québec. She has done her Ph.D on the fashion sector in Montreal, and has presented conferences on the recent evolution of the fashion sector and careers in Montreal. A certain number of publications and articles have been done in the context of this research. She has also contributed to the development of 3 courses in the Teluq program on Management of Creative Projects.

Trust as e Relationship Treated By Common Law Legal Systems And As A Relationship Treated By Civil Law Legal Systems. Things in Common And Comparison Between the Two Systems.

Nertila Sulce

ABSTRACT

Inheritance relationships are born when the ownership was born and will exist as the property's right herself. Inheritance is an ancient institution recognized by the Roman law in the Twelve Tables (303 BC) in which the testamentary right was given priority. Roman law had a well-developed concept of the trust (*fideicommissum*) in terms of "testamentary trusts" created by wills but never developed the concept of the inter vivos (living) trusts which apply while the creator lives. Trusts have existed since Roman times and have become one of the most important innovations in property law. A trust is a relationship whereby property is held by one party for the benefit of another. A trust is created by a settlor (the person who creates the trust), who transfers some or all of his or her property to a trustee (a person either an individual, a corporation or more than one of either who administers a trust). The trustee holds that property for the trust's beneficiaries (a beneficiary is anyone who receives benefits from any assets the trust owns). Personal trust law developed in England at the time of the Crusades, during the 12th and 13th centuries. The trust relationship was created by later common law jurisdictions. Trusts play a significant role in most common law systems, and their success has led some civil law jurisdictions to incorporate trusts into their civil codes. In this article we will discuss trust's treatment as a relationship in the common law system, his characteristics and development. We will analyse the trust's treatment relationship in the civil law system, the differences and things in common between these two systems.

Keywords: law jurisdictions, trust, civil code, common law system, civil law system.

Nertila Sulçe is actually attorney at Law at the National Registration Center sine three years She holds a master in civil law, attending Phd at the Faculty of Law, University of Tirana She worked as a lawyer at Alpha Bank and as assistant professor at university.

Concept of holistic and sustainable development based on harmony

Dr Prof. Nickolay Suvorov

Dr Prof. Iryna Suvorova.

ABSTRACT

Based on the use of the Greek language and the concepts of ethics, philosophy and higher mathematics, the LOGOS HARMONY has been developed.

LOGOS HARMONY allows establishing the following:

the basic constituents of a proper world outlook – belief, spirituality and harmony;

the quality of energy of inner and outer interaction between people based on harmony-morality and harmony-ethics;

the sense and profound content of moral-ethical rules, laws and canons;

scientifically substantiated criteria of quality and perfection of human personality;

the concept of cosmotheory – the theory of development of humans and the Universe;

the sense of the word “prosperity” as aspiration to the summit and highest point as a unification of energy and high ethics and high morality in a single harmonious unity.

It has been proved mathematically that the underpinning of development of a Human Being and Humanity is harmonised energy, and the energy of harmony-peace, and the energy of harmony-love.

HARMONY is the basis of holistic sustainable development of nations and the human civilisation.

Keywords: Cosmotheory, energy, harmony, perfection, harmony-morality, harmony-ethics, Orthogonality.

Dr Prof. Nickolay Suvorov is a military intellectual. He acquired good scientific and materialistic education, viz. graduated from the Suvorov Military School with honours and a military academy summa cum laude for service in the Strategic Missile Forces. For a long time, I educated and trained highly-qualified young officers for service in the Missile Forces. Teaching, education and science were the essence of my life.

Dr; Prof. Iryna Suvorova is Leading Scientific Researcher of the Department for Nonconventional Energy Technologies. The A.N. Podgorny Institute for Mechanical Engineering Problems (IPMach) of The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NAS of Ukraine). Project leader in creation of multi-function hydrocavitation systems of energy transformation for producing the new qualitative composite liquid fuel oils (CLFO) with high power and ecological indices and their effective incinerating. An authority in the field of mathematical and computer modeling.

Maternità surrogata: progresso o sfruttamento?

Dr. Hemion Braho

ABSTRACT

Motherhood surrogacy is almost considered as a new way to born next to natural born, adoption and IVF treatments. If the other practices are accepted by the social and scientific community, the motherhood surrogacy brings some problems, especially on a social point of view. This happens because of the big sufferance of the women involved in this practice and because of the social distortion of this practice transforming the traditional family structures and bringing social, legal and healthy problems for the persons involved. The aim of this work is to study this phenomenon also on the interest point of view in which feminism and religious position are united.

Keywords: Surrogacy, Social problems, Prostitution, Feminism, Church

Dr. Hemion Braho holds a degree in Law by the Faculty of Law at "Tor Vergata" University in Rome, Italy. October 2003 - April 2009. PhD in history and Theory of European Law at "Tor Vergata" University in Rome, Italy. October 2009 - April 2013.

- September 2011, participated at the Advanced Training Course "Justice Dimensions" the Urbaniana University in the Vatican City.
- October 2012, participated at the convention "Law and Religion" organized by the Italian Philosophy of Law Society at Villa Mondragone in Monteporzio Catone, Italy.
- June 23 - July 7 / 2013 participated to the Summer School about "Interdisciplinary Ethics in a European perspective" at the Centre européen d'enseignement et de recherche en éthique in Strasbourg, France.

Actually working as Lecturer in Law at the European University of Tirana.

Comparing ENQA, British, German & Albanian Standards of Quality in Higher Education

Msc. Jona Hoxhaj

ABSTRACT

The development and enhancement of life conditions and standards of living, which are enabled by progress in technology, social life, cultural life, scientific researches and new inventions is very tightly and positively connected with higher education. The desire to have better life conditions has stimulated people toward new technological and social inventions which have made life easier. This desire has put people in an infinity road of continuously developing new standards of education to have a more qualitative education leading to those nowadays technological and social progresses making world a fast changing environment. This cycle is bringing us year by year a more qualitative education system based on the competition of universities, states and continents to be the first choice of the students around the world. Universities and Academics in collaboration with university accreditation agencies and universities quality control organizations are working so hard to maintain and increase standards of quality in higher education in their hometowns. Maintaining and assuring qualitative education is a basic point in order to have credibility in the educative institutions and national educative system. This study is covering the examination of the quality of standards in higher education in European countries which are part of ENQA having a harmonized higher system of education for more than 10 years. Also a detailed study of German higher education system, as an example of a country being part of ENQA, examining standards and criterion evaluation of the quality of higher education in this country. The study except of examination will compare these standards in ENQA countries with British and Albanian quality standards in higher education. Britain's organization which is covering the evaluation of the higher education system and controlling the fulfillment of the standards and criterion is QAA and it has slightly different standards when compared to ENQA. In this study it has been investigated the whole higher education system of the region and the effectiveness and quality of education in the universities and colleges of UK. Albania is part of ENQA from 18 September 2003 (Gollosi, 2013) when the Bologna Declaration was signed. But Albania because of being a developing country is having difficulties in accomplishing all the standards and criterion as European Countries. This decade has been very crucial for changes in education system in Albania and the system is being developed year by year. The study examines and compares the fulfillment and quality of standards in Albania with those of other European countries and also will compare the higher education system of the small developing country of Albania with those of Great Britain.

Keywords: Higher Education, Quality, Standards, Criterion, ENQA, Britain, Albania

Jona HOXHAI is a motivated, young researcher currently working in Epoka University in Department of Economics as a Research and Teaching Assistant. She is graduated with high honors in Economics at Epoka University and continues her MSc. Studies in Economics at Epoka, working on her thesis related to Well Being in Developing Countries. She has actively participated in civil society considering her experience as national support team in AIESEC Albania as the most significant contribution of her, in civil society organizations. From June 2014 she is advisor of "Young Economists' Network" founded in Epoka University. During her studies she is continuously participating in international conferences and publishing her research papers in academic proceeding books and journals and also she has experienced private sector by participating in some internships in: TEB Bank, ALBtelecom&Eagle Mobile, Accounting Office and before graduation she has had an internship in Career Office in Epoka University, working as "Career Fair" Organizing Manager. Her experience in public sector in Central Bank of Kosovo was the starting point of research career, where she started researching in the Department of Economic Analysis and Financial Stability.

Cyprus: From An Argued Past To A Shared Future

PhD Candidate Jubjana Vila Zeka

ABSTRACT

Most individuals face traumatic events during their lifetime, but when entire groups of people are trapped inside the width and breadth of a horrific atrocity, their experiences can also become a shared or “collective trauma.” If an aim of conflict analysis scholars is to contribute to a sustained and peaceful resolution, the psychological and social impact of violence – upon the individual as well as the community – must be broadly examined and synthesized into future strategies and recommendations. The island of Cyprus is home to one of the longest standing and intractable conflicts since the establishment of the United Nations. Its history includes forced occupation, invasion, being traded, and betrayed. There have been military coupes, unilateral decision makers, and aggressive military interventions. Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots have their own historical, fixed, and salient collective trauma. It is a stubborn memory; one that appears and reappears as an old and unhealed wound. The aim of this qualitative study is three-fold: (1) to elucidate the role and effect of opposing Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot trauma narratives upon the peace process; (2) to examine the dialectic exacerbation between the two narratives; and (3) to explore how these narratives have been transmitted to new generations. This research is especially focused on how collective trauma narratives shape perceptions, but at the same time, how they shape social identity, and perceptions of the self. Through a comparison of conflict narratives, this study elaborates on how invalidated or unresolved collective trauma can serve as an insidious source of distrust, enemy imaging, a clash of identities among parties, and how it can also serve to justify each party’s actions and reactions. Also, the research aims to explore specific ways the people of Cyprus might be able to move forward from their argued and vehemently opposed understandings of the past, toward a more shared and cohesive future.

Keywords: Sustainable Peace, Peaceful Coexistence, Cyprus Conflict, Conflict Narratives, Collective Trauma

Jubjana Vila Zeka has a Bachelor Degree from the International Relations Department and a Minor Degree from Economics Department at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey. She has finished her Masters Degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Sabanci University in Istanbul, Turkey. She has been working as a teaching and research assistant at this university in 2011-2013. Now, she is a PhD Candidate in Bogazici University in the Department of Political Science and International Relations in Istanbul, Turkey with a PhD Scholarship by Turkish Government. Meanwhile, she works as a research assistant at Epoka University in the department of Political Science and International Relations. Also she is a member of Center for European Studies in the same University. Her areas of interests include: international relations, conflict resolution, mediation, facilitation, conflict transformation, ethnic conflict, peace building, state building, security studies and EU security policies.

Teacher`s Role In Identifying And Helping A Teenage In Distress: Monitoring Unexpected Suicide Tendency

Temisa Isufi

ABSTRACT

Life is the most precious gift ever given to all living creatures in this wonderful world of ours. Feeling its liveliness and energy is the most thrilling and wonderful sensation that we as humans could experience. Life may be abstract and vulnerable at the same time. Throughout the centuries, humanity, especially philosophers and the academy of thought, (including psychologists, scientists etc.) have made various attempts to study, analyze and somehow define it, but an appropriate definition could hardly be made. Life can acquire many colors and shapes at once. However, standing positive and powerful toward all challenges which may come to you one at a time or many at the same time is not always easily manageable, especially for the naïve and fragile personality of a teenager. Teenagers, experiencing those very delicate and confusing years of being neither a child nor an adult, can easily “fail” at facing difficult challenges that society, family and life itself may unexpectedly offer to them, and each of those “failures”, they tend to experience with much more negativity and hopelessness than any other target group. My work experience of five years with teenagers has made me particularly sensitive towards this issue. The hope to somehow help our teenagers, the desire to be there for them, to support them in their difficult challenges and the dream to provide a better and happier life for them, motivated me to choose this topic.

One of the methodologies I thought most adequate to be used in this research is the questionnaire. They will be organized into no more than fifteen questions and each of them will have the purpose of measuring the degree of distress among the teenagers of different social backgrounds.

In the first part of the research I would like to define what a person in distress is, which are the factors that causes it and especially, how do they come present in a teenage life.

In the second part, I will try to analyze the phase when the untraced and untreated distress gradually degrades, by easily giving so the access of the suicidal tendencies to the individual who is affected by it.

In the third part I was thinking of discussing about the teacher`s role and influence upon his/her teenage student. How can a teacher notice a student in distress? How can he/she help him? What can he/she do to respond to his student`s warning signs?

In the last part of the study, I would like to emphasize the fact that Suicide is still considered a taboo in our country. Parents or teachers would never discuss about it with teenagers, but unfortunately, only after a tragedy, all find themselves eager to discuss or even giving harsh prejudices upon the victim. Suicide destroys not only the life of the one who commit it, but much worse than that. It causes incurable wounds to their dearest, wounds which would never stop bleeding of pain and misery, throughout all their life long. Wounds which would stop the beating of a fragile heart, wounds which would prevent many others to joyfully enjoying our greatest blessing, the greatest gift and opportunity ever given to us, the blessing of experience a life, which is all only ours.

Key Words: Student in Distress; Causes of Distress; Suicide phenomenon; Preventions.

Temisa Isufi is Lecturer at the Faculty of Economics, University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania

Women's role in developing economies: case of Georgia

Nino Kharistvalashvili

ABSTRACT

The paper deals with the most topical gender issues in economic point of view and explains women's role in modern economy of developing country like Georgia.

In spite of the powerful process of the globalization and dissemination of ideas of human rights and gender equality huge problems related with gender inequality still remains and hinders the social and economic development of the societies.

The most prevalent issues regarding the abovementioned problem are the following: violence against women, pay gap between men and women workers, various stereotypes about the women existing in all over the world. All of these issues are dissected in an economic point of view.

Georgia is a post-soviet country with its peculiarities that are also reflected with respect to the gender issues and the analysis given in the paper considers these important characteristics.

In the modern world where women's role in social and economic life is continuously increasing the issues of gender equality gains an utmost importance.

Results of the study shows the ways for increasing women's involvement in the economic processes in the country and using women's skills and knowledge for the sake of the country.

Keywords: Gender, equality, economy, pay gap, migration, unemployment.

Nino Kharistvalashvili is a fourth year bachelor's student at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University Faculty of Economics and Business. She is one of the distinguished students at her faculty with advanced research and analytical skills. She enjoys active student life and is a member of several student organisations at her university where she participates in various student projects. She feels free to express her ideas publicly, get into discussions and substantiates her opinions logically. Nino's language skills ensures unhindered communication for her with English-speaking people.

The Importance of Ethical Responsibility In Management of Natural Resources

Assist. Prof. Dr. Abdullah Karatas

ABSTRACT

Today environmental problems are some of the most important issues in the world. Increasing industrialization activities due to 20th century scientific and technological developments have caused this irreversible damage on natural resources. This pessimistic picture caused by people seriously threatens the future of all living beings. Natural resources are exhaustible and unreproducible so people should capture a harmonious coexistence with nature at once. Otherwise future generations will not have the same chance as the present ones have. Here, local governments are of great importance and major duties because they have responsibilities to protect and manage natural resources on land they manage. Environmental problems can be prevented by eliminating their source with the support of local governments. To achieve this, local authorities should integrate with local people they serve and produce solutions for environmental problems together with them. First they should do their best to increase local people's environmental awareness. Local people given environmental awareness and responsibility will be able to do their best for conservation and development of natural resources because they will be able to accept it as an ethical responsibility. This theoretical study will emphasize the importance of ethical responsibility in the management of natural resources.

Keywords: Environmental Problems, Ethical Responsibility, Local Governments, Local People

Dr. Abdullah Karatas is an Assistant Professor of Local Administration Program in the Department of Management and Organization at Niğde University Vocational School of Social Sciences in Turkey. His research interests include environmental problems, environmental education, ethics, environmental ethics, organizational ethics

The quality increase and teachers challenges in evaluation of Higher Education in Kosovo

Afërdita Nimani PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

In this context, higher education is undergoing in the period of detachment from traditional evaluation of the students in the advanced setting criteria to measure the rate of achievements of the students during their studies. In addition to adhering to the peculiarities of our public and private universities in New Kosovo, required the drafting of the regulations for the evaluation of the students, exceeding the traditional ways in the evaluation of teachers through workshops, projects, training, discussions and collection of advanced experiences from European educational space high. Lectures organized by the Teachers and their objective in acquiring the knowledge of the students have shortcomings that reflect not only the quality, efficiency, but also their motivation. Should be examined carefully for that our students do not have an increased interest for independent work in the acquisition of knowledge and training them for lifelong learning, which is a necessary condition for our future towards knowledge. Even in this regard, in our opinion, we have not realized at the appropriate level under the European Commission projects for Education, concerning the promotion of learning; digital campus European virtual, and - interaction of educational institutions in Europe and promoting learning transverse. Annual that has to do with research evaluation challenges of higher education teachers in the teaching process and other student research activities. This annual (survey form) is divided into two parts. In the first part, are listed a series of questions that have The connection with specific indicators derived from teaching. In the second part, are given only a few open-ended questions that allow you to express Teachers overall assessment regarding their challenges in the teaching process.

Keywords: Higher education, teaching, evaluation, reform, quality

Afërdita Nimani is Lecturer at „BIZNESI,, Collage of - Gjakovë 2011 and has continued her PhDc studies at the European University of Tirana, in the program of Social sciences, Profile: Pedagogy.

Socio-economic factors that push a girl trafficked to recycled again in Albanian society

Alisa Biçoku, PhD

ABSTRACT

The Albania of 90-91 years will always remember the terrible years of startup of a new commerce, that of white meat. The phenomenon of trafficking of girls in the sex industry took oversized, because of the malfunctioning of an Albanian legal state which doesn't reach to control "trade routes" and protecting the rights of these victims. Trafficking of girls was a profit business for people ruthlessness of criminal groups

The purpose of this study is to investigate the analysis of the main factors that push a girl ex- trafficked recycled again, in the Albanian society.

The specific objectives of the study are: Exploring possibilities, systems, resources that obliges a girl trafficked, who for a period of time is reintegrated into society, return again the profession former employee of the sex, being recycled.

The methodology used to conduct this study is that qualitative, as an effective method in providing specific information and understanding the deeper meaning of this problem.

The instruments used in this study refer to the case study as an effective method to explore in detail the phenomenon of recycling of victims.

Key words: recycling, victim of trafficking, reintegration process, sexual exploitation.

Security and Human Rights

Anita Bardhi PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

In this paper I will treat in summary Security and Human Rights. This paper summarizes the way it is handled security and human rights, priority accorded to human rights as fundamental rights in the absence of which would be very difficult development and after the implementation of other rights which have affected the legal but also the social formation of a society but also beyond. Will be treated generations of human rights, and their approach nowadays. How treats the European Convention on Human Rights the right to liberty and security of human rights in its Article 5, detailed treatment of cases that this article of the Convention provides for deprivation of liberty by the competent court which takes decisions for their restriction or deprivation. Will be treated the procedure to be followed for the deprivation of liberty of a person and the importance of their implementation in practice. How related restriction of freedom of one or more persons with the security that must be provided to the rest of society or even a person in particular.

Keywords: Security, Human rights, Convente, Foundamental rights.

Anita Bardhi is PhD Candidate at European University of Tirana. Since two years she worked as Lawyer at Gener 2 L.t.d a company specialized for construction works in Albania but not only.

Ad hoc International tribunals and the International Criminal Court

Arta Mehmeti PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

In the past, war has been the primary mean by which states have resolved disputes between them. It was considered as normal, as a right of States to regain their rights violated by an act or omission of another state. Although with time passing people started to be aware of the damage caused by wars and they have begun to seek other means and methods for resolving disputes in order to prevent wars, such a thing was impossible. And as a result, vigorous activity for behaviors and adoptions of many international conventions which contain principles and rules for the humanization of development actions during combat operations, with a tendency to such conventions become binding on states recently are organized by the states, organizations and scholars of international relations.(Gruda, 2007,535). After the end of WWI was created The League of Nations, an organization which in its Statute held negative attitude towards development of combat operations. However, the failure of the organization in this regard, it was observed with the outbreak of WWII, during which performs many actions were performed contrary to international rules regarding human wars. A progressive step in this direction was dropped after the end of WWII, with the establishment of the Court of Nurenbergut initially and then also Tokyo.

Keywords: Tribunal,International,Criminal court,UN

The influence of political parties in the candidate selection, as well as in democratic consolidation of the society”

PhD Aurora Balukja

ABSTRACT

Political parties, by various researches have named as political machinery to win elections and the governing power. Some have described them as organizations that have structures that allow the members participation, which have a program public policy and that resist more one electoral shift.

Giovanni Sartori (1976), "A political party is any political group that identified with an official label and appears in the election, and through elections (free or not) is able to present candidates to public office."

Based on political parties classification, the most important are:

- Political parties and measures group,
- Representative and integration parties,
- Constitutional and revolutionary parties,
- Left and right party.

Based on classification political parties organization, became classification of candidates, which is determined by an internal party regulation. Only the US, Germany, New Zealand, Sweden, have specified by law the selection of candidates.

Typically, the selection is made from the leader of the parties, that is an informal way. Rarely selection becomes formally, where the candidate comes from particular group vote (from the structure party).

Selection has a great importance because composes the Parliament, makes democracy delegation, distribute the power within political parties etc.

Important and must be working hard for political parties democratization because the multiple and positive consequences are for the future of the country.

Key words: Political parties, The elections, Political Program, Candidate selection, Political democratization or not within party.

The meaningful reading in the context of critical thinking.

Elida Kurti PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

In this paper we'll present the role and the importance of reading as an mattery process mental and educational, which enables the realization of a lot of communicative relationships between people. There are taken a lot of researches as well as developed a lot of discussions about the definitions related with the reading. Also great educational movements have taken place in practices all around the world, promoting various findings related to the forms and methods in which is shown and taught the reading in the daily practice of each person. The school, referencing as the institution through which are transmitted and improved knowledges, conceptualizes the reading as the key of success for every person in his educational period. Teachers play an helpful role in enriching the thinking of students during the process of reading.

However, to be successful in this role, it is important to understand what happens when people read. This will help teachers to elaborate and implement strategies that contribute to the development, cultivation and encouraging readers to reflect on what you read and, consequently, that they learn to think and reflect.

The main purpose of our work is the identification of the major factors that contribute for an successful acquisition of reading, more efficient methods as well as encouraging and motivating critical thinking.

Keywords: Reading, critical thinking, methods and strategies, teaching cognitive skills.

PhD (c) Elida Kurti worked as an Academic Editor at UET PRESS. She graduated in "Albanian Language and Literature" at the University of Tirana, the "Faculty of History and Philology". Later during the years 2009-2011, she graduated "Master" at the same university. Currently she continues doctoral studies, management "Education", Faculty of Education and Social Sciences, at the European University of Tirana. During 2012-2014, dhe used to work as a lecturer at the Department of Educational Sciences at the "University planetarium of Tirana". She is also the author of several articles in the parts of language and education.

Teaching English to Albanian pupils through stories.

Elona Ziu, PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

Learning English is becoming a necessity nowadays especially in Albania where pupils either at secondary or high school have to sit the English at the end of both secondary and high school. Teachers look continuously for new and effective ways to teach pupils in the best way possible. Also, they try to do their best in choosing the English books they think are the best to teach at their schools, as is their duty to choose between various English school books proposed by the ministry of education. One technique of teaching English which is viewed as very effective is teaching pupils through stories. Based on the constructivism as one of the latest education theory and on second language acquisition, this study examines how the school books exploit stories, to teach pupils English. What skills they are taught through stories and what activities they use to make the learning of English enjoyable. The study also relies on class surveys and on a questionnaire filled by English teachers.

Keywords: Stories, English books ,classroom activities ,language skills acquisition

Elona Ziu is a part time Lecturer at the University of Korca "Fan.S.Noli" She has been working as a lecturer since 2007 at the Faculty of Education, Department of Foreign Languages. She is a PhD candidate at the European University of Tirana at the Faculty of Social sciences branch Pedagogy. She has been working as an English teacher in one of Korca's secondary schools since October 2014. She was the director of International English center Korca branch from September 2003 till July 2014. She graduated as an English teacher in the Faculty of Education branch English Language at "Fan .S.Noli" university of Korca in 2003.

The Basic Legal-Political And Factual Impact On The Request Of “Kosovo Albanians” For Independence

ERJONA RAMA PhD candidate
Nexhat Rama

ABSTRACT

This paper analysis the legal and political situation in Kosovo and considers with special interest the right of every citizen for self-determination. The theme defined in this paper presents an issue which goes beyond the sphere of internal sovereignty issues or simplified as a regional problem. Even today, treatment, organization and participation of scholars and personalities, on this issue seems to miss the correct commitment and motivation for a deep and argued thought. That should be a basic research founded over common accepted values not only for the majority of Kosovo but for also the international community that in this case is intrinsically involved.

Breakup of the former Yugoslavia was one of the major and most difficult events in Europe after the Cold War. A part of the process of disintegration ended with the Dayton Peace Agreement, but the Kosovo constraint remained a long time without being solved. Kosovo was the first problem in the former Yugoslavia but it was neglected too long. The situation in Kosovo, especially in recent years, was a continuous clash between Serbians and Albanians but also internationally. Kosovo in 1999 was the biggest problem in the international arena, the greatest challenge after WWII and test for the international community in solving problems of post-Cold War Era.

The purpose of this paper is to give a brief overview of Kosovo, its people and the roots of this problem. In particular it is intended to elaborate on the right of self-determination of the Albanian Kosovars by international standards in terms of legal, political and security. This treatment is based on the theory and over international practices on the right of self-determination of peoples in the period after the Cold War and in the context of the Kosovo case. In order to carry on this hypothesis we used historical and legal resources and also further evidence from the new democratic and demographic reality established in Kosovo. The entire paper is a small contribution for a correct historical scientific approach and to the legal right of Kosovo Albanians for self-determination and independence.

Keywords: Yugoslavia, Serbia, Kosovo, political, disintegration, legal, independence, international community, interethnic tensions.

Erjona RAMA PhDc, is lecturer in college "Biznesi" Gjakova. Since 2011, she lectures at the Faculty of Economics "European Economic Integration", and the Faculty of Law subjects: "International Organizations" and "The General Sociology". Currently she works as responsible in the department of the Faculty of Law, in the same College "Biznesi". She is being completed for the defense of the topic of doctoral dissertation: "The issue of Kosovo and foreign policy of Italy "

Mr. Nexhat Rama, has graduated from the Faculty of "Juridical Sciences", branch: "Criminality", he also completed Master studies in: "Emergency Management"

"The right to life", a fundamental human right (Albanian case)

Evalda Jera PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

The person's life is strongly protected by law, through the history of Albanian state, the right to life has been regulated in different legal ways, in different historical periods of the state. We know that human life as a fundamental human right has not been guaranteed in every moment in the same way, because it is influenced by a variety of factors. Freedoms and rights in Albania during the totalitarian period has been hopeless, as it regarded the respect and protection of the right to life. But things totally changed after the democracy was placed in years 90. Today the Constitution of the Republic of Albania sanctions the legal concept of protection of the right to life. So the right to life appear in the Constitution, as a value, from which emanate all the other rights and freedoms. Also in international terms a great guarantee of the right to life is the European Convention of Human Rights, Article 2.

Keywords: Right to live, fundamental rights, Albania , totalitarisem period, democracy, European Convention of Human Rights,

Lack of political correctness in the albanian public discourse

Dr. Fatos Salliu

ABSTRACT

The lack of political correctness in public discourse is Albanian linguistic phenomenon.

It is found particularly in politics and in prejudices regarding gender, race, culture, sexual orientation, religion, age, beliefs and ideologies. It is also found in disabled and marginalized groups. Other contexts are related to education, science, satire, art etc.

It is usually found in ordinary communication, in state institutions, schools, families, mass media, internet, etc.

The aim of this study is to reveal how this phenomenon is expressed in the albanian public discourse.

The methodology is based on studies and contemporary experience in the international arena.

This research will focus on the albanian reality by analyzing the parliament, mass media, special programs, social networks, LGBT groups etc.

The results found in the study show the current situation in Albania and recommend that certain measures should be taken in order to terminate the unfair policy from the albanian public discourse.

This research will try to help public educational institutions, mass media, communities, researchers and all groups that aim to reach a good standard in the policy of fair communication.

Keywords: Discourse, denigration, parliament, mass communication, schizophrenic.

PhD candidate Fatos Salliu is lecturer the courses of "Rhetoric" and "Introduction to Media" at the "Alexander Xhuvani" University in Albania and journalist at Klan TV & ABC News. He is a member of the research group of Communication Sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the European University of Tirana on the topic: "The transformation of the political culture of democracy: From propaganda to public relations". The author has conducted in-depth research on topics: "The impact of citizen journalism in professional media in Albania", "What stage is Albania in the Information Society" and "Lack of political correctness in the Albanian public discourse". PhD Fatos Salliu has long professional experience in traditional platforms in Albania. He worked in televisions "Klan", "Ora News", "ABC News" and in many national newspapers such as "Shekulli", "Korrieri", "Koha Jonë", "Mapo", etc. He is the author of opinions, analyzes, commentaries and studies on the pages of Albanian. Since 2002 is a lecturer in the department of journalism at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Elbasan. Current interest is the title: Doctor of Communication Sciences.

The evolution of minority rights at the international level after the First World War

Dr. Marenglen Cobo

ABSTRACT

The question of minorities was an important player in the international arena since the birth of the modern state. With the end of the First World War, after the fall of great empires models and the birth of the new nation-states, which in their political boundaries encompassed populations for their race, religion and language were different from the majority population. The victorious great powers realized that to maintain lasting peace had to guarantee to minorities, through international treaties, rights that could allow them to live their lives without suffering discrimination by Member National, to which they belonged. These treaties even though they were the first steps towards the recognition of minority rights at the international level, ensured only individual rights and not collective rights. The real success on the international stage, in a sense, occurs with the article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which provided that, in those states where minorities live, they had to ensure their political, economic, cultural and social rights.

Keywords: Minority, International law, National States, collective rights, individual rights.

Dr. Marenglen Cobo was born in 21/10/1982, Vlore (Albania). Until the age of 18 years he studied in Vlore, then in 2002 he moved to Padua to begin the studies at the University of Padua. In 2006 he graduated in Politics and European Integration, Faculty of Political Science, then in October 2009 he finished the Master degree in EU Policies (Lurea Specialistica in Politiche dell'Unione Europea). In 2014 he moved to Albania and he is attending a Research Doctorate in public law, at the European University of Tirana.

International Humanitarian NATO intervention in Kosovo legal or legitimate?

PhD Candidate Petrit Nimani, Denis Spahija, MSc. Alban MALIQI

ABSTRACT

NATO intervention in Kosovo was the first time of its kind this alliance has adopted since its establishment. How legal or legitimate was its intervention, was debated and discussed in diplomatic and scientific circles. There were different opinions of different opponents as pro as well against intervention. How was this intervention is legal, in this paper will provide sufficient evidence and arguments to prove that it was a necessary intervention. It was delayed but also neglected by some European countries, there was hesitancy by them probably did not want to disrupt their friendship with Serbia! Europe amongst the horror and tragedy happened on the civilian population which shocked the entire international opinion, the events that humanity had not experienced since World War II, but nevertheless Europe was clear who was the Serbian aggression on the Bosnian people, Srebrenica massacre was clearly the biggest massacre known to mankind. These events set in motion the whole world diplomacy to give proper reply to this horror loathing for all mankind. In Kosovo we had GENOCIDE, even though the international community does not qualify as genocide but as armed conflict. The goal of the Serbian government was that everything that was Albanian should be destroyed, not excluding even the lives of people, particularly women, children and old people. All Geneva Conventions, which define the rules of war were tramped. I do not know what the basis was qualified as an armed conflict! In this paper we will argue with facts which was the legal basis of the NATO intervention in Kosovo, violated human rights in the most extreme measure by Serbia against the Albanian civilian population. What was the danger of this war? What was the risk of expanding the war beyond the borders of the former Yugoslavia? On what legal basis NATO intervened in Kosovo? Why the intervention was legal and legitimate? These and many other questions we will give a response to this paper.

Keywords: International Humanitarian Intervention, the international community, Kosovo, NATO, US, UN, EU, the former Yugoslavia, Serbia.

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Denis Spahija was born on September 30, 1978 in Gjakova. Primary and secondary school has finished in hometown. Graduated in field of Applied Sciences in Business in Peja. He completed his master studies at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Pristina. Call Master of Economic Sciences he took in defending thesis in 2013 on "Supporting the business by the municipal government: problems and challenges". Doctoral dissertation studies were presented at the European University of Tirana. In the period 2008-2011 he worked as high school teacher of economics. In 2011 he was elected assistant at the University "Haxhi Zeka" in Peja, and in 2014 he began working as Officer for International Cooperation at Gjakova University "Fehmi Agani". In 2013 he was elected lecturer at the Faculty of Economics of the College "BIZNESI".

Ma.sc. Alban MALIQI, is assistant at "Biznesi" Collegue. He has finished his bachelor and master studies at the Prishtina University, Faculty of Law,

The phenomenon of migration in Albania: Socio-economic effects of its point of view on trafficking human beings

Naim Tota, PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

Problems of migration in Albania increasingly are being treated in a multidisciplinary aspect. Various scientific disciplines within the scientific facility have received treatment in such a case analysis. The importance of the study is closely related, especially with the social and economic effects that accompany migratory movements. Specifically more evident is presented an analysis in countries in transition where migratory movements are characteristic feature of them. Migration movements in our country, besides other effects, dealing with the geographical distribution of population, elements in the population impacts, over population and depopulation, in the economic development of different urban centers and rural, in social groups of their redistribution accompanied by other important social issues. Various researchers' estimate that in many cases as the result of these migration movements, different social groups 'to vulnerable' remain 'loot' of the problems and inclusion in issues such as criminal aspects, prostitution, trafficking in human beings, etc. In our material we have attempted in general to give some considerations about the social effects of migration in Albania in the context of trafficking human beings. We have aimed that through analytical material presented, examples and surveys conducted, to give a general overview of its, closely connected with their causes and consequences. In addition, the article is accompanied by conclusions and suggestions, part of the scientific contribution in the analysis of the social effects of these migratory movements.

Keywords: Migration movements, geographical distribution, population, population impact, depopulation, economic development, rural centers.

THE NEW ALBANIAN COMPANY LAW: Types of Companies, the European Act's and Comparative Origins

Valbona Shukarasi PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

Albanian Company law has changed profoundly in recent time. These changes have not merely been limited to technical issues, but amount to a revolution in core areas of the Albanian company law framework. To a large extent, these changes were driven by the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between Albanian and The European Union, aiming inter alia at the approximation of Albania's existing legislation to the Community acquis. Given the objective to bring Albanian law in line with European Union requirements on company law, it is not a big surprise that the legislator assisted by international experts essentially decided to design a new company law "from scratch" rather than modifying the existing Albanian legal framework. After all, the previously on companies followed a very different approach than most of the Member States' systems which served as the basis for the Community legislation in this area. Rewriting a whole company law system undoubtedly is a very ambitious task, as each country's legal and economic environment has its very own specifics; additionally, company law always intersects intensively with different areas of legislation (e.g. accounting, tax and securities laws). This paper will focus in three main points: 1.The Act's European and Comparative Origins; 2.Types of Companies; 3.The Scope of Application of the ACL - the case law of the judicial practice of the European Court of Justice.

Keywords: Albanian Companies Law, the general partnership, the limited partnership, the limited liability company, the joint-stock company, European company law, European law

The implementation of e-government in Albania

Sofiana Veliu PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

The implementation of e-government in Albania

The flow of information is essential for effective governance and managing the day-to-day business of government services. Government work is very information intensive. The production of most government services consists of creating and communicating information. Every aspect of a person's public life generates information. Each tax payment, license renewal, birth, death, marriage, land purchase, and so on generates data that is collected, processed, stored, communicated, and analyzed by most governments. All of this information is the basic ingredient for governments to govern, manage its resources, provide services, and account for its performance. Database processing in Albania and public use of information, is at an early stage of development and is still considered as future potential expectation for a better governance.

Decentralization and strengthening of the local autonomy; as well as participation of the citizens in local governance, today is a challenge to afford. Political programs of governments have not considered a priority the information management systems in Albania, especially in Public Administration, yet. Having secondary considerations, the information systems in local and central level are still not integrated and incomplete. This study examines issues caused by the missing of technology as a tool for a better governance and looks at some ways to turn into efficiency the information systems in Albania.

Keywords: e-government; information systems; database processing; citizens

The Mannerism of Expressionist Movement

Lecturer PhD Mirela Boteanu Anghel

ABSTRACT

The history proves that the characteristics and the qualities a certain movement imposed and developed were those that became tiring and unproductive manners that eventually led to obsolescence. Although this statement can be supported by any artistic movement – starting with classicism and ending with post-post-modernism, we shall review the fate of Greek-Latin classicism characterized by elegance, rules, equilibrium (which recommends it as a pattern worthy to be studied in class – hence the title of classicism) and by attaining perfection, it arose no more interest whatsoever as the novelty had worn out and had lost all chances of revival by originality. We shall focus on the expressionist movement as being one of a short period that failed into mannerism. Its example stands out due to the fact that even from the start it was interested in manners, breaking the rules, lack of respect for tradition and focused on preoccupations and manifestations at the border between art and exhibitionism.

For a better grasp of the phenomena, we shall briefly take into account the parents and grandparents of the phenomena, i.e. symbolism and impressionism. All these three movements are at the antipode of classicism, renaissance and romanticism – epochs of glory from the cultural history.

Keywords: Research/ sociology/ Balkan expressionism/ social movement/ art

Mirela Boteanu Anghel is Lecturer Ph. D. at the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest. Her main interests regard social work, communication in social work, and sociology. Obtained the title of Ph. D. in sociology in 2010 with the doctoral thesis entitled "Interculturality. The analysis of speciality terms in sociology and the problematic of translation". Among published books, we mention: *Language and Communication in Society (Limba și comunicare în societate)*, Bucharest, University of Bucharest Publishing House, 2010; *Interpersonal Communication in Social Work (Comunicarea interpersonală în asistența socială)*, University of Bucharest Publishing House, 2012.

L'utilizzo delle nuove tecnologie nell'insegnamento delle lingue straniere nelle scuole secondarie di secondo grado di Tirana, Albania: problematiche riscontrate.

Dr. Sonila PIRI, Dr. Irena NDREU, Dr. Aida GJINALI

ABSTRACT

The spread of new technologies in educational activities must be constantly promoted and supported by teachers, to get to a complete and natural integration in various learning situations in teaching practice of foreign languages . In fact for various reasons teachers have different approaches to new technologies: lack of specific training, the conviction of little use of new technologies, technical problems etc. The Faculty of Foreign Languages of Tirana, conducted a survey on the use of technologies in high schools of the capital. A careful analysis shows the processed data of this survey and identified the problems of the low use of technologies in foreign language classes.

Keywords: new technologies, foreign language, teaching, learning, high schools

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The international law and its application in Albania.

Dr. Erjona Ramaj

ABSTRACT

The ratio between the European Union law and the domestic law, has raised a doctrinal and jurisprudential contrast, therefore making the relationships that are formed between two must apply parallel legal systems to be necessarily clarified. If we were to tackle the hierarchy of sources of the rights under the current legal order in the Albanian Republic. Naturally we will highlight the existence of the supremacy of the international normative ratified (Article 116 of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania). International acts that are ranked right after it on the hierarchical sources of the law, are ratified by law but, maintaining its primacy only upon the laws and other regulations (Acts 116 and 122/2 of the Constitution).

The interconnection between the international law and the domestic law of a country reveals the "battle" between the sovereignty of the country and the international law system. The latter aims to organize society in correspondence with the general interests of the international community, simultaneously, the sovereignty of a country can be used to protect this country from the interferences of the international right in the national legal system. Act 122/3 of the Constitution where it is said that "If a conflict were to happen, the norms issued from an international organization have primacy upon the law of a country when in the agreement ratified by the Republic of Albania for its participation in that organization, expressly provided the implementation of the rates issued from it.

Key words: international law, implementation of the international law, The Constitution of Albania, ratification.

A psychological overview at the women that are part of the families in blood feud

Elona Prroj, Phd Candidate

ABSTRACT

This study sets out the results of a quality observation. It aims to present the psychological conditions of women, mothers and wives who try to survive the consequences of the phenomenon of blood feud. For this purpose of the study, there are a selected group of women mainly from the North, where this phenomenon is still strong. The main objective of the study is the analysis of the effect of the psychological situation, the relationships within the family that these women experience as a result of the impact of the phenomenon of blood revenge and the opportunities of escaping this situation. The techniques used are the questionnaire or the survey that was conducted with 70 women who responded directly to the questions put to them by the interviewer. The free interview was used with some of the women who wanted to tell the story of their life. There were 10 of them. The data from this study show that this phenomenon makes the lives of these women more stressed, more anxious and more insecure, and it influences directly the quality of life in that community. Blood revenge causes these women to live with great fear for their children's lives. There are a number of factors that are an influence on the situation they are going through. We have been able, through the statements, discussions and the different opinions, to record a number of these factors.

Keywords: Women, psychological conditions, blood feud, stress, PTSD, education, Northern Albania.

Elona Prroj is the founder and director of "No Blood Feud-Yes to Life" foundation. She finished her master degree in counseling and is a Phd candidate on psychology. She is working with the families that suffer of blood feud in the north of Albania and is doing different researches about this phenomenon trying to find the factors that keep this phenomenon alive in the 21 century and which are the ways to stop it.

The quality of democracy in Kosovo. Analysis based on the concept of fault democracy of political scientist Wolfgang Merkel

Xhavit Drenori, PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT:

NATO air strikes on targets in Serbia and Montenegro in 1999 definitely liberated Kosovo from the Milosevic regime. In June 1999, Kosovo had already established a new political reality. Kosovo was placed under United Nations protectorate, under the UNMIK Mission, while NATO-led international peacekeeping force was responsible for establishing and maintaining a secure environment in Kosovo. Upon the establishment of local and national government institutions, on 17th of February 2008, Kosovo declared its independence, and seven years after, it is still working for international recognition and integration with important international mechanisms, including those political, economic and social. However, even seven years after the Declaration of Independence, and 16 years after the international deployment in Kosovo, the consolidation of democracy is still far in many senses. This study aims to provide a measure of the quality of democracy, based on the concept of fault democracy of political scientist Wolfgang Merkel.

Keywords: fount democracy, rule of law, consolidation of democracy

Errors and mistakes in Translation, how to avoid their risk

PHD Jonida PETRO

ABSTRACT

The present article aims initially to present and identify some common areas of concern when it comes to facing the translation process with regards to mistakes and errors to be committed by translators of English language depending also on the texts to be translated. It in turn elaborates on some extent on the sources for these mistakes and errors and how far can they be managed.

The methodology of this article, consists of a step-by-step guide on how to avoid and manage difficult situations related to the traps associating the translation process giving thus insight on some approaches that can be utilized and considered by the professional translator when carrying out their 'holy mission' of rendering as loyally as possible the source text into the target text. This paper will also highlight the specific knowhow and strengths a translator should embody in order to be a serious professional when considering the serious effects of translation errors and mistakes. The article tackles such aspects as influence of the mother tongue, source culture, the skill aspect, the reality of language, the text.

Keywords: Translation process, errors, mistakes, risks, skills, SL, TL.

Dr. Jonida Petro is lecturer of Translation Practice, EFL, Business English in the Department of English of the Faculty of Foreign Languages at University of Tirana. She completed her master studies in European Studies as well as her Phd studies in Translatology following her involvement as internal staff of the department of English Language since September 2003. In addition to lecturing she has collaborated with many EU and UN projects offering to practice translation and interpretation services an aspect which has improved and upgraded continuously her know how and skills with regards to her job as translation lecturer. She has collaborated with various Ministries in the framework of organizing different events on the reform happening in Vocational Education and Training in Albania.

The Role of the Albanian Political Parties on Montenegro

Venera Lljunji, PhD Candidate

Abstract

It seems that political parties are always criticised by experts in political issues, and by the public opinion for being either responsible for causing divisions in society or for inactivity due to the representation of different and distinct interests.

Such contradictory criticism against parties is not new or unknown. Parties are often criticized for a lack of a coherent political program. Often positions of the parties set on the stage - the alleged positions or outcomes caused by the need to unite the interests of the parties in order to win the elections - may appear to be driven by pragmatism rather than principle.

Parties often highlight divisions in society while they continue to unite different groups within the electorate. They might be driven by the ideology but they might also accept the request, i.e. the necessity to make coalitions with the aim of winning the elections. And their platforms often consist of something for almost everyone with the price of a clear and specific vision.

Despite all the warnings and criticisms, parties should play an important role in any democratic system; they should play a role in the overall coordination and functioning of the political system; they should play a role in the participation of citizens in various levels of the political system, in citizens' engagement in continuous policy dialogue helping them to present and analyze the issues of the day, in creating opportunities to link different levels of government with the political system in a vertical line and with the people in a horizontal line.

These roles are full of tensions between principle and pragmatism, division and unity, vision and benefit sharing - roles that feed the political parties and the political system with a dynamics which shapes the political system itself.

The aim of this paper, therefore, is to explain the role of the Albanian political parties in Montenegro, the way they serve in the representation of national and social interests within the political system, the impact they had in the shaping of the Montenegrin state and in their own shaping taking into consideration specific historical forces within the Montenegrin state.

Key words: political party, platform, political system, national interest

Venera Lljunji was born on 12 December 1968 in Prishtina. She graduated at the Faculty of Philology, Department of English Language and Literature in Prishtina and received her Master's Degree from the University of Calgary, Canada. She completed a specialization on Contemporary Teaching Methods and Methodology in Bournemouth, Great Britain; another specialization on the Development Program on Leadership and Management and the specialization on European Integration at the European Integration School. She is a PhD candidate at the European University of Tirana, Albania. She has been working as a professor at the University of Prishtina since 1991. During the years 2002-2005 she was a Political Adviser to the minister of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo, and was appointed a Political Adviser to the minister of Foreign Affairs in April 2008. In 2005, she became an Honorary Citizen of Calgary, Canada.

Empirical Analysys of the Impact of the Gender of Teenage Students in Emotional Maturity

Nerxhivane Krasniqi PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

This paper presents an empirical research into the impact of the gender on emotional maturity of teenage students. It aims at highlighting the impact of the gender on emotional maturity of teenage students in different regions and schools of the Republic of Kosova.

For this purpose, it has been chosen a group of structured students who belonged to the 12th class as follows: 50 male students and 50 female students from two secondary schools of Kosova (Secondary Technical School "28 November" in the city Prishtina and the Philological Gymnasium "Zenel Hajdini" in the city of Gjilan). The reason for choosing these schools was to compare the emotional maturity in different regions of the country and to analyze a sample from a professional vocational school, in which initially are registered students with a poor success at the primary school, and gymnasiums, in which initially are registered students with a better success at the primary school.

Key words: Gender, emotional maturation, students

Examining The Existence of A Modified Environmental Kuznets Curve For The Middle East And North Africa Economies

Dr.Hanan Sileem

ABSTRACT

Most of the environment-income relationship literature uses the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) approach to study the impact of income growth on environment degradation. However, a more realistic approach should discuss the relationship in terms of development rather than merely income growth. To reflect the development dimension, this research examines the existence of the EKC relationship between CO₂ emissions per capita and Human Development Index in the MENA economies for the period 2004-2013; in what is officially known by the name of Modified EKC (MEKC). Using Least Square Fixed Effects specification, the empirical results indicate the existence of MEKC for the MENA region economies. In addition, empirical results support the significance of controlling corruption on decreasing CO₂ emissions. A Granger causality test on the direction of the relationship between corruption and CO₂ emissions per capita is examined. The results of the Granger causality test confirm the presence of a unidirectional relationship between CO₂ emissions per capita and corruption. Arguing on the basis of MKEC, the empirical results show that reducing corruption can be an important factor in improving the environmental quality as well as effectively mitigate climate change in the MENA region.

Keywords: Granger causality test, corruption, climate change, MEKC, mitigation.

Dr. Hanan Sileem has received her PhD in environmental economics, Cairo University in 2012 and Master of Arts from the American University in Cairo in 2006. Currently, she is working as a lecturer of economics at Sadat Academy for management sciences. Her fields of Interest are sustainable development and environmental economics. She is a referee in several international journals such Journal of Emerging Issues in Economics, Finance and Banking , Reviewer for Journal of Applied Economics (JAE) . She is currently a Member of Editorial Review Board for Journal of International Review of Research in Emerging Markets and the Global Economy. She has received The International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines Research Award for "The Clean Development Mechanism and Sustainable Development In Developing Economies: A Heterogeneous Dynamic Panel Data Approach", Istanbul, Turkey, July 1-4, 2013

Sustaining “Lilliputs” in the Global Knowledge-Based Economy: Prospects for Small, Micro, and Medium Enterprises in the Developing World

Prof. Ma. Divina Gracia Z. Roldan

ABSTRACT

Micro, small, and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) comprise bulk of business entities in the developing world. Their contribution is seen in terms of employment generation and capital formation. Seen as the engine of growth in present knowledge-based economies, MSMEs play a crucial role in the economic sustainability of Asian developing countries. This paper discusses the role of MSMEs in Asia, with the Philippines as a case in point. It examines issues and challenges these enterprises face, as well as, their role and impact in developing the Philippine economy and human capital. It explores mechanisms of European linking and assistance to the Philippine MSME sector. The paper posits that a supportive policy environment is necessary for these enterprises to achieve their potential for sustainable growth in a global knowledge-based economy.

Keywords: Sustainability, micro, small & medium-scale enterprises, knowledge-based economy, European linking mechanisms

Ma. Divina Gracia Z. Roldan is an associate professor at the Political Science department, College of Liberal Arts, De La Salle University. She obtained her Ph.D. in Philippine Studies (specializing in bureaucracy and external relations) at the University of the Philippines Asian Center. She handles graduate and undergraduate courses in the political science and development studies programs at the De La Salle University, College of Liberal Arts, Manila, Philippines. Her areas of expertise include Asian and international studies, organizational analysis, public-private sector partnerships, and governance and information and communications technology (ICT) for social inclusion.

She has led the Research Program Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management at the De La Salle University and has presented in international conferences and published in Philippine and international books and journals.

She has worked in public and private think-tanks on policy issues and served as Senior Research Scientist in Telenor Research and Innovation Center Asia Pacific, a Norwegian telecommunications research center, developing customer insight studies for Asian growth markets. She has managed research projects with internationally-trained professional teams from Europe and Asia.

She is a recipient of many awards for her research and publications among which are the Republica award given by the Philippine Commission on Higher Education and the University of the Philippines President’s Academic Distinction Award. She is a member of the Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Science and the International Board of Directors of Project Michaelangelo USA -- a non-profit organization for empowerment of children and young adults in Asia and worldwide.

Is Scalability Necessary for Economic Sustainability?

Professor Dennis F.X. Mathaisel

ABSTRACT

The objective of this paper is to investigate the impact of scalability on the sustainability of any entity (ecological, environmental, human, or enterprise) anywhere. Scalability refers to the ability of the enterprise to grow without losing customers, diminishing quality, or changing the core value proposition of the organization. The question to be addressed is whether or not growth is necessary. The author has developed a framework for a sustainable entity that addresses five abilities for an entity to be sustainable: availability, dependability, capability, affordability and marketability. Scalability, as an addition to these five abilities, represents a unique challenge for some institutions, especially small ones. Scalability attempts to describe the sensitivity of the entity to changes in the scope of operations, specifically in the context of SMEs (Small and Medium sized Enterprises) because their challenges are unique. Larger organizations have the luxury of established practices, cultures, and recognition. Small businesses and new ventures face an environment where their brands and cultures may still be evolving, and the quality of their products and services could change with increases in scale. Consequently, this paper explores the theory that entities may not be scalable because, through growth, they might intrinsically change their core businesses and suffer losses.

Keywords: economic sustainability, scalability, SME sustainability, sustainability abilities, small business growth.

Dr. Dennis F.X. Mathaisel is Professor of Management Science at Babson College, Wellesley, Massachusetts. He received his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was a Research Engineer in the Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics at MIT. Dr. Mathaisel was also the founder and President of a computer software firm that developed systems for scheduling and resource allocation. His teaching interests are in the fields of business analytics, enterprise sustainability, management science, and quantitative methods. His research is focused on the sustainability of an enterprise. He is the author of 38 refereed journal articles as well as three books on sustainability: *Sustaining the Military Enterprise: An Architecture for a Lean Transformation*, Auerbach Publications Taylor & Francis Group; *Sustaining the Military Enterprise: Enhancing its Ability to Perform the Mission*, with J. Manary and C. Comm, CRC Press; and *Engineering for Sustainability*, with J. Manary and Ned H. Criscimagna, CRC Press.

Non-Linear Dynamics of Macroeconomic Variables: the case of Greece.

PhD (C) Sophia Kassapi

ABSTRACT

This paper is part of an ongoing doctoral dissertation. It examines the long run relationship between government spending on education, GDP growth and educational enrollments in all levels, for Greece in the years 1960-2012, leveling up to capture more complex dependent dynamics in time series. OECD Indicator A11 shows that, life satisfaction, civic engagement and health. are at the same level for adults with tertiary education and adults with upper secondary education for Greece. Having conducted Linear Granger tests, this study goes beyond, following the methodology of both non-parametric testing for asymptotic Granger causality in C, and non-parametric bootstrapped bidirectional Granger causality, an MS Dos application in C. We apply a new nonparametric test for Granger non-causality by Diks and Panchenko (2005, 2006) as well as the conventional linear Granger test on the time series. The secondary data used in this present study, have been processed through MATLAB interpolation function. There is a strong symmetric nonlinear causal relationship detected between government spending on education and enrollments in higher education, and vice versa, .An even stronger, both symmetric and asymmetric nonlinear relationship between higher education enrollments and Gdp growth is validated confirming a spectacular case of "adverse causality". Government spending in education is causally related with Gdp growth in a symmetric as much as an asymmetric nonlinear relationship. Also, lagged values of secondary enrollments are a major predictor of Gdp growth.

Keywords: Economic growth, Greek economy, Granger Causality, Non-linearity.

Sophia Kassapi is a PhD Candidate at, Patras University, Department of Business Administration, Business Administration Faculty, Greece .

Her previous works at Stockholm University, Sweden were mainly on Educational Reforms, Privatization, Research on International and Comparative Education, SES and Community Attitudes towards Schooling, e.t.c. both quantitative and qualitative

Her research interests lie in the field of Macroeconomics, Financial Development and Economic Growth, Time-series analysis, Financial Econometrics, Economics of Sustainable Development, Economics of Education.

Measuring tools for quantifying sustainable development

Mrs Annette Evans
Prof Vladimir Strezov
Prof Tim Evans

ABSTRACT

This work reviews the tools and methods used for quantifying sustainable development. The paper first reviews categorization of the tools based on weak and strong sustainability. It then provides critical review of the UN review of sustainability indicators and the methods for calculating the indicators, which include the environmental footprint, capital approach to measuring sustainable development, green national net product, genuine savings, genuine progress indicator, indicator of sustainable economic welfare and human development indicator on sustainable development. The benefits of standardizing the assessment tools for sustainable development would be seen through well directed policy leading to a balance between economy, environment and society where none is compromised to achieve greater results in the other. However, there is still no single method of assessing the sustainability of development that is widely accepted as suitable and all methods developed have inadequacies that prevent a true measure of sustainable development from being determined.

Keywords: Sustainability indicators, environmental footprint, genuine savings, sustainable economic welfare, human development indicator.

Annette Evans holds a Bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering and a Master degree with the Graduate School of the Environment, Macquarie University. She is now a researcher at the Department of Environmental Sciences, Macquarie University working in the field of assessment of sustainable development through environmental set of indicators.

Prof Vladimir Strezov is a Professor with the Department of Environmental Sciences, Macquarie University. Prof Strezov holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering with the University of Newcastle, Australia. He is currently working in the area of environment and sustainability, renewable energy and industrial ecology.

Prof Tim Evans is Adjunct Professor at the Department of Environmental Sciences, Macquarie University and Principal Engineer at Rio Tinto. He has a long association with Australian primary industries, such as BHP Billiton, HIs melt and Rio Tinto. He holds PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Newcastle. Dr Evans' expertise is in industrial ecology, energy transformation and mineral processing, specifically high temperature industrial processing.

The Effect Of Corruption On Carbon Dioxide Emissions In The Mena Region

Dr.Hoda Hassaballa

ABSTRACT

Corruption has always been accused of having adverse effects on growth. This is because it decreases productivity, leads to accumulation of additional costs and discourages investment. Recently, high concerns are raised about the impact of corruption on the environment. Corruption plays a substantial role in increasing pollution emissions level. In spite of this, empirical investigation of such an issue is still incomplete. For that, this research work represents a step forward in understanding the relationship between corruption and the environment in general and in filling the gap present in the literature in analyzing this relationship in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in particular. Accordingly, this paper studies the corruption-environment relationship empirically through examining the effect of corruption on per-capita carbon dioxide emissions. A Fixed Effect Panel Data model is used to investigate the effects of corruption, per-capita income, trade openness and manufacturing on per-capita carbon dioxide emissions level in the MENA region over the period 1996-2013. The results indicate that corruption, per-capita income, trade openness and manufacturing value added are significant determinants of Carbon Dioxide Emissions. Policy implications to improve sustainability and governance are given. These include strong enforcement of law, spreading public awareness and increasing transparency.

Keywords: Corruption, environment, MENA region, carbon dioxide emissions and panel data model.

Dr. Hoda Hassaballa has received her PhD in environmental economics, Cairo University in 2011 and Master of Arts from the American University in Cairo in 2005. Currently, she is working as a lecturer of economics at The British University in Egypt. Her fields of Interest are economic development and environmental economics. She is a referee in several reputable journals such as Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews. (Published by Elsevier) and Environmental and Resource Economics. (Published by Springer).Renewable Energy Global Innovations Institution in Canada, has identified her paper: Testing for Granger causality between energy use and foreign direct investment Inflows in developing countries as a Key Scientific Article contributing to the excellence in Energy research in 2014. It is featured in its web page at (<http://reginnovations.org/>). She has received The International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines Research Award for "The Effect of Lax Environmental Laws on Foreign Direct Investment Inflows in Developing Countries", Istanbul, Turkey, July 1-4, 2013.

The dilemma of collaboration versus competition in launching innovative sustainability technologies

M.A. Julia Planko, Dr. Maryse M. H. Chappin,
Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Cramer, Prof. Dr. Marko P. Hekkert

ABSTRACT

Firms who want to launch an innovative sustainability technology face the dilemma of collaboration with their rivals - to build up a technological innovation system - versus competition - to fight for market share against their direct competitors. The transition literature, which is concerned with the transition towards fossil-free energy systems, does not address this question yet. We use the cooptation literature to fill this gap. The cooptation literature is a strategic management field occupied with the phenomenon of firms who compete and collaborate with each other simultaneously. We investigate if and how the cooptation concepts can be applied for system-building firms who try to commercialize a sustainability technology. We apply the cooptation concept to Collective System Building. Collective System Building happens when firms collaborate to build up a technological innovation system in order to launch a new technology. We underpin our findings with empirical evidence from the Dutch smart grids sector.

Keywords: collaboration, business strategy, eco-innovations, competition, innovative sustainability technologies, technological innovation systems, smart grids.

M.A. Julia Planko is a PhD candidate at Utrecht University. She is part of the Innovation Studies research group at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development. Her research focuses on eco-innovations, specifically the strategic collaboration of firms who develop and implement sustainability innovations in society. She holds a degree in International Economics and in Business Management and teaches Marketing and Economics at the HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht.

Dr. Maryse M. H. Chappin is assistant professor in Innovation Studies at Utrecht University. She is part of the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development. Her research focuses on eco-innovation and the success of inter-organizational collaborations herein, as well as the role of the institutional environment in the innovation process.

Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Cramer is professor of 'Sustainable Innovation' at Utrecht University and is the director of the Utrecht Sustainability Institute. Prior to this function she was the Dutch Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment. Earlier she was part-time professor and director of her own consultancy firm on sustainable entrepreneurship.

Prof. Dr. Marko P. Hekkert is a full professor of 'Innovation System Dynamics' at Utrecht University, at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development. Much of his research time being devoted to studying the process of sustainable technological change and eco-innovation.

Strategic planning for sustainability in a human resources consulting firm.

Burcu Gurel
Irem Ucal Sari, PhD

ABSTRACT

With the increasing globalization, companies try to be more specialized on the market to become prominent among their competitors. This fact leads managers to recruit qualified and experienced personnel, which is an expensive and effortful process. Recruitment process has critical importance to find out the most adequate personnel. The most significant difficulty in that process is to find the right person in a short time period with a relatively small budget which requires a rich portfolio. Due to the difficulties in creating a rich portfolio and eliminating the candidates, companies prefer outsourcing human resources processes. Therefore human resources consulting firms have become more widespread to meet the needs of the companies on the experienced and qualified human resources. The purpose of this paper is to find out the primal growth strategies for a start-up human consulting firm to make sure the sustainability of the company. The paper utilizes extended SWOT analysis to determine primary strategies and balanced score card (BSC) approach to determine the best growth strategy with a real case study.

Keywords: Strategic management, Sustainable strategic planning, Start-ups, Balanced Scorecard, SWOT analysis

Burcu Gurel is a bachelor student in industrial engineering department of Istanbul Technical University.
Irem Ucal Sari, PhD. is an instructor in Industrial Engineering Department of Istanbul Technical University. She is expertized on engineering economics and decision support systems.

Transaction Costs in Constructing Small and Medium Hydro Power Plants in Albania

PhD Candidate FLORIAN MITI
MSc Grigor Dede

ABSTRACT

Identifying the transaction costs helps knowing which are the real costs of starting a new business, finding bottlenecks, can serve to reduce inefficiencies and encourage more effective reforms. In this article we analyze the impact of transaction costs in interactions between firms and public authority, when firms participate in the bidding procedure for constructing new hydropower plants until the stage of producing electricity. In the first years, after granting the concession right, firms face many difficulties due to a complex normative regulation, contractual conditions and bureaucracy. Although in the majority of the cases, winning firms are provided by the public authority with the concessionary permit within the legal deadlines, they fail to start producing electricity within the declared timetable. Even though direct transaction costs computed by measuring the actual costs that firms or individuals face during these procedures may be relatively low, fairly 1-2 % of the total cost of investment, opportunity costs considering the potential loss in the revenues due to delays in producing and selling electricity, in some cases, can be equal to the total cost of constructing the implant.

Keywords: transaction costs, concessions, hydro power constructing, regulation.

Florian Miti, PhD Candidate, is a lecturer the University "Ismail Qemali" of Vlora and is currently teaching economics. He is following the doctoral studies at the European University of Tirana in Albania in Economics and Sustainable Development.

MSc Grigor Dede lecturer at University "Ismail Qemali" of Vlora, is currently teaching finance.

Pension System in Albania

Dr. Albana Demi

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the pension system in Albania, the strengths and the weaknesses points provided by the last changes of the law. Research is used to collect data from the institute of social insurance in Albania, expectations for and assumption about the social insurance in Albania. The results of the research provide an overview of what types of reform should receive priority for the future elderly in Albania. Despite the youthfulness, Albania still faces pension problems arising from a number of historical events. In the communism time, all individuals of the working age, male and female, were required to work if able and most of elderly have the rights in the pension systems and received from the public pensions. Transition to the market economy has resulted in closing down state-owned enterprises, which workers have been compensated of early pensions. The program of the social insurance in Albania is partly inherited from the past. As a result of this, in Albania there is left a large number of beneficiaries in their pension systems and few contributors to finance those beneficiaries. By paying social security contributions and health insurance all citizens are sure to benefit during the third age.

Keywords: Social insurance, unemployment, employment, self-employed, pension system, contribution, health insurance.

Albana Demi, PhD is currently a part time lecturer at Epoka University. She joined the academic system after a long and successful experience in the fiscal policy design and implementation. Mrs. Demi was graduated at the Agricultural University of Tirana, in 1995, with a BA in Agriculture Economics and later she pursued her Master studies in the field of management. In 2011, she was awarded the PhD degree, from Agriculture University of Tirana, with a specialization on the private pension schemes. She has been teaching financial accounting and she has a long working experience as a certified accountant and financial manager, in private sector. She has been involved as an advisor for the Millennium Challenge Albania Threshold Agreement, USAID Tax component and IPA Project, Training Institute of Public Administration. She has published numerous papers and articles on fiscal policies and tax system design. Her main research interests are those on designing tax system and fiscal policies, standards of accounting and accounting reports in PPPs and management.

Sustainable environment, economic growth and poverty eradication measures: the african context: why there is no meeting points?

Dr Samuel C Dike LLM, PhD

ABSTRACT

Poverty and hunger are the gravest challenges facing the African continent in the 21st century. About One third of African population live below the United Nations poverty line of 1.5dollars per day. Most African governments are struggling with poverty, epidemics, hunger, famine, insurgency, domestic conflicts and poor governance of both human and abundant natural resources found in Africa. However, some African states are well endowed with human and natural resources but are equally enmeshed in wars, ethnic conflicts and resource curse. Majority of African population would prefer poverty eradication measure, at any cost, over environmental sustainability measures. This is because, hunger and epidemics face most Africa states with agonizing contempt .However, there is a genuine desire by most responsible African leaders and governments to eradicate poverty and to catch up with the developed west, with minimal cost to the environment. This desire, sometimes, brings these African States into collision course with not only their natural environment but also against some basic fundamental objectives of modern global institutional frameworks for sustainable economic development.

Drawing from a socio- cultural perspective, and considering the level of poverty among some selected African states, this paper seeks to develop a mechanism for balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability in Africa. The methodology includes a discourse on some selected African states against the background of their existing polices and legal frameworks on economic sustainability. The significance of this paper is that an understanding of the impacts of the social- cultural backgrounds of the economic and environmental sustainability practices in these selected African states, may throw more light on why there seems to be no meeting point in Africa, between environmental sustainability practices and poverty eradication measures in Africa. The paper will recommend ways on how this balance could be achieved.

Key Words: Environmental Sustainability, Economic Growth, Poverty Eradication and Africa.

Capital Adequacy, Bank Behavior And Crisis: Evidence From Emergent Economies.

Dr. Khaled Alkadamani
Professor Lucia Gibilaro

ABSTRACT

Using the simultaneous equations model, this paper examines the impact of capital requirements on bank risk-taking during the recent financial crisis. It also explores the relationship between capital and risk decisions and the impact of economic instability on this relationship. By analyzing the data of 46 commercial banks between 2004 and 2014 from four Middle East countries, the study concludes a positive effect of regulatory pressure on bank capital and bank risk taking. The findings reveal also that banks close to the minimum regulatory capital requirements improve their capital adequacy by increasing their capital and decreasing their risk taking. Furthermore, the results show that economic crisis positively affects bank risk changes, suggesting that banks react to the impact of uncertainty by increasing their risk taking. Finally, the estimations show a positive correlation between banks profitability and increase in capital, indicating that profitable banks can more easily improve their capitalization through retained earnings rather than issuing new securities.

Keywords: bank regulation, risk taking, bank capital, crisis.

Contemporary challenges for small open economies

Ketevan Kordzadze

ABSTRACT

The paper deals with the challenges that national economies all over the world are facing with and discusses how they affect main macroeconomic indicators of national economies, how their harmful impacts can be mitigated and what the opportunities for national economies in such circumstances are. Particular attention is given to the analysis of these impacts on the economies of small developing countries like Georgia with open markets which are more vulnerable to the economic and political shocks and fluctuations. Alterations of macroeconomic indicators such as GDP, foreign direct investments, unemployment rate, inflation and international trade are analyzed.

Respective data and trend analysis are given in the paper for understanding the impact that international economic and political events and processes have on the main economic indicators in the small open economy.

By signing an association agreement with the European Union Georgia becomes more integrated into the international economy that implies as opportunities as well as threats. Both of them are analyzed in the paper, possible outcomes are compared and certain recommendations are elaborated regarding the ways the country can use to obtain maximum benefits from the process of integration into the international economy.

Keywords: Open economy, indicators, GDP, FDI, Unemployment, Inflation

Ms. Ketevan Kordzadze is fourth year student at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University Faculty of Economics and Business. She is very active and energetic student, with well-developed analytical skills. She is a member of student self-government at her university, member of the board of student research and project center "IDEA" and actively participates in various projects and student activities. Her English language skills are advanced that allows her to express ideas and thoughts clearly.

She participates in the project "Leader" where future leaders are trained and for this project she was selected among 30 best students at the university.

Except her major profession she also devotes her time to the literature and poesy. She has a talent in painting, dances Georgian traditional folk and European dances.

European integration and business environment in Georgia

Nestan Abramishvili

ABSTRACT

Paper analyzes the impact of country's European integration on its business environment.

Business environment in the country significantly affects its economic development. In the last decade Georgia has undergone considerable economic and political changes that determined the shape of its business environment.

Georgia's stated political course is European integration that in turn requires harmonization of business climate with the requirements of EU.

Georgia's one important goal on a way of European integration was to establish deep and comprehensive free trade area (DCFTA) with EU. For this purpose country made many reforms in the area of business regulations and tried to reshape them according to the EU requirements. These reforms contributed to the quick improvement of country's positions in international rankings of business environment.

In the paper both opportunities and threats of establishing DCFTA are analyzed for Georgia.

Paper also deals with the impacts of the reforms that was made prior to signing DCFTA and analyses possible results for Georgia's business environment when the agreement will come to force. The readiness of Georgia's business sector for European market is also addressed in the paper.

Keywords: Georgia, EU, DCFTA, Business environment, GSP

Nestan Abramishvili is a fourth year student at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University Faculty of Economics and Business. Her academic background is excellent, especially in the area of research. Nestan is actively involved in student life at her university and often initiates student projects and activities. Nestan is a participant of various conferences, workshops and seminars. She is a certified trainer and had given some seminars in Time Management. This skill helps her to show herself up and join the groups easily. She learns new skills easily, performs well in stressful environment and adapts fast to new and different situations. She likes particularly to interact with people from different countries, because this is an opportunity for her to get acquainted to different cultures that she finds extremely interesting.

The Implications of Local Government Decentralization Reform in Albania. The Case of Regional Councils.

PhD ALKETA BEJKO

ABSTRACT

Decentralization is seen as a batch state reform consists on delegation of responsibility and authority from central to local level, which increases the efficiency of power, increasing the level of democracy, better distribution of responsibilities and decision-making behavior closer to citizens.

The Regional Councils in Albania, had shown a poor performance in the regional impact of social-economic development as a key actor institutional development policies at regional level. The main cause of this poor performance is the unsuccessful reform of the decentralization in the configuration of a clear function pattern of the District, the lack of financial resources and assets and consequently low capacity to be an actor with an impact on regional development.

The main goal of this paper is to record the implications of decentralization reform of local government in the well-functioning of the Regional Councils in Albania. The paper will be presented along with the most important aspects of implementation of this reform in the second level of local government and the problems faced by the Regional Councils in realizing their functions and problems that this reform has provided no solution. At the end, the paper will be presented some recommendations for improving the actual situation.

Keywords: local government, decentralization reform, regional councils

PhD ALKETA BEJKO graduated at Tirana University, Faculty of Economy in 1998. On 2004-2006 she attended "Master of Science" on "Business Management", at Tirana University. On February 2015 she graduated as PhD on Economic Science at Agriculture University of Tirana. During 1998-2003 she have worked in public administration in center and local government. From 2003 she is a lecturer at the Economic Department "Eqrem Cabej" University, Gjirokaster. She has good knowledge in English and Greek language. She has participated in 15 international conferences with both paper and posters presentations which have been published in Conference Proceedings. She has also participated in activities, seminars, work-shops, courses, trainings, etc. mostly organized in Albania, and also from the University of Ioannina, Albanian Centre of Risk, and Association of Accountants in Albania etc.

Regional Trade And Its Role In Albanian Economy

Alqi Naqellari
Arjan Gjini
Altin Hoti

Abstract

Albania is a small open economy. In open economies expenses country each year may not always be equal to the production of goods and services. They may be higher or lower. The country can spend more than it produces. This comes from receiving loans from abroad. The country can spend less than domestic product. Difference borrows abroad. In this way the net exports have an important role in economic growth. This is because they are part of GDP. How much higher are the exports and lower imports as the higher will be net exports and consequently the more it will increase GDP. In this regard has an important role in the trade balance. In this paper we explore the link between trade and GDP, the role of the region in assumed this trade and their perspective. The intention is clearly expressed this role and be seen growth opportunities and cooperation with countries in the region. This is considered as a backup and opportunities in growth of GDP. In the material used method of analysis and synthesis, the description and statistical methods.

Keywords: small open economy, trade balance, import-export, GDP, economic growth, etc.

Alqi Naqellari is Lecturerv at the Mediterranean University of Albania. Dean of the Faculty of Economic Sciences .

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Albanian Financial System And Its Prospects

Alqi NAQELLARI

Arjan GJINI

ABSTRACT

Modern Albanian financial system has a short history and very dynamic. It has its origins in 1997 with the adoption of the Law no. 8269, dated 27.12.1997 " Bank of Albania", which defined the objectives, tasks, relations with the banking system and the state, organization and management, ownership of capital, financial statements and profit allocation. Continued with the privatization of Commercial Banks. This privatization was completed in 2003. After this year, all commercial banks private equity. Insurance Market to 1998 was state monopoly, today we have a monopolistic competition market with 11 companies. There are few established company pension after 2006. Work 135 Savings and Credit Associations (SCAs). Stock Market Institution not exist. This institution has existed formally until 2014 when the Albanian Parliament closed as no function. The aim of this article is to analyze the dynamics of the financial system, to determine the weaknesses of the system and to give his thoughts on perspective. In this analysis were used methods of comparison and synthesis, statistical and econometric methods, etc.

Keywords. financial system, bank, inflation, stock market, insurance market, oligopoly, monopoly, monopolistic competition.

Alqi Naqellari is Lecturer at the Mediterranean University of Albania. Dean of the Faculty of Economic Sciences .

Arjan Gjini is Lecturer in the Mediterranean University of Albania.

Factors Affecting Business Performance: A Case of Albanian Firms

PhD Anila Çekrezi

ABSTRACT

Previous financial literature has not yet come to a conclusion as to what factors affect firm performance. This study examines the determinants of firm performance of Albanian non-listed companies over the period 2008-2011. We used two performance proxies such as Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) to examine what factors determine firm performance. The regression model is based on six key factors that have been considered to be further examined in order to verify their influence on the performance of the companies. These factors are: leverage, tangibility, liquidity, size, risk and asset turnover. The investigation uses cross-sectional time series data which are calculated from balance sheets and include only accounting measures on the firm's performance. The results revealed a significant relation of ROA to leverage, risk and asset turnover also a significant relation of ROE to leverage, size and asset turnover.

Keywords: Accounting measures, Firm Performance, Leverage.

Dr. Anila Çekrezi, has finished her PhD studies in 2014 at the University "Aleksandër Moisiu", Durrës, Albania. Since 2005 she is a lecturer in Economic Faculty, University "Aleksandër Xhuvani", Elbasan, Albania. Her major areas of interest are Corporate Finance, Money and Banking and Capital Markets.

The Benefits of a Modern Public Internal Financial Control System in Albania

PhD candidate ARIANA KONOMI

ABSTRACT

The implementation and enforcement of financial management and control, which include the entirety of measures for the management and control of all income, expenses, assets and liabilities of the Government and the extension of this system in the public sector, will ensure that public funds are used properly and meet the particular targets. But there can not be a sound Financial Management system without the Internal Control. A sound system of internal control reduces the chances of a poor judgment in decision-making, or human error, or even an intentionally avoidance of self-control processes. It provides reasonable assurance that a public entity will achieve its objectives, or will behave lawfully and regularly, without being hindered in this direction by circumstances, which could have been reasonably foreseen. Internal controls are well functioning if the institution executives believe that the controls are important and if they transmit their standpoint on these controls to employees at all levels of the institution. Thinking otherwise would undermine the limited internal control structures allowing in this way the theft, misappropriation, lack of operational efficiency.

Keywords: Financial management, internal control, public sector, reasonable guarantee, decision-making.

PhD candidate ARIANA KONOMI graduated at Tirana University, Faculty of Economy in 1983. On 2008-2010 she attended "Master on Accounting" studies, at Tirana University. In 2010 from the Certification Authority in the Ministry of Finance in Albania, she received the title "Approved Accountant". Since from 2011 academic year I started doctoral school on accounting at the Faculty of Economy, Tirana University on "Financial Management and Control in Public Sector – Albanian Case". From 2011 I am a lecturer at the economic department "Eqrem Cabej" University, Gjirokaster. She has previous experience working as an economist and finance office chief at the so called Metallic Factory in Gjirokaster during 1983-2011. From 1992 to 2011 she has worked as a specialist and director of finance in local government unit. She has good knowledge in English (TOEIC certificate) and Greek language. She has participated in 11 international conferences with both paper and posters presentations which have been published in Conference Proceedings. She has also participated in activities, seminars, work-shops, courses, trainings, etc. mostly organized in Albania, and also from the University of Ioannina, Albanian Centre of Risk, and Association of Accountants in Albania etc.

Development and Migration in Romania

Phd student COCOȘ(BASARAB) ELENA

ABSTRACT

Labour migration from Romania increased sharply over the past two decades. Recent studies have demonstrated the significant impact of migration on the labor movement has on economic and social situation in the host country, and the country of origin. Even if given the great importance of the relationship between migration and development, national migration policies often failed to obtain maximum expectations, because they have not adequately integrated migration policies in their overall development strategies. This study examines the role of migrants as a special landing of the market and as a resource for development. Different sources show that they send large amounts of money, have a great tendency for savings, show a strong intention to return home and show a clear ambition to invest in Romania. The basic assumption is that the transfer of the accumulated capital could provide a significant potential opportunity for Romania development. This study is based on exploring the links between migration and development, which are often underestimated, misunderstood or ignored. In order to achieve this task, research has directly addressed the following issues: local conditions (including environment and business opportunities), gains from migration and migrants' opportunities to exploit the intentions of returning to their country of origin.

Keywords: development, migration, Romania

PhD student Basarab (Cocoș) Elena, University of Craiova, Romania. Domain: Sociology She worked as a teacher and school counselor in school education as doctoral student, as a Fellow of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest.

Economic Relations Between Italy and the Balkan Region

Jonida Avdulaj PhD candidate

Klodian Muco PhD Candidate

Arjola Mitaj PhD candidate

ABSTRACT

Albania is increasingly facing the challenges of sustainable development. As a country that is undergoing a transition longstanding needs to know its potentials to achieve sustainable development. The agricultural sector unlike many other sectors has always been growing its role by being transformed into the primary sector of the economy with a current impact on about 1/5 of GDP and contributes to about 44% of employees (INSTAT, 2015).

Taking into consideration the role of the agricultural sector in employment, its contribution to GDP and taking in consideration the country's economic policy that considers this sector as the primary sector of the Albanian economy, this paper will consist precisely in analyzing the performance of this sector to sustainable development and its potential as an essential element for the country's progress.

Through this analysis will be identified the problems of the sector in the past and will suggest possible interventions that can be made in this sector to have a sustainable economic development. Also by analyzing the structure of import agricultural products exports to Albania to identify primary products for which the domestic market needs to be oriented primarily to supplement agricultural production and domestic consumption later in the standard growth in agriculture focusing on the export of them.

Keywords: agriculture, economy development, analyze, sustainability

Jonida Avdulaj PhD candidate was graduated at the University of Gjirokastra, Faculty of Education and Social Sciences, public administration profile in 2007. At the end of 2007 she started to work at the Regional Council of Gjirokastra, position: internal audit. During 2007- 2010 she have studied law as a second faculty. From 2010 to 2012 she has worked as financial specialist at the Regional Council of Gjirokastra. Since from 2012 she is a full time lecturer on marketing and management at the University of Gjirokastra, Economic Department. Since from 2012 she attend her doctoral studies at the Faculty of Economics and Agrobusiness, Agricultural University of Tirana with the dissertation related to: "The comparative advantages of cheese of Gjirokastra Region." she has participated as first and co-author of about 5 national and international.

Klodian Muco, PhD candidate was graduated at Tirana University, Faculty of Economy in 1990. In 2011 he did a "Master of Economic Sciences", at International University of Struga, Macedonia. Since 2011 academic year he started his doctoral studies on management at the Faculty of Economy, Tirana University. He became part of the economic Department in University of Gjirokastra as a full time lecturer in 2007. He has worked, after graduation, in various positions as an economist and also in leading positions in public administration. He has participated with scientific articles that have as main topic the problems of the economy and especially of tourism, in different National & International Scientific Conferences. He has also participated in projects, activities, seminars, work-shops, courses, trainings, etc. mostly organized in Albania, and also from the Universities of Ioannina, Thesaloniki, Kavala etc in Greece, University of Padova Italy, Bulgaria, and Macedonia. He has good knowledge in English and Greek language.

Arjola Mitaj PhD candidate was graduated in law at Elbasan University in Albania, Faculty of Human Sciences, in 2000. Since 2003 she is a full time lecturer at the Economic department, "Eqrem Cabej" University of Gjirokastra.

Managing cooperation of Kosovo small and medium enterprises with other countries in function economic Growth

Labeat Mustafa PhD candidate

ABSTRACT

The concept of strategic cooperation program of the European community enterprise, research the possibility for cooperation of economic entities.

Activity of community in the field of small business cooperation focuses on three areas:

- Legislative and regulatory measures, which influence directly the mutual cooperation of companies;
- The active program to encourage transnational networks and associative structures;
- Research and development programs to be applicable for small and medium enterprises, for which is need and necessary condition of mutual cooperation;

For all the third world countries and those in transition the main problem is participation in scientific and technological progress and the transfer of experiences of developed countries that means the transition to a new culture of development which requires serious and continuing commitment.

Kosovo has its advantages especially in the Albanian Diaspora, which works and acts for decades in developed countries, so it has capital and experience, which can easily be transferred to the country.

Small countries need to increase export, for them is suitable the development model known as open economy. Small countries can not be based on corporate priorities, especially when large countries and contemporary economy are transformed according to the principles of competitive advantage.

Managing of small and medium enterprises in terms of globalization is a complex discipline because small and medium manufacturers are faced with global competition.

Small and medium enterprises create strategic links to realize their business goals in common markets, using the intellectual human resource knowledge which are applicable to productivity and service activities, which affect the placement of new products and services based on innovative processes.

For the development of small enterprises is preferable regional connectivity respectively clusters, especially where it is present concentration of entrepreneurs that have the same activity within a region. Clusters are new model that guarantees success for small enterprise development and competitiveness in the market.

Kosovo has a great opportunity to be part of the integration into regional markets, Its geographical location is an advantage and creates opportunities for cooperation and economic development.

Keywords: Managing, strategic cooperation, open economy, clusters, competitiveness in the market, globalization.

Phd(c) Labeat Mustafa was born in Prishtina, Kosova. Lecturer at Public University Haxhi Zeka, Faculty of Business, Peja. Project Manager – International Conference Business and Employment, Kosova Finance Institute

Islamic vs. conventional funds: a comparative analysis over the financial crisis - Evidence from the Middle East.

Dr. Mohamed Fathy Mohamed Elmesseary

ABSTRACT

In 1774, in the Netherlands, and immediately after the Financial Crisis (FC) of 1772 - 1773, the potential benefits of investment diversification was realized and then the Mutual Funds (MF) industry was emerged. 236 years later; after the last FC of 2007 - 2008, Islamic finance has been documented to be a more stable alternative for the conventional one especially for the turmoil periods in particular. Egypt was the first country to launch that finance, but the Gulf domain is the region where most of Islamic funds' assets are concentrated. Still, amongst the three tools fund managers employ in generating the investment returns, security selection and market timing are the determinants of the managerial skills. By analyzing a sample of 125 MF selected from Egypt and 5 Gulf countries, for investigating the role of both MF and Islamic finance in eliminating the FC fluctuates, the result show that there is no any advantage behind the two inspected issues, but, and except for Kuwait alone, managers can invest ethically without sacrificing the expected returns. It also suggests that there is a new type of ethically rewarded returns, which is relevant enough to attract the conventional managers plug the gap of the well-informed-Islamic scholars.

Keywords: Financial Sustainability, Microfinance, Emerging Countries, Capital markets, Islamic finance, mutual funds, performance evaluation, market timing skill, stock picking skill, and Financial crisis.

Dr. Mohamed Fathy Mohamed Elmesseary. Actually he works in two Universities, as a lecturer in corporate finance, investment management, and feasibility studies for a long time. Despite that period provided his with a great exposure to different areas in finance, which helped me find my real interests, but I felt that I'm still lacking knowledge about the real finance world, so I decided to join the MSF program to build a better career, but he soon realized that his interests and aspirations are indeed in both of the academic and practical area. His first step toward that is to finish his last stage of the PhD. His special interest lies within corporate finance, and one of the topics he is quite interested in is the portfolio management. He can also keep learning by doing novel researches, teaching updated courses, and enjoying a flexible life. His head will always be excited by intellectual communication with peers.

Factors that impact on reducing tax evasion and avoidance of customs duties

Mentor GAshe PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

The theoretical research that we have done in order to find the most powerful factors influencing the reduction of tax evasion, respectively reduce the deviation from customs duties, in this case the theoretical research and the results of scientific research we examined, has result several factors affecting the reduction of tax evasion and avoidance reduce customs duties, as follows: tax rates in this case being that the application of higher rate tax increases and reciprocally, the level of fines or penalty in this regard, as higher penalties are directly affects the reduction of tax evasions, another important factor is the probability of detection to avoid taxation, which as such, it seems that the greater the chance for fraud detection as less likely to avoided, then other factors are; commercial statistical data exchange between countries, the quality and strength of law enforcement, more frequent attendance by the state controls for companies realize the potential for tax evasion here including the time before and after the implementation of control resulting impacts reduction/tax increase, and recently factor and no less important is the integrity of the officer who performs control, in this case if the officer / inspector will be corrupted will lose the effect of control, thereby reducing, will not affect tax evasion.

Keywords: tax evasion, fines, probability of detection, tax rates, tax audit.

Purchasing of Immovable property by EU citizens in Albania. Problems and solutions during the integration process toward EU.

Silvana Dode PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

The right to immovable property is a fundamental right under the European Community and the "Economic Constitution" of the EU. But which are the problems that the Albanian state will face and how it should address them when the buying and selling of immovable property from foreigners will be liberalized.

-- In this paper we will specifically focus on the EU citizen right to buy land in Albania. Based on the Stabilization and Association Agreement, signed between Albania and the EU, for Albania arises the obligation to provide an equal treatment to EU nationals and Albania ones, concerning the right to purchase land. Through analysis of primary and secondary legislation of EU, the decisions of European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights in this field, as well as Albanian legislation, there will be exposed noteworthy problems that Albania citizens and those of EU may encounter during these transactions. By analogy we will see the problems that are currently displayed in the EU member states in this field. We shall conclude that the approval by Albania of the law, which recognizes to the foreign nationals the right to acquire unconditionally immovable property, is not enough. A series of legal reforms are necessary in other areas in order to make possible the exercise of this right in the most complete and effective way possible.

Keywords: free movement of capital; ownership; immovable property; Albania integration process; ECHR and ECJ decisions; Stabilization and Association Agreement.

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The Role Of Small Farms In Fostering Sustainability And Food Security In The Developed World

Dr. Naoum Tsolakis

ABSTRACT

Sustainability and security of food systems are major global concerns that stem from projections that indicate a global population growth to 9.1 billion people in 2050 with a corresponding increase in food demand by 70%. At the same time, it is estimated that nearly 805 million people around the world suffer from chronic hunger, while 2 billion people suffer from hidden hunger. Notably, the malnutrition effect is evident in developed countries where the traditional diets dominated by regional staples are replaced by processed food products rich in fats, salt and sweeteners that result in non-communicable diseases. Hence, food insecurity in high income countries is primarily a public health issue

To that end, smallholdings (or small farms) could enhance the capacity of local and regional food systems towards modern challenges and hence foster food security at local and national levels in the developed world. In this work, the diffusion of agricultural commodities produced in smallholdings is addressed. The objective of this study is two-fold: (i) to provide a policy-making tool at the strategic level for the diffusion of smallholdings' commodities to the food markets, and (ii) to identify policies for the development of smallholdings and food security in a sustainability context.

Keywords: Agrifood Supply Chains, Food Security, Smallholdings, Sustainability, System Dynamics

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Small and medium enterprises incentive of industrial clusters in Kosovo

Agim Derguti, PhD Candidate

Abstract

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the largest industrial sectors of the economy, and are considered to be the backbone of industrial development in the country and therefore the rate of growth and survival of SMEs in Kosovo has been one of the main concerns of the creator's policies, practitioners and researchers. Encouraging the growth of SMEs is widely seen as an important supporter of industrial policies in many developing countries. Concerns that motivate Kosovo's government programs to support SMEs derives from the goal of creating new jobs, improving welfare, poverty alleviation, incomes growth and increasing the technical and entrepreneurial capacity. SMEs constitute the dominant source of industrial employment in Kosovo (65%), and over 95% of industrial units fall into this category. Actual performance of SMEs, however, varies depending on the relative economic efficiency, macro-economic environment and specific policies of promotion. The study aims to provide empirical evidence about the state of SMEs in the Republic of Kosovo, particularly their impact on the promotion and performance of industrial clusters. The performance of SMEs plays an important role in the national development of a country, but there is a lack of literature for their contributions which are not well researched in Kosovo. The structured questionnaire consisting of ten questions has been the instrument used to collect all the data for this study. Questionnaire was sent to managers of companies who understand the nature of the cases investigated by this survey and is complemented by these managers. The paper will present the real situation of SMEs, their way of organizing in industrial groupings and how Kosovo's government support through legal infrastructure, whether they are single or in groups.

Keywords: SME, industrial groupings, management.

Globalism - World Of Interconnected And Interdependent

Adnan Limani PhD Candidate

Abstract

Author's intention is creating the possibilities to analyse more general approach in the discussion regarding globalizing. Such approach would enable avoidance from the conceptual and terminological confusion, and to be able to ascertain our critic positioning and stance regarding interconnection, interdependence and perspectives of our society in these processes. Author in particular area handles economic, ideology, culture and technology dimensions and also the causes and consequences of globalism in those particular areas. As a process, globalism changes established political, economic, social and culture relations. Globalism produced also enemies and its opposition. In developing countries in particular with growth of Islam fundamentalism, globalizing was understood as a new particular form of western world. In developed countries anti-global motion encourages and it's directed by different leftist political ideas, anarchism and ecology. At the end author emphasizes that globalism we approach as a universal process which generates interconnection and interdependence between states and societies. Sovereignty today is split between national, international ruling and sometimes also the regional ones. To find where we belong in the modern world first we have to know and understand it. Answer does not lay at isolation but in openness, in cooperation and in adapting.

Keywords: Globalism, process, interconnection, interdependence, national, global

PhD(c) Adnan Limani is lecture at European college "Dukagjini", Pec. Research and interests are interrelated with international relations involving parts of the region and beyond.

Albanian integration into CEFTA and its impact on trade diversion

ARJOLA MITAJ PhD Candidate,

Klodian Muco PhD Candidate

Dr. Ermonela Ruspi

ABSTRACT

There is a broad consensus in the economic literature that international market openness has a positive impact on economic growth of a country. According to some studies undertaken by international institutions such as the OECD and the IMF it is noted that the trade openness has a positive impact on the domestic economy. Stiglitz (1998) shows the same result, emphasizing that the various indicators of a country's trade openness, are associated with per capita economic growth of the country itself. For this reason the former communist countries considered trade liberalization and trade integration as inevitable for development. Our country which is part of this group recently has been engaged in several liberalization processes, through being a member of bilateral trade agreements which include the removal of the differentiated structure of tariff barriers between these countries and the application of national tariffs with non member countries. An important free trade agreement for Albania is CEFTA. The growth of trade exchanges would help Albania in the diversification of its production and exports structure in favor of manufactured goods. This paper will try to verify the effect that membership in CEFTA might have had on Albania: if this agreement has resulted in trade diversion or trade creation. The analysis will be carried out through an empirical model taking into consideration the years 2002-2012 and the entire products category according 2 digits Harmonized System codes, developed by the World Customs Organization.

Keywords: Trade liberalization/ diversion, FTA, CEFTA, bilateral flows.

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Audit impact on the growth of public sector performance

Lecturer Brikenda Vokshi

ABSTRACT

Regardless to the activity that performs or regardless to the ownership, internal audit constitutes a main component of governance of every organization nowadays. Establishment of internal and external audit function emerged from the need to have some independent means of verification in order to reduced errors of accounting records, acquisitions of assets and the tricks inside of profit and non-profit organizations. The audit function has early roots. The audit function has a very important contribution in every organizations because it should be noted that are adding value and improving the organization's operation in their activity. To achieve all its objectives and to support the organization is internal audit responsibly. The internal audit is a valuable activity because is guided by standards which contain the basis for right documentation, discipline and systematic processes that ensure the quality of performance of the internal audit commitment. In this definition assumed that controls exist only to help the organization to manage its risks and promote effective governance. Such a perspective is significantly expands the horizons of internal audit and expands its field of work.

Keywords: Internal audit, External audit, Performance, Public Sector, Governance

Cultural Heritage Management on tourism development. (Gjirokastra's Case)

DANIELA QIQI PhD Candidate
Docent Majlinda Bobrati

ABSTRACT

Nowadays, heritage management represents a difficult challenge. Cities that are blessed with cultural heritage face the dilemma of how the urban development and the preservation of cultural heritage should be combined. This happens because the fact that cultural heritage can be the key of economic development through tourism development, is hardly accepted. However, there are several development projects, made by field specialists, that include cultural heritage. This means that specialists are starting to understand how mutual is the relationship between those two elements, thus heritage benefits from economic and urban development, as urban and economic development benefit from heritage.

Gjirokastra, as a part of UNESCO is rich in cultural, spiritual and natural monuments. However, this city faces a lot of issues with heritage management. Every action taken until now was basically for the preservation of this heritage and not for its use on tourism development, that would create a lot of profits and would improve citizens' economic conditions. This can be successfully achieved only through a good partnership between central and local public institutions, private entrepreneurship and local community residents.

Keywords: Heritage, management, partnership, tourism

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Analysis Of The Factors Considered In Foreign Direct Investments In Kosovo

Demir Lima PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

After its independence, Kosovo has made significant progress in many areas of its development as in, increasing political stability, raising the level of security, stable economy with constant growth, supplementing the legislation etc. It has become an important part of regional cooperation initiatives, through which is achieved the creation of a regional market, the elimination of customs tariffs, the elimination of trade barriers and open new perspectives. According to the business climate, macroeconomic environment and investments are real opportunities across different business sectors, Kosovo is becoming an ever more complex place to do business. Dynamics and volume of FDI has suffered increase and decrease in different periods. Especially, it is highlighted by the financial crisis in 2008. Various countries in the world have suffered or benefited in the ranking of FDI recipients - in the periods before and after the recent crisis. Kosovo has macroeconomic stability, stable financial system reforms have been made in fiscal policy in the application of lower tax rates in the region. Among the main objectives is to increase the competitiveness of the economy in the regional market. Immediately in the post-war period many potential investors came to Kosovo to analyze the possibility of their investments in the country. Foreign investors were interested in investment conditions in a market that for most of them was until then completely unknown. Kosovo was still unprepared to respond to this interest. Development has been most evident in the banking sector, where they were evidently noticed these developments especially such as FDI. The development of this sector has enabled sustainability constituting a positive factor to increase the attractiveness of FDI in Kosovo. However, there are also identified other important factors that makes Kosovo a place attractive for foreign investors.

Keywords: perspective, investor, business, environment, stability

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Have Albanian firms perceptions on the severity of business environment elements changed over 2007-2013?

Prof.Asoc.Dr. Enkela Caca (Babaramo)

Prof. Christos Ap. Ladias

Doc. Antoneta Polo

ABSTRACT

This study compares business environment perceptions using a data set of Albania interviewed between 2007 and 2013. Examining the evolution of business climate perceptions within the same group of firms over time allows for a clear picture of how the broad business environment is changing. Firms in Albania are operating in a time of dynamic political, economic, and social changes. The perceptions of the severity and challenges posed by certain business environment elements differ over years. The study makes use of The World Bank's and EBRD Enterprise Survey conducted in Albania, in 2007 and 2013. The tow-tailed Sign Test proves the main hypothesis of this study: Have Albanian firms perceptions of the severity of business environment elements changed over 2007-2013? The results prove this for some business environment elements.

Key words: Albania, business climate, obstacles, nonparametric Sign Test, BEEPS

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Ethic Importance Of Managerial Behaviour Case study: Private companies in Kosova

Thëllëza Latifi (Sadrija) PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

Due to the fact that ethics is defined as specific scientific discipline which includes values, principles, virtues and moral standards transmitted in good and beneficial social behavior also including principles of demeanor of individual or social groups. As one of the most influencing models of professional role at employees, direct supervisor is a person that models, gives strength and that instills beliefs, ideals, values and ethical attitudes at work.

In Kosovo we have to deal with economic system in which prevails unemployment, through different decisions manager can influence on the life of the employees and in particular about justice criteria, impartiality, employee treatment, salaries, manner of dismissal, manner of work determining, determining duties at work are some of the areas where owners, managers take unethical decisions.

In this project we will focus on the way of determining duties at work of the employees, importance of ethical managerial approach towards dependents plays major psychological role in motivating and performance of employees in private companies in Kosova.

Aim of this project is to show the importance of ethical approach of the managers for determining and specifying duties of the employees, where for every work place strategic objectives should express clearly that should be realized as well as key performance indicators, based to which can be measured performance of the employee as well as other aspects which are necessary for effective manner of functioning of the system of work evaluation and in continuation for clear structuring of the organizational cell where the work place is located.

Key words: Managing, Ethics, decisions, strategy, performance

The role of Liberalization in the Electricity Market

Helga Zogolli PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

The electricity sector worldwide is undergoing a fundamental transformation of its institutional structure as a consequence of the complex interactions of political, economic and technological forces. The way the industry is organized is changing from vertically integrated monopolies to unbundled structures that favor market mechanisms. This process in Europe, known as the liberalization process, has had a wide impact on the European electricity industry. The focus of this project is an analysis of the role of electricity PX-s in the recently liberalized electricity markets of Europe. In the context of creating "a" competitive electricity market at a European level, the key questions considered are the functioning of these PX-s with respect to electricity characteristics, market design and regulatory framework.

First the project is reviewing from the literature, the available information on market power monitoring in electricity markets. There are briefly explained definitions, strategies, indices and methods of mitigating market power as well as the several methods of detecting market power used from market monitors/regulators. After, the general features of the electricity industry are presented briefly as background for the analysis. The main aspects of the liberalization process of this industry and the role it has played in the creation of PX-s is described.

Keywords: Market, Marketplace or organized market, Bilateral markets or Over The Counter (OTC), Spot market.

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The analysis of agricultural sector performance and its role in economic development

Jonida Avdulaj PhD Candidate

Daniela Qiqi PhD Candidate

Dr. ERMONELA RUSPI

ABSTRACT

Albania is increasingly facing the challenges of sustainable development. As a country that is undergoing a transition longstanding needs to know its potentials to achieve sustainable development. The agricultural sector unlike many other sectors has always been growing its role by being transformed into the primary sector of the economy with a current impact on about 1/5 of GDP and contributes to about 44% of employees (INSTAT, 2015).

Taking into consideration the role of the agricultural sector in employment, its contribution to GDP and taking in consideration the country's economic policy that considers this sector as the primary sector of the Albanian economy, this paper will consist precisely in analyzing the performance of this sector to sustainable development and its potential as an essential element for the country's progress.

Through this analysis will be identified the problems of the sector in the past and will suggest possible interventions that can be made in this sector to have a sustainable economic development. Also by analyzing the structure of import agricultural products exports to Albania to identify primary products for which the domestic market needs to be oriented primarily to supplement agricultural production and domestic consumption later in the standard growth in agriculture focusing on the export of them.

Keywords: agriculture, economy development, analyze, sustainability

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A framework of risks affecting the financial performance of inshoring firms operating in Albania

Kleida Heta PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

This study aims to focus and to explain theoretically how risk factors affect the financial performance of inshoring firms operating in Albania. In this paper I will try to construct a conceptual model on how internal and external risks that firms face, affect its financial performance. This model can later be used in other studies and be applied to real world cases.

Although inshoring is an age old phenomenon, it has recently gained a new dynamic through the decrease in transportation and communication costs and dramatic advances in information technology. Many foreign firms have chose Albania to conduct their business, mainly due to low labor costs, geographic location, tax incentives, qualified personnel, etc.

In Albania, firms included as inshoring or service providers are mainly comprised from product development firms (mainly textiles and shoes) and call centers. Service provider firms have a strong impact in our economy due to high employment rate in this sector, the contribution in GDP growth, export increase, etc.

Because of the importance that this sector has in our economy, I think it is of great interest studying the factors affecting the financial performance of these firms.

Keywords: Risk, Financial Performance, Inshoring firms

Kleida HETA (TUPI) is full time lecturer at the Faculty of Economy at the University "Luigj Gurakuqi" in Shkodër, Albania since October 2005. She teaches "Principles of Finance" and "International Financial Management" at the undergraduate level, as well as "Financial Management" and "Portfolio Management" at the graduate level. She has lectured "Corporate Finance" as a Visiting Professor at Butler University, Indianapolis, USA, (2012). She earned her bachelor diploma at the Faculty of Economy, University "Luigj Gurakuqi" in Shkodër, Albania (2005). In 2008 she earned a Master degree in Finance at University of Tirana, Economic Faculty. Actually she continues the Ph.D. in Economic Sciences at University of Durres, Albania. From January to May 2009 she was specialized in teaching in higher education and making scientific research in finance and economics at Butler University, IN, USA, under the JFDP (Junior Faculty Development Program)

The theoretical aspect of pension reforms, labor market and financial sector reforms

Vjollca Sulejmani PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

The Republic of Macedonia has a good pension system for disability insurance, which is similar in some European countries with more traditional pension system, but this system works in the defined pension regime. The pension system has functioned and functions based on generational solidarity which means that insured persons who are employed pay the pensions for current pensioners hoping that in the future individuals or employees insured and registered in the Invalidity Pension Fund of Republic of Macedonia will pay also for their pensions.

The pension system in Macedonia has been applied for almost 50 years but has had some legislative changes and especially in labor legislative, always bearing in mind that these changes have not been created random but they have been created for efficiency in the area of disability pension reforms. Socio-economic changes have affected the system not to be effective and also efficient and adaptable to the population.

In early transition the capital market has significantly affected the number of enterprises that have worked with loss and in the end policyholders have finished as redundancy and enterprises have been led to the bankruptcy stage, in the time of transition this was the reason for stagnation because the number of insured people and employees was greater than the number of retirees.

All these problems have happened in 1993 and also at same time there were changes in pension and disability insurance law of RM. In early 1997, the new legal changes brought positive effect for the new reform, but what is the main problem of disability pension is that their life expectancy is very short, because of many new laws and obligations that never have foreseen potential risks that may arise in the future.

With all these destabilization of the pension system is expected that in 2020 the financial situation of pensions to be stabilized, because an employee who has a pension insurance will fund a pensioner, costs for pensioners will rise and GDP will reach up to 13%. This analysis shows that the RM will not reach to pay pensions for future pensioners according to this law and this phenomenon represents a financial destabilization. These are the reasons for pension and RM pension system reforms for this purpose in 2002 enters into force the law of financing required capital for pensional fund.

Keywords: Reforms of pension system, financial capital, minimum risk of pensions of Republic of Macedonia

The impact of Entrepreneurship into Economic Sustainability: Kosovo Case

Ilir Bytyçi

ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship is capability and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with any of its risks in order to make a profit. The most obvious example of entrepreneurship is the starting of new businesses. Entrepreneurship is a dynamic process of continuous change the economic structure and its effectiveness, in which individuals takes the risk to business outcomes. There are different definitions by different authors. Referring to Schumpeter entrepreneurship is defined as 'creative destruction', Drucker call as 'the entrepreneurial economy', etc.

To be an entrepreneur means to be innovative and look for new opportunities and possibilities.

In economics, entrepreneurship combined with land, labour, natural resources and capital can produce profit. Entrepreneurial spirit is characterized by innovation and risk-taking, and is an essential part of a nation's ability to succeed in an ever changing and increasingly competitive global marketplace.

Small Medium Enterprises (SME), acting key role for economic development. Small businesses contribute to the productivity of any country in several ways: they simulate the change in the business sector; they are laboratory inventions and innovations thanks to the ability to quickly respond to new technology and market competitive conditions, they also open more opportunities for new jobs for many workers. Today, thanks to the Internet and telecommunications, ever more they are taking part in the globalization of the commercial entrepreneurship.

Innovation - today we are living in turbulent economy and innovation can be used to drive changes, such as new materials, ideas, or fashions, to shifting needs and to bring those components into harmony. Why innovation matter? Innovation in products, services, management systems, production processes, corporate values and other aspects of the organization are what keep companies growing, changing and thriving. Without innovation, no company can survive over the long run.

Kosovo as a country in transition, is facing with problem of economic growth and development. Because these businesses are crucial to the overall process of economic development, the government must take measures to care and support the creation and development of small and medium enterprises.

The aim of this paper study is to provide based on data and trend analyses, the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation into SME's as a key of national economy in Kosovo.

Key word: Entrepreneurship, business, innovation, development, SME, economic sustainability

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Liberalization of the Electricity Market in Abania

Aleks Palnikaj

ABSTRACT

The beginnings of a common energy market in the European countries dates since 1957, the year of the Treaty of Rome, then in 1987, the European Unique Act set as the deadline date 12.31.1992 as the date for creating a single European market. In fact the ideas crystallization for the market liberalization began in the early 1980s - the period in which neoliberal economic platform, which had as its motto "privatization" and "deregulation" found concrete application especially in Great Britain. The Prime Minister of those times, Margaret Thatcher, also named "The Iron Lady" was determined in the initiative for privatization of large state-owned enterprises. The privatization was carried out in two ways: 1) the sale of 100% of the shares of state-private enterprises which aimed to increase competition, productivity and effectiveness of enterprises and 2) the sale of shares to employees of enterprises which were privatized. Encouraged by this experience that gave productive results in the energy sector of the UK by reaching at 100% the liberalization of the internal energy market, the leaders of EU institutions began to think seriously and concretized their ideas by legal acts in the second half of the 1990s. In the frame of a serious commitment to become part of the EU, Albania has begun reforms to energy market liberalization according directives for Energy Sector of EU. The Athens Process was the concrete step of reforms. On 25 October 2005, Albania signed the Energy Community Treaty of Southeast Europe Countries, ratified by Law Nr.9501, 03.04.2006, which aimed at reforming the energy sector. Albania had a energy market model vertically integrated and focused on the only public company: APC Jsc. Step by step, the Energy Regulatory Entity (ERE) competences became more independent. Concrete steps have been taken to the deregulation within the only public power company APC Jsc, from which are separated the Transmission System Operator and Distribution System Operator. Several small plants are privatized and the construction of some others is given with concession. There are privatized four power plants that are separated from APC Jsc, Ulëz HPP, Shkopet HPP and Bistrica 1 and 2 HPP.

Currently there are several energy generators, several suppliers and eligible customers who are entitled to freely choose their supplier.

Road to the final liberalization continues and obviously that requires time and concrete commitments.

Key words: market liberalization, electricity, generation, transmission, electricity distribution.

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Underlying trends and seasonality in Kosova gasoline demand: a time-series analysis

Valon Kastrati, PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

This paper analyzes the demand for fuels in Kosovo automotive sector, using the data to estimate price and income elasticities for all the available fuels in the automotive sector: gasoline, automotive gas oil distributed among months of the year. These estimates can be very useful in predicting the overall impacts of price policies designed to reduce fuel consumption and to address concerns of carbon emissions or energy security. The paper aimed at estimating the price and income elasticities of automotive fuels demand in Kosovo. The analysis of the expenditure allocation process among the gasoline, Gas oil and LPG was carried out through the estimation of a linear approximation of an ECM model. This model is very convenient due to its ability to fulfill much of the desired theoretical properties of demand, being at the same time parsimonious regarding the number of parameters. Furthermore, the equations to be derived from ECM are linear in parameter, which allows the use of econometric methods widely available in terms of testing and estimating procedures. Uncompensated (Marshallian) price and expenditure elasticities were calculated from estimated parameters of the ECM. The results show that all own-price elasticities are negative and statistically significant. The own-price elasticity of LPG is most elastic. Moreover, expenditure elasticities for gasoline and gas oil are positive and significant at the 5 percent significance level; the expenditure elasticity for gasoline is the most elastic. The estimations here produced suggest that LPG is inferior good. Overall this paper tried to improve the understanding of the consumer's behavior and their possibilities and criteria to choose automotive fuel in Kosovo. Empirical results indicate all own-price elasticities are negative and significant at 5% level. The own-price elasticity for gas oil, gasoline and LPG were estimated by about -0.22, -1.01 and -3.58, respectively. The findings also show that gasoline and gas oil are normal goods and LPG being an inferior good.

Keywords: Automotive fuel, Gasoline, Elasticity, ECM model.

Valon Kastrati is PhD Candidate at the European University of Tirana. He has a long experience in the gasoline retail market in Kosovo

The Political Development of Women in Albania

Eglantina Farruku PHD Candidate

The issue of women's representation and participation in politics and decision-making is not anymore an unknown or un-discussed issue in Albanian.

This paper attempts to investigate the conceptual and material bases of women's participation in the politics in Albania. It will be bringing facts and arguments regarding the participation of women not only in political life and decision making but also is going to investigate in detail in membership of political parties. Further investigation will be on how much weight women have on media coverage of different aspects of their life.

Politic cannot be done properly, if the vision and the concepts of the woman's in general would not be brought up by their women representatives in the political arena. Despite the increase number of women in parliament, many advocate that the women until now had been only a decoration on the back ground of the political life and these needed to be changed. It seems that this change now taking place in Albania that would take some time.

The study tries to provide information and analyses on this regard. Then the paper reaches a conclusion that there is still a long way to go in Albania for convincing more women to participate in politics, because without of them the politic would not be addressing whole problems of the country.

Politic, Women, Participation, Parliament, Parties, Election

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The residential subdivision under the influence of the unfinished densification (Case study for subdivisions in Setif, Algeria)

Lacheheb Dhia Eddine Zakaria, Amor Ballout

Today, it is necessary to be thrifty for its planet, on one hand the space being a rare, nonrenewable resource, and on the other hand the ecological, economic and social cost of the urban sprawl.

It is commonly asserted that the promotion of a more compact and dense city has a positive effect in terms of public costs of investment, functioning and costs for the citizens and the users of the city.

It is clear that the modes urban development management have to evolve profoundly, in particular towards a densification favourable to the raising of the urban quality through an ideal urban density on the scale of the individual housing estate.

The lot as an individual housing estate was adopted as an alternative development model to the collective housing, thought in an anthropocentric perspective to emerge as a quality model where the density plays an important role, by being included in operations of a global coherence, in an optimal organization without forgetting the main importance of the deadlines of construction and the finalization of the works.

The image of eternal construction site inflicted to our cities explains the renewed interest for the application of the regulatory framework and the completion of these limited operations without global coherence, which are summed up in our case to a ground cut in plots of land, sold then built independently without being finished, and support the relevance of the essential question of the improvement of the outside aspect bound to the appearance which can be revealed as a so important factor for a better use and a better acceptance of its housing environment, that the ratio of a number of houses on a plot of land or the number of square meters by house.

Subdivision, Degree of completion, Densification, Urban Quality.

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The case of Kosovo, Human rights and the urgency for the protection of life.

Merita Muharremi PhD Candidate

Human rights are the main problem for countries seeking accession to democratic countries and remain as such and in EU countries constitute a permanent challenge for the Council of Europe, legislation, enforcement and monitoring institutions, courts and legal counsel, but civil society.

Kosovo for years became the arena of war and violation of human rights, ethnic origin and religion .

In the legal system of the Republic of Kosovo operate international specialist from EU countries (and not only) in the trial, the defence investigation :which makes the Kosovo justice system too close to the justice system of EU countries and very close to in the courts ,its ensures equal treatment of all citizens of Kosovo ,with emphasis on non-Albanian minorities in this country.

Human rights, EU, international standards, immigration, global economic crisis, integration, world.

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Tourism enterprises in Korca region and their sustainability.

Alda Gaspari PhD Candidate

Tourism is considered as one of the economic sectors with the greatest potential to make a positive contribution in achieving sustainable development (UNCED, 1992). Sustainable tourism has become an increasingly popular field of research. There are a wide range of albanian tourism enterprises involved in the tourism industry. The informal nature of tourism enterprises can make it very difficult to spread awareness on sustainable policies, practices and to measure moves towards more sustainable performance. This paper addresses the concept of sustainable development in tourism and examines the degree to which tourism enterprises in Korca region are aware of the broad concept of sustainable tourism. The aim is to determine attitudes of tourism enterprises toward sustainability and understanding the influences on the adoption of sustainability practices, including motivators and barriers. The main findings stresses "a lack of a general awareness about sustainability issues within albanian tourism enterprises. Also as dominant barriers identified were lack of available money to invest, other business priorities, lack of incentive programs. A better understanding of tourism enterprise attributes, barriers, and responses is critical if we are to extend the theoretical concepts that underpin sustainable tourism development and to enhance sustainability in practice.

Keywords: sustainability ,albanian tourism enterprises,sustainable tourism practices,motivators,barriers.

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The importance of Trademarks and a review of empirical studies

Mirësi Çela PhD Candidate

Many studies have been focused on innovation and patents, less emphasis is given to trademarks, even though these intellectual property assets are more widely used by firms of all types across the whole economy.

Various international treaties have been established in order to harmonize the different trademark's registration procedures across countries, and to simplify the application process for applicants targeting multiple countries.

The aim of this paper is to make a review of some of the empirical studies done by scholars with trademarks in focus. Which are the motives that urge firms to register a trademark. How are trademarks related to innovation and firm's size. At the end the paper concludes with some key messages on trademarks and their use by firms.

Keywords: trademarks, innovation, empirical studies, intellectual property

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Judicial Power in Albania and its Independence in Transition Years

Arjan Qafa PhD candidate

Abstract:

One of the characteristics that the researchers of the societies in the post-communist transition attach to these societies is the transformation of the organizational form of judicial power from the organizing model of this socialist or communist system to a Democratic system. One of the effects of this transition is also the change in the legal context that has accompanied this process and the legal re-conceptualization of judicial power.

The reformation of the judiciary system as a necessary process was connected to social economic and political changes, which were made in Albania after the 90s. Albania's current Judicial system was built and organized with the legal norms of the past and had an old legal mentality.

The necessity for fundamental reformation of the Judicial Power, is reasonably described as "the first and last stone of a state", a theme which is frequently made subject of discussion of the institutions of Judicial and non-judicial power, of the local and international politics which is monitoring Albania in the process of judicial reformation.

In Albania is made the approval of civil codes, criminal procedure codes etc. codes which have to be adapted to the social conditions of democratic development of the Albanian state. In the reformation of the judiciary Power has affected in the positive sense the continuation of issuance of new laws and the change of those existing legal provisions in order to adapt to the new legal reality.

To understand what means "reformation and independence of the judiciary power" does not mean the approval of legislative packages in this field. The approved laws pursuant to implementation of judicial power after the 90th have not been few during the years of transition in Albania. But to go through the term "reformation" does not just mean nominations, transfers, dismissal of judges, reorganization of courts, corruption strokes or increased public trust in them.

Reform in the judicial power, first of all, means respect and implementation of the principles established by the Constitution, concerning the judicial power, where the first fundamental principle that characterizes this power, is "the independence and the balance from other powers". In this study case we will deal with the whole independence of the judicial power in Albania and its principles during the transition.

Keywords: The independence of the Judiciary Power, transition, court, judicial function, Reformation of Judicial Power.

A Historical Overview Of The Institute Of Causing Damage Andits Responsibility In Albania

AferditaTepshi

ABSTRACT

In this study material we have treated the causing of damage entirely as an institute and legal problems encountered during the long historical development of this institute. The object of this study is the treatment of this institute since antiquity dealing mainly with the interpretation of damages of these institutes in Albania. Also are treated encountered legal problems for this institute in the Republic of Albania.

Key words: Institute of causing damage, caused damage,damage,ways of handlingthe damage.

The Notion Of Private Life In Terms Of Article 8 And The Approach Of Albanian Internal Legislation

Aferdita Tepshi

ABSTRACT

Personal data, individual privacy and sensitive data have an early origin of legal care. In this context in many laws of different areas were set certain provisions and articles, such as the Civil Service Law, laws that have regulated certain aspects of the field of security, the criminal code, the civil code, etc., which have regulate certain issues regarding the nature of the personal data. For the honor and dignity of the individual and the earliest legal codes of different nations since the Middle Ages and before, had arranged aspects of this nature.

However, rapid development of information and communication technology raised the essential need that personal data and privacy of the individual, essentially treated as a fundamental human freedom, to be taken in an institucional protection in a special legal framework.

According to Article 8 of the European Council Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, everyone has the right to respect for his private life and family life, residence and correspondence. "The public authority can not interfere with the exercise of this right except the level provided by law and when it is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or economic well-being of the country, the protection of public order or prevention of crime, health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others ".

Currently in Albania, are issued laws for the protection of personal data, are established the authorities and in this regard, through bilateral agreements of cooperation, are set strong lines of inter-institutional cooperation in the field of protection of personal data in full compliance with EU legislation. This process, which essentially affects basic human rights to free movement of capital and individual, is being considered one of the key elements in European integration. In the region, now it is virtually established the cooperation in the field of legislation development in full compliance with the Directive on the Protection of Personal Data, accelerating in advance, disturbing and urging the integration in the European Union.

Key words: privacy, access, information

Enterprise environment and Strategic Management for SME's, evidence from Peja Region

Valon Kastrati, PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT

During the last years, Kosova's enterprises can be characterized by the effort to adapt on new emerging conditions which appeared after the outbreak of the global economic crisis in around 2007. Although economic revival is wistfully awaited, the recession still exists in the Kosova's economy with often fatal influence on many unstable enterprises. In these turbulent times strategic management and planning takes an important role, however is more or less neglected especially by the SMEs sector managers. It is therefore necessary to improve management accounting mentality and achieve a more realistic optical about cost management and strategy. In this respect, strategic cost management helps them through the development and use of strategic management accounting techniques related to aspects of external information needs to cope with uncertainty and economic environment to support the decisions of a strategic nature.

Keywords: Automotive fuel, Strategic Management, accounting costs

Valon Kastrati is PhD Candidate at the European University of Tirana. He has a long experience in the gasoline retail market in Kosovo

Environmentally sustainable agriculture in Poland - economic assessment

Wioletta Wrzaszcz, PhD; Konrad Prandecki, PhD

ABSTRACT

Agriculture is particularly linked with natural environment, due to the necessity of natural resources exploitation in the process of agricultural production. Intensive agricultural activity can cause exhaustion of the natural resources and some reduction in agricultural productivity. This interrelation substantiates promoting different forms of sustainable agriculture, that ensures, on the one hand, the volume and profitability of agricultural production, on the other hand, respect for the natural environment.

The paper objective is the economic assessment of different forms of environmentally sustainable agriculture in Poland.

There were analysed a few groups of farms with a different range of agrienvironmental practices, such as: a) industrial – specialized in cereal intensive production; b) sustainable – with balanced plant and animal production; c) ecological – organized according to legal rules, d) norfolk – with balanced plant production; e) agrienvironmental – taking part in rural development program. Economic efficiency was calculated on the basis of productive and economic indicators, i.e.: total farm output, farm gross value added, family farm income. The analysis was based on Farm Accountancy Data Network 2012, that covered 11 000 holdings - the representative sample for commodity farms in Poland (750 000).

Keywords: productivity, agriculture, externalities, environment

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She is doing research into agricultural holdings sustainability. She is focused on key issues of the environmental, production and economic aspects of farms' management. Her key qualifications: a knowledge of the agri-environmental topics; measurement of farms sustainability; farms analysis, knowledge of the Farm Accountancy Data Network. She has involved in the realization of International 7 Framework Programme (from 2013): "Farm-level Indicators for New Topics in Policy Evaluation (FLINT)". She was the main research project manager (2010-2012): "Level of sustainability of the individual farms in Poland (on the basis of the FADN data). During 2012-2013, she was the member of experts' team, that was responsible for the evaluation of agriculture sustainability in Poland on the basis of the Central Statistical Office data.

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The Synchronous Grid of Continental Europe, Challenges to a Parallel Union

Dr. Aranit Shkurti

Abstract

The Continental Europe Synchronous Area is managed by the Regional Group Continental Europe (RG EC) that follows the reliable and efficient operation of the world's largest grid. The RG EC includes the former synchronous UCTE TSO, but also a lot of non member countries are operating accordingly. This massive grid feeds around 400 million customers interconnected at the 50 Hz frequency.

The basic regulatory settlement is The Multilateral Agreement (MLA) dated July 1, 2005 and subsequent amendments with the parties (member TSO of the former UCTE and today the RG EC).

This agreement established institutions that guarantee the normal operation of the grid and the solutions to possible disputes.

This article analysis the current economic and political aspects of the current features of the Continental Europe Synchronous Area and the ambitious expansion project of the European SuperSmartGrid (SSG). The SSG extension is directed into two main endeavors:

- Interconnection of Continental Europe to North Africa and the Middle East in order to utilize the enormous photovoltaic potential of this area (daylight operation) and to compensate for the following period.
- Interconnection of East European Countries non members of the RG EC and their integration in the SSG, as part of a more general integration.

The barriers rising to this titanic project are surrounded by multiple constraints, some of them related to political stability of these areas.

Key Words: Synchronous grid, power supply, photovoltaic energy,

Dr. Aranit Shkurti is a Lecturer of Econometrics at the Canadian Institute of Technology. He had a PhD from the Sapienza University of Rome in Energy Policy and scenario modeling. Master degree in Statistics from the same Sapienza University of Rome. He is author of several papers in the Energy Economics field.

Evaluation of Board of Directors in Public Enterprises of Kosovo

Mete Beqiraj, PhD (c), Prof. Dr. Magdalena Bregasi

Abstract

Public Enterprises (PE) in Kosovo were incorporated in December 2005 and corporate governance (CG) was adopted for the first time. CG is a new concept in Kosovo and is currently under the process of development and improvement. PE's in Kosovo are owned 100% by the government. CG in PE poses a significant challenge in many economies because of its complex nature. The purpose of this research is to shed some light on the conditions that are needed for ensuring the effectiveness of the Board of Directors (BD) of PE. Composition of the Board of PE plays a key role in the CG. Strengthening of BD to exercise effective monitoring is a difficult challenge for PE. PE's in Kosovo are characterized by a lack of law enforcement and political interference from the central bodies of government. The basic hypothesis is that non-professional boards that are influenced by political interference have a negative impact upon the performance of the PE. Methodology: This research was conducted using primary data (surveys and interviews) and secondary data (annual reports, financial statements, regulatory reports and PMUPE). The results of the research will identify priorities of the reforms that lead toward improvement of CG and economic performance.

Keywords: corporate governance, evaluation, public enterprises.

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Electricity grid Vulnerability. Smart meters to what extent? Lessons from the Turkish case.

Dr. Aranit Shkurti

Abstract

In recent years an ambitious reform has been initiated in various energy sectors in Turkey. The electricity market has been affected intensively by this transformations, followed by important benefits to the average customer and in general to the economic system.

Turkey's regional power grids have been investing to transform substations, transformers and circuit-breakers to smart devices since they were privatized starting in 2008. Generally electricity consumption use was measured by mechanical meters, that required physical reading from the utility employee. Gradually mechanical meters were substituted by smart meters, which communicate live data to customers and the utility company. This opens up the systems to vulnerability from a cyber attack. Considered the complexity of the grid system, more you add communication ports to the system, more difficult will be to prevent external interferences.

The aim of this paper is to analyse at what extent the use of smart meters or other Artificial Intelligence tools can be applied to highly sensitive and vulnerable systems, like the electricity grid. Some scholarly suggestions (but not investigations) over the 10h massive failure of Turkish electricity grid of 31st of March 2015 are being provided.

Keywords: power supply, utility, grid, black-out, security

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