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## SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE: “SOCIAL SCIENCES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS”

Miroslava Dujíčová\*

On November 8-9, 2016, the first conference organised by the doctoral students in cooperation with the civic association FSV was held at the Faculty of Social Sciences of University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava. The conference was organised during The Week of Science and Technologies in Slovakia. The aim of the conference was to create the cooperation between the young researchers and the doctoral students from various places not only in Slovakia, but also abroad. The plan for future is to establish the tradition, since there is need to share the knowledge in between the young researchers in the topics, which are important for their future studies and work. Another essential aim of the conference was to gain experience for the doctoral students from the home faculty with organising the event of this kind.

„*Social Sciences from the Perspective of the Young Research Workers*“ was the title of the Conference, offering students the possibility to present their research to 27 active participants, which were split into three sections. Each section was prepared by one of the departments of the faculty. The sections were following: „*Current Challenges and Functioning of Public Policy in Practice, Political Challenges and Opportunities in Today’s Europe, Social Policy and its Dimensions in Slovakia and Abroad.*“

The conference was held in the main building of the Faculty of Social Sciences on Bučianska street 4/A in Trnava. The opening ceremony started at 2 pm with the speeches of the rector of the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, **Dr.h.c. doc. Ing. Jozef Matúš, CSc., mim. prof.**, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences **doc. PhDr. Peter Horváth, PhD.**, the sponsor of the conference **prof. Ing. Václav Vybíhal, CSc.** and the Vice-Dean for the scientific research and editorial work **PhDr. Jaroslav Mihálik, PhD.**

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The opening ceremony was followed by the first section of the Conference, *Current Challenges and Functioning of Public Policy in Practice* with the chairman **prof. Ing. Václav Vybíhal, CSc.** After the short speech, he gave floor to the first speaker of the section, **PhDr. Matuš Meluš** from the Faculty of Social Sciences University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava. His presentation was about the Competence of the Mayors of Prague and Bratislava in area of the decision-making processes. In his contribution he focused on the frameworks in which we can see the mayors as the purely representative functions or as the holders of the power. To highlight the differences, he focused on the example of Prague and Bratislava. The next speaker was **PhDr. Ondrej Mital'** from the Faculty of Public Administration at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. His presentation was about Ethical Aspects of the Public Policy, where he showed the unnecessary need for the ethics in the public policy. He also focused on already existing examples from the ethical practice in Slovakia. The aim of the presentation was to point out how to create more transparent and responsible public policy. **PhDr. Anna Ščensná**, who was also from the same department as the previous speaker opened the topic of the Good management as the precondition for the modernisation of the public administration. The aim of her presentation was to highlight the primary problems connected with good management, the way in which they are supposed to work and the influence on the modernisation of the public administration in the conditions of the Slovak republic. The important part was also the concept of the good management and the relationship between the public administration and citizens. The fourth speaker, **Mgr. Veronika Šafárová**, was also from the same department. Her presentation was dealing with the Micro-regions and the cooperation of the villages in the conditions of Slovak republic. She focused on the reflection of the existence and the real functioning of these units in Slovak republic. She also analysed the cooperation in between these micro-regions and the pros of this form of cooperation. The fifth speaker, **Mgr. PhDr. Rastislav Král, PhD.** from the same department as above, presented the topic of the Functional urban region- the opportunity or limitation for the common planning of the environmental policy. Author was dealing with the cooperation of the villages in the municipal function region Košice in the area of environmental policy. He analysed the programs of the social and economic development, where he showed the positive and negative aspects in this area. The contribution showed the limitations, which can be find in the territory of the functional urban region in the sense of connection of selected public policies in selected area. Next

speaker was **Ing. Matej Paľo** from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava with the presentation Public debt and economic growth in Slovakia and EMU (Ricardian approach). In his presentation, he analysed how the public debt and the flighty budget policy are influencing the crisis of the euro zone. Author used the example of the representative of the classical economy David Ricard, whose theory can be still used even after hundreds of years. The main aim of the author was to analyse the influence of the public debt on the economic growth of Slovakia. Another presentation from **Mgr. Miroslava Dujičová**, who is from the same department as the previous speaker, was about the implementation of the Bologna Process as the Part of the Development of the University Education in Slovakia. She focused mainly on the divided bachelor and master degree with the aim to analyse how successful are students with the bachelor degrees on the labour market. In her contribution, she identified the main problems with the implementation of the Bologna process, which should be finished by 2020. She also proposed the possibilities of the cooperation of the employers with the single faculties and better connection with the practical needs of labour market. The last speaker was **Mgr. Martin Daško** from the same faculty, with the presentation the Degree of Legitimacy of Elected Representatives in the Municipal Elections in Slovakia since 1993. Author focused on the topic of legitimacy of elected representatives in the context of the electoral turnout of the voters. He assessed the tendency of the low participation of the Slovak voters and he focused not only on the active but also on the passive electoral rights. After all the presentations of the first day the discussion followed, giving the speakers the opportunity to introduce their research to the other participants on individual level.

During the second day of the conference, two sections were held simultaneously. First section, the *Political Challenges and Opportunities in Today's Europe*, was opened by the chairman **PhDr. Jaroslav Mihálik, PhD.**, who warmly welcomed all the participants. First three participants were **Mgr. Tomáš Čizík** from the Faculty of Political Science and International relations of Matej Bel University with the contribution Information Warfare - New Security Challenge for Europe; **Mgr. Denisa Karabová** from the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, with the contribution European Identity in the context of current challenges of the EU; and **Mgr. Ingrid Borárosová**, also from the same department with the contribution The Challenge of Migrant Integration in Slovakia. In his presentation, Tomáš Čizík

introduced the phenomenon of the information war and how is this concept currently abused. He focused mainly on the Russian propaganda, how it is being spread and what are the reactions of the public to it. Denisa Karabová analysed the current routes of the concept of the European identity, what can we understand with this term and if it is relevant to speak about European identity in the shadow of the European crisis. Ingrid Borárosová focused on the integration of the migrants in the Slovakia, highlighting the main dimension and the main critical points of the integration of the migrants in Slovakia. These presentations closed the first panel, which was followed by short discussion, which showed how connected the presented research topics in fact are. In the second panels were speakers **Mgr. Jozef Antoš a Mgr. Vojtěch Przybyla** from the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava with the contribution The support of the niche parties and profile of their voters on the example of self-governing district Košice, and **Mgr. Michael Augustín** from the Institute of Political Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences with the contribution Front National after the normalisation - different but still the same. Jozef Antoš and Vojtěch Przybyla were focusing on the niche political parties. They used as an example the elections of the self-governing district Košice during the parliamentary elections in 2016, and with the help of the Pearson's correlation coefficient, they tried to create a profile of the typical voter of these parties. The presentation of **Michael Augustín** described and analysed the ideological, program and personal transformation of the French political party Front National after the 2011. He focused mainly in the idea that this party is the European phenomenon as it influences the European integration tendencies.

In third panel were speakers **Mgr. Veronika Oravcová** from the Faculty of Philosophy of the Comenius University with contribution on the Possibilities and the Use of the Presidential Powers; **Mgr. Jana Sivičková** from the Institute of Political Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences with the presentation Research reflections on Slovak Political thoughts; **Mgr. Jaroslav Fabok** from the Faculty of Social Sciences University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava with the presentation on the Religious Fundamentalism as the Challenge for European policy; and **Mgr. Nikola Šimuneková** from the same university with the contribution on Medialisation of the crisis discourse. **Veronika Oravcová** in her contribution focused mainly the comparative analysis of the countries of the Central and Eastern Europe and she identified also the main constitutional conflicts in between the President and Prime Minister. She focused on the question if the direct election of the President can influence the intensity of the

executive arguments. **Mgr. Jana Sivičková** dealt with the trends of the Slovak political thought. As an example she used the **Andrej Siracký** and highlighted the specific research methods in the researching the selected problems. The concept of secularisation was main part of the presentation of the **Mgr. Jaroslav Fabok**, who focused mainly on the return of the religion to the Europe. He warned that the religious fundamentalism and not only one connected to Islam will be the challenge with which the Europe will need to deal more and more frequently. **Mgr. Nikola Šimuneková** presented the medialisation of the term crisis, while she pointed out the forms and the causes of the single crises. The contribution was based on the following the most trusted media over the one year period. After each of the panel there was time dedicated to an open discussion and the questions to the presented topics. The chairman at the end summed up the presentations and discussion within the section, and showed the hope for the future cooperation between the participants of the conference.

The second section, held simultaneously with the previously mentioned one, was *Social Policy and its Dimensions in Slovakia and Abroad* whose chairmen were **doc. RNDr. Jaroslava Pavlková, CSc.** and **PhDr. Peter Slovák, PhD.** They together opened the section with the short speeches and asked the first participants to start. First speaker was **Bc. Martin Vavruš** from the agency MEDIAN SK, s.r.o., ACRC, s.r.o., Ipsos Tambor, s.r.o. with the contribution on Social Policy of the State in the Context of Homosexual Partnerships in Slovakia. He focused mainly on the problems of the homosexual couples in Slovakia, which are living without any institutional or legal framework. He also informed about not approved legislative proposal, which would change the legal framework of the homosexual relations. The next speaker was **PhDr. Jaroslav Spodniak** from the Faculty of Social Sciences University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius with the contribution on Disabled Persons in the Context of the Social Care and Social Services. He focused on the difficult self-realisation of the disabled persons in the society. Author analysed the process of de-institutionalisation in the practice in the social service facility - DSS Slatinka in Lučenec. He highlighted many of the defects in the legal but also in social form. Next speaker from the same University was **Mgr. Ivana Klimentová**, which opened the difficult topic of the System of the help for abused women in the Trnava region. In her contribution, she focused on the aggression towards women, which is one of the most common violation of the human rights. As an example, she outlines the problems and solutions in Trnava region, where one of the biggest negative is the absence of specialised consulting and social services serving as crisis centres.

**PhDr. Róbet Frimmel** from the same department introduced the Communal social policy in Prievidza. The presentation dealt with the term of the communal social policy in the context of the delegation of the powers in the area of social services. Author set the question about possible effective use of the various benefits from the social security system and their possible use in practice. **PhDr. Lenka Machyniaková**, also from the same department explained the topic Terrain social work with the homeless people in Trnava. The contribution was dealing with the problems of the terrain social work as the practical help to the people, which are at the margins of the society. The main aim was to show the terrain social work as one of the methods of the social work, which is very important aspect of help for the people without shelter. Author connected the theoretical level with the practical, while she focused on the terrain social work (streetwork) in Trnava, which is running since September 2016. Another speaker was **Mgr. Michal Garaj** from the same department, with the presentation Communal Planning of the Social Services: Bratislava and Košice. The aim was to show the actual state of the processing of communal plans in these cities from the view of the various city districts. He analysed the state of the communal planning from the view of the processing, characters and caters during the creation process. The result were comparable in the common ground for each separate city districts and in the categories mentioned above. **PhDr. Marian Marák** from the same department in his contribution The Current state of the Social Policy of the State towards People with Hearing Disabilities opened another important set of problems. He introduced the needs of the people with hearing disabilities, and outlined the possibilities for improvement in the current legislative. He also highlighted the lack of the translators of the sign language and explained how these services are used in practice. The contribution was followed by debate about the slow changes in legislation and about the integration or inclusion of the people with hearing disabilities to the society in comparison to the other countries. The last speaker **Mgr. Renáta Kocúrová** was also from the Faculty of Social Sciences, and closed the section with the Analysis of the Social Services for the Children with Autism in the Slovak Republic. The aim of the article was to show the importance and necessity of the social services in cases of autism. Professional help to the clients in these life situations is one of the preconditions for successful inclusion into the normal life. After this contribution, the discussion about all the contributions of the section followed.

The conference closed by jointly by the chairmen of the respective sections, who were delighted that the doctoral students from the Faculty of the Social Sciences University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava decided to organise the event, which brought the inspiration for the further research in the social sciences. The conference was not only on the very professional level, but also in the very friendly atmosphere, especially with the chairmen advising the young researchers how to continue with their research. The Faculty of Social Science and the organizers strongly believe that this event will become the tradition. We hope that the organizers will be able to create every year a place for the open discussion about the topics and problems we are dealing with. The individual contributions of the participants will be published in the proceeding of the conference, which will hopefully inspire the readers with the topics introduced above.