

New opportunities in an unknown era

The amount of negative information and events enveloping people's lives, regardless of their job, age or social status, has increased a lot during the last year. The chaotic political scene, economic issues, and the fear for both health and the future have become a normal part of people's everyday lives. A guide for coping with this difficult situation doesn't exist, but if we would like to create one, the basic ingredient would be to look at how this new situation has created fresh opportunities for us. Opportunities, like small things and daily activities that give hope and the impression of a return to „normal“ life, and those activities that occupy the mind are of great necessity, and which we sometimes forget or neglect to recognise. The world has changed and it is necessary to realise the new opportunities that have come at either the micro or personal level. So, while we have to set new life goals or radically change our lifestyle to deal with the new challenges ahead, we should not forget the traditions and established processes which bring about the positive outcomes that we need.

The nature of humans as *zoon logon echon* should be seen as new attribute for searching of opportunities. Let's search together for ways to help us to overcome the issues and guide us back to a new normal functioning, based on the solid grounding of the past. To the usual processes, we can add to this the new issue of the magazine Človek a spoločnosť, which comes with several ideas for those new opportunities awaiting us.

The last issue of 2020 brings a variety of topics beginning with school issues, which are covered in the first two articles. An overview study by [Marianna Berinšterová](#) reviews the present area of knowledge in the mentoring process of university students. The author analysed the papers published in the English language in the database „Web of Knowledge“ over last five years. The study describes the specifics of the mentoring relationship for university students and offers ideas for further research. Additionally, it makes suggestions for creating and verifying the programs for mentors, which include; mentoring in regards to learning and career preparation; mentoring between a university's teachers and students, as well as mentoring for real situations outside university; the theoretical background of mentoring which supports mutual learning; and focusing on natural mentoring and its psychosocial aspects.

Theoretical and empirical knowledge on the issue of bullying at school is provided by the contribution of [František Baumgartner](#), [Eva Vancu](#) and [Kaltrina Kelmendi](#). It is oriented to the identification and description of the different forms of bullying in the classroom, as they are perceived and evaluated by the participants. It also aims to analyse the bullying process dynamics within individual roles scenarios of the participants and their interactions with emotion regulation. The authors posed the question whether actors of school bullying used the same or different strategies of cognitive emotion regulation.

The question of how climate change is perceived by the residents of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland was analysed in the study by [Anna Kalistová](#) and [Emília Huttmanová](#). Their analysis are based on the data of the eighth Round of the European Social Survey collected from 2016 – 2017 on a sample of 44, 387 respondents from 23 countries. The authors research the attitudes of residents regarding their climate fears and energy preferences, as well the attitudes towards individual tools of environmental politics. The results of the analysis confirmed a strong perception of climate change and its negative consequences for the whole world, although the extent of the fears differs from country to country. The study analyses environmental taxes and incomes, and offers a brief summary of energy and climate plans elaborated on by each country, in order to meet climate goals resulting from the European Ecological Convention.

The series of studies is completed by a paper by [Rita Hornok](#) dedicated to the study of national identity and the relationships of ethnic minorities. The author researched the views of the ethnic Slovak minority youth living in Hungary but studying in Slovakia. The goal of the study was to reveal the personal stories and interpretations of the minority students regarding their experiences within kin national relationships, as well their reflections about their own national identity. The research was focused on the perception's analysis of group belonging, and the links between members of both the Slovak minority in Hungary and Slovaks living in Slovakia.

In this issue, as usual, you can find reviews and reports from three conferences which were organized in virtual space due to the exceptional epidemiological situation.

Mária Ďurkovská, Lucia Heldáková