

Editorial Note

We are proud to present the first issue of the journal 'Social Sciences' in 2012 to our readers. This is the 75th issue since the journal was launched in 1994. It was launched as a publication encompassing the four trends of the Social Sciences – Sociology, Educational Science, Management and Economics. It has become a journal representing an interdisciplinary and even multidisciplinary approach in the Social Sciences. The Editorial Board has put every effort into trying to attract contributors to publish research results from different countries.

There has been a natural tendency of the journal to publish the articles that focus on the social issues of the so called 'late-comer countries' that spent no less than 50 years under the soviet regime. Quite often such publications highlight or solve the above issues drawing on the theories developed in the Western countries. Thus the results of empirical research may often be used to develop these theories in the context of post-soviet countries that make their way towards democracy, search for their place in local market economy, encounter change of culture and education. There is another issue important for research on the global scale to be mentioned. Often empirical research results on different issues of late-comer countries are compared with research data from countries with democratic traditions and high level of economic development, especially in the context of their development. Thus answers to the following question are sought: is it possible to speed up the development of late-comer countries by finding more effective solutions of the existing problems?

The present issue of the journal is not an exception. But this time it is related to the context of one particular late-comer country – Lithuania. Some of the research contributions seek answers to the above question, whereas the others use the context of Lithuania to provide rationale for some theoretic constructs that may be used for research on social issues in other countries.

This issue of 'Social Sciences' consists of two parts. The first part is devoted to new theoretic and methodological insights into social issues important for contemporary societies. This part involves four articles. The second part, which addresses social issues emerging in late-comer countries and analyses them in the context of Lithuania, also consists of four articles.

The first contribution is 'Application of Mapping Method in Sociology' by Irena Juozeliuniene, Laura Kanapieniene and Ginte Martinkene. It presents a qualitative research method –

Family mapping (Levin, 1990), which is related to the tradition of symbolic interactionism and interpretative methodology. The aim of the article is to reveal innovative strategies of sociological research integrated in the mapping method, to present the modifications of the method in Lithuania and their application for the research on family life and media programmes. Sergejus Neifachas in his contribution 'Discourse on the Identity of Childhood Policy: Self-Contextualisation of Indoctrinated Meanings in Documents on Education' points out that the structural incongruence of educational policy results in major issues. For this reason, his article is devoted to the issue of identity of childhood policy; it addresses the following conceptual question: how the categories of childhood identity in regulatory documentalistics change in line with the changes of paradigm in childhood education? The article 'Empowering Partnership as Resocialization Form of Juveniles Subject to Delinquency' by Paulius Skiecevicius and Irena Leliugiene is devoted to solving issues of delinquent juveniles' resocialisation. The authors address the two questions: can empowering partnership be treated as resocialisation form of juveniles subject to delinquency? What specific features characterise empowering partnership as resocialisation form of juveniles subject to delinquency? Theoretical research was carried out to answer the first question, whereas answering the second question involved empirical research. The presentation of empirical research results leads to conclusions valuable for the theory of juveniles' resocialisation. Palmira Juceviciene and Jurgita Vizgirdaite have contributed an article on educational empowerment of collaborative learning at the university. The authors provide rationale for educational empowerment of collaborative learning with reference to the issues of legitimacy, competence and inclusion into the learning process.

The contributors to the second part of this issue aim to focus on social issues in one of the late-comer countries – Lithuania. They draw on original empirical research carried out in this and other

countries. Dainius Sobeckis in his contribution ‘Question of Lithuanian Diaspora Identity: Analysis of Leonardas Andriekus’ Case’ analyses the status of the Lithuanian diaspora by raising the question: who are we outside Lithuania? The contribution “Self-development of Intercultural Competence in Academic Exchange Programmes: Students’ Attitude” by Aida Norviliene addresses the question: how do Lithuanian students approach the opportunities for developing intercultural competence in academic exchange programmes? As the academic exchange programmes are a European initiative, the tendencies pointed out in the article are important not only for Lithuania, but also for researchers and practitioners in higher education of other countries, in particular those of the EU. Eugenijus Bagdonas, Donata Jovarauskiene and Vilma Kazlauskiene in their article ‘The Sponsorship of Health Care System in the United States and France: Alternatives to Lithuania’ focus on the specific features and issues of financing in the health care systems of the USA and France to identify the potential alternatives for reforming the health care system in Lithuania. The article ‘Crystallization of Disability Stereotypes in Lithuanian Media’ by Ugne Zalkauskaite attempts to answer the questions: what stereotypes of the disabled are prevalent in Lithuania? What image of disability is formed by the Lithuanian press? What constructs of identity of the disabled are inherent to the Lithuanian press? Drawing on the stereotypes of the disabled revealed by the empirical research, the author offers theoretical constructs of the identity of the disabled and insights into the image of disability.

Most contributions published in the journal ‘Social Sciences’ are research articles. But in some issues we publish book reviews and articles on best practice. This issue also involves an article on best practice. In the contribution by ‘Understanding the Canadian Innovation System’ Mindaugas Kiskis shares his insight as a result of his research visit to Canada. He draws our attention to aspects of the Canadian Innovation System that may be useful for Lithuania. Of course, this insight may be beneficial to other late-comer countries; researchers interested in them may find relevant research ideas.

The Editorial Board looks forward to articles written in the context of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary problems of the Social Sciences. As a consequence of involvement into the project ‘Publication of Research Periodicals’ in the frame of EU Structural Funds Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources 2007-2013, we are transferring the editorial activities into the *Open Journal System* (OJS). We hope to benefit from this in our daily editorial performance.

Therefore, we are kindly asking our contributors to submit manuscripts on-line at www.socsc.ktu.lt. Alternatively, please e-mail them at socmokslai@ktu.lt or send a hard copy at the below address. Every issue and the website of the journal presents the requirements of the articles to be published in the journal ‘Social Sciences’.

Editor-in-Chief
Prof. dr. habil. Palmira Juceviciene
The Editorial Board
Social Sciences

K. Donelaicio 20-401
LT-44239 Kaunas
Lithuania
Telephone +370 37 300130; fax +370 37 300102; e-mail: socmokslai@ktu.lt
Web site: www.socsc.ktu.lt