

Radana

1. Abstract (article)

The Regulation of the Process of Interest Assertion in the European Union: the Lobbyists' Codes of Conduct

Key words: Lobbying, Regulation, Code of Conduct, European Union Member States, European Commission, European Parliament.

The article explores the application of the codes of conduct for lobbyists in the European Union (EU) member states. The code of conduct was singled out of the other regulatory means because of the fact that it represents the essential principle of lobby regulation in the European Parliament and the European Commission. Therefore, the primary objective of this work was to evaluate the attitude of the member states towards this particular regulatory instrument. The research method **was based on** a qualitative approach and detailed textual analysis of the codes, regulatory measures and other relevant documents dealing with lobbying regulations. The research results **illustrate** that the application of the code has not been extended in the member states yet. The authorities decided to apply it only in Lithuania and France. In addition to this, the possibility of introducing this instrument has been discussed in Ireland.

Overall: clear and in an academic register; some informal expressions and verbosity could be eliminated.

2. Ph.D. research outline

Lobbying Regulation: A Study of the European Commission

The objective of my research is to study the lobbying regulation - still rather marginalized theme in existing literature. The implementation of lobbying rules targets at increasing the level of public control of activities of lobbyists and lobbied officials, politicians - increasing transparency and accountability in the political process.

The primary focus lies in the lobbying regulation at the level of the European Union (EU), particularly the European Commission (EC). The EC deals directly with lobbyists and interest groups (IGs) representatives due to its exclusive right of legislative initiative. For the EC it is important to regularly keep in touch with the IGs which as bearers of information and expertise can contribute to the quality of EU public policies.

Even though the necessity to enhance transparency and openness has been recognized also at EU level, the EC still denies any further improvements regarding lobby regulation defending its voluntary system of lobby registration, that is the promotion of the concept of self-regulation. Therefore, my research is aimed at examination and reflection of self-regulation as an instrument of lobby regulation applied by the EC.

The evolution of the concept will be studied through analysing and comparing relevant EC documents and activities in relation to IGs and the position of their representatives towards this issue. The research will be based on arguments of deliberative democracy theory and concepts of transparency and accountability that provide theoretical justifications for regulating lobbyists. Consequently, the main discussion which is to be examined is between voluntary self-regulation concept and mandatory regulation, per se. The assumption being tested is that self-regulation falls short of ensuring transparency and accountability in the EU system due to its voluntary nature.

Overall: good academic register, though some expressions could be clearer and less wordy.

3. Jitka

Title of my doctoral thesis:

Linguistic pluralism in Latin America: Case Study of Guaraní Communities in Argentina

Its my first year in the doctor program, so I will try to write an abstract, although the thesis still doesn't exist. It can be seen in the part of results... I hope I will complete it soon.

Abstract:

The North-eastern area of Argentina is a little known area bilingual in Spanish and Guaraní, although the number of Guaraní speakers is high there and still increases. A lot of researches are dedicated to language policy and impacts of bilingual education in Paraguay, where Guaraní is a co-official language, in contrast to other Guaraní speaking areas in Argentina, Bolivia or Brazil. This study is focused on the linguistic situation in Argentine provinces Corrientes, Santa Fe, Chaco and Formosa.

The research studies the social functions and values of Guaraní and the attitudes of the speakers toward Guaraní in Argentina. The survey was carried out in the provinces of Corrientes and Formosa, and the analysis also includes statistical data from the other two provinces.

The methods were based on a study effectuated by Lenka Zajícová and other sociolinguists during the last 5 years in Paraguay. Application of the same methods made a comparison of these two bilingual areas possible, considering the influence of the different language polices effectuated in Paraguay and Argentina. The collected data have shown similar attitudes to Guaraní as a traditional language with historical and patriotic function. Thanks to the official promotion Guaraní is a required language not only for education in Paraguay, but also for trading, while in Argentina the speakers does not attribute as much social prestige to Guaraní and the majority of the inhabitants prefer education in Spanish.

The case of Guaraní shows a need for recognition of the language situation as a background for language planning. This work is a contribution to the discussion about the importance and perspectives of indigenous Amerindias languages. It can be used to help to consider the changes in official regulations and educational systems in the above mentioned Argentine provinces.

Overall: come colloquialisms and repetition. While background description is given, more clarity is needed.

4. Peter S:

Part of a chapter which introduces the analysis of electoral system used in Slovakia

Author: Peter Spáč

The Slovak electoral system belongs to list proportional models. Its composition is mainly influenced by three factors. First, all 150 deputies are elected in a single national constituency. Second, each competing party has to gain at least 5 percent votes to enter the Parliament. Third, voters can use 4 preferential votes to support candidates whom they find most suitable for the respective political function. To sum up, the model used for Slovak Parliament favors political parties over citizens.

The roots of this electoral system lie in the period 1994-1998, which was crucial for Slovakia's

political development. The new coalition government realised its policy in a problematic way was/is (?) connected with vast corruption and clientelism. The quality of the country's democracy considerably degraded and so did its foreign image. The public was dissatisfied with these trends which led to a rapid increase of the support of opposition parties. The outcome of this situation was an electoral reform, passed by the government with an aim to weaken the gains of the opposition.

Comparisons of electoral systems throughout Western Europe provide interesting data. Most countries which adopted proportional models divide their territory in more constituencies. This "rule" has only one exemption. Like Slovakia, the Netherlands also uses one nationwide constituency where all 150 deputies are elected together. What is more, the barriers for entering the Parliament are even lower as only 0,67 percent of votes are needed. Theoretically the seats in the Dutch Parliament may be split to maximum of 149 parties, which creates great opportunities, even for small political formations.

Overall: well formulated sentences which are expressed in an academic register. Pay attention to the use of the definite article.

5. Jan

Abstract of my Master`s Thesis

I have chosen english abstract of my master`s thesis. Frankly, it was not written too carefully, so I expect there will be some mistakes I can learn from. Now I see it is no elegant text.

Prior Knowledge as the Starting Point of Philosophy

This thesis is an attempt to create an a conception of epistemological study starting point based on the fact that our thought is necessarily conditioned by our prior state of knowledge. The aim of the thesis is to show that the notion of prior knowledge can serve as the first and initial notion of systematic philosophical inquiry. A comparison with the traditional foundationalist approach to the subject is used to explain proposed hermeneutical conception. The conditions, which should be fulfilled by a conception of epistemological starting point, are set down on the basis of an analysis of foundationalism. This analysis also offers an answer to the question why is it useful to have an epistemological starting point. These findings serve as the background for evaluation of the hermeneutical conception. General method based on the notion of prior knowledge is discussed in the contrast of the foundationalist version of the universal method.

Overall: the language used in this abstract is reflective of academic writing, however the sentences are somewhat repetitive. Minimise this repetition in content and grammatical composition.

6. Peter O.

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Preparing article:

Failing Blueprint? An Indispensable Crossroad of Transitional Administration in Kosovo

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(a passage of the article)

No violation of any applicable rule of international law is found

Kosovo brought the issue of the Balkans into a different dimension that in fact consequently led to politicizing Kosovo. In real terms, Kosovo has been the first-ever project of the UN with such huge transitional structure with no clear vision of the final status. From 1999 to 2008, a political emptiness and a lack of an international will to handle a political status of Kosovo paved the way to complicated conditions that finally contributed to immediately discouraging all states of the international community to unanimously accept the independence of Kosovo.

The unilateral declaration of independence had much bigger repercussions on an international level, greater than that expected. On 8th October 2008, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/63/3 putting a request for an Advisory Opinion on the question of the unilateral declaration of independence in respect of Kosovo to the UN ICJ. The UN General Assembly acted in compliance with Article 65 of the UN Charter. Thereupon, the Article authorizes the General Assembly to call the UN ICJ for giving an advisory opinion “on any legal question” (The United Nations, 1945). In the terms of Resolution A/RES/63/3, the UN General Assembly asked the UN ICJ to render an advisory opinion on the question “Is the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo in accordance with international law?” (General Assembly, 2008). The UN ICJ works as a principal judicial organ of the UN and based on Article 65 of the Statute of the UN ICJ, the Court is entitled to give an advisory opinion on any legal questionⁱ.

In truth, the advisory opinion of the Court is not binding for the UN General Assembly, nor is it for any other body of the UN. The proceedings of the Court *in re* of assessing a legality of unilateral declaration required the Court to scrutinize all applicable rules of international law. Keeping this in mind, the Court may handle requests only containing “an exact statement of the question upon which an opinion is required”. (International Court of Justice, 1945). The Court found no reason to ask the UN General Assembly to reformulate the question in resolution A/RES/63/3 and thus formally prolong the process. On the contrary, the Court observed that the question was “narrow” and “clearly formulated” (International Court of Justice, 2010) and saw no obstacles to acquit the request.

Overall: this work contains well-formulated sentences which are illustrative of a sound grounding in academic expression.

The Serbia’s press hard for violation of its territorial integrity caused by the unilateral declaration of independence promulgated by Kosovo was one of major aspects examined by the Court. The recent status of Kosovo is an outcome of vacuum political framework improperly solved within Interim Administration, UN SC Resolution 1244 and the UNMIK Constitutional Frameworkⁱⁱ. A key aspect of contemporary international legal order is based on the principle of territorial integrity. The issue of the territorial integrity is specifically

formulated in Article 2, paragraph 4 of the UN Charter. The principal of the territorial integrity is further developed in two other international legal documents - Resolution 2625 of the UN General assembly and the Helsinki Final Act. The resolution uphold “the principal that States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations” (General Assembly, 1970, pp. 122). The Helsinki Final Act is the second international legal document adopted on 1st August 1975 reiterating the will of any state to “refrain from any action inconsistent with the purposes and principles of against the territorial integrity, political independence or the unity of any participating State” (OSCE, 1975). The violation of the territorial integrity has always been considered as an act in a direct contradiction to the international law and the UN Charter. The examination of this fact forced the Court to turn its attention to a background of the authors of the declaration of independence, relevance and legal aspects of both documents - UN SC Resolution 1244 and regulation 2001/9 of UNMIK.

The legal aspect and the relevance of UN SC Resolution 1244 are based on its adoption within legal framework of the UN Charterⁱⁱⁱ, what in other words means that Resolution 1244 imposes international legal obligation. The legal interpretation of UN SC Resolution 1244 shall be taken from a broader scope. *Firstly*, no matter what hidden interests played a crucial role, Resolution 1244 was a political solution to the deteriorating situation in Kosovo according to the UN Charter in general and recalled by specific chapters in particular. *Secondly*, Resolution 1244 established an international interim administrable system composed of civil and security components to settle a civil and political system of Kosovo. The administrable system was created just for a limited period of time and cannot be understood as a permanent institutional framework. *Thirdly*, Resolution 1244 empowered the UN “with full civil and political authority and sole responsibility for the governance of Kosovo” (International Court of Justice, 2010, pp. 10). *Finally*, Resolution 1244 contains no provision related to definitive determination on final status of Kosovo.

The second aspect of the legal structure could be found in UNMIK regulations including Regulation 2001/9. The Regulation promulgated the constitutional Framework establishing Provisional Institutions of Self-government in Kosovo. Besides, a Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General leading the UNMIK was appointed. A special representative held its authority under legal framework of UN SC Resolution 1244. *Firstly*, the constitutional Framework was applicable in Kosovo for a limited period of time^{iv} and dealt with duties which would ordinarily be the subject of domestic law. *Secondly*, the constitutional framework was in power as a part of the body of law adopted for the purposes of process of Interim Administration and cannot be applicable anywhere on the planet. Thus, the constitutional framework has only a territorial character and therefrom a limited purpose. As a result, UNMIK regulations including regulation 2001/9 bear an „international legal character” (International Court of Justice, 2010, pp. 8).

To close the question about legal characters of Resolution 1244 and UNIMK regulations, we have to turn our attention to possible consequential violation of both international judicial sources by means of announcing the declaration of independence as an act of the Assembly of Kosovo on 17th February 2008. *First of all*, in the advisory opinion of the Court there was no single finding about any violation of any applicable rule of international law. *By and large*, it was made clear that the declaration of independence was an act of people. It was not an act of any part or element of existing provisional institutions of Self-Government within the Provisional Framework nor was it in contradiction to Resolution 1244. In other words this means, that the declaration of independence was an act of the authors, representatives of the people of Kosovo which proceeded as a consequence of a failure of whole political process dealing with crucial

importance of Kosovo's future including Ahtissari plan.

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- ⁱ The request must be made by „whatever body authorized by or in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to make such a request” (International Court of Justice, 1945)
 - ⁱⁱ Including regulation 2001/9 that announced a creation of the Constitutional Framework
 - ⁱⁱⁱ notably on basis of Article 24 and 25 of the UN Charter and Chapter VII of the UN Charter
 - ^{iv} only during the process of interim administrable phase.
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7. Petra

Abstract: The state of environmental topic is described as problematic, as a source of a risk. [< this is unclear] A responsible lifestyle in the pursuit of health reflects a certain attitude towards the environment. The author's research follows on from previous research devoted to the description of patterns of thinking towards environmental topics in student teachers. Our main assumption is that interest in the environment as a determining agent of optimal health is expressed in personal involvement of every individual. With regard to the significant role of the teacher in school environmental education, I examine the respondents' attitudes to the protection of the environment and conduct corresponding with active health care in everyday life situations. The results of the research will contribute to the development of the system of teacher training that will correspond with the concept of health support and sustainable development.

Overall: the meaning here is clear, although there are some inaccuracies in the sentences.

8. Bohumir

The Care of Children with Haemophilia in the Czech Republic - Yesterday and Today

Blazek, B.

Department of Paediatric Haematology, University Hospital Ostrava, Czech Republic

The authors review development in the care of children with haemophilia in the Czech Republic, especially changes over the past twenty years. As a model one of the regional centres – Department of Paediatric Haematology in Ostrava, Northern Moravia – was used.

Before 1989, the care of children with coagulopathies was heterogeneous and [dis?]desintegrated in many centres, and these patients were usually treated together with adults. After the onset of the new therapeutic possibilities, especially purified concentrates of factors VIII and IX, the care of paediatric haemophiliacs was centralized into regional paediatric centres. The treatment of bleeding episodes has been dramatically improved. Home treatments have become available for all children with haemophilia in addition to the “on demand” therapy. Patients with severe types of disease can derive benefits of the prophylactic treatment with factor concentrates. We obtained a significant amount of experience with the treatment of inhibitor using aPCC and recombinant FVIIa, in addition to applications of immune tolerance protocols.

Thus far, approximately 90% of children in the Czech Republic are treated with plasma derived factor concentrates, however the number of recombinant factors used is constantly increasing. The highest rate of haemophiliacs A treated with recombinant factors VIII is in Ostrava, where the percentage reaches 50 %.

new chances of care above standard – as summer camp for haemophiliac children – appeared.

This development culminated into the creation of two Comprehensive Care Centres and six Haemophilia Treatment Centres in the frame of National Haemophilia Programme. In cooperation with other specialists (such as orthopedists, physiotherapists etc.) complex care comparable with other EU member states is offered there. All these changes have led to improvement of locomotor system, especially of large joints at the time of referral to the adult haematology department and enabled our children to be involved in the

majority of their common activities.

Overall: well expressed and clear sentences. Use of the definite article needs attention.

9. Veronika

Bioresonance in therapy of nicotineism

This abstract doesn't follow a typical structure of abstracts (background, methods, results, conclusions). It is because of the article type. It isn't a kind of study but rather a short report (or minireview) based on other articles. Here it is:

The article briefly deals with bioresonance therapy used in smoking cessation. In the first part, it acquaints [odd choice of word] with commercially presented information (principle of method, course and effectiveness of therapy, its contraindication and side effects, cost). The second part elucidates previous misinformation and it contradicts [challenges?] the credibility of the method. Bioresonance should not be recommended in the therapy of nicotineism for its ineffectiveness is comparable with other alternative methods used to aid individual to cease smoking.

Overall: Meaning is clear; sentences would benefit from some reformulation.

10. Marketa P.

Abstract of article entitled:

Detection of metal residues of blunt instrument on bone using SEM-EDX Markéta Pechníková

Background: Toolmark analysis is still a difficult area of forensic science. The scanning electron microscopy (SEM) is frequently used for bone observation, but it was rarely used for the detection of metal residues left by sharp instruments in cuts. The presence of metal particles remained on the bone after a blunt impact was never observed using any technique. Our research aim in the detection of metal elements left on the bone by blunt instruments using scanning electron microscopy with an energy dispersive X-ray (SEM-EDX). **Methods:** Five fresh sub-adult bovine metatarsal bones were manually cleaned from soft tissues. The blow by metal bar (copper, iron or aluminium) was applied on the external surface of mid-diaphysis to process blunt force trauma – or a fracture. The areas inflicted by a metal bar were examined by SEM analysis. **Results:** The presence of metal particles was confirmed in all iron and copper samples and in 67% of the aluminium samples. All detected particles were found to be close to the fracture margin. Their chemical composition highly corresponds with the composition of applied bars. **Conclusion:** All blunt metal instruments used in this study left their signs on the bone surface. The Presence of remaining metal particles and its chemical composition was successfully verified using SEM-EDX. The described observation could significantly help in forensic tool analysis.

Overall: a very well written abstract, where the key components of the forensic analysis has been described succinctly and with total clarity. The area requiring focus is the use of the definite article.

11. Marketa D

Abstract of the article

This article presents a new programme from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Nutrition Friendly

School Initiative (NFSI) and makes positive comparisons in the context of the previous program called Health Promotion Schools.

The article also introduces the ideas and aims of the NSF, which are to create the right conditions for all activities promoting a healthy lifestyle. Special attention is paid to nutrition, sufficient exercise programmes and community co-operation.

The active engagement of a wide range of interested parties and a comprehensive understanding of the nutrition problems as an important part of a healthy lifestyle and regular evaluation of schools should be a noticeable advantage of the programme.

Overall: very clear, concise and well-formulated sentences.

12 Eva

Quality of life by patients with atopic dermatitis

Objectives and original contributions of the research

This research focuses on a specific skin disorder – atopic dermatitis – and its effect on the quality of life of people suffering from this disease. In the scope of this research, the effect the psychological stimuli have on this disease – i.e. psychological stress in a negative sense and psychotherapy in a positive sense should be established.

Atopic dermatitis (also called *atopic eczema*) is an inflammatory, chronically relapsing, non-contagious and pruritic skin disorder. It is a very common disease, with incidences continuing to grow. Most commonly, it affects children, but 2-10% of adults also suffer from atopic dermatitis. **Relevance** The prevalence (?) of this disease depends on the extent of its symptoms, frequency of the exacerbations and complications, **mostly on the significant impact on quality of life.**

Atopic eczema – like every **civilization** complex disease – is multifactorial. It is caused by the complicated interaction of genes which are responsible for the predisposition for atopy and non-genetic influences, mostly influences of the environment. It often occurs in people with a medical history of other allergic disorders such as asthma or hay fever. Although it is an inherited disease, eczema is aggravated by contact with or intake of allergens. It is also influenced by other factors that affect the immune system such as stress. **Stress can be the only factor causing problems with this skin disorder and stress itself is also caused by presence of the skin disorder.** It was demonstrated that psychological stress by patients with atopic dermatitis has a substantial, negative affect on the course of the disease. There are many types of questionnaires used for observation of the quality of life by patients with atopic dermatitis (DLQI, FDLQI, IDQOL, CDLQI, SF-36 etc.). Although there are many studies about the quality of life by patients with atopic dermatitis, current research is focused mostly on pediatric patients. It is true that it most commonly affects children, but the prevalence of this disease is dramatically increasing in higher age groups as well in the last years.

Overall: The register of this abstract is suitable for an academic paper, however, there are sections where the meaning is unclear, as highlighted above.

The main task of the research will be the evaluation of quality of life in the group of patients with atopic dermatitis in the age over fifteen and further the research of different factors influencing the quality of life by patients suffering from this skin disorder. The research will be realized at the 1st Department of Dermatology and Venereology at St. Anne's University Hospital Brno. The research will be especially oriented on the fact whether the quality of life correlates and how with objective relevance of this disease and with localization of skin symptoms (eczema on visible areas vs. eczema hidden under clothing), also with extent and stage of this skin disease. The research will be also oriented on finding of the answer for the question whether there are differences in self-assessment by people with different age, education, men and women. In the scope of this research it will be also made an assessment of systematic psychotherapy (by patients who would like to

make psychological consulting) on quality of life (comparison of quality of life before and after systematic psychotherapy will be undertaken). The comparison of results of psychotherapy and classical drug treatment will be made as well. The research of quality of life by patients with atopic eczema has a socio-economical impact on the life of these patients, e.g. it has been shown in a number of studies that the financial burden to families and government is similar to that of asthma, arthritis and diabetes mellitus. In children, the disease causes enormous psychological burden to families and loss of school days.

Theoretical framework, applied methods and techniques

A group of 100 to 120 patients with atopic dermatitis will be examined. The examination of anamnesis by patients will be realized (personal and family medical history, anamnesis of drug treatment and allergic disorders), then clinical examination with determination of extent, type of eczema, localization and activity of the disorder and total score of medical relevance of the disease will be undertaken. For the objective medical relevance survey, there will be used the standardized questionnaire „Severity scoring of atopic dermatitis“ – SCORAD index. Basic laboratory tests (blood count, biochemical examination), some specific laboratory tests (total IgE antibodies, specific IgE antibodies, ECP) and functional examinations (dermographism, TEWL) will be done. Especially the quality of life will be evaluated, with the use of standardized questionnaires The Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) and RAND 36 – Item Health Survey (SF-36), which are widely used in clinical praxis and scientific projects and reflect the subjective perception of the disease. After that the degree of correlation among selected anamnestic data, clinical and laboratory parameters and quality of life by patients with atopic eczema will be evaluated (even with use of statistic methods), finally the effect of psychological intervention on quality of life by people suffering from this disease will be assessed.

With regard to the fact that the above proposed research is oriented on an older group of patients (adults) and in consideration of missing surveys in this area, the project will bring unique results and some benefits for patients with atopic eczema. All currently available studies often include only a small number of patients with atopic dermatitis, that's why the results of these studies have low statistical evaluation relevance. Psychological factors are often underestimated in such studies. However, it has been shown that psychological stress is one of the most common provocative factors of atopic dermatitis. Systematic psychotherapy could also lead to a success in treatment and improvement of quality of life in conjunction with usual drug therapy and could reduce financial costs for consumption of medicines.

13. Name: Jiri

TITLE: Personal micronavigation for blind people inside buildings

ABSTRACT: This paper deals with the problem of navigation for blind people inside large buildings. Although there were many attempts to facilitate orientation of the visually-impaired in unknown places, we created some key points in the form of some chips which are put inside particular buildings. The visually-impaired users have special tools for detecting these chips, including weak vibrations being send to the hand holding the tool. The method referred to herein was tested by several users and it yielded very positive feedback. Using this device, the visually impaired can go alone into any building where the chips or tags are placed.

Overall: This absrtact is clearly written, but it contains a mixture of formal and informal register.