

Editorial Comment

The Center of Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Science and its component, the Institute of Social Sciences CSPA SAS are the heads of the project named *Tendencies of development of ethnic relations in Slovakia (comparative research of ethnic issues in the years 2004 – 2020) – (TESS2)* supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency. The collaborating organization of the project is the Faculty of Arts of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and its two departments, the Department of History and the Department of Political Science of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University.

Part of the presentation of the research results prepared by the project research team members is also a set of studies in the monothematic issue of the *Človek a spoločnosť* journal. The issue of the journal is devoted to national issues and national relations, especially to some aspects of the perception of inter-ethnic relations, stereotypes in the field of national relations, the perception of the media aspects of national relations from the perspective of social psychologists and historians in the years of 2004 – 2017, and a historical analysis of the issue of higher education and national minorities in Slovakia in the activities of the Government Council for Nationalities at the turn of the 1970s. The aim is not to provide a complete statement about the solution of the research project, but to present some partial outputs. The results of the project will be presented in two scientific conference proceedings, in separate monographs with research results, and in the research report with the results of the socio-psychological research.

Nationality issues and national relations are the subject of long-term interest in the social sciences, and in their research, the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Higher Education Institutions in Slovakia have played a significant, long-term role. The aim of the project *Tendencies of development of ethnic relations in Slovakia (comparative research of ethnic issues in the years 2004 – 2020) – (TESS2)* is to examine trends in the development of ethnic relations in Slovakia by means of three research lines. The primary objective in terms of the importance of the project is to prepare, implement and evaluate interdisciplinary empirical research on theoretical, methodological and practical issues of ethnicity and national relations in Slovakia. The researchers focus on the reflection of history and its impact on contemporary inter-ethnic relations, human rights, minority rights, perspectives on the development of ethnic communities, the perception and assessment of current issues of public (nationality) and political life, identification features of a person, family and household, attitudes towards migrants, and perceived security.

The Institute of Social Sciences CSPA SAS has a long-standing tradition in the research of national minorities, national relations and national politics. In the past decades, it has systematically acquired and processed data on ethnic issues. It is a field of research that has long been a subject of interest and research in the social and human sciences. The wide range of national issues affecting different aspects of social life creates space for broad research reach.

The basis is the analysis of the development of national relations at the beginning of the 21st century which is realized through socio-psychological research, and compares the state of society in the field of national relations and national politics in Slovakia from 2004 to the present (2018). The aim is for it to include: developments in the field of national relations, the strategy of Slovak Republic national politics, objectives and intentions of the political parties depending on ethnicity, demographic development of national minorities at the beginning of the 21st century, cooperation of European and Slovak politics in the field of institutions and national politics management, assessment of the activity and policies of individual governments in the observed period, perception of the history of national minorities, and the study of historical memory with a special focus on historical events with an ethnic background (Slovak-Hungarian relations, Ruthenian-Ukrainian relations, relations of the majority and the minority, Roma issues...).

Another goal of the project, which is not part of the presentation in our journal, is to provide the results of research and findings to the public, university students, and public institutions. This is done in parallel with the solution of the other parts of the project among the students of history and political science of the Faculty of Arts of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University and the involvement of the collaborating institutions in these activities. In the course of each year of the project solution, the project research team members will carry out workshops at the Faculty of Arts of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University or other universities with university students in Slovakia on the issue of ethnic relations, tolerance and cooperation with ethnic minorities. Under the leadership of the project leaders, lectures will be delivered presenting research on ethnic issues, with a controlled discussion of the issue of tolerance of other ethnic groups, or media policy in relation to the minorities.

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Principal investigator of the project