

TOPICS FOR DOCTORAL (PHD.) THESIS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

Field of study: 8. Economics and Management
Study program: Spatial and regional economics

No. 1	Supervisor	doc. Ing. Peter Burger, PhD.
Title		PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF NATURAL INDUSTRY CLUSTERS AND INSTITUTIONALIZED CLUSTERS
Detailed description of the topic (annotation or abstract)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To theoretically define clusters, natural industry clusters, cluster organizations, institutionalized clusters and describe the methods of creating and supporting them. • To analyze the methods for measuring the innovation and financial performance, efficiency and competitiveness of both natural industry clusters and institutionalized clusters. • To compare the differences in the innovation and financial performance of natural industry clusters and institutionalized clusters. • To evaluate the effects of financial support for institutionalized clusters from public resources at the level of regional competitiveness. • To propose a statistical model which captures the efficiency of spending public funds on the activities of institutionalized clusters.

No. 2	Supervisor	doc. Ing. Peter Burger, PhD.
Title		SUPPORT OF INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS IN SLOVAK CITIES AND REGIONS - APPLICATION OF THE SMART CITY CONCEPT
Detailed description of the topic (annotation or abstract)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To define the concept of a Smart City, the components and tools of the Smart City concept and the funding options. • To analyse the current state and trends in using the Smart City concept in the world, the role of regional and local governments, universities, businesses and citizens in promoting this concept. • To create a set of indicators in different areas of a Smart City (Smart Economy, Smart Mobility, Smart Environment, Smart Governance, Smart People, Smart Infrastructure, Smart Living, etc.). • To develop a statistical model and apply it to selected Slovak cities and regions in order to evaluate their potential in individual areas of the concept and propose the necessary measures for successfully implementing a Smart City.

No. 3	Supervisor	doc. Ing. Peter Džupka, PhD.
Title		EMPLOYMENT OF „SMART GOVERNANCE“ TOOLS ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS
Detailed description of the topic (annotation or abstract)		The main objective of the dissertation thesis is to develop and validate a methodology for supporting key decisions in the area of operational spending, investment and local policy modelling, based on data-supported modelling and aimed at increasing the efficiency and societal benefits of decision-making processes in local governments. Thesis will map the currently available data (primary, secondary and online data) needed to support selected key decision-

	making processes. At the same time, it will map the available IOT / IOE technologies, that will allow cities and self-government regions to generate new decision support data. Another part of the thesis will be the modification of methods based on the evidence-based policy making and value for money approaches, which will enable effective decisions in several areas at the local and regional level in Slovakia. The output of the project will be the methodological instructions for changing decision-making processes based on data and current methods, which will ensure higher efficiency of the allocation of public resources and increase the benefit for the citizens.
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No. 4	Supervisor	doc. Ing. Peter Džupka, PhD.
Title		ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF ACCESSIBILITY IN RURAL AREAS
Detailed description of the topic (annotation or abstract)		The aim of the dissertation thesis is to explore the possibilities of improving the accessibility of rural regions by applying new "smart" solutions based on demand-oriented transport and flexible transport systems. With the use of available data on regional transport the availability of rural areas will be described and areas where there is a possibility to improve their accessibility through new "smart solutions" will be identified. In order to identify specific solutions, the thesis will carry out a detailed research of empirical studies describing the use of demand-oriented transport solutions and flexible transport systems in rural areas in abroad. In addition to the traditional economic criteria, socio-economic indicators based on welfare theory will be used to assess the suitability of specific solutions. Agent base modelling will be used to evaluate the availability of rural regions and evaluate the usability of new applications.

No. 5	Supervisor	doc. Ing. Miriam Šebová, PhD.
Title		ECO-INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY
Detailed description of the topic (annotation or abstract)		The thesis deals with the eco-innovations in the Slovak manufacturing industry. The thesis's objective is to analyse the relationship between eco-innovation and economic indicators of industrial companies, explain their motivations and barriers, and focus on the regional differences. There will be applied mixed research design based on quantitative and qualitative research methods. Quantitative research will be based on data from EMS and other relevant databases.

No. 6	Supervisor	doc. Ing. Miriam Šebová, PhD.
Title		SUSTAINABLE MEASURES IN CULTURE
Detailed description of the topic (annotation or abstract)		Since the 90s, the popularity of "creative cities" was growing. "Creativity" was paid attention to as a source of job creation, urban regeneration and post-industrial economic growth. Cultural and creative industries became a symbol of urban prosperity. Economics tried to apply economic methods to measure the economic values of the culture. Contemporary discussion points out the tensions between the CCIs as the city branding tool without the care about their long-term sustainability. The thesis is focused on the sustainability of cultural and creative ecosystems in a human-centered way. The objective is to

	analyse urban cultural and creative ecosystems considering different dimensions of their long-term sustainability. There will be applied mixed research design based on quantitative and qualitative research methods.
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No. 7	Supervisor	doc. Ing. Nataša Urbančíková, PhD.
Title		GENDER AND EQUALITY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Detailed description of the topic (annotation or abstract)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a detailed analysis of the current state-of-play of selected EU Member States' and Slovakia initiatives for promoting gender equality in public administration. • To identify main obstacles to equal participation of women in public administration. • To interpret the influence of context on formation of an environment enabling institutional and cultural changes.

No. 8	Supervisor	doc. Ing. Tomáš Želinský, PhD.
Title		ASPIRATIONS AND SOCIAL CONNECTIONS
Detailed description of the topic (annotation or abstract)		Research has demonstrated that aspirations play an essential role in the psychology of poverty, while aspirations, educational attainment, and material welfare are significantly interrelated. An extensive set of determinants may be associated with aspirations, whereas social connections are one of these factors. Individuals model their aspirations on the experience of others in the immediate environment. The main goal of the thesis is to identify selected mechanisms of aspirations formation with an emphasis on individuals' social connections. The fulfilment of the goal requires an experimental design that will uncover potential underlying mechanisms.

No. 9	Supervisor	doc. Ing. Tomáš Želinský, PhD.
Title		SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Detailed description of the topic (annotation or abstract)		The subjective approach to well-being definition and measurement is often neglected, yet an appealing concept. Economists' scepticism about subjective variables seems to be overcome today, and, in general, the approach is regarded as a missing dimension of well-being. It is generally believed that the environment influences behaviour, attitudes and values. The main goal of this thesis is to explore the relationship between subjective well-being and the environment (and its characteristics) people live in. Analyses performed in the study will be primarily based on EU-SILC microdata, although other available data sets are not excluded from considerations.