

## Editorial

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Dear colleagues,

You now have the opportunity to read the fifth issue of the **Development, Environment and Foresight** journal, published by the Department of Development Studies, Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic. With this issue we start the third year of our SNAŽENÍ in the area of academic journal publishing.

We have already achieved our first success as our journal has been indexed by the ERIH PLUS database. The European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS) was created and developed by European researchers under the coordination of the Standing Committee for the Humanities of the European Science Foundation (ESF). The ERIH lists, which initially covered only humanities disciplines, were first published by ESF in 2008, while revised lists were made available in 2011-2012. In 2014, responsibility for the maintenance and operation of ERIH was transferred to the NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data. The reference index at NSD is called ERIH PLUS in order to indicate that it has been extended to include the social sciences.

The first paper in this issue is authored by Jan Macháček, Jiří Teichmann, Pavel Nováček and Pavel Kladivo; and describes the Future Oriented Thinking Index via a Case Study of the Czech Republic, Greece, Moldova and Switzerland. The aim of the paper is to discuss some key factors in sustainable development and prosperity. The concept of the Future Oriented Thinking Index (FOTI) was first discussed in the journal Foresight (Nováček, 2014). The following shows the calculations for the FOTI of four European countries with different histories and at various stages of economic development.

The second paper presented by Linda Piknerová and Eva Rybáková focuses on the “celebritization” of development, subtitled Bono Vox and Angelina Jolie, actors in development. The text explores the topic of celebrities participating in setting the agenda for development on the world stage. Even though the origins of this phenomenon date back to the 1950s, the 1980s in particular are connected with the organization of a series of *Live Aid* concerts and can thus be considered a distinct milestone regarding the permeation of celebrities into the world of development.

The third and fourth papers are written by students, Jan Říkovský and Lucie Macková, and Štěpánka Pecháčková respectively. Jan and Lucie report on the provision of aid in complex refugee situations via a case study of Belgrade. Their research aims to provide a reflection on the humanitarian response to the “migration crisis” along the Balkans route during 2015. On the other hand Štěpánka describes arsenic contamination of groundwater in Bangladesh as one of the largest examples of poisoning in the world, affecting millions of people because groundwater is the main source of potable water in the country.

The paper qualitatively evaluates an arsenic mitigation initiative in Bangladesh from the perspective of the recipients. The initiative was implemented by a local non-government organization, the Thanapara Swallows Development Society (TSDS).

We hope you enjoy this issue and we are looking forward to the next one, which will focus on failed states. We would like to motivate and invite other authors to contribute to the knowledge and expertise in the areas of development, environment and foresight by sending their submissions to the editorial board of the DEF journal. The aim of the journal is to cultivate academic discussion in the scope of the journal as well as beyond its borders.

Thank you for your support

Jiří Pánek // managing editor

## **References**

Nováček, P. (2014) Thinking Oriented Towards The Future – Key to Prosperity and Sustainable Development? *Foresight* 15: 354 - 362.