

Final report: Aktion project No. 89p21

Parallels and differences: Political journalism cultures in the Czech Republic and Austria

This project aimed to explore the varying political pressures – both new and old – which influence journalism in Austria and the Czech Republic, with the key aim of developing a funding application for a larger, cross-national project comparing political journalism cultures in Austria and the Czech Republic.

Although the project was based on travel and physical meetings of the team, we managed to achieve the planned goal of drafting a joint project, even though most of the activities took place online. We were able to learn more about each other's expertise, collaborate on the drafting of the project documents, and set up mutual collaboration for the future. Thus, even though most of the allocated funds were not used, all project objectives were achieved.

The main output of the project is a draft application for a “Lead Agency” grant (see <https://gacr.cz/en/overview/evaluation-based-on-the-lead-agency-principle-la-projects/>) from the countries' respective national research foundations, FWF and GAČR. The team continues to collaborate and refine the project so that it can be submitted in April 2022.

Activities undertaken:

Opening research meeting / March 10, 2021 / online

Responsible person: Mgr. Lenka Waschková Císařová, Ph.D.

The opening research meeting served as an introductory meeting, clarifying the aims of the project and planning the further work.

Programme: (1) mutual introduction of all team members and their interests; (2) selection of communication platform(s); (3) discussion about the topic of Aktion proposal and related topic of planned proposal; (4) setting up the particular steps/tasks/topics and responsible persons for the project and mainly for the concentrated work on the joint research project proposal; (5) plan the future meetings.

Discussion about new/merging topics (Safety; Digitalization – enter of the platforms and their impact on political journalism; AI tools; Complexity of the new technology; EU and EU integration – differences in journalistic culture; Polarization; Audience).

Responsible persons for topics:

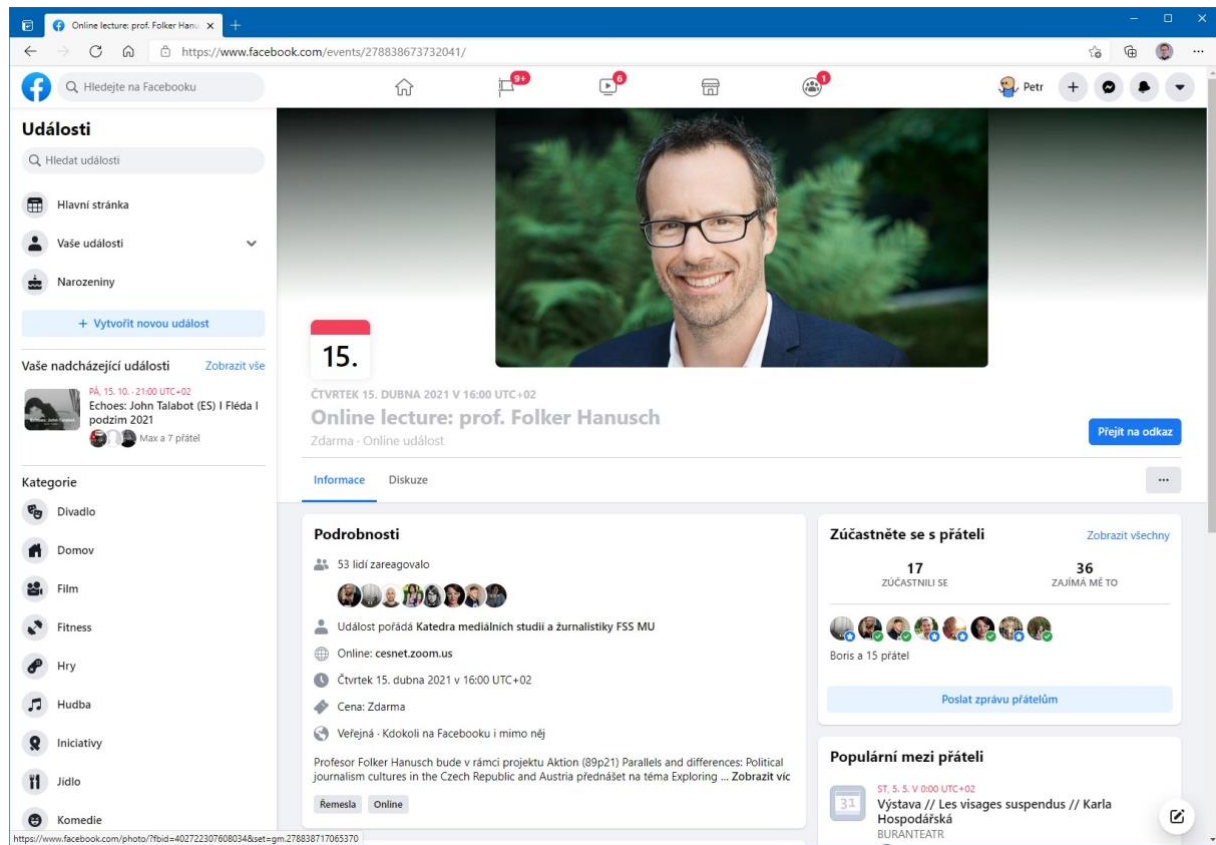
- Role perceptions (Folker, Marína)
- Safety (Alena K., Sophie)
- Precarity (Daniel, Lenka)
- Ownership + autonomy (Marína, Lenka, Daniel, Folker)
- Production (Sophie, Hannah, Svenja)

Preparation of the presentation/each topic for the second meeting: ca 10 minutes; what we know about the context, key theories, cutting edge, interesting research questions.

Public lecture / April 15, 2021 / online

Responsible person: Mgr. Lenka Waschková Císařová, Ph.D.

Programme: Public lecture and discussion on a topic related to the project: *Exploring the worlds of journalism: Insights from a global study of journalistic cultures* by Folker Hanusch.



Research workshop (two days) / May 4, 5 2021 / online

Responsible person: Mgr. Lenka Waschková Císařová, Ph.D.

Programme: Discussion of the outlined thematic areas and development of the joint research proposal. Responsible project members will be making presentations about their tasks/topics and discuss overall aims and the theoretical background of the project.

Presentations and discussions about the topics:

Tuesday, May 4th:

Role perceptions (Folker, Marína)

Safety (Alena K., Sophie)

Precarity (Daniel, Lenka)

Discussion

Wednesday, May 5th:

Ownership + autonomy (Marína, Lenka, Daniel, Folker)

Production (Sophie, Hannah, Svenja)

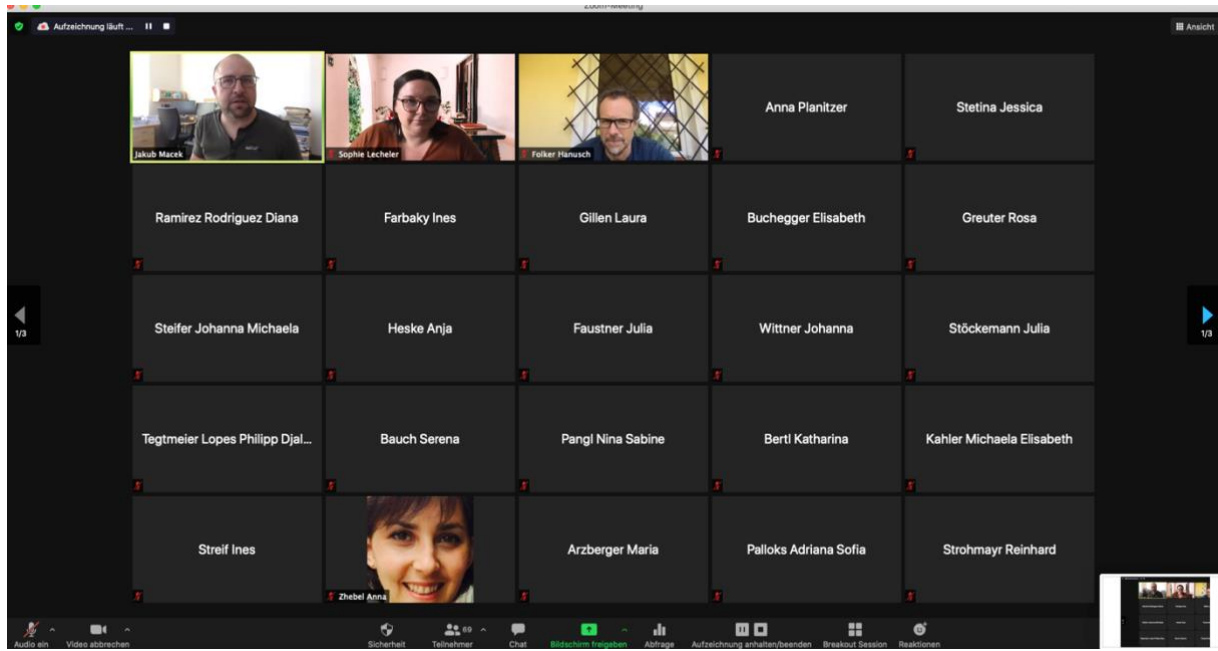
Discussion

Discussing and start working on the “brainstorming text” based on the presentations – the first draft of the future project proposal (topics, questions, theory, history).

Public lecture / June 14, 2021 / online

Responsible person: Univ.-Prof. Folker Hanusch, Ph.D.

Programme: Public lecture on a topic related to the project: *Political Participation in a Digital Age* by Jakub Macek.



Research meeting / June 29, 2021 / online

Responsible person: Mgr. Lenka Waschková Císařová, Ph.D.

Programme: discussing the “brainstorming text” based on the presentations – the first draft of the future project proposal (topics, questions, theory, history); division of tasks in relation to writing the project; planning two meetings in the Fall

TASKS: (max. 2 pages) - developing text of the project:

text on emotions - Lenka, Hannah, Alena K.

text on the comparison of the Czech and Austrian media systems - Folker, Lenka

text on the precarity/safety/stress - Daniel, Marína, Alena K.

Research workshop / October 8, 2021 / University of Vienna (Seminar Room 8 in Währinger Str. 29)

Responsible person: Univ.-Prof. Folker Hanusch, Ph.D.

Programme: Discussions, brainstorming and writing the joint research proposal.

10.00 start

10-11.30 discussion about texts

11.30-11.45 break

11.45-13.15 discussion about texts and further steps

13.15-14.30 lunch together

14.30-16.00 further steps, next meeting, project proposal



Closing research meeting (one day) / December 17, 2021 / online

Responsible person: Mgr. Lenka Waschková Císařová, Ph.D.

Programme: conclusion of work on the joint project proposal; project evaluation.

Results achieved:

1. Plan: Organization of two workshops (one in Brno, one in Vienna).
Achieved: one online two-days workshop and one one-day workshop in Vienna.
2. Plan: Organization of two research meetings (one in Brno, one in Vienna).
Achieved: three meetings online.
3. Plan: Organization of two public lectures.
Achieved: two online public lectures.
4. Working on the joint research project proposal – **finished draft of the research project proposal.**

Evaluation of the cooperation:

The project fostered improved knowledge exchange and was an important opportunity for increased research collaboration between Masaryk University and the University of Vienna, as planned. All members of the team were involved and dedicated to the project, mixed teams from both universities worked together on joint tasks. Through this project we were able to build the capacity and exchange needed for applying for a joint project grant from the countries' respective national research foundations, FWF and GAČR.

Teams:

Team from Masaryk University: 5 people – 2 senior researchers and 3 junior researchers; Mgr. Lenka Waschková Císařová, Ph.D.; doc. Jakub Macek, Ph.D.; Mgr. et Mgr. Alena Macková, Ph.D.; Mgr. et Mgr. Marína Urbániková, Ph.D.; Mgr. Alena Kluknavská, Ph.D.

Team from University of Vienna: 5 people – 2 senior researchers and 3 junior researchers, Univ.-Prof. Folker Hanusch, Ph.D.; Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sophie Lecheler; Dr. Daniel Nölleke; Dr. Svenja Schäfer MA; Hannah Greber, BA MSc

Overview of the use of the budget:

One trip for the research workshop to Vienna, 3 persons from Masaryk University (Waschková Císařová, Kluknavská, Urbániková)

- travel expenses from the Czech budget: 1 964 CZK (330 CZK/one-way ticket)
- "per diems" from the Austrian budget: 270 EUR (90 EUR per person/day)

Honorarium for a lecture

- from the Czech budget (Macek): 2 000 CZK
- from the Austrian budget (Hanusch): 100 EUR

Unspent funds were returned to the provider.



Folker Hanusch



Lenka Waschková Císařová