

# Knowledge Management Responses of Public Authorities to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Central European Experience

## *Final report*

### **Academic network and a grant support**

Mr. Daniel Klimovský and Mr. Viktor Prokop (Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Pardubice) in cooperation with Mr. Michal Sedlačko and Ms. Julia Dahlvik (FH Campus Wien - University of Applied Sciences) have established an academic network. This network has started to carry out comparative research aimed at challenges of the rapid adoption of knowledge management solutions during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, forms of accountability for knowledge management solutions in the time of crisis, and impact of existing and newly adopted knowledge management solutions.

The activities of this small academic network were supported by a grant scheme "Aktion Österreich – Tschechische Republik: Wissenschafts- und Erziehungskooperation" (Aktion Austria - Czech Republic: Cooperation in Science and Education) in 2021 within the project entitled "Knowledge Management Responses of Public Authorities to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Central European Experience".

### **Cooperation and coordination**

Activities of the network have confirmed both importance of cooperation and its potential. As it has been expected, the mentioned cooperation has led to synergy outcomes. These outcomes are linked not only to individual research cooperation but also to institutional cooperation. Within this context, implementation of this project has led to a clear achievement – a scholar network focusing on a long-term cooperation in both research and education has been established.

Work of the network members has been sufficiently coordinated by Mr. Daniel Klimovský. Due to various developments of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, these network members intensively communicated through e-mails, calls or video-calls/online meetings. This approach has allowed them to stay in touch and to respect all nationally specific anti-pandemic measures/restrictions.

## Goals and achievements

Implementation of this project has been successful because thanks to already realized activities as well as existence of work in progress the project can be considered a beginning of a long-term academic cooperation. All members of the network have expressed their willingness and readiness to continue in cooperation and a few follow-up activities are expected in 2022.

As for the project sub-goals, the following sub-goals have already been achieved:

- (1) Implementation of the project has led to clear personal cooperation linkages between involved scholars from the Czech Republic and Austria.
- (2) Implementation of the project has also led to the first institutional links between the cooperating partner institutions.
- (3) Two lectures were delivered by the members of the network for students of the University of Pardubice in 2021.
- (4) Two lectures were delivered by the members of the network for students of the University of Applied Sciences in Vienna in 2021.

Two other project sub-goals have been partially achieved:

- (1) The members of the network have started with elaboration of research articles. Their main intentions have been a use of a comparative approach, a complex analysis of relevant data from all selected countries, i.e. Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and a contribution to relevant ongoing academic discourse. Due to necessity to collect data in all involved countries under the unpredictable pandemic circumstances and limited willingness of policy makers to meet in person for purpose of focus group method, a process of data collection has been delayed. It is expected that this work in progress will be finalized in the first half of 2022. However, Mr. Daniel Klimovský was involved in related research initiatives, and, together with other colleagues, he has identified the quality of knowledge management (e.g., the capacity to use relevant expertise and the willingness of public managers and decision makers to hear experts' advice and the readiness to store and re-use knowledge and experience) an area that might attract multi-disciplinary research initiatives (Klimovský, D., Nemeč, J. & G. Bouckaert. 2021. "The COVID-19 Pandemic in the Czech Republic and Slovakia." Scientific Papers of the University of Pardubice, Series D: Faculty of Economics and Administration, roč. 29, č. 1, č. čl. 1320. ISSN 1804-8048. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46585/sp29011320>). On this matter, the network's work in progress undoubtedly reflects this research area.
- (2) Taking the previous point into account, planned research articles will include proper policy implications, too.



## **A brief description of main project activities**

Mr. Daniel Klimovský and Mr. Viktor Prokop organized a seminar for students of the University of Pardubice entitled "Knowledge Management Responses of Public Authorities to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Central European Experience" on October 14-15, 2021. The seminar was held at the Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Pardubice, Czech Republic, and it was held as a physical event.

The planned content consisted of two lectures and it was expected they should be delivered by Mr. Michal Sedlačko and Ms. Julia Dahlvik from the Austrian partner university. However, due to unexpected incapacity for work at the side of Ms. Dahlvik, Mr. Sedlačko delivered both lectures.

In total, 15 persons (graduates/Master students as well as PhD students) took part in the event. Besides lectures, it includes official meeting of Mr. Michal Sedlačko with Mr. Jan Stejskal, a dean of the hosting faculty, and Mr. Petr Hájek, a director of research unit of the faculty.

Mr. Michal Sedlačk and Ms. Julia Dahlvik organized a seminar for students of the University of Applied Sciences in Vienna entitled "The COVID-19 Pandemic and Governments' Responses: Challenges and/or Opportunities?" on November 16-17, 2021. The seminar was held in Vienna and the mentioned university and it was held as a physical event.

Inter alia, this meeting was also used for discussion on further continuation of cooperation:

- among the members of the network;
- between both cooperating universities.

The members of the network have declared both readiness and willingness to continue in their cooperation also in the following years.

Last but not least, possible alternative dates for focus groups have been discussed, too. Due to anti-pandemic measures taken by the central governments in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the members of the network agreed that these focus groups should be organized in early spring months in 2022, during an estimated period of easing of anti-pandemic restrictions.

**Appendix A: Lists of participants of the project seminars**

**Appendix B: Photos, screenshots and promotional material (sent separately)**

Appendix A

List of participants of the project seminar held in Pardubice (14-15 October 2021)

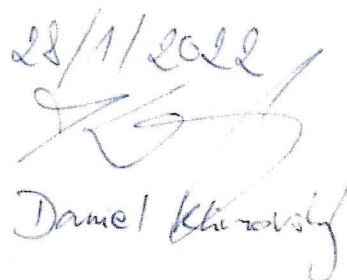
Name of participant	Position of participant	Affiliation of participant
Viktor Prokop	Organizer & discussant	University of Pardubice
Daniel Klimovský	Organizer & discussant	University of Pardubice
Michal Sedlačko	Lecturer	University of Applied Sciences
Jan Stejskal	Dean	University of Pardubice
Ondřej Kuba	Student	University of Pardubice
Markéta Libiaková	Student	University of Pardubice
Bernard Vaniček	Student	University of Pardubice
Solomon Gyamfi	Academic	University of Pardubice
Yee Yee Sein	Student	University of Pardubice
Emmanuel Boateng	Student	University of Pardubice
Jacob Peter Tindan	Student	University of Pardubice
Bimpong Danquah	Student	University of Pardubice
Ahmed Jibreal	Student	University of Pardubice
George Amponsah Bedjour	Student	University of Pardubice
Noah Kwaku Adiyiah	Student	University of Pardubice
Godwin Adu Anokye	Student	University of Pardubice

List of participants of the project seminar held in Vienna (16-17 November 2021)

Name of participant	Position of participant	Affiliation of participant
Michal Sedlačko	Organizer & discussant	University of Applied Sciences
Julia Dahvik	Organizer	University of Applied Sciences
Viktor Prokop	Discussant	University of Pardubice
Daniel Klimovský	Lecturer	University of Pardubice
Lisa Carina Hofer	Student	University of Applied Sciences
Fariha Khan	Student	University of Applied Sciences
Jasmin Ranzenbacher	Student	University of Applied Sciences
Julia Hemm	Student	University of Applied Sciences

28.1.2022

  
Michal Sedlačko

28/1/2022  
  
Daniel Klimovský