

## Editorial

In 2022, STSS increased its commitment to open access and open science. We had already decided to keep the journal open and free of charge and we will endeavour to continue to do so for as long as we can. We have now started applying this also to our daily work and, in an effort to promote the accessibility of science, we made the decision that STSS will no longer review books that sell for more than 35 euros. Commercial publishers make a profit margin of up to 35–40% per year, around the same amount Apple does but, in contrast to Apple, they do not produce anything new but rather sell bottled tap water. They take the work of academics, ask other academics to peer-review it and do basic copy-editing and then sell this to libraries and other academics. Thirty-five euros is perhaps arbitrary as an amount but it's a threshold over which we will not consider a book for review. This is a drop in the ocean but also a strong signal to exploitative publishers that we hope will be followed by other journals.

The June 2022 issue starts with an article by Sirima Thongsawang (2022) on the Legacy of Migration: the Muslim community in Bangkok. She notes that although Thai Buddhism is the dominant religion in Bangkok, Muslims still occupy a significant space in the life of the city with around 600,000 members, and sets out to explore the role and dynamics of the Muslim community in Bangkok. She focuses on the Minburi district, where most of its inhabitants are Pattani descent migrating to Minburi since 1786 (B.E. 2329) to ask two main questions. First, how have members of the Muslim community in the Minburi district settled through the migration process, and second, how do the Muslims in the Minburi district sustain and negotiate their identities through activities and changes within the community? She addresses these questions through the use of semi-structured interviews and secondary data analysis to suggest that Muslims in Minburi have constructed identities and interpersonal networks within their community and occupy an important place in the social life of the city.

The issue continues with an article by Ingrida Unikaitė-Jakuntavičienė and Sima Rakutienė (2022) examining the use of Facebook and other online communication channels by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) elected in Lithuania for the 9th legislative term. In an effort to define the most popular channels of communication online with voters, the authors explore the Facebook profiles and websites of MEPs as well as public opinion poll results. The authors found that, although all the MEPs have Facebook profiles, not all of them have websites. The study also revealed a mismatch between the MEPs' opinions and Lithuanian citizens' opinions regarding the availability of information on EP matters. While the MEPs think that the issue is not a lack of information but rather a lack of interest, the citizens believe that the lack of information is ultimately the main problem.

The next article by Anu Toots (2022) deals with social governance reforms in Estonia and how the country moved from tripartism to "etatistation". She notices that a number of welfare states in Western Europe have gone through a set of paradigmatic reforms in recent decades that significantly altered the initial Bismarckian principles of social insurance and welfare governance and explores the position of Estonia in this transition. For the period 2009–2019 she tests the assumption that fiscal prudence in quasi-Bismarckian regimes is important similar to typical Bismarckian countries; however, this is achieved by using different means. The main empirical finding is that governments in Estonia acted much more autocratically and used social insurance funds to execute various priorities in government programmes. As opposed to full Bismarckian regimes, insurance contributions were neither lowered nor complemented by tax instruments.

The last piece is a research note where Yerkebulan Sairambay (2022) explores whether research conducted among young internet and social media users in Russia and Kazakhstan can be used to draw generalisable conclusions, particularly in relation to political participation studies. The author commissioned four questions per country using omnibus surveys conducted in 2020 showing that (1) more than 99% of all young people aged 18–29 use the internet and social media; and (2) nearly three out of four young people use social media for information about national and international news and politics, but also that the frequency of the usage of social media for news

and politics varies considerably in both countries. The paper also tries to define some patterns in the frequency of internet and social media use by young people for information about (inter) national news and politics in Russia and Kazakhstan.

The issue concludes with a book review by Ruth Ferrero-Turrión (2022) of the “The EU’s Impact on Identity Formation in East-Central Europe between 2004 and 2013: Perceptions of the Nation and Europe in Political Parties of the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia” by Michal Vit. The book, in her view, provides a solid contribution to the study of political party systems in East-Central Europe, giving the reader a better understanding of how nationalist parties have moved to become systemic parties and their evolution, thus adding to the panorama of studies on the Europeanization process that, in many respects, can take advantage of diverse and multiple paths.

## References

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