

NEWS from scientific life of interuniversity project teams**“Tell me what you throw away and I’ll tell you who you are!”**

IOP



What waste do households produce and in what quantities, and what factors influence this behaviour? For over a year now, we have studied waste behaviour as part of our research project SMART City - SMART Region - SMART Community. The research objective is to identify precursors (e.g., socio-economic and demographic factors, behavioural factors, situation factors, etc.) based on which we can predict changes in production and composition of household waste with changing consumption patterns and, thus, future required capacities for municipal waste handling (sorting lines, energy recovery facilities or composting plants). Why it makes sense to analyse frequently very unattractive and smelly heaps of things some households will throw away (often with surprising inventiveness) is demonstrated by the planned steps of the Ministry of the Environment CZ: to shut down landfills for reusable waste after 2030 and increase municipal waste recycling to 60% by the same year.

The research is done under leadership of Assoc. Prof. Jan Slavík and Dr. Martina Vrbová and involves students of selected UJEP faculties at landfills in Všebořice and Modlany in each quarter (spring, summer, autumn, winter). Municipal waste is brought there from the cities of Ústí nad Labem and Bílina, coming from various housing types. The analyses combine waste from single-family houses, housing estates and village houses. The research team enjoys great support from its partners, the companies AVE CZ in Ústí nad Labem, Bílina Municipal Utilities, SUEZ CZ, a.s. (Ústí nad Labem) and Marius Pedersen a.s. (Teplice facility).

As soon as the current Covid-19 crisis subsides, the conventional quarterly household waste analyses will be extended with analysis unparalleled in all of the EU: analyses of waste straight from households, which will make it possible to match specific waste with a specific household with a clear socio-demographic profile and behaviour. Only knowledge of the causal relationship between behaviour precursors and its direct consequences (waste production) will enable clear definition of why some households are willing to sort waste completely while others continue to find innovative methods of stuffing organic leftovers in openings of PET bottles and tin cans.

Hats off to the students whose hands hundreds of kilograms of such waste have gone through. Thank you!

Jan Slavík

Importance of waste analyses in a regulated world

Organisational coverage and utilization of collaboration among researchers and the public and private sectors

A unique research project on waste behaviour precursors is ahead of us.

Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on travel behaviour



Covid-19 changes our activities, work methods and travel behaviour. What are its long-term impacts? Can this situation accelerate changes that will promote activities such as teleworking (working from home), online shopping and various leisure activities done online? What impact do these changes have on urban transport and public spaces?

These are the questions asked by our IEEP Transport and Mobility research team together with sociologists at STEM/MARK in a new project developed in collaboration with a world-class institute of the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa under the leadership of Prof. Yoram Shiftan and funded from the TAČR Eta programme.

A panel will be made for our analysis of long-term impacts of the Covid-19 epidemic from a representative sample of urban population for three waves of data collection using an electronic questionnaire. The questionnaire survey is focused on working and studying inhabitants of Czechia and Israel older than 18, and identifies activity and travel behaviour and their changes in various periods of the Covid-19 epidemic, including expected behaviour after the epidemic ends.

Simultaneously, we will conduct a series of focus groups with people who have stopped using public transport as a consequence of fears of the epidemic. Our objective is to determine factors influencing return of passengers to public transport. The project will also include analysis of aggregated data on traffic volume trends for various transport modes and good practice of cities during the epidemic. The research aims at formulation of recommendations for future directions of strategic development and promotion of sustainable mobility.

Hana Brůhová Foltýnová

School forums in Czech cities



Should primary school pupils' opinions contribute to forming the space of the city they live in? Why? And if so, how should it be done? Since 2015, Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic has organized so-called school forums in cooperation with primary schools. They involve older primary school pupils to come up with suggestions and agree on what can be improved in their school and their city. Afterwards, they defend their ideas before their classmates, the headmaster and representatives of the municipality. Lenka Slavíková's and Eliška Vejchodská's research project maps how headmasters, involved teachers and city representatives perceive the activity. Preliminary results have been published in the *Moderní obec* journal, available online at www.ieep.cz.

Lenka Slavíková and Eliška Vejchodská

COOPERATION WITH CITIES

Based on a memorandum on cooperation as part of the SMART project, J. Macháč and M. Hekrlé have assessed the benefits of the green roof implementation on the Poliklinika building in Žďár nad Sázavou. The results are used for popularisation of the roof, built in October 2020.

Publication *Urban Nature in Liberec: What It Brings Us and What It Needs*, dealing with benefits of the outdoors for quality of life in cities, is available at www.ieep.cz.

NEW ARTICLES

The paper *Public and community conservation of biodiversity – rivalry or cooperation? dealing with self-reliant nature protection and functioning of private nature reserves in Czechia* has L. Slavíková as its main author.

The Transport and Mobility team led by H. Brůhová analyses the roles and attitudes of key stakeholders, their views of sustainable urban mobility, requirements for strategic transport planning and barriers to implementation of measures in *Sustainable urban mobility: One definition, different stakeholders' opinions*.

Different procedures for assessment of exemptions due to disproportionate costs in implementing the Water Framework Directive are described in the paper by J. Macháč, J. Brabec and O. Vojáček. Additional information is available at www.ieep.cz.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Final conference of the STRIMA II project (Czech-Saxon Flood Risk Management)

20 November 2020, online

Floods have great impacts not only on human settlements but also on hydraulic and transport infrastructure and agricultural landscape. All that, including appropriate communication settings, is handled by the STRIMA project, in which the IEEP team is involved. The November conference will present the key project outcomes, including those solved by the IEEP team. To register for the online conference, go to: <https://www.strima.sachsen.de>

Second annual Czech Envi Thesis student competition finals

3 Dec 2020 14.00-17.30, online

The second year of the competition included 62 student works. Out of this great number, the best five have made it to the finals, where they will be presented and the best one will be selected. A grand finalists' debate will take place again. Due to the current situation, the whole event will be held online. A link for watching it will be available on social media and on the website www.czechenvithesis.cz

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