



# ANNUAL REPORT

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PEACE INSTITUTE



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Ljubljana 2025

# AN OPEN-MINDED, THINKING AND POLITICALLY ACTIVE COMMUNITY BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY.

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## MISSION

Through its scientific research and advocacy, the Peace Institute strives for an open community capable of critical thinking and founded on the principles of equality, accountability, solidarity, human rights and the rule of law. The Institute develops research, education and outreach activities in the fields of social sciences and humanities in four thematic fields: politics, human rights and minorities, media, and gender. It is an advocate for marginalised groups and works with them to eliminate discrimination. As a prominent research and civil society actor in Slovenia, the region, and internationally, it is an indispensable reference in its fields of operation. It collaborates with other related stakeholders (institutes, universities, NGOs) and individuals at the local, regional, and international level.

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Iztok Šori, PhD,  
Director

# INTRODUCTION

We are living in a time of profound social change, marked by the interplay of multiple interconnected crises: climate, migration, health, economic, security, and the crisis of democracy. We find ourselves in this situation after decades of neoliberal dominance that systematically weakened the public good and dismantled social protection systems, thereby reducing citizens' trust in institutions and in the future. Authoritarian leaders, who rule not with love but with the stick, exploit this resulting uncertainty.

The rise of authoritarianism is financially and infrastructurally supported by tech billionaires who wield unprecedented control over capital, information, public discourse, the labour market, and even international relations. It is becoming increasingly clear that the spread of hate speech, digital disinformation, and the strengthening of movements opposing equality are not merely random algorithmic outcomes but rather reflections of their owners' ideological convictions.

Meanwhile, the global order is shifting toward multipolarity, with major powers aggressively dividing spheres of influence, increasing the risk of conflict and war. European policy, which has lost all credibility due to its stance on Israel, is dragging us into a dangerous spiral of militarisation. We are seeing ever more absurd proposals to divert the funds currently allocated to independent

research, advocacy, and NGO support programmes toward guns and ammunition.

Although human rights, democracy, media freedom, and support for the NGO sector are still guaranteed in Slovenia for the moment, a single election could swiftly change this. Some parties are already threatening purges and restrictions on freedoms if they come to power.

In these circumstances, critical reflections and research on democracy, human rights, and equality—such as those conducted at the Peace Institute—are indispensable. To prevent dark scenarios and ensure a better future for everyone, we advocate for the strengthening of democratic institutions and processes, civil society, and media freedom. We actively promote social justice, equal opportunities, and gender equality, and we formulate concrete politics proposals grounded in respect for human rights. We are developing digitally supported research methods and advocacy strategies to respond more effectively to current challenges. In our work, we collaborate closely with citizens, universities, research institutes, and NGOs, both in Slovenia and more broadly across Europe and the world, for example in Rwanda.

Our goal is to contribute to the development of a politically active community rooted in the values of equality, solidarity, and democracy, through high-quality research and innovative approaches.

# 2024 IN NUMBERS

29  
collaborators

1  
programme  
group

41  
projects

180  
bibliographics  
units in SICRIS

11  
scientific  
articles

1  
book

18  
chapters in  
monographs

66  
conference  
papers

13  
monitoring  
reports

22  
media  
appearances

20  
public events

16  
educational  
workshops

166  
website posts

6037  
library units

# SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

## Mojca Frelih became a doctor of science

In December, Mojca Frelih successfully defended her doctoral dissertation "The Contribution of Informal Carers to the Organisation of Care for People with Dementia in Slovenia" at the Faculty of Social Work of the University of Ljubljana, under the mentorship of Prof Vesna Leskošek, PhD, and co-mentored by Majda Hrženjak, PhD.

The dissertation explores the experiences of informal caregivers of parents with dementia in Slovenia, who reside in their home environment. It analyses how these individuals navigate transitions and changes in life situations, roles, and statuses. Beyond its theoretical contributions, this work is also valuable for policy planning. It provides concrete recommendations for supporting caregivers, who shoulder a significant societal burden yet frequently remain overlooked.



Photo: PI Archive

## Majda Hrženjak received an award from the Slovenian Sociological Society

Majda Hrženjak received the Slovenian Sociological Society's award for scientific work for her critical analysis of pandemic management policies in home care for the elderly "Trapped in the Institution: Governing the Covid-19 Epidemic in Slovenian Eldercare Homes from the Perspective of Care Micro-Mobilities".

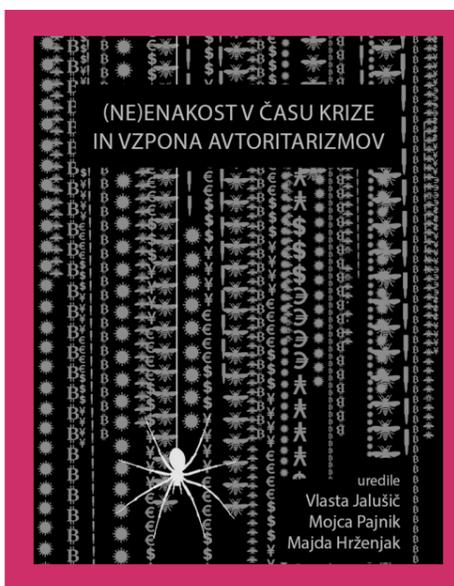
The article documents and reflects on the pandemic management policies in Slovenia concerning home care for older adults, which emerged as a critical sector during the pandemic. This importance is underscored by the high number of victims and the issues of undemocratic governance observed. The significance of the article lies in its critical reflection on the nature of the power exercised in managing the pandemic and its consequences. Moreover, it analyses the ageism and intersectional discriminations that have been entrenched in institutions over time, culminating during the pandemic.

The article is published in an international journal *Care Loops and Mobilities in Nordic, Central, and Eastern European Welfare States*. An expanded Slovenian translation of the article is published in the proceedings *(In)equality in Times of Crisis and the Rise of Authoritarianism*.



Photo: Tomaž Primožič/FPA

## The book (In)equality in Times of Crisis and the Rise of Authoritarianism



The book, prepared by the Peace Institute's programme group, addresses the deepening of inequality, the erosion of human rights, and the ascent of undemocratic regimes in a modern world marked by multiple crises: climate, migration, health, economic, media, military, and the crisis of democratic institutions. It scrutinizes contemporary social issues and processes through the lens of crises and inequality, including the politics of crisis as a modern governance method, the rise of populism, and the role and impact of the media in the context of growing authoritarianism. Additionally, the book

delves into the functioning of the rule of law in situations such as epidemic-related regulations the deregulation of labour protections, and migrant repatriation, as well as structural flaws in institutional elderly care and the marginalisation of care work. Drawing on research data and analysis, it rigorously exposes human rights violations, marginalisation, and institutional violence practices, while opening up perspectives for new beginnings. This publication is the collective effort of the Peace Institute's researchers, an interdisciplinary team with expertise in political science, communication science, anthropology, political philosophy, sociology, and law. <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/publikacije/neenakost-v-casu-krize-in-vzpona-avtoritarizmov/>



Book presentation, 17. 5. 2025, Photo: PI Archive

# THEMATIC FIELDS AND TOPICS

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINORITIES

Monitoring intolerance and hate speech

Migration, asylum, and integration

LGBTQI+ rights

Prevention of discrimination  
Access to rights and justice

## POLITICS

State, politics and power

Racism, xenophobia, and nationalism

Populism

Violence

Welfare state

Citizenship

Work and rights

## MEDIA

Media and minorities

Media pluralism

Access to public information

Media policy

Media and information literacy

Media integrity

Media ownership

## GENDER

Gender equality

Sex work

Care work

Masculinity studies

Public, private, intimate

Work-life balance

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINORITIES



President of the Republic presents awards for human rights work to all those who have been erased. Photo: X Nataša Pirc Musar, 10. 12. 2024

***On the anniversary of the erasure, the Civil Initiative of the Erased activists (CIIA), the Association of the Erased population of Slovenia - DIPS, the Peace Institute and Amnesty International Slovenia remind that the injustices to the deceased remain uncorrected and that state action is urgently needed to restore their dignity.***

*At present, those who have been erased have no legal way to re-establish their permanent residence - even those who have lived in Slovenia continuously for the 32 years since their erasure. Slovenia has illegally deprived the erased of their permanent resident status and is therefore obliged to provide them with an effective legal remedy to regularise it and compensate them for the damage caused. It is completely unacceptable that, decades after the judgments of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia and the European Court of Human Rights, which have established the violations committed by the State against the erased, people in Slovenia remain without any status and without any social care.*

*After being shocked by the death of Zoran Tešanovič in December 2022, who died in a fire in the caravan that was his only home, we were saddened a few days ago by the death of Božidar Đukić. Like Zoran Tešanovič, he had lived in Slovenia for almost fifty years, and since his expulsion he has been without any documents, access to health and social care, and the possibility of employment. Indeed, all the legal remedies that the State has taken to restore the illegally deprived permanent resident status have been time-limited.*

*On 20 October 2023, the President of the Republic of Slovenia sent to the Government a draft law on the regularisation of the status of those who had been erased, which had been prepared by some NGOs in cooperation with the Office of the President. The proposed law would reopen the deadline for the application for a permanent residence permit and remove some of the inappropriate conditions that have prevented most of the deceased from regaining their status in the past. The government has not yet reacted to the bill.*

*Also unaddressed are the issues of access to compensation and other measures to mitigate the social, health, housing, work and pension disadvantages of the erased.*

Ljubljana, 23. 2. 2024

In the field of human rights and minorities, we **researched** good practices in the accommodation, integration and local inclusion of migrants, approaches to ensuring the proper conduct of criminal proceedings, ways to improve support for victims of hate crimes and hate speech. We defended the rights of the erased, prisoners with disabilities and migrants and acted against racism, intolerance and militarisation. In the field of **monitoring**, we prepared a report for Slovenia for the purpose of the annual report on fundamental rights of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and within the framework of the National Preventive Mechanism of the Human Rights Ombudsperson visited police stations, prisons and an educational institution. We carried out **training** for active observers in detecting racism, discrimination and harassment, and presented the Human Rights Guide to students of the Faculty of Law. We started implementing **four new projects**, including ENACT, which strengthens the capacity of civil society organisations to support LGBTIQ+ victims of hate crimes.

# HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS

## Improving assistance and support for victims of hate crimes

As part of the COUNTER HATE project, aimed at enhancing support for victims of hate crimes, a manual titled **A Victim-Centred and Intersectional Approach to Responding to Hate Crimes** was published. This manual is designed primarily for professionals who work with victims of hate crimes or victims of discrimination based on prejudice. Alongside the manual, a combined educational module on hate crimes was developed, focusing on the needs of victims and intersectionality. Peace Institute staff presented this training module at the final international conference in Vilnius, organised by the Lithuanian Gay League and hosted by the Ministry of Justice of Lithuania.



## Closing conference My Home

At the conference titled “My Home – Memories of Home in the Past and Future”, held on 18–19 November 2024, we addressed issues of the construction of home, nostalgia and longing, activism, hospitality and new forms of solidarity, and understanding remembrance from the perspective of the present. The insights shared at the conference are available in various articles on the project website: <https://mojdomproject.eu/topics/>. Additionally, **Educational toolkit MY HOME – Refugees, migrations and erased memories after the Yugoslav wars** was presented. The conference concluded with a screening of a documentary film *Endless Vacation* by Davor Marinković, with the performance *Šivi* by Damir Avdić and a discussion about the collection *The Resilience of History* (ed. Gregor Moder and Blaž Kavšek), published by Maska Publishing House.

## Analysis of migrants’ access to temporary and long-term accommodation in the EU

The analysis explores the primary challenges faced by migrants, specifically third-country nationals and individuals with refugee status (international and subsidiary protection), in securing adequate and safe accommodation. It also highlights good practices in assisting migrants find such accommodation. The analysis pays particular attention to medium- and long-term housing solutions and focuses on the local situation, including in rural areas, where feasible. The data encompasses all 27 EU Member States, including Slovenia. Analysis **Migrants' Access to Temporary and Long-term Accommodation in the EU: Obstacles, Governance and Good Practices** was prepared by a team of researchers within the European Website on Integration (EWSI) network.



Conference My home, 18.–19. November 2024. Photo: PI Archive



## The Human Rights Guide received the Erasmus+ Quality Award ōSpōrni 2024ō

The Baltic Human Rights Society was honoured with an award for its project “Inclusive Human Rights Education – A Path to Civic Participation and Shared Values of European Citizens”, with the Peace Institute participating as a partner. At the heart of the project is the **Human Rights Guide**, a self-help platform that provides users practical information on protecting and defending their human rights.

Photo: <https://www.baltichumanrights.org/en/news/baltic-human-rights-society-receives-the-erasmus-quality-award-sporni-2024>

## LJUBLJANA CAN BE A CITY FOR EVERYONE

*With over 13% of Ljubljana's population comprising migrants, it is essential to recognise the local community's significant role in the integration process. This process must be bidirectional, involving both the adaptation of immigrants and the openness and support of the environment in which they live. Inclusion occurs where people live, work, go to kindergarten and school, visit the doctor, where there are cultural events, restaurants and pubs, where they spend their free time, socialise, have fun and pay taxes. Quality integration policies should aim to empower migrants to achieve independence promptly, as only emancipated individuals can equally co-create society. The more migrants feel at home in their environment, the more they will contribute to its development, improvement, and shared prosperity.*

Watch videos: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/video-ljubljana-bi-lahko-bila-mesto-za-vsakogar/>

The projects *A City for Everyone – Responsible Action for Inclusive Local Communities (CIFER)* and *Strengthening Migrant Voices in Local Integration and Inclusion Processes (EMV-LII)* emphasise the importance of creating an inclusive living environment, where everyone feels equal and have equal rights. They identify five critical areas for improving integration at the local level: first, language courses should be more accessible and offer additional hours, and second, the necessity of social housing for migrants, as they are excluded from social programmes for obtaining non-profit housing. Families with many children are especially vulnerable. Thirdly, to prevent unfair competition with larger NGOs, there could be specific calls for proposals exclusively for migrant and minority groups to support their funding needs. Fourth, Migrants often face a

shortage of facilities for their activities, meetings, and social interactions, both among themselves and with the local population. And fifth, the broader political issue of racism, discrimination and stigmatisation must be addressed structurally and in the long term through awareness-raising campaigns, systemic support, education and positive measures that would promote and ensure equality and equity. The integration of migrants and the implementation of anti-racist policies are interconnected and must progress simultaneously to build truly inclusive communities.

The project group members presented their findings at the roundtable "Interculturality in Slovenian Society and the Creation of an Inclusive Living Environment", which was held on 29 May by the Diversity Charter Slovenia together with the City of Ljubljana as part of the event Intercultural Diversity and Inclusion, at the Forum "Is Ljubljana a City for Everyone?" as part of the African

Villages festival and in six short video films under the joint title "Ljubljana Could Be a City for Everyone". To learn more about the spaces co-created by migrants, a series of guided tours called "A Place for Everyone" was created. The city tour presents the migrant sides of Ljubljana and includes the following locations: AKC Metelkova city, Asylum on Kotnikova street, Trubarjeva street, Center Rog, Prešeren square and Mestni square.

Members of the project groups went on study visits to Paris, Malmö, Graz, Zagreb and Čakovec, where representatives of local NGOs and city institutions presented them with good practices in local inclusion and integration of migrants. Successful integration of migrants is beneficial for both the migrants and the society that receives them. It is a process that requires mutual effort—from both migrants and the receiving society—but in the long run it contributes to a more stable, inclusive and dynamic community.



Roundtable 'Interculturality in Slovenian Society and the Creation of an Inclusive Living Environment', 29. 5. 2024. Photo: Tadej Majhenič



Study visit in Zagreb, November 2024. Photo: PI Archive.

# FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

BAJT, Veronika. Prisilna vračanja kot zločin iz sovraštva [Forced Returns as a Hate Crime]. In: JALUŠIČ, Vlasta (ed.), PAJNIK, Mojca (ed.), HRŽENJAK, Majda (ed.). *(Ne)enakost v času krize in vzpona avtoritarizmov [(In)Equality in Times of Crisis and the Rise of Authoritarianisms]*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Ljubljana: Peace Institute, 2024. Pp. 151–174. ISBN 978-961-96019-7-6. <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/publikacije/neenakost-v-casu-krize-in-vzpona-avtoritarizmov/>. [COBISS.SI-ID 217128451]

KOGOVSŠEK ŠALAMON, Neža. Kriza prava in instrumentalizacija pravnih predpisov za družbeni nadzor v času epidemije [The Crisis of Law and the Instrumentalisation of Legal Provisions for Social Control During the Epidemic]. In: JALUŠIČ, Vlasta (ed.), PAJNIK, Mojca (ed.), HRŽENJAK, Majda (ed.). *(Ne)enakost v času krize in vzpona avtoritarizmov [(In)Equality in Times of Crisis and the Rise of Authoritarianisms]*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Ljubljana: Peace Institute, 2024. Pp. 77–101. ISBN 978-961-96019-7-6. <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/publikacije/neenakost-v-casu-krize-in-vzpona-avtoritarizmov/>. [COBISS.SI-ID 217127939]

SANCIN, Vasilka, HRVATIČ, Sergeja. Umetna inteligenca v kontekstu mirnega reševanja sporov po Uredbi (EU) 2024/1351 na področju upravljanja azila in migracij v EU [Artificial Intelligence in the Context of Peaceful Dispute Resolution Under Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 in the Field of Asylum and Migration Management in the EU]. *Pravni letopis ...: zbornik Inštituta za primerjalno pravo pri Pravni fakulteti v Ljubljani*. 2024, pp. 151–173. ISSN 1855-5861. [https://www.ipp-pf.si/uploads/File/Pravni%20letopis/Pravni%20letopis\\_2024.pdf](https://www.ipp-pf.si/uploads/File/Pravni%20letopis/Pravni%20letopis_2024.pdf). [COBISS.SI-ID 221110019]

# NEW PROJECTS

## Project leader at PI:

Katarina Vučko

**Collaborators:** Sergeja Hrvatič, Amela Meštrovac, Katerina Kočkovska Šetinc

## Partners:

Inovativni zaporniški sistemi – IPS (Portugalska); Poljska platforma za domovinsko varnost – PPHS (Poljska); Univerza v Bologni – UNIBO (Italija); Bolgarski helsinški odbor – BHC (Bolgarija); Policijska akademija "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" – APAIC (Romunija); Akademija policijskih sil v Bratislavi – APZB (Slovaška)

**Funding:** European Commission, JUST programme

## FULL-PROOF – Ensuring the due course of criminal proceedings by strengthening respect for the procedural rights of suspects and the accused

Project duration: 1 Oct 2024 – 30 Sep 2026

To improve the awareness and training of police officers and legal experts regarding the procedural rights of suspects and defendants. The project promotes more effective and humane approaches to their management, while strengthening international cooperation and ensuring the broader application of best practices. The main purpose of the FULL-PROOF project is to contribute to the improvement of criminal proceedings by addressing violations of procedural rights that occur in the early stages of proceedings. The project focuses on the rights defined in Directive 2012/13/EU, Directive 2013/48/EU and Directive 2016/1919/EU.

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/full-proof/>

## Enhancing the capacity of civil society organisations to support victims of anti-LGBTQI+ hate crimes (ENACT)

Project duration: 1 Mar 2024 – 28 Feb 2026

Support civil society organisations in Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Lithuania, Greece and Hungary in establishing cooperation with public institutions to improve support for LGBTQI+ victims of hate crimes and in the fight against re-victimisation. Through an intersectional approach, the project strives to strengthen the role of civil society organisations in protecting, providing support, and raising awareness about the rights of LGBTQI+ victims.

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/enhancing-the-capacity-of-civil-society-organisations-to-support-victims-of-anti-lgbtqi-hate-crimes-enact/>

## Project leader at PI:

Maja Ladić

**Collaborators:** Katarina Vučko, Amela Meštrovac, Katerina Kočkovska Šetinc

## Partners:

Rete Lenford – Avvocatura per i diritti LGBTI+ (Italy); The University of Girona (UdG) (Spain); The Kentro Merimnas Oikogeneias Kai Paidiou (KMOP) (Greece); The University of Brescia (UNIBS) (Italy); Háttér Society (HS) (Hungary); Lithuanian Gay League (LGL) (Lithuania)

**Funding:** European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme, Ministry of Public Administration

## EU Charter of Fundamental rights: Awareness raising and Instruments to promote a culture of Rights (FAIR)

Project duration: 1 Mar 2024 – 28 Feb 2026

A consortium of nine organisations from nine countries, which are national implementing partners of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights' multidisciplinary research network FRANET, is responding to the European Commission's 2020 call (Strategy for strengthening the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU) for the development of initiatives to promote people's awareness of their rights and where to turn when their rights are violated, in particular by empowering local actors. Based on assessments of gaps and obstacles in the implementation and use of the Charter at the national level, we will design and implement awareness-raising activities for the following four target groups: civil society organisations, advocates (lawyers), legal professionals, and the general public, to encourage their participation in the promotion and greater use of the Charter. By the end of the project, a toolkit will be created—in English and in national languages—for organising and implementing a communication campaign on fundamental rights.

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/eu-charter-of-fundamental-rights-awareness-raising-and-instruments-to-promote-a-culture-of-rights-fair/>

## Project leader at PI:

Katarina Vučko

**Collaborators:** Amela Meštrovac, Katerina Kočkovska Šetinc, Maja Ladić

## Partners:

Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy) (coordinators); Centre for European Constitutional Law (Greece); Comillas Pontifical University – University Institute of Studies on Migration (Spain); Centre for Peace Studies (Croatia); Centre for the Study of Democracy (Bulgaria); Centre for Social Studies (Portugal); Symfilios (Cyprus); Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Fundamental Rights Research Centre (FRC) (Belgium)

**Funding:** European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV), Ministry of Public Administration

**Project leader at PI:**

Lana Zdravković

**Collaborator:**

Amela Meštrovac

**Partners:**

Südwind (project leader), Migrant Council of the City of Graz, Municipalities of Graz and Lustenau (Austria); COSPE, Municipality of Empoli (Italy); moveGLOBAL e. V., Berlin Senate (Germany); SYMBIOSIS, Heraklion Development Agency (Greece); Centre for Peace Studies, Međimurje Region (Croatia); FSLUX, Municipality of Schiffange (including rural region) (Luxembourg); Peace Institute, Cultural Society Gmajna, Community of Municipalities of Slovenia, City of Ljubljana (Slovenia); ADYFE (Belgium)

**Funding:** European Commission, AMIF-2023 programme: Integration and inclusion at regional and local level, Ministry of Public Administration

**Empowering Migrant Voices for Local Integration and Inclusion – EMV-LII**

Project duration: 1 Apr 2024 – 31 Mar 2027

Support the creation, development and implementation of local integration strategies by increasing the participation of migrant organisations for more effective integration at the local and regional level. Special emphasis is placed on the inclusion of vulnerable groups of migrants, such as applicants for international protection, young migrants and women. Specific objectives: to strengthen and empower the participation of migrants in local integration and inclusion through training and capacity building; to increase the capacity and willingness of local and regional authorities to include migrants in local integration and inclusion strategies; to strengthen cooperation mechanisms for local integration and inclusion.

Website: <https://diaspora-participation.eu/>  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/emv-lii/>

# CURRENT PROJECTS

**Human Rights Guide II**

Project leader at PI: Iza Thaler (until April 2023), Katerina Kočkovska Šetinc

Funding: European Commission, Erasmus +

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/human-rights-guide-ii/>

**FRANET Research Network**

Project leader at PI: Majda Hrženjak

Funding: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/research-network-franet/>

**Analysis of online hate speech and disinformation in Slovenia and development of a proposal for action**

Project leader at PI: Veronika Bajt

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (targeted research programme), Ministry of Digital Transformation

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/analysis-of-online-hate-speech-and-disinformation-in-slovenia-and-development-of-a-proposal-for-action/>

**Counter-hate: Improving the assistance of victims of hate crimes through a victim-centred and intersectional approach**

Project leader at PI: Maja Ladić

Funding: European Commission, Ministry of Public Administration (NGO Fund)

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/counter-hate-improving-the-assistance-of-victims-of-hate-crimes-through-a-victim-centred-and-intersectional-approach/>

**Motivations, experiences and consequences of returns and readmissions policy: revealing and developing effective alternatives (MORE)**

Project leader at PI: Veronika Bajt

Funding: EU funding for research and innovation (Horizon Europe programme)

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/motivations-experiences-and-consequences-of-returns-and-readmissions-policy-revealing-and-developing-effective-alternatives-more/>

**City for Everybody – Building Responsible Action for Inclusive Local Communities (CIFER)**

Project leader at PI: Maja Ladić

Funding: European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) Ministry of Public Administration (NGO Fund)

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/city-for-everybody-building-responsible-action-for-inclusive-local-communities/>

**MOJ DOM. Refugees, migration and erased memories in the aftermath of Yugoslav wars**

Project leader at PI: Lana Zdravković

Funding: European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) (European remembrance)

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/moj-dom-refugees-migration-and-erased-memories-in-the-aftermath-of-yugoslav-wars/>

**Cooperation with the Ombudsperson in the implementation of the tasks and powers of the national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)**

Project leader at PI: Maja Ladić

Funding: Human Rights Ombudsperson

# POLITICS



Photo: Črt Piksi, source: Palestinian Rights Movement FB page, 18. 4. 2024

*"Slovenia can ensure the safe arrival of family members from Gaza by establishing complementary routes into the country. Our proposal for the establishment of complementary routes includes the following elements: the organisation of their safe and legal arrival in Slovenia, the regulation of their status upon arrival in Slovenia and appropriate integration measures.*

*Legal arrival in Slovenia could be facilitated by the State through the application of the provisions of both the Schengen Code and the Visa Code, under which States allow individuals to enter their territory on humanitarian grounds, on grounds of national interest or on the basis of international obligations. As mentioned, Slovenia has already had similar experiences, including the evacuation of individuals from Afghanistan and the repatriation of people of Slovenian origin from Venezuela.*

*When individuals arrive in Slovenia, the status of people from Gaza in Slovenia should be regulated by granting them international protection. This status will allow individuals to access the rights they need to integrate successfully into society - including free access to the labour market, education under the same conditions as Slovenian citizens, and full access to health services. International protection status would provide them with a more permanent and secure legal basis for their stay and facilitate their integration into society.*

*With international protection status, they would be included in integration programmes. At the same time, their family members already residing in Slovenia could also be included in integration measures, as they could be supported on arrival and helped to integrate into Slovenian society in appropriate ways."*

## **Slovenian government must provide safe routes to shelter for Palestinian families in Gaza**

Statement by Katarina Vučko, 18. 4. 2024

In the thematic area of politics, we **researched** peace and conflict, civic engagement, the role of civil society, populism, hate speech, the platform economy, employment, labour migration, sustainable development policies, and the challenges of the elderly, especially poverty and care. We **advocated** for demilitarisation, an end to military conflicts, the right to free language learning and free learning of Slovenian for all. We also supported student protests in Serbia. We **organised** several conferences and symposia, as well as a debate with candidates for the European Parliament elections. As part of the "To Contemplate Peace" cycle, we held two public talks and began publishing the "Living Peace" letters. In the field **monitoring**, we cooperated in the network of non-governmental organisations Glas ljudstva and in other civil society campaigns and initiatives, and in the Rule of Law Report 2024 in 19 European Union countries, we contributed a report for Slovenia. We started **five new projects**, including the PROSECO project, which connects several hundred non-governmental organisations with the aim of strengthening civil society in the region.

# HIGHLIGHT ACHIEVEMENTS

## The book *What Kind of Government?*

Springer Publishing House has published the book "*What Kind of Government? Rethinking Contemporary Forms of Government after the Break in Tradition*", edited by Vlasta Jalušič and Wolfgang Heuer. In addition to Vlasta Jalušič, the collection includes contributions by four other Slovenian authors: Tomaž Mastnak, Mirto Komel, Gorazd Kovačič and Dušan Rebolj.

The book attempts to explain changes in modern forms of government and explores the nature and structure of the various corrupt, undemocratic, oppressive, and violent regimes that continue to emerge around the world. It draws on Hannah Arendt's famous thesis of the "break in (political) tradition" that occurred with the totalitarianisms of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and discusses some of the main conceptual



frameworks and a number of key trends in existing forms of government and their relationship to historical forms.



NGOs and civil society initiatives have called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to impose a total military embargo on all military and security cooperation and trade with Israel and the Israeli military-security industry, including exports, imports and transit. 3. 12. 2024, Ljubljana. Photo: Janez Zalaznik

## Paper presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities

Peace Institute colleagues Veronika Bajt, PhD, and Ana Frank, PhD, attended the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), which took place at Columbia University in New York from 16 to 18 May 2024. In addition to scientific discussions on 140 different panels, 515 participants from 40 countries could also choose between watching 6 documentaries and

presentations of 20 monographs. At the conference, they presented a paper titled "Hate Speech, Nationalism, Migration and Gender in Slovenia". Based on empirical evidence from Slovenia, the paper explores the position of migrants in host countries and examines the sexist construction of migrants as dangerous Others. The study reveals how the construction of national identity intersects with processes of racism and sexism that perpetuate exclusionary nationalist ideologies and practices against migrant women.



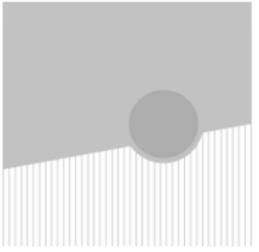
Ana Frank at the Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention, May 2024. Photo: PI Archive

## Article on the need for the scope and nature of labour law

The article, "*Less or More Labor Law for Social Change?*", authored by Maja Breznik, PhD, was published in the *Industrial Law Journal*. It addresses the contributions of labour law theory to the understanding of legal forms, particularly focusing on whether labour law serves to reproduce capitalist social relations. The theory of legal form describes labour law as inherently 'capitalist', whereas Alain Supiot refers to it as 'collective' or 'social' law,

suggesting its potential for transformative social change. The article examines employment and collective organising practices in four Slovenian companies, exploring the dynamics between individual and collective rights and their implications for social change. This analysis prompts further examination of the scope and nature of labour law, as well as the role of universal labour rights.

# PISMA O VOJNAH IN MIRU



# ŽIVETI MIR

LIVING  
PEACE

## LIVING PEACE: LETTERS ON WARS AND PEACE

At the end of 2022, in response to the increasing number of armed conflicts worldwide, we at the Peace Institute initiated a series of public events titled **Thinking Peace**. As the world enters a perilous phase of global militarisation, these events aim to explore from various perspectives the nature of war and peace, and how to establish a lasting peace that prevents the emergence of new conflicts and wars.

In 2024, we enriched the Thinking Peace series by introducing a new facet to our efforts, launching to **Living Peace**. This initiative involves collecting and publishing letters from individuals whose lives have been disrupted or cut short by war, or who have found themselves amidst the numerous ongoing armed conflicts around the world. The title Living Peace highlights the critical importance of peace, which often becomes profoundly appreciated only when people face the harsh realities of war. Through these letters, we aim to present personal reflections on peace from people across various conflict zones, including Palestine, Ukraine, Rwanda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Congo, and Yemen, among others. These personal accounts allow us to explore how individuals in war-torn regions perceive peace and conflict, and what lessons can be drawn from their personal experiences and existential fears. This initiative seeks not only to humanise the abstract concepts of war and peace but also to provide invaluable insights into the resilience and perspectives of those directly affected by conflicts.

While today's media landscape is often saturated with the voices of world leaders who justify or defend wars, we want to use public letters to strengthen those voices that advocate peace, reject violence, and recognise equal rights for all. **Because they know what it is like to live in war, they know why it is essential to live in peace.**

### EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS:

*„Despite a seizure of my computer and smartphone, a search, house arrest, and ongoing proceedings threatening me with 5 years of prison, I am determined to advocate peace anyway, even behind bars, if forced to.“*  
Yurii, Ukraine

*„While going home, my mind was filled with so many questions and fear of other soldiers that would come and take me again, asking myself why they had treated me like that. Upon reaching my village there were no people except dead bodies that became wild birds' food. I sat under the tree thinking where to go. I was tired, hungry and with a lot of injuries that have caused scars on my body until today. I lay down and fell asleep immediately that evening. Our neighbours brought some food. I ran to them. They were surprised to see me and helped me find my auntie again.“*  
Ayen, South Sudan

*„In short, being a refugee has taught me many lessons. Conflict can take away everything you have—your home, your family, and your sense of identity. But it can also teach you valuable lessons about resilience, forgiveness, and the power of hope. Now, I believe that peace is possible, even in the most difficult situations.“*  
Armand, Burundi

## FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

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## Empowering Ecosystems of Civil Society Organisations in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and Slovenia (PROSECO)

Project duration: 1 Mar 2024 – 28 Feb 2026

The project aims to empower civil society organisations in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and Slovenia to promote EU values and rights by establishing national and transnational ecosystems of cooperation that protect civic space and increase civil society resilience. The project focuses on monitoring, analysis and reporting on civic space by civil society organisations and strengthens cooperation, dialogue and good practices for resilient civil society, their networks and other stakeholders at local, national and EU levels.

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/empowering-ecosystems-of-civil-society-organisations-in-the-czech-republic-slovakia-croatia-and-slovenia-proseco/>

### Project leader at PI:

Tjaša Turnšek, Brankica Petkovič

**Collaborators:** Amela Meštrovac, Jasna Babić Zrimšek

### Partners:

Glopolis, STEM – Institute for Empirical Research, Malý Berlín, CROSOL – Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity

**Funding:** European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme

## Working conditions and job quality in hospitality and tourism: A comparative analysis with recommendations

Project duration: 1 Nov 2024 – 31 Oct 2025

The purpose of the applied project is to research employment practices in the Slovenian hospitality and tourism industry and thus contribute to appropriate action at the state, industry and company levels. The challenge of the project is the historical shortage of labour in the hospitality and tourism industry, caused by low unemployment and the departure of employees to industries with higher salaries and better working conditions. The starting point of the project is that suitable working conditions and quality of jobs are the basic factors that increase the desirability of professions and prevent employee flight.

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/working-conditions-and-job-quality-in-hospitality-and-tourism/>

### Project leader at PI:

Maja Breznik

**Collaborators:** Research group of the Faculty of Tourism, University of Ljubljana: Maja Turnšek, Jerneja Šavrič, Blaž Rodič and Tina Šegota.

### Partners:

Faculty of Tourism, University of Maribor

**Funding:** ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency, MGTŠ – Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sports

**Project leader at PI:**

Živa Humer

**Collaborators:** Leja Markelj, Franja Arlič, Andreja Živoder (vodja projekta), Nina Prešlenkova, Špela Razpotnik, Alenka Švab, Ajda Šulc

**Partners:**

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana; Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor; Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana

**Funding:** ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Slovenia

**Stimulating and inhibiting factors of international students studying in Slovenia**

Project duration: 1 Nov 2024 – 31 Dec 2025

The project employs a systematic research approach centred on a particular student group—foreign students coming to study in Slovenia. The initial phase consists of an extensive review and analysis of existing materials, including legislation and media reports. The aim is to identify factors that either facilitate or hinder the mobility of this student population. This will be followed by an analysis of current data concerning foreign students enrolled in Slovenian higher education institutions and the development of a survey questionnaire. This survey will explore the motivations of foreign students for choosing Slovenia as their study destination and the factors that contribute to the success of their studies. The empirical component of the research will be enriched through semi-structured interviews with foreign students, enhancing understanding of their experiences and illuminating additional factors influencing their decision to study in Slovenia.

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/target-research-project-stimulating-and-inhibiting-factors-of-international-students-studying-in-slovenia/>

**Project leader at PI:**

Iztok Šori

**Funding:** COST, European Cooperation in Science and Technology

**Peace Research Community Europe (PEACE)**

Project duration: 21 Oct 2024 – 20 Oct 2028

The PEACE Action brings together a trans-European and interdisciplinary research community, expanding and strengthening the network of peace and conflict research centres and researchers from across Europe. The main challenge for the PEACE Action is to improve our understanding of current challenges affecting peace and security on the European continent and beyond, thereby inspiring new research, policies and practices. The main areas will be peace and climate, feminist peace, peace and emerging technologies, local peace and the new architecture of peace and security in Europe. In addition, the network will support a new generation of peace and conflict researchers in developing their careers. Board member Iztok Šori, PhD, and PI researchers will participate in working groups within the campaign, attend events, and prepare publications.

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/peace-research-community-europe/>

**Citizens' Action for Democracy – CitiDem**

Project duration: 21 Oct 2024 – 20 Oct 2028



The strategic objective of the CitiDem project is to promote and strengthen the engagement and participation of citizens with a dual approach: a) on the one hand, it focuses on strengthening the knowledge and improving the capacity of civil society organisations to better inform and involve citizens and other relevant stakeholders, and b) on the other hand, it aims to provide citizens with the appropriate tools and knowledge for better inclusion and activity in democratic and participatory processes, while promoting their initiatives and motivation for cooperation and collective action.

Website: <https://citizenstakeover.eu/citidem/>  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/citizens-action-for-democracy-citidem/>

**Project leader at PI:**

Lana Zdravković

**Collaborator:**

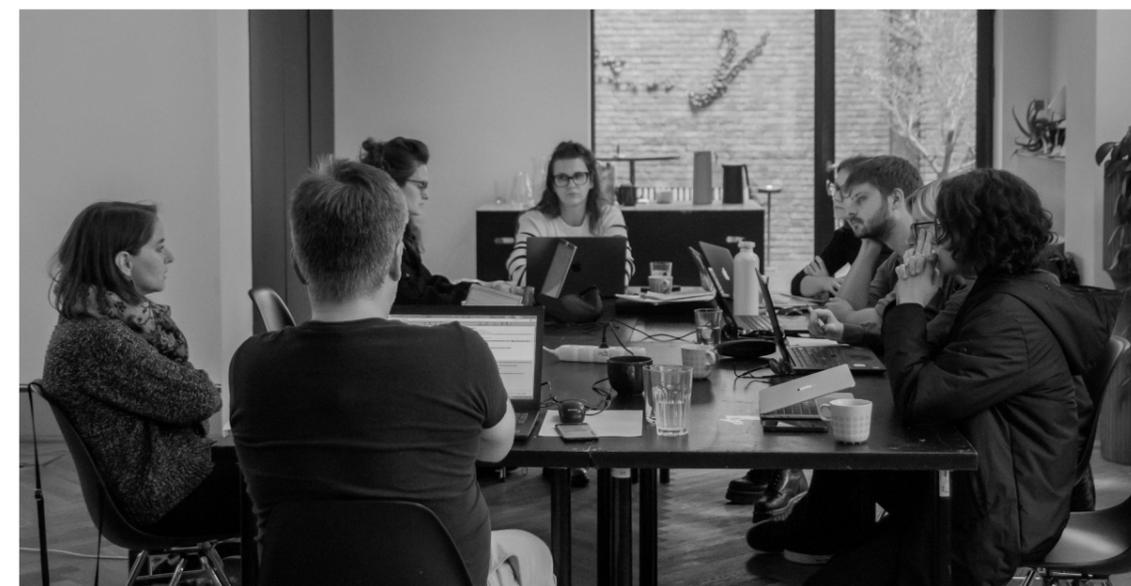
Amela Meštrovac

**Partners:**

Project consortium: Alma mater studiorum – Università di Bologna (Italy); Natura comune (Italy); Prosvasi (Greece); Democracy international e. V. (Germany); European alternatives Berlin (Germany); Alternatives Europeennes (France); Forum dos cidadaos associacao (Portugal); Universiteit Maastricht – Studio Europa Maastricht (the Netherlands); Eumans (Belgium); Stand up for Europe (Belgium); Alliance4Europe (Belgium)

**Funding:** European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme

Second PROSECO partner meeting in Trnava, Slovakia, October 2024. Photo: PI Archive



# CURRENT PROJECTS

## Hate speech in contemporary conceptualizations of nationalism, racism, gender and migration

Project leader at PI: Veronika Bajt (coordinator)

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/hate-speech-in-contemporary-conceptualizations-of-nationalism-racism-gender-and-migration-2/>

## Transnationalisation of eldercare – diversities, recruitments, inequalities (TE-DRI)

Project leader at PI: Majda Hrženjak (coordinator)

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/transnationalisation-of-eldercare-diversities-recruitments-inequalities-te-dri/>

## Data Matters: Sociotechnical Challenges of European Migration and Border Control (DATAMIG)

Project leader at PI: Mojca Pajnik

Funding: COST, European Cooperation in Science and Technology

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/data-matters/>

## The future of social dialogue in the platform economy: The case of Slovenia

Project leader at PI: Maja Breznik, coordinator: Maja Turnšek, Faculty of Tourism, University of Maribor

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/the-future-of-social-dialogue-in-the-platform-economy-the-case-of-slovenia/>

## Everyday life and life course of old people living in poverty

Project leader at PI: Majda Hrženjak

Project leader: Vesna Leskošek (Faculty of Social Work, Ljubljana)

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/everyday-life-and-life-course-of-old-people-living-in-poverty/>

## Enacting Citizenship and Solidarity in Europe "From Below": Local Initiatives, Intersectional Strategies and Transnational Networks [ECSEuro]

Project leader at PI: Mojca Pajnik

Funding: Stiftung Volkswagen

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/enacting-citizenship-and-solidarity-in-europe-from-below-local-initiatives-intersectional-strategies-and-transnational-networks-ecseuro/>

## JUSTMIG: Sustainable and Socially Just Transnational Sectoral Labour Markets: Industrial Relations and Labour Market Adjustment to the Rise in Temporary Labour Migration

Project leader at PI: Veronika Bajt

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/justmig-sustainable-and-socially-just-transnational-sectoral-labour-markets-industrial-relations-and-labour-market-adjustment-to-the-rise-in-temporary-labour-migration/>

## Parliament for the Future of Europe

Project leader at PI: Iztok Šori

Funding: European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/parliament-for-the-future-of-europe/>

## Implementation of the research residency programme for a researcher from Ukraine, Yurii Sheliashenko, PhD

Project leader at PI: Brankica Petković

Funding: Network of European Foundations – NEF, Civitates programme, Fund for Solidarity with Ukraine

## Populist Backlash, Democratic Backsliding, and the Crisis of the Rule of Law in European Union

Project leader at PI: Mojca Pajnik

Funding: Norface and ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/populist-backlash-democratic-backsliding-and-the-crisis-of-the-rule-of-law-in-european-union/>  
<https://www.popback.org/>

## Policy coherence for (sustainable) development – assessment of the effects of Slovenian national policies on developing countries and on the sustainable development of the Republic of Slovenia

Project leader at PI: Maja Ladić

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (targeted research programme), Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development-assessment-of-the-effects-of-slovenian-national-policies-on-developing-countries-and-on-the-sustainable-development-of-the-republic-of-slovenia/>

# MEDIA



We expose the words and actions of the candidates, the Voice of the People press conference, 6. 6. 2024, Ljubljana. Photo: Janez Zalaznik, source: Voice of the People FB page

*„THEY ARE NOT ALL THE SAME! Whatever we put first - social justice, the environment, human rights, peace-building or something else - we can choose parties that have publicly committed themselves to exactly those goals.*

*At today's press conference, we presented some concrete examples of the highly controversial and unethical practices that the SDS, NSi and Resnica parties in particular have engaged in during this election campaign.*

...

*At the same time, we would like to stress that the parties running are also those that are working with civil society and are ready to commit themselves to clear and decisive action towards a solidarity-based, green, inclusive and fair EU. There are important differences between them too!*

*Let's vote informed, let's vote for candidates who stand up for a Europe worth living in!“*

In the media thematic field, we **researched** the importance of emotions and emotion-related forms of journalism, the supervisory role of civil society and journalists in Slovenia, democratic media system and media freedom and integrity in the Western Balkans and Turkey. In the area of **advocacy**, we filed two complaints with the Slovenian national radio and television's Ombudsperson for Viewers and Listeners' Rights regarding reporting on Roma and an advertisement about nuclear energy on the RTV Slovenia website. We started with **cycle of reading seminars**, within which we resolve conceptual and terminological dilemmas in the study of affects and affectivity.

# HIGHLIGHT ACHIEVEMENTS

## Visit of Doruk Şen, PhD

In June, Doruk Şen, PhD, from Bilgi University in Istanbul visited us as part of the Afemed project. At the educational workshop, he presented the basics of the network analysis research method, its main characteristics, advantages and challenges to researchers. Using Visone software for visual creation, transformation, exploration and presentation of network data, we tested the method ourselves and designed a preliminary display or interweaving of ownership relationships between Slovenian media and owners. Doruk Şen also became a member of the Afemed research group in 2024.

## Professionalisation of Emotions in the Media

In the *Journalism Studies* journal, the article by Mojca Pajnik, PhD, "Professionalizing Emotions as Reflective Engagement in Emerging Forms of Journalism" was published on the professionalisation of emotions in the media. The author analyses how journalists articulate emotions as "special effects" with the potential to motivate and engage the public in the age of hybrid media. The analysis also points to problematic use when emotions serve only to increase commercial interest and to promote a commercially and profit-oriented model of media development.

The [article](#) is available free of charge.



Doruk Şen, PhD, educational workshop, June 2024. Photo: PI Archive

## Complaint regarding the television programme Tarča

We submitted a complaint and a request for an opinion to the Ombudsperson for Viewers and Listeners of Radiotelevision Slovenia, Marica Uršič Zupan. Our complaint concerns the programme "Tarča," titled "Roma Above the Law and the Constitution?" which aired on the first channel of TV Slovenia on 29 August 2024. We questioned whether the programme's creators adhered to the Professional Criteria and Principles of Journalistic Ethics applicable to RTV Slovenia programmes. We raised concerns about potential breaches of these principles, particularly regarding the integrity and credibility of viewer information. Specific issues identified include the selection of speakers, the use of criminalising rhetoric, the dissemination of unverified information, selective data presentation, and the normalisation of conditional rhetoric. Ethical journalism demands that the portrayal of the Roma community's living conditions in Slovenia and the depiction of the areas they inhabit on public television should not be excessively one-sided. It should be backed by thorough, comprehensive knowledge and presentation of the topic, ongoing investment in personal knowledge and contacts with diverse

sources, the development of journalistic sensitivity to such topics, and the recognition and addressing of ethical challenges.

## Article on authoritarian populism and structural constraints on journalism in selected European countries

In the *Journalism Studies* journal, a comparative article "[The Structural and Temporal Curb of Populism: A Cross-Country Analysis of Authoritarian Populist Influences on Journalism](#)" explores the structural influences of authoritarian populisms on journalism in Eastern and Central Europe. The article is a collaborative effort by researchers from the Popback project, drawing on over 80 in-depth interviews with journalists from Austria, Hungary, Slovenia and Turkey. Authored by Burçe Çelik, Marlene Radl, Marko Ribač, Fanni Toth, and Tjaša Turnšek, it identifies three main authoritarian strategies used by populists to undermine critical journalism: the (ab)use of institutional power to exacerbate party polarisation in political processes and the media landscape, numerous populist interventions in media ownership structures, and the strategic (ab)use of digitalisation in the journalistic field.



MeDeMap Researchers' Meeting, Lisbon, 6.–8. March 2024. Photo: Margaryta Kulichova

## MEDIA ENVIRONMENT AND MEDIA FREEDOM

The European network of non-governmental organisations, defenders of human rights and freedoms, the Civil Liberties Union for Europe, has published its fifth Rule of Law Report 2024, which presents the state of freedoms, democracy and human rights in 19 European Union countries. The report for Slovenia was contributed by the Peace Institute.

The fifth edition of the **Rule of Law Report 2024** identifies the most blatant violations of freedoms, democracy and human rights in the EU in 2023. The comprehensive analysis, produced in collaboration with 37 human rights organisations and covering 19 EU countries, is the most in-depth "shadow report" on the state of the rule of law ever produced by an independent civil liberties network. The European Commission takes these findings into account in its annual monitoring of the state of the rule of law, confirming the international relevance of the report.

The key findings for Slovenia in the field of media are that in 2023 the government failed to adopt any measures against media concentration and measures to protect professional journalism, the autonomy and safety of journalists. A "depoliticised" management model was implemented at RTV Slovenia – the national broadcaster, but a decision was not made to "depoliticise" the financing model, which caused a crisis in public broadcasting. In December 2023, a new draft media act was submitted for public debate, introducing mechanisms for state aid to the media, but lacking clear definition and commitment regarding the source and amount of state aid.

Based on the findings, we have prepared key recommendations for 2024:



- Further strengthen the institutional autonomy of RTV Slovenia, primarily by depoliticising the financing model (where the amount of the RTV fee does not depend on decisions by the government or parliament, but automatically follows inflation or other economic indicators);
- Comprehensively reform media legislation to protect the public interest in the media, especially regarding the protection of journalists, financial support for quality journalism, media pluralism, transparency of media ownership and finances, strengthening the independence and capacity of media regulatory authorities, etc.;
- Significantly reform the institutional regulatory framework by establishing a separate regulator of media and digital services that is independent and has sufficient resources for a more active role.

## FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

ÇELIK, Burçe, RADL, Marlene, RIBAĆ, Marko, TOTH, Fanni, TURNŠEK, Tjaša. The Structural and Temporal Curb of Populism: A Cross-Country Analysis of Authoritarian Populist Influences on Journalism. *Journalism Studies*. 2024, vol. 25, iss. 16, pp. 1990–2010. ISSN 1469-9699. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/1461670X.2024.2407948?needAccess=true>. [COBISS.SI-ID [221865987](#)]

PAJNIK, Mojca, HRŽENJAK, Majda. The Intertwining of the Covid-19 Pandemic with Democracy Backlash: Making Sense of Journalism in Crisis. *Journalism Practice*. 2024, vol. 18, no. 5, pp. 1175–1192. ISSN 1751-2786. DOI: [10.1080/17512786.2022.2077806](https://doi.org/10.1080/17512786.2022.2077806). [COBISS.SI-ID [109916419](#)]

PAJNIK, Mojca. Professionalizing Emotions as Reflective Engagement in Emerging Forms of Journalism. *Journalism Studies*. 2024 vol. 25 no. 2, pp. 181–198, table. ISSN 1461-670X. DOI: [10.1080/1461670X.2023.2289920](https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2023.2289920). [COBISS.SI-ID [177478403](#)]

PAJNIK, Mojca. Transformations of the Media Sphere: Amplifying Opportunity Structures for Populism. In: DIEHL, Paula (ed.), BARGETZ, Brigitte (ed.). *The Complexity of Populism: New Approaches and Methods*. Abingdon; New York: Routledge, 2024. Pp. 161–177. Routledge studies in democratic crisis. ISBN 978-1-003-30251-3, ISBN 1-003-30251-3. dCOBISS, DOI: [10.4324/9781003302513-13](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003302513-13). [COBISS.SI-ID [161638147](#)]

SCHNYDER, Gerhard, RADL, Marlene, TOTH, Fanni, KÜÇÜKUZUN, Melek, TURNŠEK, Tjaša, ÇELIK, Burçe, PAJNIK, Mojca. Theorizing and Mapping Media Ownership Networks in Authoritarian-Populist Contexts: A Comparative Analysis of Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, and Turkey. *Media, Culture & Society*. Jan. 2024, vol. 46, no. 1, pp. 38–59, illus. ISSN 0163-4437. DOI: [10.1177/01634437231179366](https://doi.org/10.1177/01634437231179366). [COBISS.SI-ID [161632259](#)]

# CURRENT PROJECTS

## **Our Media: A civil society action to generate media literacy and activism, counter polarization and promote dialogue**

Project leader at PI:  
Brankica Petković

Funding: European Commission

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/our-media-a-civil-society-action-to-generate-media-literacy-and-activism-counter-polarization-and-promote-dialogue/>

## **Affective Media: Transformations of Public Communication**

Project leader at PI:  
Mojca Pajnik

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/affective-media/>

<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/affective-media-transformations-of-public-communication/>

## **Defending and strengthening the role of civil society and journalists in protecting democracy in Slovenia**

Project leader at PI:  
Brankica Petković (coordinator)

Funding: NEF - Network of European Foundations (Civitates Programme)

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/defending-and-strengthening-the-role-of-civil-society-and-journalists-in-protecting-democracy-in-slovenia/>

## **MeDeMAP – Mapping Media for Future Democracies**

Project leader at PI:  
Brankica Petković

Funding: European Commission

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/mapping-media-for-future-democracies>



AFEMED researchers at ECREA conference, September 2024. Photo: PI Archive

# GENDER

In the thematic field of gender, our **exploration** encompassed feminist movements, strategies for promoting gender equality, the operations and impact of the anti-gender movement, masculinity in relation to eliminating gender-based violence, and the occupational risks associated with sex work. In the field of **advocacy**, we participated in the creation of an international feminist campaign during the European elections, and we also prepared an exhibition on reproductive rights. In the field of **education and training**, we engaged in implementing a workshop aimed at teachers on preventing gender-based peer violence. We **organised** a public consultation to deliberate on the acquired knowledge and experiences, created opportunities for innovative approaches to working with young people to prevent gender-based violence, and shared our findings and research outcomes at both domestic and international conferences and other events. We have initiated **two new projects**: the first continues our analysis of anti-gender policies across Europe, and the second investigates the impact of crises on mental health in critical professions.

TAM TAM

REPRODUKTIVNE PRAVICE: O ZDRAVJU, SPOLNOSTI IN ENAKOSTI ŽENSK / REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: ON HEALTH, SEXUALITY AND EQUALITY OF WOMEN

## PRAVICA DO ZAŠČITE

### THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION

1 Milan Pogacar, izdelovanje diafragme v obratu Sava Kranj na Vrhniki, februar 1961, Muzej novejšje in sodobne zgodovine Slovenije.  
2 Bato Štajer, Predavanje o spolni vzgoji, Ljubljana, verjetno pozna 1960. leta, Muzej novejšje in sodobne zgodovine Slovenije.  
3 Bato Štajer, Predavanje o ženski zaščiti pred nezeleno nosečnostjo, predstavitve diafragme, Ljubljana, verjetno pozna 1960. leta, Muzej novejšje in sodobne zgodovine Slovenije.

1 Milan Pogacar, Production of Diaphragms in the Vrhnika Unit of the Sava Kranj Factory, February 1961, National Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia.  
2 Bato Štajer, Lecture on Sexual Education, Ljubljana, probably late 1960s, National Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia.  
3 Bato Štajer, Lecture on Woman's Protection against Unwanted Pregnancy, Presentation of the Diaphragm, Ljubljana, probably late 1960s, National Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia.

1955

Jugoslavija kot ena redkih držav z lastno proizvodnjo kontraceptivov v tovarni Sava začne izdelovati diafragme.

Yugoslavia as one of the few countries with its own production of contraceptives starts to produce diaphragms in the Sava factory.

V Ljubljani se odpre prva ordinacija za kontracepcijo v Jugoslaviji.

The first contraceptive clinic in Yugoslavia is opened in Ljubljana.

► Sara Rožman, »Geneza pravice do umetne prekinitve nosečnosti v nekdanji Jugoslaviji«, *Arh & Humanitas* 1-2, št. 3 (2009): 309.

► Sara Rožman, »Geneza pravice do umetne prekinitve nosečnosti v nekdanji Jugoslaviji« [The Genesis of the Right to Abortion in Former Yugoslavia], *Arh & Humanitas* 1-2, no. 3 (2009): 309.

Financed by the European Union

FIERCE

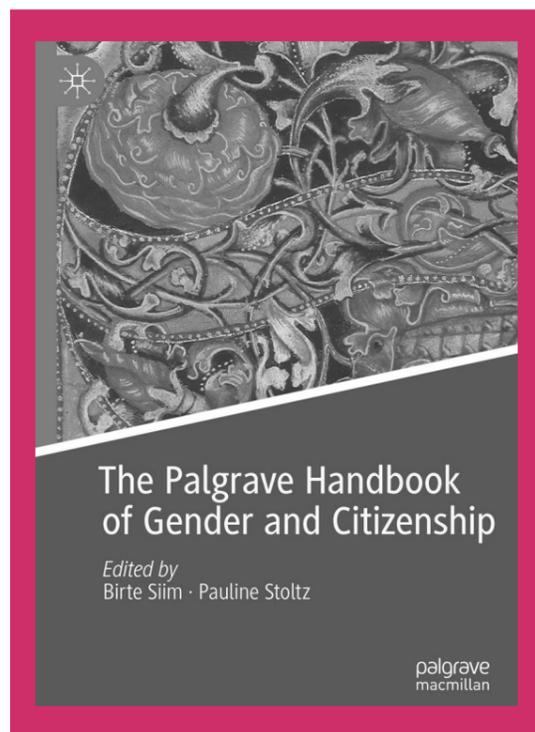
FF UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI Filozofska fakulteta

LOKACIJA PLAKATOV BAZISTAVE / EXHIBITION POSTER LOCATIONS

# HIGHLIGHT ACHIEVEMENTS

## Chapter on anti-gender mobilisation in Central and Eastern Europe

In the *Palgrave Handbook of Gender and Citizenship*, edited by Birte Siim and Pauline Stoltz, a chapter by Roman Kuhar and Mojca Pajnik discusses anti-gender mobilisation in Central and Eastern Europe. They analyse this movement as a significant factor in the illiberalisation of society and the re-nationalisation of citizenship. The movement effectively mobilises individuals by capitalising on fears about the future of the family and the nation. The chapter explores how the anti-gender movement promotes a retrotopic vision, idealising the past as superior to the present, and advocates for the restoration of traditional, patriarchal hierarchies. The authors conclude that envisaging future societies necessitates transforming the existing power structures related to gender and nation.



## Questioning gender politics in education

In the monograph *Questioning Gender Politics. Contextualising Educational Disparities in Uncertain Times*, published by Taylor Publishing & Francis, the chapter *Teaching Caring Masculinities in ECEC and Primary Schools* is authored by Daniel Holtermann, Erika Bernacchi, Elli Scambor, Majda Hrzenjak and Antonio Raimondo Di Grigoli. This chapter explores the concept of caring masculinity and its potential to address gender inequality in care work, gender-based violence, and climate change. From a practical standpoint, it suggests methods for integrating the concept of caring masculinity as a cross-curricular theme in preschool and primary education settings.



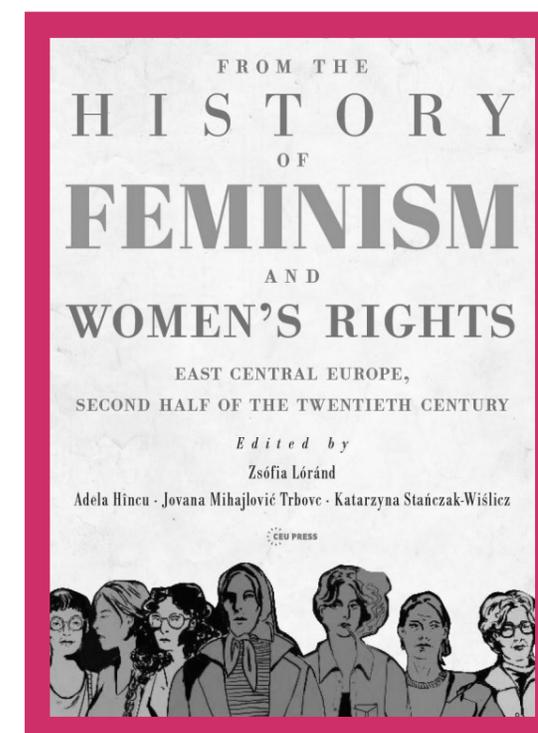
## Contribution Abortion, Women and Politics

In a comprehensive collection *Texts and Contexts from the History of Feminism and Women's Rights, East Central Europe, Second Half of the Twentieth Century*, published by CEU Press, the article "Abortion, Women, and Politics" by Vlasta Jalušič is featured. This collection presents a selection of the most representative texts on feminism and women's rights from Eastern and Central Europe, spanning from the end of World War II to the early 1990s. Although the focus is primarily on the communist era, the anthology also explores the interwar years and the transitional period following 1989. All texts are newly translated into English from the original languages.

In the former Yugoslav countries, the right to abortion has been a long-contested issue, yet it remains subject to periodic challenges, threats, and debates in political forums and on the streets. Jalušič's article is drawn from a pivotal time in this protracted history, marking the commencement of a significant struggle to secure abortion

## Report on the transnationalisation of home care for the elderly in Slovenia

We have completed the project *Transnationalisation of Elderly Care: Diversity, Recruitment and Inequalities* and presented its key findings to stakeholders and policymakers. This project focuses on the employment of migrant women in home care and the mobility of elderly people seeking care in Croatia. Data were obtained through interviews with stakeholders, migrant workers, experts in Croatia and Bosnia, and field visits. The principal findings indicate that migrant women in Slovenia are employed at low wages, which are barely sufficient to cover the cost of renting an apartment. Additionally, their professional mobility is



rights in Slovenia. This occurred against the backdrop of nationalist politics, which prevailed across Yugoslavia before and after its dissolution in 1991.

limited, adversely affecting both the individuals concerned and their countries of origin. In a related trend, an increasing number of elderly people from Slovenia are opting for care in private homes in Croatia, attracted by lower costs. This shift underscores the deficiencies of the Slovenian long-term care system.

The report, authored by Majda Hrzenjak and Maja Breznik, proposes concrete solutions to enhance the long-term care system. Firstly, it is crucial to improve working conditions for migrant women and to provide better support for their integration. Secondly, a reform of the care system in Slovenia is essential to ensure that care for the elderly is both equitable and accessible.

## EXHIBITION 'REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: ON WOMEN'S HEALTH, SEXUALITY AND EQUALITY'

*Reproductive rights are essential for ensuring gender equality in contemporary society. These rights encompass the right to a safe and fulfilling sex life, the ability to make informed decisions about one's own body, healthcare, and childbearing, all free from fear, discrimination, or violence.*

The year 2024 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Yugoslav Constitution, notable for being the first in the world to enshrine the right to freely decide on the birth of children. Feminist movements have played a pivotal role in shaping and safeguarding reproductive rights, a relevance that continues to this day.

In celebration of this significant milestone, the exhibition "Reproductive Rights: On Women's Health, Sexuality, and Rights" was prepared as part of the FIERCE project—

Feminist Movements for the Revitalization of Democracy in Europe. The exhibition opened on 7 May 2024, guided by Živa Humer and Sonja Lokar, and was displayed on TAM-TAM poster stands at various locations in the centre of Ljubljana.

The exhibition showcased key developments in the history of reproductive rights in Slovenia, including advancements in contraception, abortion, sex education, artificial insemination, parenthood, and efforts to combat violence in reproductive health.

This exhibition aims to raise awareness and provide insights into the feminist struggles that laid the groundwork for gender equality. It pays homage to both past and ongoing efforts to achieve equality and provide comprehensive information to women, with the term "woman" inclusively referring to all individuals who identify with this gender.

An online version of the exhibition is also available: <https://reproduktivne-pravice.mirovni-institut.si/>

## FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

HOLTERMANN, Daniel, BERNACCHI, Erika, SCAMBOR, Elli, HRŽENJAK, Majda, DI GRIGOLI, Antonio Raimondo. Teaching caring masculinities in ECEC and primary schools. In: BUSTILLOS MORALES, Jessie (ed.). *Questioning Gender Politics: Contextualising Educational Disparities in Uncertain Times*. Abingdon (Oxon): Routledge, 2024. Pp. 74–87. ISBN 9781003397502. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003397502-6/teaching-caring-masculinities-ecec-primary-schools-daniel-holtermann-erika-bernacchi-elli-scambor-majda-hr%C5%BEenjak-antonio-raimondo-di-grigoli?context=ubx&refId=0f55850a-0ef7-4306-a70d-bb022905977f>. [COBISS.SI-ID 207355651]

HRŽENJAK, Majda, BREZNIK, Maja. Multiple Interacting Migration Patterns in Senior Care in Europe's Semi-Periphery. In: AULENBACHER, Brigitte (ed.). *Home Care for Sale: The Transnational Brokering of Senior Care in Europe*. London; Thousand Oaks: Sage, cop. 2024. Pp. 97–111. Sage studies in international sociology, 71. ISBN 1-5296-8014-X, ISBN 978-1-5296-8014-0. [COBISS.SI-ID 193803267]

HRŽENJAK, Majda. Changing and Challenging Work–Life Negotiations for Men and Organizations. In: HEARN, Jeff (ed.), AAVIK, Kadri (ed.), COLLINSON, David L. (ed.). *Routledge Handbook on Men, Masculinities and Organizations: Theories, Practices and Futures of Organizing*. Abingdon; New York: Routledge, cop. 2024. Pp. 163–176. ISBN 978-1-032-04515-3, ISBN 978-1-032-04516-0. DOI: [10.4324/9781003193579-14](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003193579-14). [COBISS.SI-ID 169368835]

HRŽENJAK, Majda. Ujeti v instituciji: kriza upravljanja pandemije v domski oskrbi starih ljudi z vidika skrbstvenih mobilnosti. In: JALUŠIČ, Vlasta (ed.), PAJNIK, Mojca (ed.), HRŽENJAK, Majda (ed.). *(Ne)enakost v času krize in vzpona avtoritarizmov*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Ljubljana: Peace Institute, 2024. Pp. 175–196. ISBN 978-961-96019-7-6. <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/publikacije/neenakost-v-casu-krize-in-vzpona-avtoritarizmov/>. [COBISS.SI-ID 215392771]

HUMER, Živa, FRELIH, Mojca. Skrbstveno delo, enakost spolov in vloga moških v času pandemije. In: JALUŠIČ, Vlasta (ed.), PAJNIK, Mojca (ed.), HRŽENJAK, Majda (ed.). *(Ne)enakost v času krize in vzpona avtoritarizmov*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Ljubljana: Peace Institute, 2024. Pp. 197–217. ISBN 978-961-96019-7-6. <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/publikacije/neenakost-v-casu-krize-in-vzpona-avtoritarizmov/>. [COBISS.SI-ID 217128707]



Exhibition opening, TAM-TAM posters, 7. 5. 2024. Photo: PI Archive

# NEW PROJECTS

KOGOVSŠEK ŠALAMON, Neža, UČAKAR, Tjaša. Treatment of occupational health risks in criminal prosecution of abuse of prostitution in Slovenia. *Medicine, Law & Society*. Apr. 2024 vol. 17 no. 1, pp. 49–68. ISSN 2463-7955. DOI: [10.18690/mls.17.1.49-68.2024](https://doi.org/10.18690/mls.17.1.49-68.2024). [COBISS.SI-ID [195108867](https://www.cobiss.si/id/195108867)]

KUHAR, Roman, PAJNIK, Mojca. Re-nationalizing Citizenship and Democratic Backsliding: Anti-Gender Mobilizations in Central-Eastern Europe. In: SIIM, Birte (ed.), STOLTZ, Pauline (ed.). *The Palgrave Handbook of Gender and Citizenship*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024. Pp. 361–381. ISBN 978-3-031-57143-5. [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-57144-2\\_16](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-57144-2_16), DOI: [10.1007/978-3-031-57144-2\\_16](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-57144-2_16). [COBISS.SI-ID [199277315](https://www.cobiss.si/id/199277315)]

MARKELJ, Leja. Platformno skrbstveno delo: med formalizacijo dela in (re)produkcijo neenakosti. In: KANJUO-MRČELA, Aleksandra (ed.), KOHONT, Andrej (ed.). *Digitalizacija dela in življenja*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Ljubljana: Faculty of Social Sciences, Založba FDV, 2024. Pp. 265–278, illustr. Knjižna zbirka Ost, 30. ISBN 978-961-295-097-2. [COBISS.SI-ID [222523907](https://www.cobiss.si/id/222523907)]

PAJNIK, Mojca, KUHAR, Roman. Sex Work Online: Professionalism Between Affordances and Constraints. *Information, Communication & Society*. 2024 vol. , no. , pp. 1–18, tables. ISSN 1369-118X. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1369118X.2024.2435993>, DOI: [10.1080/1369118X.2024.2435993](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2024.2435993). [COBISS.SI-ID [221644803](https://www.cobiss.si/id/221644803)]

## Democratization at stake? Comparing Anti-Gender Politics in CEE and NME countries

Project duration: 21 Oct 2024 – 20 Oct 2028

In the era of globalisation after 90 years, the countries of Eastern Europe (EE) and European neighbours in the Near and Middle East (NME) have experienced significant social and political changes that have marked democratisation. Norms such as “women’s rights are human rights” and measures against gender discrimination have become symbols of democratic societies. Despite their different effects, the EE and NME countries share some common features in their approach to gender equality, which has been subject to challenges such as religious fundamentalism, homophobia and neo-traditionalism for over 15 years. Both democratic values and gender equality policies are at risk. By focusing on oppositions to gender equality and their links to the decline of democratic structures, the project addresses fundamental societal challenges that threaten peace, justice and equality.

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/democratization-at-stake/>

### Project leader at PI:

Mojca Pajnik

### Collaborator:

Roman Kuhar

### Partners:

Prof Heidi Hein-Kircher, Martin-Opitz-Bibliothek, Herne, Germany (project coordinator)

**Funding:** COST, European Cooperation in Science and Technology

## Socioecological dynamic models of mental health: Pandemic crisis burden among professions of critical importance for the society

Project duration: 1 Jan 2024 – 31 Dec 2026

The project is the first study in Slovenia and Austria that will examine risk factors by comparing different socio-ecological levels simultaneously (macro, organisational, micro and individual levels) in three critical professions (healthcare, military and police). Social-ecological models will highlight the gender aspect neglected in existing studies, especially the gender structure of critical professions and the importance of their mission. Through a socio-ecological perspective, the project combines views on politics, culture, organizations, families, and individuals with a systematic research approach, which will contribute to a better understanding of the impact of the crisis on the mental health of critical occupations and the possibilities of strengthening protective factors for employees in critical occupations, also in light of future crises.

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/socioecological-dynamic-models-of-mental-health/>

### Project leader at PI:

Živa Humer

### Collaborators:

Franja Arlič, coordinators at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana and partners The National Institute of Public Health and the University of Klagenfurt (Austria)

### Partners:

National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ); Faculty of Social Sciences; University of Klagenfurt

**Funding:** ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

# CURRENT PROJECTS

## Caring Masculinities in Action (Carmia)

Project leader at PI: Majda Hrženjak

Funding: European Union, Ministry of Public Administration (NGOs Fund)

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/caring-masculinities-in-action-carmia/>

## FIERCE – Feminist Movements Revitalizing Democracy in Europe

Project leader at PI: Mojca Pajnik

Funding: European Union, Horizon Europe programme

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/fierce-feminist-movements-revitalizing-democracy-in-europe/>

<https://fierce-project.eu/>

## Equality of Gender Rules: Creating an Equal Society for All

Project leader at PI: Živa Humer

Funding: Active Citizens Fund programme in Slovenia

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/equality-of-gender-rules-creating-equal-society-for-all/>

## FemQueer: Common Strategies for Gender Equality

Project leader at PI: Živa Humer

Funding: European Union, Erasmus+

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/femqueer-common-strategies-for-gender-equality/>

## Engaged in Equality – Challenging masculinities and engaging adolescent boys to end gender-based violence

Project leader at PI: Živa Humer

Funding: European Union, Ministry of Public Administration (NGOs Fund)

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/engaged-in-equality-challenging-masculinities-and-engaging-adolescent-boys-to-end-gender-based-violence/>

## Occupational risks in sex work at the intersections of policy framework and social stigma (ORIS)

Project leader at PI: Iztok Šori (coordinator)

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/occupational-risks-in-sex-work-at-the-intersections-of-policy-framework-and-social-stigma-oris/>

## Gender, Democracy and neoconservative anti-gender movement

Project leader at PI: Mojca Panik

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website:  
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/gender-democracy-and-neoconservative-anti-gender-movement/>

# PROGRAMME GROUP EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN TIMES OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

In the programme group, we address fundamental questions of human rights, equality, diversity, and non-discrimination, both conceptually and in our research. These issues are at a historical crossroads due to globalisation, the dominance of neoliberal governance, and the multiplication of social crises. While political and legal principles concerning these topics have never been more comprehensively regulated, their significance is increasingly undermined in the name of security, the fight against terrorism, and the protection of national sovereignty in our global age. Some groups are even denied rights, highlighting a focus on human status rather than humanity (Balibar 2007; Arendt 1971/2003). We reconsider the meanings of equality and “natural rights” throughout history, paying special attention to social contract theory. Our focus also includes the study of modern conceptualisations of human rights, (in)equality, diversity, and multiculturalism as interpreted by scholars such as H. Arendt, J.W. Nickel, J.H. Schaar, D. Miller, W. Kymlicka, Iris M. Young, B. Parekh, among others.

We published the book *[Ne]enakost v času krize in vzpona avtoritarizmov ([In]equality in times of crisis and the rise of authoritarianism)* edited by M. Pajnik, V. Jalušič, and M. Hrženjak, which was presented in May at Pritličje in Ljubljana. In this volume, principal investigators analyse the intensification of inequality, the erosion of human rights, and the ascent of undemocratic regimes amidst a

### Leader:

Mojca Pajnik

### Members:

Veronika Bajt, Maja Breznik, Zoran Fijavž, Mojca Freljih, Sergeja Hrvatič, Majda Hrženjak, Živa Humer, Vlasta Jalušič, Neža Kogovšek Šalomon, Marko Ribač, Jurij Smrke, Iztok Šori, Tjaša Turnšek, Lana Zdravković

**Funding:** ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

### Website:

<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/equality/>

global backdrop marked by various crises including climate, migration, health, economic, media, military, and the crisis of democratic institutions. The book delves into how crisis politics have become entrenched in contemporary governance, the media's reaction to authoritarianism, the exacerbation of inequality, discrimination, and marginalisation due to poor crisis management, and whether these crises could herald a shift towards a more equitable world.

In 2024, we organised two programme group symposia. The first, held in March, aimed to explore research approaches and methodological focuses across different forms of research—from project-based research and reflective reading to doctoral dissertation work. This symposium centred on the use of the ethnographic method, the affective turn in contemporary capitalism, and a critical analysis of the post-Yugoslav imaginary.

The second symposium, conducted in October, was devoted to examining hate speech in the digital era. Discussions covered the contraction of public discourse spaces, the predominance of capital, corporations, and financial markets over public interest, and the inadequacy of legal frameworks in upholding democratic norms and human dignity. We also explored the economic and political contexts of these shifts, the factors contributing to the rise of the (radical) right, and the discourses and movements shaping the current political agenda, including state responses.

In November, a self-evaluation meeting was organised to reflect on the progress and outcomes of the research undertaken by the programme group.



Peace Institute Programme Group Symposium on Disciplinary Synergies, 15. 3. 2024, Ljubljana.  
Photo: PI Archive

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

## Board

Chair: Lev Kreft, PhD

Members:

Darko Štrajn, PhD  
Vlasta Jalušič, PhD  
Roman Kuhar, PhD  
Živa Humer, PhD  
Maja Ladić, PhD

## Scientific Council

Chair: Tanja Rener, PhD, until 17th April,  
Mateja Sedmak, PhD from 18th April 2024 onwards

Members:  
Mojca Pajnik, PhD, Mateja Sedmak, PhD (until 17th April), Tanja Rener, PhD (from 18th April onwards)

**Director:** Iztok Šori, PhD  
**Managing director:** Franja Arlič, MA

# STAFF

The PI team comprised 29 employees in 2024. We were joined by researchers Anteja Tomašič, Lori Šramel Čebular, and Jurij Smrke. We found it difficult to come to terms with the departure of our long-standing colleague Dr Mojca Frelj to another institution, while wishing her the very best in her career path. The team works interdisciplinary across the fields of political science, sociology, cultural studies, philosophy, social and cultural anthropology, law, and economics. Four employees engage in the pedagogical process at universities: Prof Mojca Pajnik, Prof Vlasta Jalušič, Assoc Prof Neža Kogovšek Šalomon, and Asst Prof Marko Ribač, thus transferring the scientific findings generated at the institute to students. Our colleague, Dr Neža Kogovšek Šalomon, is also a distinguished jurist and a Constitutional Court judge. The Institute regularly hosts interns from Slovenian and international universities, who receive training as part of ongoing projects. We ensure a stimulating, healthy, and safe working environment through various policies and activities.



Iztok Šori, PhD  
Director



Franja Arlič, MA  
Managing Director



Amela Meštrovac  
Professional and Technical Associate



Ana Frank, PhD  
Researcher



Anteja Tomašič  
Assistant



Brankica Petkovič, MA  
Researcher



Jasna Babič Zrimšek, MA  
Communications Coordinator



Jurij Smrke  
Assistant



Katarina Vučko  
Consultant



Katerina Kočkovska Šefinc  
Assistant



Lana Zdravković, PhD  
Researcher



Leja Markelj  
Assistant



Lori Šramel Čebular  
Specialised Assistant



Maja Breznik, PhD  
Researcher



Maja Ladič, PhD  
Researcher



Majda Hrženjak, PhD  
Researcher



Marko Ribač, PhD  
Researcher and Assistant



Martina Kerec  
Librarian



Mojca Pajnik, PhD  
Researcher



Neža Kogovšek Šalomon, PhD  
Researcher



Sandi Abram, PhD  
Researcher



Saša Panič  
Specialised Assistant



Sergeja Hrvatič  
Young Researcher



Tjaša Turnšek  
Assistant



Urška Hartman  
Office Coordinator



Veronika Bajt, PhD  
Researcher



Vlasta Jalušič, PhD  
Researcher



Zoran Fijavž  
Young Researcher



Živa Humer, PhD  
Researcher

# NETWORKING AND PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION

## MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH NETWORKS, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

ASEN, Association for the Studies of Ethnicity and Nationalism (Veronika Bajt, member)  
 ASN, Association for the Study of Nationalities (Anne Frank, Veronika Bajt, members)  
 Carework Network (Majda Hrženjak, member)  
 Commission for Ethics in Research, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana (Mojca Pajnik, member)  
 Coordination of independent non-profit research and infrastructure institutes (KOsRIS) (Iztok Šori, member, PI representative)  
 COST Action: Platform Work Inclusion Living Lab P-WILL (Maja Breznik, board member)  
 COST DATAMIG network, Data Matters: Sociotechnical Challenges of European Migration and Border Control (DATAMIG), COST, (Mojca Pajnik, vice president)  
 COST network Democratization at stake? Comparing Anti-Gender Politics in CEE and NME countries (Antigender-Politics) (Mojca Pajnik, member)  
 Council for European Studies (Mojca Pajnik, member)  
 Council of the Archive of Social Science Data (ADP) (Iztok Šori, member)  
 Divided Societies, Inter University Centre Dubrovnik (Mojca Pajnik, study programme associate)  
 Eurofound, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Maja Breznik, national correspondent)  
 European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, ERCI (Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, member)  
 European Commission on Sexual Orientation Law – ECSOL (Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, member)  
 European Communication Research and Education Association, ECREA (Mojca Pajnik, member)  
 European Consortium for Political Research, ECPR (Mojca Pajnik, Vlasta Jalušič, member)  
 European Network against Gender and Violence (Vlasta Jalušič, member)  
 European Sociological Association (Majda Hrženjak, member)  
 Global Carework Network (Majda Hrženjak, member)  
 Identity of Europe, Interuniversity Centre Dubrovnik (Vlasta Jalušič, course co-director)  
 International Law Association – Committee Migration and International Law (Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, representative of Slovenia)  
 International Law Association – Committee on Human Rights in Times of Emergency (Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, representative of Slovenia)  
 IPSA, International Political Science Organization (Vlasta Jalušič, member)  
 Odysseus Academic Network of Experts in Asylum and Migration (Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, member)

Peace Research Community Europe (Iztok Šori, inclusion coordinator)  
 Scientific Council of the Peace Institute (Mojca Pajnik, member)  
 Slovenian Communication Society (Mojca Pajnik, member of the supervisory board)  
 Slovenian Sexological Society (Veronika Bajt, Leja Markelj, members, and Iztok Šori, member)  
 Slovenian Sociological Society (Veronika Bajt, member of the presidency, Maja Breznik, Majda Hrženjak, members, and Iztok Šori, member)  
 The Research Network for Domestic Workers' Rights (Majda Hrženjak, member)

## MEMBERSHIPS IN OTHER NETWORKS, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

City of Women Association, Ljubljana (Lana Zdravković, Amela Meštrovac, members of the general assembly)  
 Civil Liberties Union Europe (Iztok Šori, PI representative)  
 Council of the Centre for Peace Studies, Zagreb (Lana Zdravković, member)  
 Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Children and Family (Živa Humer, NGO representative)  
 EELN, European Equality Law Network (Katarina Vučko, member)  
 ENS European Network on Statelessness (Katarina Vučko, PI representative)  
 EWSI, European Web Site of Integration (Lana Zdravković, MI representative, coordinator for Slovenia)  
 Expert Council for Gender Equality at Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (Majda Hrženjak, member)  
 Interdepartmental Commission for Human Rights (Katarina Vučko, PI representative)  
 LEAP, Legal Experts Advisory Panel (Katarina Vučko, PI representative)  
 Migration and development (Lana Zdravković, coordinator and PI representative)  
 Migration Forum (Lana Zdravković, coordinator and PI representative)  
 Network of Inclusive Organisations (Leja Markelj, PI representative)  
 Section of organisations in the field of migrant integration, Social Chamber of Slovenia (Maja Ladić, Lana Zdravković, Katerina Kočkovska Šetinc, members)  
 SEENPM, South East European Network for Professionalisation of the Media (Brankica Petković, PI representative)  
 Sophia Publishing House (Maja Breznik, founder and member of the Publishing House Council)  
 Strategic Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Prevention of Hate Speech (Brankica Petković, member)  
 Voice of the people (Brankica Petković, PI representative)  
 Women's Lobby of Slovenia (Živa Humer, member of the Lobby's Council)  
 Working group established by the Council of Radio and Television Slovenia for the operationalisation of the provisions of Article 16(2) of ZRTVS-1 (Brankica Petković, member)  
 Zavod Oštro, Center for investigative journalism in the Adriatic region (Mojca Pajnik, member of the Expert Council)

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 Hannah Arendt Net [ISSN: 1869-5787] (Vlasta Jalušič)  
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 Migracijske i etničke studije [ISSN: 1333-2546, ISSN 1848-9184] (Mojca Pajnik)

# PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

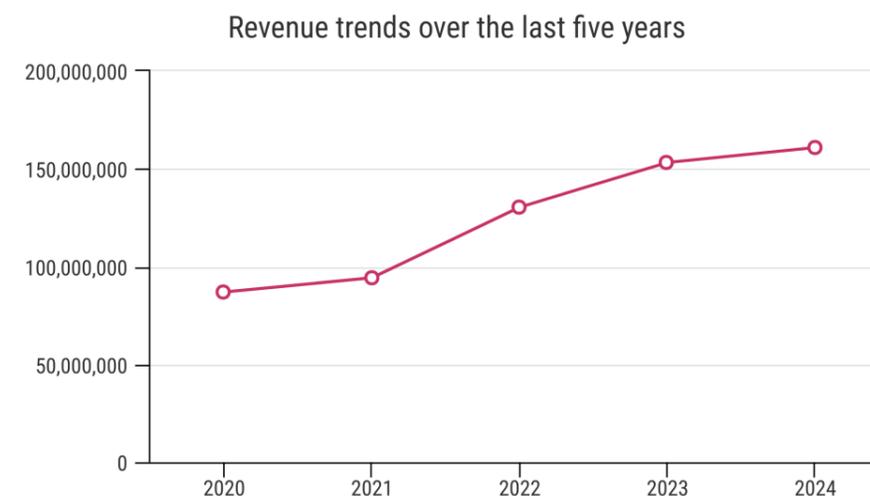
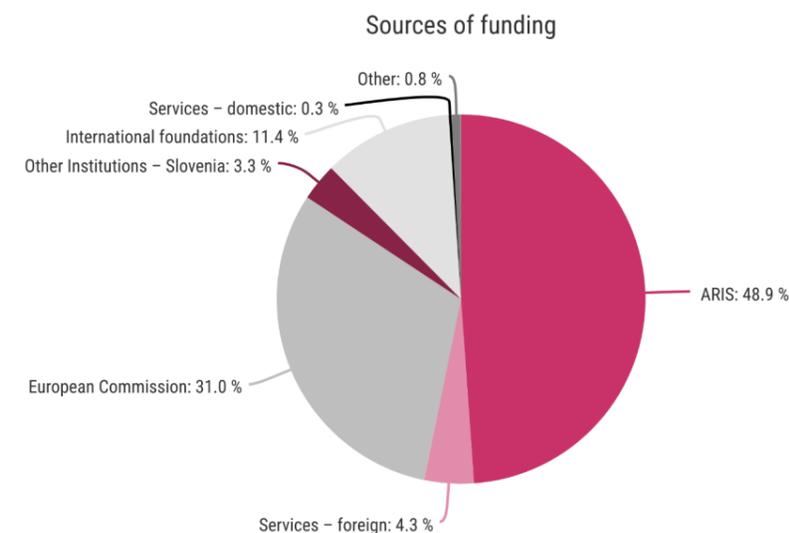
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 De Burcht Institute, The Netherlands  
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 Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana  
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- National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ)
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- VILABS, Greece
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Fundamental Rights Research Centre (FRC), Belgium

# FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

In 2024, the Institute's financial operations were successful, showing a 5% growth in revenue. Funding from domestic sources saw a slightly greater increase, while contributions from the European Commission and international foundations grew less significantly. We can report that revenue growth has been stable over recent years. The main source of funding remains obtaining projects through public tenders, accounting for 64%, with stable contributions from the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS) at 30%, and the provision of market services, such as studies or educational activities, making up 5%. We are particularly pleased to have been able to allocate additional funds to the programme group, which positively impacts the Institute's scientific development.



# LIST OF FINANCERS

Active Citizens Fund in Slovenia

ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

European Commission (EU):

- AMIF 2023
- The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme
- COST, European Cooperation in Science and Technology
- Erasmus+

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Horizon Europe Programme

Ministry of Digital Transformation (MDP)

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA)

Ministry of Public Administration (MPA)

Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport (MGTS)

NEF – Network of European Foundations (Civitates Programme)

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Open Society Foundation

Volkswagen Stiftung



