

INTRODUCTION

In today's complex world, some issues may seem insignificant or marginal. However, the position of individual human beings in society has always been the centre of attention in many disciplines, like sociology, philosophy, economics, political science, demography, law and others that increasingly complement each other. Interdisciplinary research strives to expose the essence, causes and consequences of various concepts connected with an individual creating value for society.

The position of a productive individual in the labour market, as well as outside of it, falls within the issues dealt with rigorously both in theory and practice, in different types of institutions, by practitioners and policy makers alike. The variety of aspects that are relevant to the role of an individual in society and especially in the labour market are reflected in the topics of scholarly articles that comprise this publication.

As for the content, the studies are divided into the two relatively independent parts – one part is focused more on economic approaches and the other on legal aspects of the topic. This division is due to the fact that among the many dimensions of the labour market, the economic and legal ones are the most important.

The goal of this Book of Proceedings is to reflect the current trends in the development of the European labour market, concentrating on its impact on the individual's well-being. From this perspective, the studies presenting the results of the project VEGA 1/0935/13 on unpaid work and the individual's well-being present a specific position. However, the issue of paid and unpaid work with the emphasis on the individual's well-being prompted an exchange of ideas among experts at home and abroad. This has led to the compilation of this Book of Proceedings under the title "Economic and legal issues and challenges of the labour market and their impact on individual well-being".

We believe that the studies will contribute to the development of the knowledge base on current issues and challenges connected with paid and unpaid work as well as opportunities and barriers to unleash human potential.

We are grateful to all the authors who have contributed their ideas and expertise to this effort and to the reviewers who acknowledged the quality of the contributions.

On behalf of the editors

Mária Uramová