

# Uvodnik

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Posebna številka revije Slovenščina 2.0 z naslovom *Jezikovna dostopnost pravnih besedil: izzivi, metode in izvedba v praksi* je namenjena problematiki jezikovne dostopnosti pravnih besedil. Razumevanje pravnega jezika je eden od predpogojev za aktivno in enakopravno sodelovanje v demokratični skupnosti, saj posameznikom in posameznicam omogoča, da poznajo svoje pravice in obveznosti na različnih pravno urejenih življenjskih področjih. Za podporo jezikovne dostopnosti je ključno raziskovanje, ocenjevanje in morebitno odpravljanje kompleksnosti pravnega jezika, pri čemer so pomembni doprinosi različnih znanstvenih disciplin.

V tej posebni številki objavljamo osem izvirnih znanstvenih člankov in razpravo z okrogle mize, ki jih skupaj podpisuje skoraj trideset avtoric in avtorjev iz prava, jezikoslovja, socialnega dela, računalništva in sorodnih področij. Prvi trije prispevki obravnavajo jezikovno dostopnost v socialnovarstveni in kazenskopravni ureditvi ter vlogo zakona v širšem procesu komuniciranja prava, temu pa sledita dva prispevka, usmerjena v delo s študenti in razumevanje pravnih ter upravnih besedil v visokošolskem prostoru. Zadnji trije znanstveni članki se posvečajo pripravi in uporabi korpusnih podatkov ter razvoju jezikovnotehnoloških pristopov za analizo pravnih besedil. Prispevki se osredotočajo na (pravno oz. upravno) slovenščino, angleščino in hrvaščino,

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kar omogoča primerjalni vpogled v jezikovno dostopnost pravnih besedil v različnih jezikovnih okoljih.

**Luka Mišič** v prispevku *Jezikovna (ne)dostopnost pravic iz sistema socialnega varstva* analizira, kako specifični zakonski jezik in način komuniciranja prek predpisov ter obrazcev vplivata na dejanski dostop ranljivih skupin do socialnovarstvenih pravic. Opozori na paradoks, da so prav tisti razlagalni viri, ki naj bi pravice približali uporabnicam in uporabnikom, pogosto jezikovno neustrezno prilagojeni in tako dodatno omejujejo dostop do pravnega varstva. **Tilen Štajnpihler Božič, Kristina Krajnc** in **Kaja Gajšek** v prispevku *Vloga zakona v procesu komuniciranja prava* obravnavajo zakon kot posebno vrsto pravnega besedila in kot izhodiščno točko širšega procesa komuniciranja prava. Na podlagi pregleda jezikovnih in oblikovnih prvin zakona ter ob predstavitvi obstoječih prizadevanj za poenostavitev predpisov pokažejo, da je skrb za jezikovno dostopnost sicer del normodajne prakse, vendar inherentnih značilnosti zakonskega jezika ni mogoče povsem odpraviti, zato je ključno vprašanje, kako vsebino prava učinkovito komunicirati naprej.

**Manja Skočir** in **Mojca Mihelj Plesničar** v prispevku *Jezik na zahtojni klopi: natančnost, razumljivost in izzivi razlage pravnega pomena v kazenskem pravu* raziskujeta napetost med zahtevo po pomenski natančnosti in neizogibno pomensko odprtostjo pravnega jezika v kazenskem pravu. S pomočjo primerov iz sodne prakse pokažeta, kako nomotehnične nejasnosti in terminološke nedoslednosti usmerjajo sodišča v razponu od formalistične do teleološke razlage ter s tem vplivajo na pravno varnost, obenem pa pozivata k večji jezikovni odgovornosti zakonodajalca in refleksivnosti sodnic in sodnikov.

**Annarita Felici, Eugenia Portioli** in **Paolo Canavese** v prispevku *Legal and Linguistic Simplification for Vulnerable People: An Interdisciplinary Training Experience with Law Students* predstavijo interdisciplinarno delavnico na Univerzi v Ženevi, namenjeno študentom pravne klinike za pravice ranljivih oseb. Na primeru brošure o pravicah uporabnikov drog pokažejo, kako je mogoče s povezovanjem pravne in prevodoslovne stroke ter z uporabo strategij *plain language* in *easy language* izboljšati jezikovno dostopnost pravnih informacij in študente hkrati usposobiti za delo onkraj meja lastne discipline. **Nataša Pirih**

**Svetina** in **Monika Kavalir** v prispevku *Understand this if you can: Plain administrative language and reading comprehension in Slovene and English among international students at the University of Ljubljana* empirično preverjata, kako mednarodni študenti razumejo upravna besedila, povezana z vpisom na univerzo, v izvirni in poenostavljeni različici v slovenščini in angleščini. Rezultati pokažejo, da preprostejši jezik pomembno izboljša razumevanje, pri čemer se slovenščina – tudi zaradi jezikovne bližine – izkaže za praviloma bolj razumljeno od angleščine, kar ima posledice za oblikovanje ključnih dokumentov v procesih internacionalizacije.

**Matej Martinc, Senja Pollak, Vid Podpečan, Luka Mišič, Tilen Štajnpihler Božič, Nejc Urankar, Kristina Krajnc, Ana Marija Sobočan** in **Špela Arhar Holdt** v prispevku *Slovenian Social Assistance Rights text data collection (SSAR 1.0): Creation and language complexity assessment* predstavljajo novopripravljeno zbirko besedil s področja pravic iz sistema socialnega varstva. Z uporabo berljivostnih formul in meril skladske kompleksnosti pokažejo, da so številna socialnovarstvena besedila izrazito zahtevna, ter predlagajo, kako lahko kvantitativne analize služijo kot podlaga za oblikovanje jezikovno dostopnejših pravnih in razlagalnih besedil. **Miha Malenšek, Aleš Završnik, Saša Krajnc, Primož Križnar, Marko Bajec** in **Slavko Žitnik** v prispevku *Towards Contradiction Detection in Legal Texts: Corpus Preparation and Contradiction Extraction* opisujejo pripravo največjega javno dostopnega slovenskega pravnega korpusa in razvoj specializiranega jezikovnega modela PravniBERT. Na primeru naloge iskanja kontradiktornih pravnih določb pokažejo, da je mogoče tudi v jezikovno manj podprtih okoljih razvijati transparentne in domeni prilagojene rešitve na osnovi velikih jezikovnih modelov.

**Marina Peršurić Antičić** v prispevku *Code glosses in the European Union's legislative documents: Corpus analysis of the English and Croatian DGT Translation Memory parallel corpus* analizira rabo pojasnjevalnih metabesedilnih sredstev (code glosses) v angleških in hrvaških zakonodajnih besedilih Evropske unije. Na podlagi korpusnega pregleda pokaže, da se pogostnost in oblikovanje teh pojasnjevalnih struktur med jezikoma razlikujeta, kar odseva tako željo po ohranjanju strukture izvornika kot tudi posebnosti ciljnopravnega diskurza.

Tematsko številko sklence zapis znanstvenega panela *Prav(o) razumeti, prav uveljavljati: slovenščina kot pot do pravic socialnega varstva*, pri katerem so sodelovali **Senja Pollak, Luka Mišič, Ana Marija Sobočan, Marko Stabej, Ina Ferbežar, Marko Robnik-Šikonja, Tina Munda** in **Špela Arhar Holdt**. Razprava osvetli ključne ovire pri razumevanju in uveljavljanju pravic socialnega varstva ter poudari potrebo po kakovostnih razlagalnih besedilih, trajnih povratnih zankah med pravom in prakso, pedagoških naložbah v spoznavanje pravnega žanra in jezikovno občutljivost ter po preiščeni rabi jezikovnih tehnologij v podporo jezikovni dostopnosti.

Posebna številka je nastala s podporo agencije ARIS (raziskovalni projekt *Jezikovna dostopnost pravic socialnega varstva v Sloveniji*, J5-50169). Urednici tematske številke se prijazno zahvaljujeva vsem avtorjem in avtoricam, recenzentkam in recenzentom ter sodelujočim na panelu. K branju vabimo raziskovalke in raziskovalce, študentke in študente, odločevalce in odločevalke in druge strokovnjake in strokovnjakinje z vseh relevantnih področij.

# Editorial

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This special issue of the journal *Slovenščina 2.0*, entitled *Linguistic Accessibility of Legal Texts: Challenges, Methods, and Applications*, is devoted to the issue of linguistic accessibility of legal texts. Understanding legal language is one of the preconditions for active and equal participation in a democratic community, as it enables individuals to know their rights and obligations in various areas of life regulated by law. To support linguistic accessibility, it is crucial to research, assess and, where needed, reduce the complexity of legal language, with important contributions from various academic disciplines.

This special issue comprises eight original research articles and a transcribed panel discussion, collectively authored by almost thirty contributors from law, linguistics, social work, computer science and related fields. The first three contributions address linguistic accessibility in the fields of social welfare and criminal law and the role of statutes in the broader process of communicating law, followed by two papers focusing on work with students and on the understanding of legal and administrative texts in higher education. The final three research articles are devoted to the preparation and use of corpus data and to the development of language technology approaches for the analysis of legal texts. The contributions focus on (legal and administrative) Slovene, English and Croatian, which allows for a comparative insight into the linguistic accessibility of legal texts in different language environments.

In the article *Jezikovna (ne)dostopnost pravic iz sistema socialnega varstva*, **Luka Mišič** analyses how the specific language of statutes and the way rights are communicated through regulations and forms affect the actual access of vulnerable groups to social assistance

rights. He points to the paradox that the very explanatory sources that are meant to bring these rights closer to users are often linguistically poorly adapted and thus further restrict access to legal protection. **Tilen Štajnpihler Božič, Kristina Krajnc and Kaja Gajšek**, in *Vloga zakona v procesu komuniciranja prava*, examine statutes as a special type of legal text and as the starting point of a broader process of communicating law. On the basis of an overview of the linguistic and formal features of statutes and a presentation of existing efforts to simplify regulations, they show that concern for linguistic accessibility is indeed part of legislative practice, yet the inherent characteristics of statutory language cannot be fully eliminated; the key question therefore becomes how to communicate the content of law effectively beyond the statute itself.

In *Jezik na zatožni klopi: natančnost, razumljivost in izzivi razlage pravnega pomena v kazenskem pravu*, **Manja Skočir and Mojca Mihelj Plesničar** explore the tension between the requirement for semantic precision and the inevitably open-ended nature of legal language in criminal law. Drawing on examples from case law, they show how drafting ambiguities and terminological inconsistencies steer courts along a continuum from formalistic to teleological interpretation, thereby affecting legal certainty, while at the same time calling for greater linguistic responsibility on the part of the legislator and greater reflexivity among judges.

In *Legal and Linguistic Simplification for Vulnerable People: An Interdisciplinary Training Experience with Law Students*, **Annarita Felici, Eugenia Portioli and Paolo Canavese** present an interdisciplinary workshop at the University of Geneva for law clinic students working on the rights of vulnerable persons. Using the case of a brochure on the rights of drug users, they show how linking legal and translation studies and applying plain language and easy language strategies can improve the linguistic accessibility of legal information, while at the same time training students to work beyond the boundaries of their own discipline. In *Understand this if you can: Plain administrative language and reading comprehension in Slovene and English among international students at the University of Ljubljana*, **Nataša Pirih Svetina and Monika Kavalir** empirically investigate how international

students understand administrative texts related to university enrolment in their original and simplified versions in Slovene and English. The results show that plainer language significantly improves comprehension, with Slovene – also due to linguistic proximity – generally being better understood than English, which has implications for the drafting of key documents in processes of internationalisation.

In *Slovenian Social Assistance Rights text data collection (SSAR 1.0): Creation and language complexity assessment*, **Matej Martinc**, **Senja Pollak**, **Vid Podpečan**, **Luka Mišič**, **Tilen Štajnpihler Božič**, **Nejc Urankar**, **Kristina Krajnc**, **Ana Marija Sobočan** and **Špela Arhar Holdt** present a newly compiled collection of texts in the field of social assistance rights. Using readability formulas and syntactic complexity measures, they show that many social assistance texts are highly demanding and propose how quantitative analyses can serve as a basis for developing more linguistically accessible legal and explanatory texts. In *Towards Contradiction Detection in Legal Texts: Corpus Preparation and Contradiction Extraction*, **Miha Malenšek**, **Aleš Završnik**, **Saša Krajnc**, **Primož Križnar**, **Marko Bajec** and **Slavko Žitnik** describe the preparation of the largest publicly available Slovene legal corpus and the development of the specialised language model PravnBERT. Using the task of retrieving contradictory legal provisions, they demonstrate that it is possible, even in less-resourced language settings, to develop transparent and domain-adapted solutions based on large language models.

In *Code glosses in the European Union's legislative documents: Corpus analysis of the English and Croatian DGT Translation Memory parallel corpus*, **Marina Peršurić Antonić** analyses the use of explanatory metadiscourse devices (code glosses) in English and Croatian legislative texts of the European Union. Based on a corpus analysis, she shows that the frequency and form of these explanatory structures differ between the two languages, reflecting both the aim of preserving the structure of the original text and the specific features of the target legal discourse.

The thematic issue concludes with the written record of the scholarly panel *Prav(o) razumeti, prav uveljavljati: slovenščina kot pot do pravic socialnega varstva*, featuring contributions by **Senja Pollak**,

**Luka Mišič, Ana Marija Sobočan, Marko Stabej, Ina Ferbežar, Marko Robnik-Šikonja, Tina Munda and Špela Arhar Holdt.** The discussion sheds light on key obstacles to understanding and exercising social assistance rights and emphasises the need for high-quality explanatory texts, sustained feedback loops between law and practice, pedagogical investment in understanding the legal genre and in linguistic sensitivity, as well as the careful use of language technologies to support linguistic accessibility.

This special issue has been prepared with the support of the ARIS agency (research project *Jezikovna dostopnost pravic socialnega varstva v Sloveniji*, J5-50169). As guest editors of this thematic issue, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all authors, reviewers and panel participants. We hope the special issue will be of value for researchers, students, decision-makers and other experts from different relevant fields.