Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze Provozně ekonomická fakulta Katedra informačních technologií



Disertační práce

Vybrané aspekty ICT v agrárním sektoru

Eva Kánská

Školitel: doc. Ing. Pavel Šimek, Ph.D.

© 2022 ČZU v Praze

Poděkování Ráda bych touto cestou poděkovala doc. RNDr. Daně Klimešové, CSc. a doc. Ing. Pavlu Šimkovi, Ph.D. za jejich odborné vedení. Dále děkuji Katedře informačních technologií PEF za možnost spolupráce na vědeckých projektech, které byly řešeny v rámci praktické části práce.

Vybrané aspekty ICT v agrárním sektoru

Abstrakt

Práce je zaměřena na problematiku realizace komplexního pohledu na kontinuální vývoj adopce Informačních a Komunikačních Technologií v agrárním sektoru v dlouhodobém časovém horizontu v kontextu rozvoje venkovských regionů. Konkrétně se jedná o současný stav a rozvoj Informačních a Komunikačních Technologií, včetně souvisejících otázek, jako je např. připojení k internetu, používání internetu, mobilní komunikace, nasazení IoT, využití sociálních medií a v neposlední řadě dopad pandemie COVID-19 na tuto oblast". Samotné šetření zahrnuje nalezení optimálního metodického aparátu pro distribuci a správu dotazníků, sběru a validaci dat, jejich analýzy a interpretace výsledků. Práce je prezentována formou soboru pěti článků publikovaných v rámci výzkumu autorky.

Klíčová slova: šetření, ICT (Informační a Komunikační Technologie), agrární sektor, zemědělský podnik, sociální média, sociální sítě, internet, broadband.

Selected aspects of ICT in agrarian sector

Abstract

The work is focused on the issue of implementing a comprehensive view of the continuous development of Information and Communication Technology adoption in the agrarian sector in the long term in the context of the development of rural regions. Specifically, it is the current state and development of Information and Communication Technologies, including related issues such as Internet connection, Internet use, mobile communication, IoT deployment, use of social media and, last but not least, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on this area". The investigation itself includes finding the optimal methodological apparatus for the distribution and administration of questionnaires, data collection and validation, their analysis and interpretation of results. The work is presented in the form of a collection of five articles published as part of the author's research.

Keywords: survey, ICT (Information and Communication Technology), agricultural sector, agricultural enterprise, social media, social networks, internet, broadband.

OBSAH

Úvod	6
1 Cíl práce	10
2 Metodická poznámka	11
3 Integrace sociální sítí v zemědělských podnicích	17
3. 1 KÁNSKÁ, E. – OČENÁŠEK, V. – JAROLÍMEK, J. – VANĚK, J. – PAVLÍK, J. Survey Methodology – Survey 2021. In <i>AP XXIIX. SOURCES OF COMEPTITIVNESS UNDER PANDEN</i> <i>AND ENVIRONMENTAL SHOCKS</i> 15. 09. 2021, Praha. Praha: PEF ČZU v PRAZE, 2021, s. 117 – 128	
3.2 KÁNSKÁ, E. – STOČES, M. – MASNER, J. – JAROLÍMEK, J. – ŠIMEK, P. – VANĚK, J. – Possibilities of Using Social Netwoks as Tools for Integration of Czech Rural Areas – Survey 2021. Agris on-line Papers in Economics and Informatics, 2021, roč. 13, č. 3, s. 59 – 66. ISSN 1804 – 1930. DOI: 10.7160/aol.2021.130306	33
3. 3 KÁNSKÁ, E. – JAROLÍMEK, J. – HLAVSA, T. – ŠIMEK, P. – VANĚK, J. – VOGELTANZOVÁ Using Social Networks as an Integration Tool in Rural Areas of the Czech Republic agricultural enterprises. Acta Universitatis Agriculturae et Silviculturae Mendelianae Brunensis, 2012, roč. LX, č. 4, s. 173-180. ISSN: 1211-8516.	
_4 Informační a komunikační technologie – další aspekty	51
4.1 VANĚK, J. – JAROLÍMEK, J. – STOČES, M. – ŠIMEK, P. – KÁNSKÁ, E . Regional Reports a Presentation of Regions in the Czech Republic. In Proceedings of HAICTA 2011 08.09.201 Skiathos; Greece.: CEUR Workshop Proceedings, 2011. s. 667 – 674	1,
4.2 VANĚK, J. – KÁNSKÁ, E . – JAROLÍMEK, J. – ŠIMEK, P. State and Evaluation of Informa and Communication Technologies Development in Agricultural Enterprises in Czech Republic. Plant, Soil and Environment, 2010, roč. 56 (2010), č. 3, s. 143-147.	
ISSN: 1214-1178	
5 Závěr	
6 Seznam použitých zdrojů	69
7 Seznam ohrázků	71

Úvod

Vývoj civilizace přináší změny vnějšího prostředí světové ekonomiky poznamenané globalizací a nástupem tzv. nové ekonomiky. V současné společnosti hrají zásadní a stále větší roli informace, kterou tvoří způsoby a prostředky pro sběr, zpracování, ukládání a distribuci informací. Informace se tak automaticky stávají strategickým zdrojem. Informační a komunikační technologie, zkráceně IKT nebo ICT (Information and Communication Technologies), zahrnují veškeré informační technologie používané pro komunikaci a práci s informacemi. Koncepty, metody a aplikace zapojené do ICT se neustále rychlým tempem vyvíjí. V poslední době je tento vývoj stále rychlejší a dynamičtější.

ICT se proto staly základem hlavní cesty rozvoje evropské ekonomiky. Evropská unie je všeobecně považována za vedoucí region užívající ICT k podpoře ostatních odvětví. Evropská komise již v roce 2000 formulovala v podobě tzv. Lisabonské strategie¹ doporučení pro rychlejší a komplexnější využití možností ICT. Velká pozornost byla přitom mimo jiné věnována potenciálu, který ICT poskytují malým a středním podnikům, na jejichž růstu a prosperitě ve značné míře úroveň evropské ekonomiky závisí.

Informace představují konkurenční výhodu na trhu, a proto je pro firmy nezbytné využít potenciálu informačních a komunikačních technologií, které jim tuto výhodu na trhu mohou zajistit. Rozvoj technologií však neovlivňuje pouze nabídku jednotlivých firem, ale i poptávku, která je stimulována díky rychlému šíření informací pomocí informačních a komunikačních technologií, resp. internetu.

Digitalizace má ve 21. století nesmírný vliv na fungování ekonomiky a společnosti. Dochází k tzv. digitální transformaci. Digitalizace zásadně ovlivňuje vzdělání, zaměstnání, zdraví i trávení volného času. Digitální začlenění je taktéž důležité pro sociální stabilitu a udržitelný rozvoj. Mezi jednotlivci, domácnostmi, podniky a geografickými regiony však již dlouho existují rozdíly týkající se přístupu k ICT a jejich efektivního využívání ². Jedním z takových rozdílů je propast mezi městem a venkovem, kde obyvatelé venkova výrazně

¹ Lisabonská strategie. https://www.mpo.cz/dokument2860.html

² Ejemeyovwi, J. O., Osabuohien, E. S., Bowale, E. I. K. (2020) ICT adoption, innovation and financial development in a digital world: empirical analysis from Africa Transnational Corporations. Review:1–15.

zaostávají za svými městskými protějšky v přístupu k počítačům a internetu a jejich používání 3,4,5.

V prvních letech 21. století se sociální sítě díky pokroku v oblasti ICT začaly přenášet do virtuálního prostoru internetu. Tím se začaly z původních sociálních sítí stávat sítě počítačové a komunikace mezi uživateli již mohla probíhat vzdáleně tak, jak je známa dnes. Důležitým pilířem pro rozvoj byl příchod koncepce Web 2.0, o které se jako první zmínil Tim O Reilly v září roku 2005⁶. Termín "Web 2.0" je ustálené označení pro etapu vývoje webu samotného, v níž byl pevný obsah webových stránek nahrazen prostorem pro sdílení a společnou tvorbu obsahu.

Nelze opomenout fenomén sociálních sítí, které v průběhu několika posledních let byly vytvořeny na odlišných platformách jako jsou například Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Linkedln a spousta dalších. A pro svůj dynamický nástup ve společnosti se postupem času staly každodenní součástí našich životů. Díky možnosti vytvoření spojení s dalšími osobami tato média umožňují nové sociální možnosti, mezi které může patřit od navazování nových kontaktů, projevování pocitů, normální komunikace, tvoření vlastní kariéry až sdílení zajímavostí ze života⁷. Podle Safka⁸ jsou sociální média všechny webové sítě, které zprostředkovávají online komunikaci mezi jejich uživateli, přičemž do této komunikace patří sdílení názorů, informací a znalostí. Sociální média skupinou internetových aplikací umožňujících tvoření, sdílení a měnění uživatelského obsahu, která jsou vytvořena v technologii na podstatě Webu 2.0. Momentálně existuje široké pole sociálních médií, které se podle zaměření sítí a funkcí liší. Sociální média lze charakterizovat jako podmnožinu médií, které využívají internetového spojení. Přesná definice sociálních médií se vyvíjela a nelze ji přesně charakterizovat. Scott Krinsky⁹ uvádí, že "sociální média umožňují komunikaci, která není zacílená tak jako tradiční média. Sociální média stojí na interakci mezi lidmi. Klíčovým elementem je zpětná vazba od publika, ať formou komentářů,

_

³ Aker, J.C. (2010) Information from markets near and far: mobile phones and agricultural markets in Niger American Economic Journal. APPL ECON Volume: 2, Pages: 46–59.

⁴ Gao, Y., Zang, L., Sun, J. (2018) Does computer penetration increase farmer's income? An empirical study from China. TELECOMMUN POLICY. Volume: 42. Pages: 345–360.

⁵ Jensen, R. (2007) The Digital Provide: Information (Technology), market performance, and welfare in the South Indian fisheries sector. Q J ECON. Volume: 122. Pages: 879–924.

⁶ Zbiejczuk, A. (2007). Web 2.0 - charakteristika a sluţby. Brno. Diplomová práce. Masarykova Univerzita, Fakulta sociálních studií, Katedra mediálních studií a žurnalistiky.

⁷ Eger, L. (2012) Vzdělávání dospělých a ICT. Plzeň: Nava, 2012. ISBN 9788072114283.

⁸ Safko, L. (2012) The social media bible: tactics, tools, and strategies for business success. 3rd ed. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley, 2012. ISBN 978-1-118-26974-9

⁹ Scott, K. (2006), Blogs and Social Media Conference; CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals is supporting one of the UK's first conferences dedicated to blogging and social media. In M2PressWIRE [vid. 2006-03-05].

editování originálního textu nebo obsahu." Pospíšil a Závodná¹⁰ uvádějí: "Sociální sítě můžeme definovat jako virtuální místo – server, na kterém se scházejí mnohdy statisíce uživatelů, jejichž primárním zájmem je sdílet osobní informace. Důležitým aspektem je to, že uživatelé chtějí sdílet osobní data a informace s ostatními uživateli komunity pomocí svých profilů." Definice Janoucha¹¹ zní: "Sociální sítě jsou online média, kde je obsah (spolu) vytvářen a sdílen uživateli. Sociální média se nepřetržitě mění tím, jak se mění (přibývá) jejich obsah a také přidáváním mnoha funkcí."

Zmiňovaní autoři se shodují, že sociální sítě jsou založeny na sdílení informací mezi uživateli. Sdílení informací tedy představuje podstatu sociálních sítí. Sociální sítě se tak stávají nepostradatelnou součástí fungování jednotlivce, firem i moderní společnosti.

Použití všech moderních internetových technologií je podmíněno poskytnutím vhodné komunikační infrastruktury širokopásmového připojení. Například sociální sítě a ostatní nejen marketingové nástroje se rozvíjejí velmi rychle a využívají ve velké míře multimediální obsah, který těsně souvisí s požadavky na vysokou kvalitu připojení. Venkovské oblasti obecně čelí značným problémům s vysokorychlostní konektivitou. Tyto problémy byly dlouhodobě monitorovány a analyzovány Katedrou informačních technologií. Vymezeny jsou např. v následujících příspěvcích ¹², ¹³, ¹⁴.

Usnesení vlády č. 50 ze dne 19. ledna 2011 přijalo jako státní politiku v elektronických komunikacích projekt – Digitální Česko. Tento projekt si kladl za cíl zhodnocení tehdejšího stavu vybraných oblastí elektronických komunikací s největším potenciálem růstu. Což mělo následně vést k určitým opatřením, která by snížila diametrální rozdíl mezi řídce a hustě osídlenými oblastmi v cestě k vysokorychlostnímu připojení k internetu. Státní politika byla v roce 2013 aktualizovaná dokumentem Digitální Česko v. 2.0: Cesta k digitální ekonomice¹⁵ ". Jedním z hlavních cílů Digitálního Česka v. 2.0 byla právě schopnost dlouhodobě konkurovat

¹⁰ Pospíšil, J., Závodná, L. (2012) Jak na reklamu. Kralice na Hané: Computer Media, 2012. ISBN 978-80-7402-115-2

¹¹ Janouch, V. (2011) Internetový marketing. Brno: Computer Press, 2011. ISBN 978-80-251-2795-7.

¹² Jarolímek, J. and Vaněk, J. (2003) The intensity and quality of Internet usage in the agriculture sector and possibilities of its further development. Plant, Soil and Environment, Czech Academy of Agrictuural Sciences, November 2003, ISSN: 1214-1178, Pages: 525 – 529.

¹³ Vaněk, J., Jarolímek, J. and Šimek, P. (2008) Development of communication infrastructure in rural areas of the Czech Republic, Agricultural Economics, ISSN 0139-570SX, Volume 3, Pages: 129 – 134.

¹⁴ Šimek, P.; Stočes, M.; Vaněk, J. (2014) Mobile Access to Information in the Agrarian Sector. AGRIS online Papers in Economics and Informatics. ISSN: 184 – 1930, Volume 6, Issue 2, Pages 89 – 96.

¹⁵ Usnesení vlády č. 585 ze dne 25. července 2012.

jak ostatním státům Evropy, tak i těm mimoevropským. Jelikož ostatní evropské státy investují do rozvoje optických sítí, neměla by Česká republika v tomto směru zaostávat, pokud chce tento cíl plnit. Aktualizovaná koncepce je postavena na třech pilířích, a to podpoře budování kvalitní infrastruktury, rozvoji digitálních služeb a zvyšování digitální gramotnosti. Hlavním cílem je podpořit potenciál České republiky v oblasti rozvoje moderních informačních a komunikačních technologií a služeb, které jsou jejich prostřednictvím poskytovány. V souladu s evropskou agendou vláda stanovila cíl oblasti Digitální si vysokorychlostního přístupu k internetu, a to rozvoj vysokorychlostních přístupových sítí k internetu umožňujících přenosové rychlosti 30 Mbit/s do roku 2020 pro všechny obyvatele a 100 Mbit/s minimálně pro polovinu domácností." 16

Problému digitální propasti, rozvoji a využití ICT v zemědělství je obecně průběžně věnována pozornost příslušných organizací, např. státních orgánů, orgánů EU apod., ale také je této problematice věnováno mnoho odborných příspěvků různých autorů z celého světa. Diskutovaná problematika je stále aktuální i v ČR a tak, jak bude pokračovat dynamický vývoj ICT, tak bude pokračovat jejich rozšíření a využití v různých oblastech zemědělství. Česká republika získala podle společnosti Ookla provozující nejznámější internetový měřič rychlosti speedtest.net 53. místo s rychlostí připojení 106 Mb/s z hlediska aritmetického průměru, Slovensko je pak se 153 Mb/s na 37. místě. Z pohledu mediánu je ale ČR až na 71. místě s rychlostí připojení 48,95 Mb/s. Pro porovnání Slovensko je s 57 Mb/s na 60. místě. Na posledním 182. místě sestaveného žebříčku je Kuba s rychlostí 1,84 Mb/s. Česká republika se tak stále řadí nejen za celý západní svět, ale i za státy jako jsou třeba Trinidad a Tobago nebo Kostarika. Pomalejší připojení má v tuto chvíli Bělorusko a Balkánský poloostrov s výjimkou Slovinska. ¹⁷

⁻

¹⁶ MPO: Digitální Česko v. 2.0 Cesta k digitální ekonomice. 2013.

¹⁷ Speedtest Global Index ze dne 8. srpna 2022.

1 Cíl práce

Cílem práce je realizovat komplexní pohled na kontinuální vývoj adopce ICT v agrárním sektoru v dlouhodobém časovém horizontu v kontextu rozvoje venkovských regionů. Konkrétně se jedná o současný stav a rozvoj ICT, včetně souvisejících otázek, jako je např. připojení k internetu, používání internetu, mobilní komunikace, nasazení IoT, využití sociálních medií a v neposlední řadě dopad pandemie COVID-19 na tuto oblast". Samotné šetření zahrnuje nalezení optimálního metodického aparátu pro distribuci a správu dotazníků, sběru a validaci dat, jejich analýzy a interpretace výsledků. Průběžná prezentace samotných výstupů a výsledku je v odborných recenzovaných časopisech, kde projdou double blind review procesem.

Dílčími cíli jsou:

- rozvoj metodiky a indikátorů pro vyhodnocení digitalizace zemědělství,
- zpracování výsledků získaných z průzkumů provedených v letech 2009 až 2021 včetně jejich rozšíření o nové domény; primárně se zaměřením na sociální sítě zejména na úlohu a podíl zvyšování konkurenceschopnosti zemědělských podniků na trhu;
- na základě získaných výsledků stanovit přípravu a realizaci navazující etapy šetření.

2 Metodická poznámka

Předkládaný soubor publikací se zabývá přípravou, realizací a zpracováním výzkumu, při kterém byly použity standardní metody sběru, validace, ukládání a zpracování dat. Současně šetření charakterizuje jeden ze zásadních výzkumných směrů Katedry informačních technologií (KIT) od roku 1999. V posledních letech jsou jedním z významných výzkumných úkolů v tomto směru šetření z let 2009 až 2021, která již navazovala na minulé výzkumy, které se periodicky opakovaly. V těchto šetřeních se využívala metodologie, která byla po 20 let systematicky vyvíjena.

Vzhledem k dynamickému vývoji jsou poznatky velmi zajímavé a poskytují pohled na vývoj obecně i v agrárním sektoru. Zaměření se měnilo a rozšiřovalo s rozvojem technologií. Výzkum provedený v součinnosti s MZe ČR v roce 2009 se zaměřil na podniky obhospodařující půdu vyšší než 100 ha a sledovány byly zejména informace ohledně vybavení podniku výpočetní technikou, možnosti připojení k internetu, využití internetových vyhledávačů, druhu operačního systému a použití programového vybavení. O rok později, v roce 2010 byl výzkum orientován na podniky s minimálně 100 ha orné půdy a dotazník byl oproti předchozímu roku rozšířen o oblasti podnikání s nezemědělskou činností, využití e-mailové komunikace, sociálních sítí a znalost oborových portálů a četnost jejich využití. V roce 2011 bylo dotazníkové šetření zaměřeno na využívání a rozvoj ICT a byly opět osloveny všechny zemědělské podniky hospodařící na více než 100 ha zemědělské půdy. Průzkum byl zaměřen na současný stav a rozvoj ICT, včetně souvisejících otázek na připojení k internetu, používání internetu, mobilní komunikace a v neposlední řadě využití sociálních sítí. Nově bylo analyzováno podrobnější používání sociálních sítí z více úhlů pohledu, viz druhý článek Using social networks as an integration tool in rural areas of the Czech Republic -- agricultural enterprises.

Šetření z roku 2017 bylo doplněno o požadavky MZe ČR směrem k preciznímu zemědělství a bylo rozšířeno o otázky týkající se precizního zemědělství. V šetření z roku 2021 byly zjišťovány aktuální vývojové trendy (např. využití internetu věcí) a vliv pandemie na vybavenost ICT a fungování podniků.

Při vyhodnocení výzkumu byly současně použity dle Molnára¹⁸ obecně vědní metody, které jsou univerzálně použitelné ve vědeckém zkoumání. Z nich byly dle ¹⁹ vybrány analýzy

¹⁹ Auton, T. (2000). Classification by A. D. Gordon. Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Series D (The Statistician). Vol. 49. pp. 441-442. DOI: 10.2307/2681075.

¹⁸ Molnar, Z., Mildeova, S., Řezanková, H., Brixi, R. a Kalina, J. (2012). Pokročilé metody vědecké práce. Praha: Profess Consulting, ISBN 978-80-7259-064-3.

klasifikační, vztahové, strukturálně genetické a dále pak syntéza a srovnání. Data byla též interpretována graficky s následným vyvozením závěrů.

Kvalitativní výzkumy²⁰,²¹,²² v šetření byly postaveny na vybraných metodách a technikách od případové studie (v tomto případě byla vybrána primárně studie komunity a studium organizace či sociálních skupin, tak i kvantitativní šetření (orientační výzkum). Pro jejich interpretace a nové náhledy do plánovaných výzkumů byla využívána metoda Focus Group, kdy byla data získávána z moderované diskuse.

Datová základna oslovených subjektů představuje okolo 5 000 podniků. Toto číslo značí, o jak rozsáhlý výzkum se jedná. Průzkum představuje rozsáhlou systematickou a dlouhodobě budovanou práci s cílem získat maximum odpovědí respondentů za omezenou dobu. Postupně byl vytvořen proces distribuce a správy dotazníků, sběru a validace dat, jejich analýzy a interpretace výsledků. Neméně zásadní roli v tomto procesu hraje organizace a administrativa, které zajišťují správu databáze respondentů, správu distribučních kanálů, správu stavu rozpracovanosti, evidence výsledků, možnost opakování práce s respondentem v rámci daného šetření i v dalších navazujících etapách šetření, telefonická a e-mailová konzultační podpora apod. Tento proces byl postupně v maximální možné míře automatizován.

Pro potřeby disertační práce bylo vybráno poslední (nejnovější) šetření z roku 2021 (interpretace výsledků viz Druhý článek s názevem "Possibiities of Using Social Networks as Tools for Integration of Czech Rural Areas – Survey 2021"), které navazovalo na předešlé průzkumy a vycházelo ze zkušeností výzkumu v předchozích letech.

V rámci šetření byly osloveny především podniky, které obhospodařují nejméně 100 ha orné půdy. Cílem bylo zaměření na zemědělské podniky z komplexního pohledu na rozvoj ICT, který lze sledovat zejména v rámci větších podniků. Bylo shromážděno více než 700 dotazníků. Průzkum byl zaměřen na současný stav a rozvoj ICT, včetně souvisejících otázek, jako je např. připojení k internetu, používání internetu, mobilní komunikace, využití IoT a sociálních medií a v neposlední řadě dopad pandemie COVID-19 na tuto oblast. Obecně bylo analyzováno

²⁰ V literatuře se lze setkat s celou řadou různě podrobných pojednání o kvalitativním výzkumu. Nejrozsáhlejší přehledovou publikaci ke kvalitativnímu výzkumu v českém prostředí představuje publikace Hendl, J. (2016). Kvalitativní výzkum: základní teorie, metody a aplikace. Čtvrté, přepracované a rozšířené vydání. Praha: Portál. ISBN 80-7367-040-2. 303.022.

²¹ Bailey, Carol A. (2018). A guide to qualitative field research. Third edition. Los Angeles: SAGE. ISBN-13: 978-1506306995.

²² Creswell, John W, Poth, Ch. N. (2018). Qualitative inquiry & research design: choosing among five approaches. Fourth edition. Los Angeles: SAGE. ISBN-13: 978-1506330204.

používání sociálních médií, získávání informací pro podnikatelskou činnost a vliv koronavirových opatření na chod podniku.

V roce 2021 bylo osloveno 4 313 podniků. Pro tyto účely byla využita datová základna z roku 2017, která se skládala z Databáze MZe a vlastní databáze Katedry informačních technologií. Tato nově vzniklá databáze byla validována, tedy očištěna o duplicity podniků nebo o podniky, které již zanikly. U podniků, které v minulosti nereagovaly na e-maily, byly překontrolovány kontaktní údaje (e-mail), protože komunikace probíhala pouze přes e-mail. Dále byly průběžně aktualizovány kontakty podniků, jejich e-mail již neexistoval nebo původní majitel zaslal jako reakci na dotazník kontakt na nového majitele (např. při změně vlastníka firmy v rodině nebo při prodeji firmy). Případně byly také aktualizovány IČ, adresa nebo název podniku. Tyto manuální procesy probíhaly v krátkém časovém úseku paralelně s aktivní konzultační podporou. Dohledané, aktualizované podniky, které byly osloveny, spravují celkově 3 774 752 ha zemědělské půdy, z toho 2 077 656 ha orné půdy. Jedná se o plochu, která představuje 88,5 % zemědělské půdy a 71,5 % orné půdy České republiky. Základní identifikace podniků vycházela z českého LPIS²³. Srovnatelný průzkum – tj. průzkum zaměřený na zemědělské podniky nebo venkov obecně – nebyl v České republice nikdy takto detailně proveden, přestože je tato problematika zásadní v řešení digitální propasti českých venkovských oblastí. Pro lepší a ucelenější přehled dané problematiky byla zvolena pomocná kategorizace do tří skupin podniků: do 50 ha, 50 - 500 ha a nad 500 ha. Tato kategorizace odpovídá metodice UTIPA (User-Technological Index of Precision Agriculutre)²⁴, která je vyvíjena na KIT PEF ČZU v Praze tak, aby byly výsledky rozdělení v souladu s její metodikou.

Samotné šetření probíhalo v několika fázích, kdy byly nejprve dávkově vybraným skupinám podniků e-mailem zaslán motivační dopis včetně pokynů a s odkazem na dotazník, který byl k dispozici jako on-line webový formulář umožňující průběžné ukládání změn s možností pozdějšího dokončení. Dotazník na webu bylo možné zpracovávat postupně, což se osvědčilo již při minulých šetřeních. Určitým nutným omezením je nutnost závěrečného potvrzení dotazníku – uzavření, jinak zůstane dotazník ve stavu rozpracováno. Ve srovnání s předchozími roky byla možnost stažení formuláře odstraněna, a to z důvodu jeho nadbytečnosti. Webový formulář s prozatímním uložením souboru tak zcela nahradil tištěný dotazník, který nebyl v tomto roce využit.

_

²³ Výpočet procentuálního zastoupení zemědělské a orné půdy vychází z počtu zpracovávaných podniků, deklarované výměry a Eurostatu 2017.

²⁴ UTIPA – https://www.utipa.info/cs/

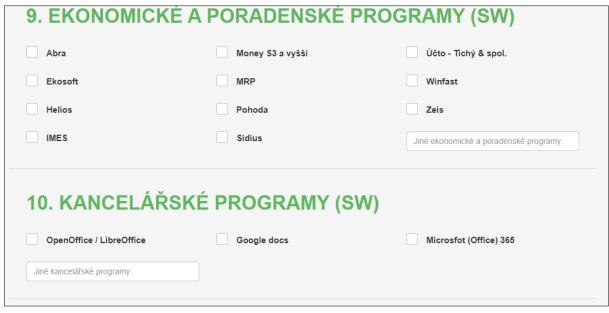
Sběr dat na internetu byl prováděn prostřednictvím internetového portálu Agris.cz (http://www.agris.cz). Portál je odborníkům z oblasti zemědělství, rozvoje venkova, potravinářství a příbuzných oborů dobře znám. Portál Agris.cz je rovněž spravován Katedrou informačních technologií PEF ČZU v Praze. Obrázek 1 je ukázkou Webového formuláře 2021, který byl k dispozici na https://pruzkum.agris.cz.

Obrázek 1: Webový formulář – Průzkum 2021.



Zdroj: Agris.cz.

Obrázek 2: Webový formulář – Průzkum 2021 – příklad otázek a).



Zdroj: Agris.cz.

Obrázek 3: Webový formulář – Průzkum 2021 – příklad otázek b).

	Pravidelně	Občas (nárazově)	Téměř vůbec	Nepoužíváme
Internet				
Semináře komerčních firem				
Semináře státních institucí				
Odborný tisk				
Od kolegů				
Vzdělávací kurzy (univerzity, školy)				
14. VYUŽÍVÁ PODN PODNIKATELSKOU				
I4. VYUŽÍVÁ PODN				

Zdroj: Agris.cz.

Po celou dobu trvání průzkumu (6 týdnů) a i po dobu ukončování rozpracovaných dotazníků (dalších 5 týdnů) byla podnikům k dispozici telefonická a e-mailová konzultační podpora, která byla aktivně využívána. Snahou řešitelů bylo usnadnit osloveným podnikům vyplňování dotazníků a získat v relativně krátkém čase odezvu na možné problémy týkající se samotného vyplňování, odmítnutí vyplnit dotazník či vyřešení žádostí o výmaz z databáze z důvodu ukončení činnosti apod. A právě tato kombinace se z minulých ročníků nejvíce osvědčila.

Soubor disertační práce obsahuje celkem 5 článků publikovaných ve vědeckých časopisech a na konferencích indexovaných v databázi Web of Science a Scopus, nebo které prošly recenzním řízením a na kterých měla autorka zásadní, popř. významný podíl.

Články představují výsledky dlouhodobě tematicky zaměřené výzkumné oblasti z období 2009 – 2021. Na řešení se podílela autorka pod průběžným metodickým vedením vedoucího KIT, školitele a dalších odborníků z katedry. S přihlédnutím na aktuálně se dynamicky vyvíjející oblasti ICT v zemědělství ve spojitosti s rozvojem venkova a agrárního sektoru je zde vysoký potenciál dalšího pokračování v uvedeném výzkumu.

Problematiku výzkumu, **která je zahrnuta v práci, resp. příspěvcích** lze rozdělit do dvou stěžejních částí – **Integrace sociálních sítí v zemědělských podnicích** a **Informační** a **komunikační technologie** – **další aspekty**.

V první části disertační práce "Integrace sociálních sítí v zemědělských podnicích" je věnována pozornost rozvoji informační společnosti v agrárním sektoru a primárně pak využití sociálních sítí, dále pak využití a rozvoj ICT v agrárním sektoru. Uvedenou se podrobněji zabývají vybrané první 3 příspěvky, které pojednávají o rozvoji a využití sociálních sítí v agrárním sektoru. Články zachycují více než desetiletý průběžný vývoj této problematiky, který je shrnut v disertační práci v části "ICT na venkově a integrace sociálních sítí v agrárním sektoru".

Druhá část práce s názvem "Informační a komunikační technologie – další aspekty" problematiku rozvoje v agrárním sektoru v návazných směrech rozvíjí. Příspěvky se obecně týkají využití ICT v zemědělských podnicích, hodnocení a vývoji jejich rozvoje v zemědělském sektoru.

3 Integrace sociální sítí v zemědělských podnicích

První článek " **Survey Methodology – Survey 2021"** je primárně zaměřen na metodologii posledního průzkumu 2021 a rychlost odpovědí respondentů na e-mail.

Průzkum z roku 2021 vycházel ze zkušeností výzkumu v roce 2017. Jak již bylo zmíněno, nově byl rozšířen o části, které mají za cíl prvotně zmapovat problematiku využití internetu věcí (IoT) a zjistit aktuální vývojové trendy a vliv pandemie na vybavenost ICT a fungování podniků. Proto byly v rámci dotazníku, který měl optimalizovaný rozsah 16 otázek, nově doplněny dvě otázky, a dalších 6 otázek bylo modifikováno tak, aby v co nejvyšší možné míře vystihovaly současný trend informačních a komunikačních technologií v agrárním sektoru. Metodický postup zajištění oslovení podniků, byl podrobněji charakterizován v Metodické poznámce.

Oslovení respondentů probíhalo e-mailem opakovaně – pokud podnik nereagoval na první e-mail, byl během 3 týdnů e-mailem osloven znovu. Po obdržení prvního e-mailu ukončilo dotazník pouze 5 % respondentů a po upozornění 2. e-mailem to bylo 15 % respondentů.

Počet ukončených dotazníků po 1. a po 2. e-mailu k 30. dubnu 2021 odpovídá 20 % návratnosti dotazníků, což už je vzorek, který reprezentuje sledované zemědělské podniky. Tato návratnost se ještě zvýšila po ukončení období dobíhání a uzavřením rozpracovaných dotazníků. V úvahu připadlo ještě třetí kolo upozornění respondentům, což je 2. čtvrtletí, avšak z důvodu termínů agronomických prací bylo toto řešení zamítnuto.

Byla vytvořena podrobná statistika, kde je sledována rychlost otevření dotazníku po obdržení e-mailu v procentech. Nejčetnější byla odezva v rozmezí od 3 – 12 hodin po obdržení 1. e-mailu. Na 2. e-mail byla odezva již 12 – 24 hodin (respondenti již měli povědomí o výzkumu a pouze oddalovali jeho vyplnění). Je to zjištění, která odráží situaci v agrární oblasti a to, že si respondenti zvykají nahrazovat telefon za elektronickou poštu, ke které mají přístup kdykoliv během dne nebo i v době své nepřítomnosti na pracovišti. Již v minulém průzkumu byl patrný trend ohledně tisknutí papírového dotazníku a zasílání poštou – takových dotazníků se vrátilo 50 kusů. V dnešní době se zdá, že zcela vymizela přesná pracovní doba a respondenti mají přístup k elektronické poště kdykoliv a odkudkoliv. S tím souvisí i využití kvalitnějšího a rychlejšího připojení k internetu, kdy stoupá podíl širokopásmového připojení a mobilního připojení i v podmínkách venkova.

Z výsledků je patrné významné zjištění, že o využití mobilního připojení 5G sítě uvažuje 28 % respondentů. Tento trend ukazuje na zajímavý směr ohledně aktuálního rozvoje

broadbandu na venkově, a také plánované rozšíření využití precizního zemědělství a IoT v živočišné a rostlinné výrobě, což bude dále předmětem podrobnějšího zkoumání.

Využívání sociálních sítí a jejich vývoj do dnešní doby, který sleduje druhý příspěvek s názvem "Possibilities of Using Social Networks as Tools for Integration of Czech Rural Areas – Survey 2021" řeší aktuální problematiku v součinnosti s MZe ČR a v rámci projektu Interní grantové agentury PEF potvrzuje, že tato oblast výzkumu je stále velmi důležitá a neméně zajímavá než v minulých letech.

Tematicky vystihuje využívání sociálních sítí v zemědělských podnicích a je zaměřen zejména na jejich úlohu a podíl zvyšování konkurenceschopnosti zemědělských podniků na trhu v roce 2020. Primární data byla získána z rozsáhlého průzkumu vývoje informačních a komunikačních technologií v zemědělských podnicích, který byl proveden v prvním čtvrtletí roku 2021 po celé České republice (tzv. Průzkum 2021). Výzkum byl primárně zaměřen na zachycení aktuálních trendů ve využívání ICT s důrazem na vybrané klíčové oblasti (širokopásmové připojení, sociální sítě, komunikační nástroje, regionální internetové portály, použité kategorie hardwaru, použitý software, mobilní komunikace, internet věcí, úložiště a zabezpečení dat, sociální sítě atd.).

Ve srovnání s minulými průzkumy zahrnuje šetření v tomto roce nové domény, jako je využívání internetu věcí v rostlinné a živočišné výrobě, ukládání a zabezpečení dat, dopad pandemie Covid-19 na základní operace společnosti atd.

V dotazníkovém šetření bylo dále zjišťováno, s jakými výroky se ztotožňují jednotlivé podniky vzhledem k opatřením COVID-19. Protože pandemická doba byla pro všechny oblasti bez výjimky složitá, musely se podniky naučit rychle adaptovat na nově vzniklou a neočekávanou situaci. Jelikož je zemědělská oblast velmi specifická, pandemie koronaviru ovlivnila fungování těchto podniků jen částečně nebo vůbec. V souhrnu nejvíce COVID-19 ovlivnil komunikaci se zákazníky a dodavateli, která se na určitou dobu přesunula do on-line prostředí.

Výzkum prokázal, že podniky obhospodařující více než 50 ha orné půdy zvládly rychleji a pružněji reagovat na změny plynoucí z koronavirové pandemie. Je to dáno vyšším počtem pracovníků a lepším vybavením moderními technologiemi, díky kterým zaměstnanci nejsou vázáni na kancelář ani své pracovní místo.

Sociální sítě na venkově výrazně přispívají ke snížení digitální propasti. Uživatelé sociálních sítí se mohou dostat k potřebným informacím, a to nejen v rámci více druhů sítí, ale i v rámci zájmových skupin. Obecně je možné konstatovat, že lze zaměstnance zemědělských

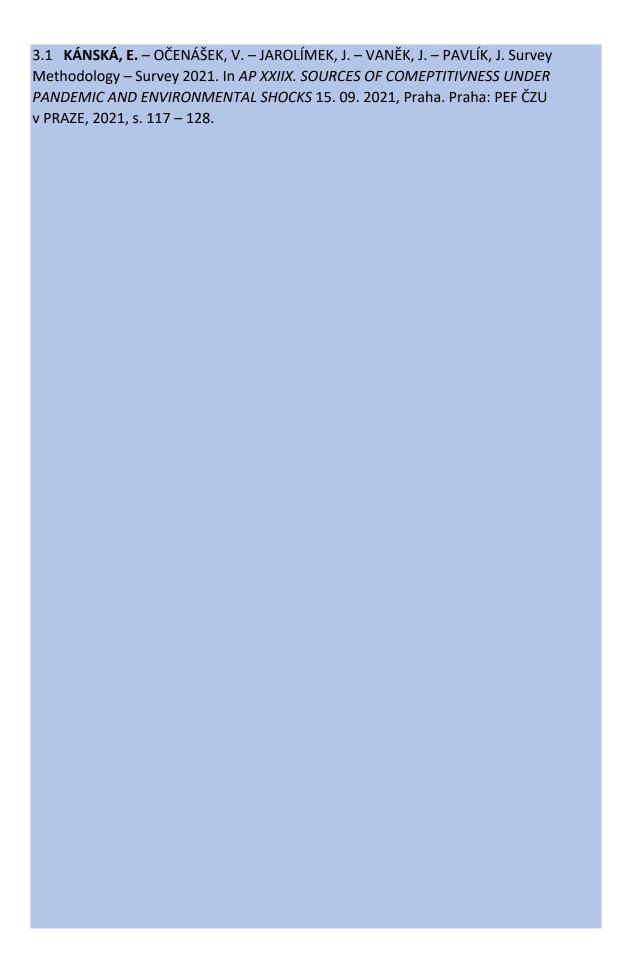
podniků považovat za konzervativní ve využívání nových technologií, a to jak pro zlepšení a zjednodušení vlastní práce, tak i v propagaci a navazování nových kontaktů, které by zaměstnance mohly nasměrovat blíže k těmto moderním technologiím a využít je ve svůj prospěch (více zákazníků, propagace vlastní značky, apod.), což je nepochybně škoda.

Z výsledků průzkumu vyplývá, že cílová skupina aktivně využívá sociální sítě. Jako důvod využití sociální sítě bylo uvedeno podnikaní a marketing. Obecně tak nastal obrat směrem k sociálním sítím, které jsou známé, prověřené a fungují po delší dobu. Sociální sítě začaly sloužit především k prezentaci společnosti, pro firemní komunikaci a v neposlední řadě také jako zdroj informací. Samotná metodika průzkumu je uvedena v kapitole Metodická poznámka a ve třetím článku "Survey Methodology – Survey 2021".

Třetí článek "**Using Social Networks as an Integration Tool in Rural Areas of the Czech Reppublic – Agricultural Enterprises"** se zaměřuje na prezentaci výsledků z průzkumu v roce 2011, kde bylo dotazníkové šetření poprvé rozšířeno o otázky týkající se využití internetu a sociálních sítí v zemědělských podnicích.

Rozsáhlé dotazníkové šetření – Průzkum 2011, týkající se využívání a rozvoji ICT zemědělství oslovilo všechny zemědělské podniky hospodařící na více než 100 ha zemědělské půdy. Šetření bylo zaměřeno na větší zemědělské podniky z komplexního pohledu na rozvoj ICT, který lze sledovat zejména v rámci větších podniků. Přesto to neovlivňuje hledisko související s jednotlivými formami podniků. Bylo shromážděno více než 1 000 dotazníků. Průzkum byl zaměřen na současný stav a rozvoj ICT, včetně souvisejících otázek na připojení k internetu, používání internetu, mobilní komunikaci a v neposlední řadě využití sociálních sítí. Samotné využití sociálních sítí bylo nejdříve analyzováno obecně a následně podrobněji z těchto úhlů pohledu: využití sociálních sítí pro firemní komunikaci, pro firemní prezentaci (propagaci) a nakonec jako zdroj informací. Průzkum věnoval zvlášť pozornost na ty podniky, které diverzifikují i nezemědělskou činnost – jako např. agroturistiku, dopravu, zpracování dřeva atd. Údaje získané z průzkumu byly statisticky zpracovány a některé vzájemné závislosti byly monitorovány.

V době, kdy byl průzkum prováděn bylo využití sociálních sítí podniky minimální. Mezi prvními, jež v té době využívaly sociální sítě, byly zemědělské podniky, které se diverzifikují do nezemědělských činností, tzv. mají zřízenou přidruženou výrobou, např. oblast agroturistiky. Zde se jednalo o první kontakt komunikace a firemní prezentace s marketingem na sociálních sítích.



SURVEY METHODOLOGY – SURVEY 2021

Eva Kanska¹, Vladimír Očenášek², Jan Jarolímek³, Jiří Vaněk⁴ and Jan Pavlík⁵

1,2,3,4,5 Department of Information Technologies, Faculty of Economics and Management, CZU Prague, Czech Republic

¹kanska@pef.czu.cz, ²ocenasek@pef.czu.cz, ³jarolimek@pef.czu.cz, ⁴vanek@pef.czu.cz, ⁵pavlik@pef.czu.cz

Annotation: The main goal of the article is to present the methodology and selected preliminary results of an extensive survey of the development of information and communication technologies in agricultural enterprises, which was conducted in the first quarter of 2021 throughout the Czech Republic. The research was primarily focused on capturing current trends in the use of ICT with emphasis on selected key areas (broadband, social networks, communication tools, regional internet portals, used categories of hardware, software used, mobile communications, Internet of Things, storage and data security, etc.). This survey builds on previous large-scale surveys, which have been carried out by the department in several stages since 1999, with the last stage being carried out in 2017. Some of the stages were carried out directly in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture (as was the last stage in 2017). Compared to recent years, the survey includes new domains, such as the use of IoT in plant and animal production, data storage and security, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on basic company operations, etc.). The survey was prepared, conducted, and administered by the Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Economics and Management, CZU Prague.

Key words: Information and communication technologies, internet connectivity, mobile communications, software, hardware equipment.

JEL classification: L86

1. Introduction

The dynamics of the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) is still very high, and surprising in many ways. New models of smartphones, new revolutionary gadgets (tablets, netbooks), e-book readers, GPS device devices, IoT devices (Internet of Things), are being introduced on regular basis. Broadband, its availability and mobility are the basic preconditions for the effective use of today's modern technologies. The development of broadband networks has a revolutionary impact today, similar to the impact of the development of electricity and transport infrastructure a hundred years ago. In October 2018, the government of the Czech Republic approved the cross-sectional strategic document Digital Czech Republic, which covers all the impacts of digitization on the economy and society. "It is a set of concepts ensuring the preconditions for long-term prosperity of the Czech Republic. Its content can be defined by the term: Strategy of coordinated and comprehensive digitization of the Czech Republic 2018+. "Digital Czech Republic" covers three basic principles that work in unison. The areas of focus are interaction of the Czech Republic in the European Union in the digital agenda, digital public administration, and the preparation of society and the Czech economy for digitization." (MPO, 2019) The plans seek to maximize the social and economic potential of ICT, and the potential of key economic and social activities in all areas (education, trade, work, communications, culture, etc.). The long-term strategic plan was launched by the Czech government as Digital Czech Republic (Šimek, Vaněk and Jarolímek, 2008), which mentions, among other things, the need to close the digital divide between urban and rural residents. (MMR, 2018) Digital divide stems from the lack of access to high-speed internet and causes the inability to fully utilize available facilities and services through Internet.

"The conditions for the adoption of modern ICT tools in rural areas and in the conditions of agricultural enterprises that operate here have long been at a lower level compared to a number of other sectors and the environment of medium-sized and large settlements." (EDC, 2012).

Due to its importance, this issue is continuously addressed by authors from many countries across continents, such as (Rampersad and Troshani, 2020, Ye and Yang, 2020, Wilson and Hopkins, 2019, Bowen and Morris, 2019, Levine, 2020). In the conditions of the Czech Republic, it has long been monitored by the DIT research team (Šimek, Vaněk and Jarolímek 2008, Vaněk, Jarolímek and Šimek 2008, Vaněk, Jarolímek and Vogeltanzová, 2011) on the contrary, despite its fundamental importance, it is not the subject of research by the CZSO or other institutions. The project solution thus brings the potential of original results with theoretical and especially practical benefits, such as high-speed connectivity (broadband) and other parameters such as the EDGI index, the basis of all indicators of company development DESI index, eGovernment Benchmark, and more.

The OECD methodology also works with population density, according to which a defining feature of rural municipalities is population density lower than 150 inhabitants / km2. In this respect, in 2017, the rural area of the Czech Republic consisted of 5,360 municipalities, which represented 81.7% of the state's area, on which less than 30% of the republic's total population lived. In comparison with the definitions based on population, it is interesting that according to the Eurostat methodology, which defines the degree of urbanization (DEGURBA) based on population density in spatial cells of 1km2 and the creation of spatial clusters of these cells, there are currently 30 municipalities in the Czech Republic in the category up to 500 inhabitants classified as urban or suburban. In the population category 501 - 1,000 inhabitants it is 59 municipalities and 86 municipalities and in the population category 1,001 - 2,000 inhabitants. According to the Eurostat methodology, the Plzeňský, Jihočeský, Vysočina and Pardubický regions fall into the rural area, and the Karlovarský, Ústecký, Liberecký, Jihomoravský, Olomoucký, Moravskoslezský and Zlínský regions are classified as transitional regions. (Regulation EU, 2017, OECD, 2018)

There are several specific problems, for example from the point of view of the development of the information society, the availability of fast internet is of primary concern. In this context, we are talking about the so-called digital divide, which is palpable for the majority of the population in marginal areas and has not yet been sufficiently resolved in the Czech Republic. This problem is also strongly perceived at the level of the European Union, which gradually increases its efforts trying to solve it.

This work presents a methodology and selected results of an extensive survey of the development of information and communication technologies in agricultural enterprises, which was conducted in the first quarter of 2021 throughout the Czech Republic.

As mentioned above, compared to recent years, the survey includes other new research areas of interest. During this period, the issues of IoT in agriculture, data protection and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on agricultural holdings were newly included in the survey.

The paper deals mainly with the methodology of the survey itself, which represents working with almost 5,000 companies in the database in order to get the maximum number of respondents in a limited time, focusing on areas of Internet connectivity, emphasizing

individual technologies, as well as broadband and mobile devices. Other issues are mentioned for information only and will be published later when the finalized results are available.

2. Materials and Methods

The survey in 2021 was based on the research experience in 2017. It was newly expanded with sections aimed at initial mapping of the usage of the Internet of Things (IoT) and identifying current developments and the impact of the pandemic countermeasures on business operations. Therefore, in the questionnaire, which had an optimized range of 16 questions, questions No. 17, 18 were added, and another 6 questions were modified to reflect the current trends of information and communication technologies in the agricultural sector.

Compared to 2017, the questionnaire was partially modified and expanded. While items related to precision agriculture were made less significant, questions related to internet connection, internet use and mobile communication were reworked to contain more detailed answers. Issues related to data storage and protection, the use of sensors and the impact of the pandemic on business operations have been specified in a completely new way. The area of ICT was not extended towards social networks and their use, technical equipment, the scope of software, segments of animal production, crop production, farming and consulting, and neither towards obtaining specific information regarding particular business activities.

Table 1. Examples of modified and new questions in the survey.

	Modified questions – old vs. new				
Question 7:	How does the company access the Farmer's Portal? (original question no. 13) How does your business handle data storage?				
Question 8:	What do you think are the benefits of precision agriculture? (original question no. 14) How does your business secure computers and data?				
Question 15:	Does your company use correction technology for navigation systems (RTK)? (original question)				
Question 16:	What tools do you use for corporate communication? What are the obstacles to the development of precision agriculture? (original question) What tools do you use for online communication?				
	New questions				
Question 17:	What statements does your company identify with regarding the COVID19 measures?				
Question 18:	In what manner does your company use sensors (Internet of Things devices)?				

Source: Own processing.

The answers were not obligatory, for some questions it was possible to enter more answers, for this reason the sums of absolute numbers in the tables do not correspond to the total number of completed questionnaires. For some questions there was the possibility of an open answer, these answers are presented in the tables of "other answers".

The possibility to answer in the form of a "other answer" is especially important for obtaining other variants of answers that are not currently covered in the questionnaire. In the event of a greater occurrence of a certain variation, this allows to accommodate that option into the next version of the survey.

From the questionnaire it was possible to find out a certain broader view of the agricultural public on the issue of the Internet of Things, monitoring ICT development trends and the impact of the pandemic on business strategies and prepare for possible further stages of the survey, which could examine these issues in even greater detail.

The survey was mainly focused on enterprises that manage at least 100 ha of agricultural land. The survey was prepared during the first two months of 2021 and took place from March 9 to April 27, 2021 (the authors assume the gradual completion of the questionnaires still in progress until May 31, 2021).

In 2021, 4,313 enterprises were addressed, which manage a total of 3,774,752 ha of agricultural land, of which 2,077,656 ha is arable land, an area that represents 88.5% of agricultural land and 71.5% of arable land in the Czech Republic. The basic identification of companies was based on the Czech LPIS. A comparable survey — i.e., a survey focused on agricultural enterprises or the countryside in general – has never been carried out in such detail in the Czech Republic, even though this issue is crucial in addressing the so-called digital divide in Czech rural areas. A motivation letter, including instructions, was sent by e-mail to all selected respondents. At the moment, no questionnaires were sent by post, because in 2017 only a marginal number of questionnaires (50 pieces) were returned by post. The questionnaire was therefore available only as an online web form that allows changes to be saved on an ongoing basis and can be completed later. Compared to previous years, the possibility to download the form was removed due to its redundancy and the web form with temporary storage of the file completely replaced the printed questionnaire.

Data collection on the Internet was performed through the Internet portal Agris.cz (http://www.agris.cz). The portal is managed by the Department of Information Technology. The portal is well known to experts in agriculture. Figure 1 is an example of Web Form 2021, which was available at https://pruzkum.agris.cz.



Figure 1. Web form - Exploration 2021.

Source: Agris.cz, 2021.

Figure 2. Webform - Exploration 2021 - Sample questions a).



Source: Agris.cz, 2021.

Figure 3. Web form - Exploration 2021 - Sample questions b).



Source: Agris.cz, 2021.

The survey itself was planned in several time phases, when selected groups of companies were gradually sent information about the ongoing survey by e-mail. Included in the e-mail was a direct link to a web-based questionnaire, which was placed on the relatively well-known AGRIS portal, which is also operated by DIT and CZU: http://www.agris.cz/pruzkum.

Throughout the survey, telephone and e-mail consultation support was available to respondents, which was actively used. The aim was to make it easier for the addressed companies to fill in the questionnaires and to get a response in a relatively short time, and to address to possible problems related to filling in the questionnaire, refusing to fill in the questionnaire or handling requests for deletion from the contact database, etc.

Figure 4. Web form – Support contact information.

V případě jakýchkoli dotazů a nejasností nás neváhejte kontaktovat na email: agrisonline@pef.czu.cz tel: +420 22438 2390 (Po - Pá 8:00 – 11:00, 12:00 – 15:00)

Source: Agris.cz, 2021.

Respondents were contacted by e-mail repeatedly - if the company did not respond to the first invitation e-mail, a second reminder e-mail was sent within a few weeks.

Table 2. Survey 2021 - Process of data acquisition for the survey.

Status for 30th April 2021	Amount
Contacted by e-mail once	4313
Contacted by e-mail twice	4111
Finalized questionnaires	611
Questionnaires in progress	139
Declined invitations	21
Company no longer exists	34

Source: Own processing.

Table 3. Survey 2021 – Additional information regarding Table 2.

Contacted by e-mail once	Number of subjects contacted by the first invitation e-mail.
Contacted by e-mail twice	Number of subjects contacted by second reminder e-mail (second e-
	mail was sent in cases, where the survey was not completed or declined
	within 3 weeks from the first invitation e-mail).
Finalized questionnaires	Total number of finished questionnaires.
Questionnaires in progress	Total number of questionnaires in progress, unfinished or incomplete.
Declined invitations	Number of respondents who declined to participate in the survey.
Company no longer exists	Number of subjects from the database, that no longer exists (company
	was disbanded or sold, changed its business activity, etc.).

Source: Own processing.

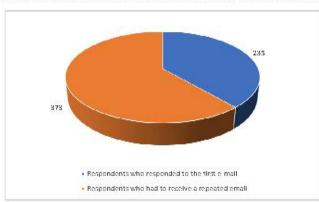
The questionnaire on the website could be processed gradually, which has already proved its worth in previous surveys. A certain necessary limitation is the need for the final confirmation of the questionnaire and closing it, otherwise the questionnaire will remain in the state of being still in progress. As of April 30, 2021, a total of 139 questionnaires were in such a state. Most of these questionnaires were filled in correctly, but they were not closed. Therefore, they will be completed (closed) automatically after manual check. The questionnaire survey is in the runup period, when respondents are still allowed to save their answers in the questionnaire. The results are continuously processed and will be further published on an ongoing basis.

3. Results and Discussion

The methodological procedure of addressing the companies was characterized in more detail in the Materials and Methods section of this article. In this section we would like to focus on selected selected results.

Respondents were contacted by e-mail repeatedly - if the company did not respond to the first e-mail, it was contacted again by second e-mail within 3 weeks. After receiving the first e-mail, 5% of the respondents completed the questionnaire, and after being notified by the second e-mail, it was 15% of the respondents with the completed questionnaire. The number of completed questionnaires after the first and second e-mail is shown in Graph 1.

The number of completed questionnaires after both e-mails as of 30th of April 2021 corresponds to 20% of the return of the questionnaires, which is already a sufficient sample to represent the monitored agricultural holdings. This return will increase even more after the end of the catchup period and by closing the ongoing questionnaires, as mentioned above in the Materials and Methods chapter. The third round of notifications to respondents was considered, which would happen in the second quarter of 2021. Technical implementation is not a problem here, the SW solution of the survey allows it, but it would delay reaching final results of the survey.



Graph 1. Number of finalized questionnaires after first and second e-mail (30th of April 2021)

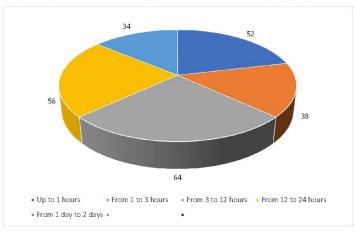
Source: Own processing.

Detailed statistics have been created, where the speed of opening the questionnaire after receiving the e-mail is monitored. The speed of response to the first e-mail is shown in Graph 2. The speed of response to the second reminder e-mail is shown in Graph 3.

The resulting statistics show that the most frequent response ranged from 3 to 12 hours after receiving the first email. The response to the second e-mail was already 12 - 24 hours (respondents were already aware of the research and only delayed its completion). Preliminary results show that respondents in the agricultural sector are accustomed to replacing the telephone with electronic mail, to which they have access at any time during the day or during their absence from work from home. Nowadays, the exact working hours seem to have completely disappeared and respondents have access to e-mail at any time and from anywhere. This is also related to the use of a better and faster internet connection, when

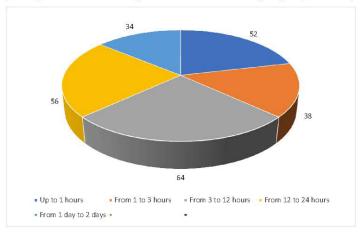
the share of wi-fi and mobile connection is increasing even in rural conditions. The provisional results show a significant finding that 28% of respondents are considering using a 5G mobile network connection. This trend points to an interesting finding about the current development of broadband in rural areas, which will be further examined in more detail.

Graph 2. Response time between receiving the first invitation e-mail and opening the questionnaire



Source: Own processing.

Graph 3. Response time between receiving the second reminder e-mail and opening the questionnaire (in %)



Source: Own processing.

For comparison, Graphs 4 and 5 show the findings from 2017 and the preliminary results of 2021 in the selected segment of office software equipment, when there was a slight change

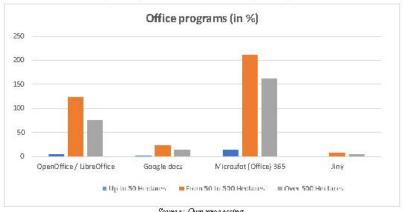
in its distribution. The "boxed MS Office" still strongly prevails, regardless of the size of the company. The new cloud solution Google or Microsoft has a relatively large representation. The number of companies using the OpenOffice / LibreOffice package, which is free, has increased.



Graph 4. Usage of "office" software according to Survey 2017

Source: Own processing.





Source: Own processing.

The second preliminary result provides an answer to the question about the use of social networks by companies for their business and marketing. Graph 6 shows that Facebook and Google+ still have the greatest share. Social networks are generally the domain of medium and large enterprises, which was confirmed by preliminary results (Graph 7). The number of answers for the LinkedIn social network, which was ticked by a total of 5 respondents, is interesting, because after rounding it amounts to 0%. As a result, it can be concluded that the LindkedIn professional network is not of interest to agricultural holdings. Rather, local labor

is used in this area. In the future, we can expect an increase in Instagram's preference at the expense of Facebook, as companies react to the current development of the use of social networks by the public with a slight delay.

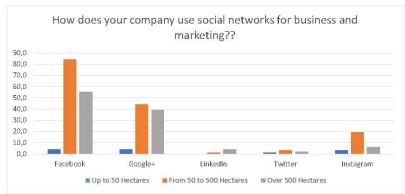
Does the company use social networks for business and marketing?

Graph 6. Use of social networks for business activities and marketing

Facebook
 Google+
 LinkedIn
 Twitter
 Instagram

Source: Own processing.





Source: Own processing

It is certainly worth mentioning the answers of the respondents regarding the current situation with Covid-19. Almost 19% of respondents said that administrative staff started working from home, and more than 47% of respondents said that they had partially reduced contact with customers and suppliers. The results show that the situation around the coronavirus pandemic has, of course, significantly affected rural areas, where farms undoubtedly belong. These results that will be part of further processing and publishing.

Results that were not available at the time of writing the article will be presented at the conference Agrarian Perspectives XXX.

4. Conclusion

At the beginning of the research, in accordance with the project, the classification and mapping of the digital divide was performed from the point of view of individual factors - directed in relation to the issue of ICT. The aim of the project is to determine the possibilities of suppressing the digital divide in the environment of rural areas, where the divide is most pronounced.

The paper focuses mainly on research methodology. The above-mentioned extensive survey of the state and development of information and communication technologies (ICT) in agricultural production companies in the Czech Republic, the so-called "Survey 2021", brought a number of new findings and interesting information, such as the development of Internet access towards continuous access without time limitations. Furthermore, the survey showcased relatively high interest in the use of mobile connection networks of the new generation 5G among its participants. Businesses are making even more use of Microsoft's "boxed" solutions, but at the same time, the share of businesses that have started using OpenOffice / LibreOffice is increasing.

Regarding Covid-19, the results of the survey will of course not be comparable to previous years. The Covid situation affected all sectors, including agriculture, where the pandemic affected labor, prices and sales of agricultural commodities. On the other hand, agriculture is one of the sectors where production cannot stop technically and technologically, especially animal production and seasonal plant operations. Some activities (mostly administration and planning) can also be partially implemented in the form of work from home, similarly to industries.

The results are being processed further and will be subsequently published. Given the importance and rapid development, this issue will be the subject of research in the next survey stages as well.

Acknowledgements

The results and knowledge included herein have been obtained owing to support from the following institutional grant. Internal grant agency of the Faculty of Economics and Management, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, grant no. 2021A0019.

References

Bowen, R. and Morris, W. (2019), "The digital divide: Implications for agribusiness and entrepreneurship. Lessons from Wales", *Journal of rural studies*, vol. 72, pp. 75-84, ISSN 0743-0167, DOI 10.1016/j.jrurstud.2019.10.031

EDC, Europe's Digital Competitiveness, Report ICT Country Profiles, 2012, [online], Available:

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/CSI/2012/Europe2020_Competitiveness_Report_2012.pdf, [Accessed: 20 Apr. 2021]

Levine, L. (2020), "Broadband adoption in urban and suburban California: information-based outreach programs ineffective at closing the digital divide", *Journal of information*

communication & ethics in society, vol. 18, no. 3, pp. 431-459, ISSN 1477-996X, DOI 10.1108/JICES-04-2020-0041

MMR ČR, Koncepce rozvoje venkova, 2018, [on-line], (in Czech), Available: https://mmr.cz/getmedia/279d5264-6e9e-4f80-ba4a-c15a26144cd0/Koncepce-rozvoje-venkova_202001.pdf.aspx, [Accessed: 17 Apr. 2021]

MPO, Program Digitální Česko, Program digitální Česko, 2019, [online], Available: https://www.mpo.cz/cz/podnikani/digitalni-spolecnost/program-digitalni-cesko---243487/, [Accessed: 26 Jan. 2021]

OECD, Enhancing Rural Innovation - 11th OECD Rural Development Conference, proceedings, Edinburgh, Scotland (United Kingdom), 9 – 12 April, 2018, [online], Available: http://www.oecd.org/rural/rural-development-conference/outcomes/Proceedings.pdf, [Accessed: 15 Apr. 2021]

Rampersad, G. and Troshani, I. (2020), "Impact of high-speed broadband on innovation in rural firms", *Information technology for development*. vol. 26, no. 1, pp. 89-107. ISSN 0268-1102, DOI 10.1080/02681102.2018.1491824

Regulation (EU) 2017/2391 of the EP and of the Council of 12 December 2017 amending Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 as regards the territorial typologies (Tercet), 2017, [online], Available: http://eur-

lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/CS/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32017R2391&qid=1518516545415 &from=EN), [Accessed: 10 Apr. 2021]

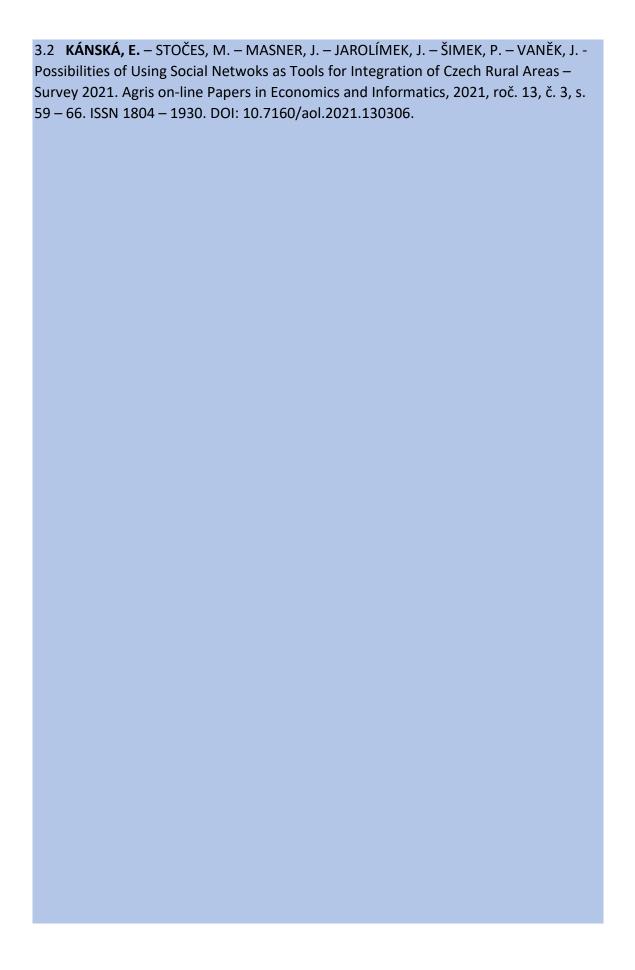
Šimek, P., Vaněk, J. and Jarolímek, J. (2008), "Information and communication technologies and multifunctional agri-food systems in the Czech Republic", *Plant, Soil and Environment*, vol. 54, no. 12, pp. 547 – 551, ISSN 1214-1178

Vaněk, J., Jarolímek, J. and Šimek, P. (2008), "Development of communication infrastructure in rural areas of the Czech Republic", *Agricultural Economics*, vol. 54, No. 3, pp. 129 – 134, ISSN 0139-570X.

Vaněk, J., Jarolímek, J. and Vogeltanzová, T. (2011), "Information and Communication Technologies for Regional Development in the Czech Republic - Broadband Connectivity in Rural Areas", *Agris on-line Papers in Economics and Informatics*, vol. 3, no. 3, s. 67 - 76. ISSN 1804-1930

Wilson, R. and Hopkins, J. (2019), "The changing shape of scotland's digital divide", European countryside, vol. 11, no. 4, pp. 563-583. ISSN 1803-8417, DOI 10.2478/euco-2019-0031

Ye, L. and Yang, H. (2020), "From DigitalDivide to Social Inclusion: A Tale of Mobile Platform Empowerment in Rural Areas", *Sustainability*, vol. 12, no. 6, eISSN 2071-1050, DOI 10.3390/su12062424



Volume XIII Number 3, 2021

Possibilities of Using Social Networks as Tools for Integration of Czech Rural Areas - Survey 2021

Eva Kánská, Michal Stočes, Jan Masner, Jan Jarolímek, Pavel Šimek, Jiří Vaněk

Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Economics and Management, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic

Abstract

This paper deals with the use of social networks in agricultural enterprises and focuses mainly on their role and share in increasing the competitiveness of agricultural enterprises in the market. Primary data were obtained from an extensive survey of the development of information and communication technologies in agricultural enterprises, which was conducted in the first quarter of 2021 throughout the Czech Republic ("Survey 2021"). The research was primarily focused on capturing current trends in the use of ICT with emphasis on selected key areas (broadband, social networks, communication tools, regional Internet portals, used hardware categories, used software, mobile communications, Internet of Things, data storage and security, social networks, etc.).

This survey builds on previous extensive surveys conducted by the Department of Information Technologies, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, CULS in Prague in several phases since 1999, with the last stage being conducted in 2017. Some surveys were conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of Czech Republic.

Compared to recent years, the survey includes new domains, such as the use of the Internet of Things in plant and animal production, data storage and security, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the company's core operations, etc. The survey was prepared, conducted and administered by the Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Life Sciences Prague.

Keywords

Social network, Facebook, agricultural activity, non-agricultural activity, business, marketing, online communication, rural area.

Kánská, E., Stočes, M., Masner, J., Jarolímek, J., Šimek, P. and Vaněk, J. (2021) "Possibilities of Using Social Networks as Tools for Integration of Czech Rural Areas - Survey 2021", *AGRIS on-line Papers in Economics and Informatics*, Vol. 13, No. 3, pp. 59-66. ISSN 1804-1930. DOI 10.7160/aol.2021.130306.

Introduction

Today, social networks are used by almost everyone and almost every day, and therefore it is a very effective marketing tool. This article links this new trend to the specific environment of rural areas.

The social network acts as a bridge providing active communication with a selected target group, with whom it is difficult to establish communication (Kánská et al., 2011). Social media has thus become an integral part of the marketing strategy of many companies around the world and in recent years has literally expanded into all industries. The funds devoted to this type of marketing activity are rising sharply, as are the number of companies involved in communication and promotion on social

networks. The Internet has become a transmitter for the further rise and development of social networks aimed at different groups of users. Internet social media overcomes one of the biggest limitations - a connection to a certain place (place of business, residence, etc).

The Covid-19 pandemic has swept the world in recent months. The depth and duration of the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic will affect not only our way of life but also the future of many businesses. And this crisis has only helped people look for brands they can trust and that contribute to their safety. People want to be assured that "their" brands have the situation with their suppliers under control, are transparent and trustworthy. This is largely due to customers'

efforts to avoid malls for fear of becoming infected with the virus. But the key lesson is that users know where to turn. In times of crisis, they look for what they know, whether a product or a service.

In the Czech Republic, social networks are still partly perceived as a tool for private interpersonal communication and not as a marketing tool. However, the number of companies using social networking as a source of information or to aid public promotion has skyrocketed in recent years. Therefore, it is very interesting to examine this extension of the marketing life cycle within farms (Marquardt et al., 2011) and (Bittner and Müller, 2011).

Social media

People have been socializing for millenia, but thanks to the Internet, the possibility of establishing contacts online in virtual places has arisen. Over the last few years, various social networks have been developed on different platforms such as Twitter YouTube Facebook Linkedln and many more. Over time, these began to become an integral part of everyday life. Thanks to the possibility of creating connections with other people, these media allow us new social opportunities, which may include making new contacts, expressing feelings, normal communication, creating one's own career and sharing interesting things from life (Eger, 2015). According to Safko and Brake (2009), social media are all web networks that mediate online communication between their users, and this communication includes the sharing of opinions, information and knowledge. Griner (2009) has a similar approach to social networks, describing them as a digital tool for building an online network across users and sharing information between them. Whereas, according to Boyd (2007), social networks are defined as: "A web service that allows individuals to create a public or at least partially public profile within a defined and limited higher system. A social network is formed by a set of subusers who share a common interest. "According to this definition, various types of profiles are created on social networks, which are needed for communication between users. Kaplan (2010) defines social media a little differently. According to him, social media is a group of Internet applications that enable the creation, sharing and modification of user content, which are created in technology based on Web 2.0. Where Web 2.0 is an environment that allows each other to communicate and create and share content between users in a virtual world. Harris (2009) explains how social media works, and thus defined five basic functions for their use:

to log in, rate, view, comment, and create. Currently, there is a wide field of social media, which differ according to the focus of networks and functions. According to Kozel (2011), social media can be divided as follows:

- social networks (Facebook, Myspace, Linkedln),
- · blogs, videoblogs, microblogs (Twitter),
- discussion forums, Q&A portals (Yahoo! answers),
- wikis (Wikipedia, Google Knol),
- social education systems (Digg, delicious, Jagg, Reddit),
- · shared multimedia (YouTube, Flickr),
- virtual environments (Second Life, The Sims).

Social networks are becoming an indispensable part of the functioning of individuals, companies and modern society as a whole. Today, a total of 3.4 billion users use social networks, which is almost half of the world's population. Social networks have been around for many years, but the first major milestone was the founding of Facebook in 2004. Social networks have undergone tremendous development in those 16 years. Hundreds of projects have emerged that have sought to gain market share and innovate in digital communications and user interaction. The number of users on the Internet has doubled since 2010, and another one billion new users are expected to join next year. And most of them join social networks. The further development of social networks is therefore almost guaranteed in the coming years. (Nets in a handful, 2020)

Providing a suitable broadband communication infrastructure is the basis for the use of all modern Internet technologies and applications, including social media. Social media is evolving very fast and makes extensive use of multimedia content, which is closely related to the requirements for high quality connections. Rural areas generally face significant connectivity problems (including connection availability), especially connection quality. These problems have been monitored and analyzed by the Department of Information Technology for a long time and are addressed, for example, in the following papers: (Jarolímek and Vaněk, 2003) and (Vaněk et al., 2008) and (Šimek et al., 2014).

Social media users

It can be stated that social media is an artificial platform of "general knowledge", where

an event or product can be highly valued. (Cardoso and Espinosa, 2020).

Facebook (the most widespread social network in the Czech Republic) began to be an effective tool when it exceeded the so-called critical limit. This limit represents at least a 15% share of the social networking market. Registered users have exceeded the critical limit, and user numbers have not stopped growing, resulting in higher popularity. Figure 1 clearly shows that Facebook is still the number one network in the Czech Republic, followed by YouTube and Instagram. (H1, 2020)

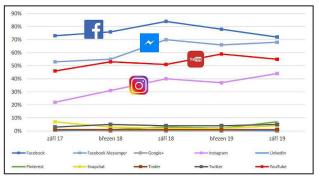
Facebook users are influenced by their lifestyle and similarly by their friends. As well as sites that are very popular among target groups, social networks integrate the presentations of many companies including those which focus on agriculture and agricultural products. (Satin-Hernandez and Robinson, 2015).

Trends on social networks in the Czech Republic

provide an overview of daily usage across social networks in the Czech Republic for the 15-25 age group. In the autumn of 2019, the daily usage of this target group on Facebook was 72%. This is twelve percentage points less than in the same period in 2018, but Facebook is still the most effective in this respect. (H1, 2020)

At the same time, however, there is a noticeable increase in usage on Instagram and that of YouTube. The values for these two platforms follow a growing trend. In 2020, the share of daily usage on Instagram can be expected to grow, to the detriment of Facebook. Despite this fact, it is still true that the young group is still best reached by advertisers on Facebook. See Figure 1.

Facebook is often referred to in marketing agencies as a social network that is slowly declining. However, the statistics do not correspond to this, see Figure 2. Czechs spend 64 minutes a day on Facebook, and 62 minutes on Youtube. This chart



Source: H1.cz

Figure 1: Social network trends in 2020.

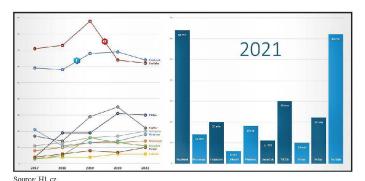
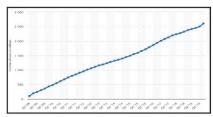


Figure 2: How much time do users from Czech Republic spend on social networks (minutes).

demonstrates the tremendous power of Facebook, and any advertising investment on Facebook will pay off quickly in the form of user awareness of the product or brand.

Facebook had over 2.6 billion active monthly users, as of Q1, 2020. This makes it the biggest social networking site in the world. Also, the number of users almost doubled in the last five years, clearly indicating that it is still popular and relevant, see Figure 3.



Source: Statista.com

Figure 3: Facebook users per day

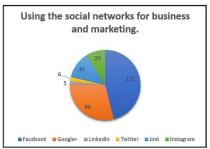
Materials and methods

In the spring of 2021, an online questionnaire survey was conducted on the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) in agricultural production enterprises, which covered the entire territory of the Czech Republic. For the first time, the paper form of the questionnaire was dropped entirely. The survey mainly addressed companies that manage at least 100 ha of arable land. The aim was to focus on agricultural enterprises perspective from comprehensive on the development of ICT, which can be observed especially within larger enterprises. More than 700 questionnaires were collected. The survey focused on the current state and development of ICT, including related issues such as internet connection, internet use, mobile communications, the use of IoT and social media, and last but not least the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in this area. In general, the use of social media, the acquisition information for business activities the impact of coronavirus measures and on the operation of the company were analyzed.

Results and discussion

The survey shows that the target group actively uses social networks. Business and marketing were cited as reasons for using the social networks. The types

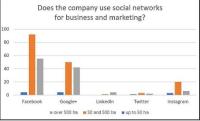
of social networks used according to the answers drawn from Survey 2021 are shown in Figure 4.



Note: This question was answered by 239 respondents. In the "other" answer, respondents most commonly replied that they are using social networks but did not want to specify which ones or for what purpose. Source: Own processing.

Figure 4: Using the social networks for business and marketing.

Figure 5 illustrates, which companies use social networks for business activities. The most active are those enterprises that farm on 50 - 500 ha of arable land. This confirms that the digital divide in these companies is being reduced by the usage of social networks. Companies use them to their advantage with regards to the promotion and establishment of new contacts with customers or suppliers.



Source: Own processing.

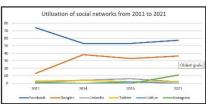
Figure 5: Does the company use social networks for business and marketing? (separated by area of arable land).

A categorization into three groups of enterprises based on area of arable land was chosen for a certain broader view of the given issue: up to 50 ha, 50 - 500 ha and over 500 ha, which also corresponds to the UTIPA methodology (User-Technological Index of Precision Agriculture) (Jarolímek et al., 2017).

Figure 6 shows the development of the use of social networks in agricultural enterprises in 2011, 2014, 2016 and 2021. The graph shows a significant

decline in Facebook in 2014 and 2016. A possible explanation is that new networks have appeared on the market. (Tinder, TikTok), which were discovered and used for a shorter period of time. Furthermore, in the years of decline, Facebook was more of a social network for the 20-30 age group. Now, after about 8 years, users are older and are still connected to groups that benefit them in the form of knowledge about new products, etc. In 2020, the use of Facebook skyrocketed again. The explanation for this increase in the use of Facebook is the pandemic situation in the Czech Republic and in the world. As mentioned in the Introduction chapter, Facebook seemed to be a lesser-used medium at one point, but it can be assumed that the coronavirus pandemic situation has returned Facebook to the forefront and businesses have begun to present themselves via Facebook to reach a new part of their target audience

In general, this has led to a shift towards social networks that are well-known and established themselves over longer time period. This was a way to connect with the world of friends, business, new contacts and information about new products. The first usage of Instagram social network by agricultural companies has been a recorded in 2016. Overall, the graph suggests that the use of social networks is still in the growth phase.



Source: own processing

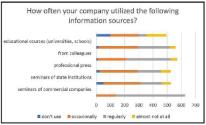
Figure 6: Utilization of social networks from 2011 to 2021 in rural areas.

Social networks are used primarily for company public presentation, secondly for corporate communication and, last but not least, as a source of information.

With the development of the information society and the continuing adoption of ICT, attention is also shifting towards electronic information sources in the agricultural and rural environment. This trend will continue on an ongoing basis. The problem of the so-called "digital divide" is gradually being overcome.

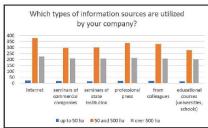
It can be seen from Figure 8 that most information is obtained by agricultural holdings is from the Internet. This followed by the professional press and the experience of colleagues (best practices). Social networks are a source of information with respect to suppliers, organizations or colleagues. Large players in the agricultural machinery market have been reducing investments in paper leaflets for a long time and are betting on Facebook and Instagram - thus on the good experiences of other colleagues and immediate acquisition of news before the season directly from the source or through industry portals.

From the results of the survey shown in Figure 7, the general hypothesis of increasing usage of the Internet as a basic source of information was confirmed. The Internet is regularly used by companies with a demonstrable dependence on the size of the company, see Figure 8 (the largest ones use it the most regularly, etc.). If the Internet is not used as a source of information on a regular basis, it is used at least occasionally – the number of companies that do not use internet at all is negligible.



Source: own processing

Figure 7: How often your company utilized the following information sources?



Source: own processing

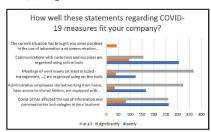
Figure 8: Information sources utilized by agricultural companies (separated by area of arable land).

[63

Impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the use of ICT in agriculture (in rural areas)

Social networks in rural areas make a significant contribution to reducing the digital divide. Users of social networks can access the necessary information, not only within more types of networks, but also more interest groups. In general, farm employees can be considered conservative in using new technologies to improve and simplify their own work, as well as in promoting and establishing new contacts that could direct employees closer to modern technologies and use them to their advantage (more customers, promotion of your own brand, etc.).

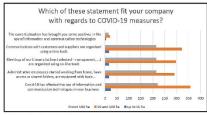
The questionnaire survey also examined which statements the individual companies identify with regard to the COVID-19 measures. The results show that the coronavirus pandemic has affected the functioning of companies only partially or not at all. In summary, COVID-19 most influenced communication with customers and suppliers, which began to be more organized using online tools, see Figure 9.



Source: Own processing

Figure 9: How well these statements regarding COVID-19 measures fit your company?

Figure 10 confirms that farms with more than 50 ha of arable land have been able to respond more quickly and flexibly to changes resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.



Source: Own processing

Figure 10: Which of these statement fit your company with regards to COVID-19 measures? (separated by area of arable land).

Conclusion

In rural areas, it is the people themselves who start and promote digitization projects and work with professional actors from outside. These innovators see digitization as a chance to solve rural problems, such as limited mobility, declining community interactions, demographic change or the digital divide between urban and rural areas. (Zerrer and Sept, 2020)

According to Albar and Houque (2019), the adoption of information and communication technologies (ICT) will enable local SMEs to participate in the European market. Relative benefits, top management support, culture, regulatory environment, capability for Innovation by the owner / manager and ICT knowledge have a significant impact on the overall adoption of ICT in SMEs, while compatibility, complexity and competitive environment have no significant relationship to ICT adoption.

The Department of Information Technology has experience from its own practice that most suppliers and processors limit investments in paper leaflets, etc., but purposefully use social networks and contacts of selected groups on social networks for their promotion or recruitment of new employees.

The further development of social media marketing offers a number of interesting questions for further publishable outputs and subsequent research in the coming years, as the development of social networks is closely linked to the development of customer acquisition strategies.

The authors of the paper will continue to monitor the development of social networks in this specific domain and expect a steady upward trend in the use of social media in agricultural enterprises for both agricultural and mainly non-agricultural activities.

Acknowledgements

The results and knowledge included herein have been obtained owing to support from the following institutional grant. Internal grant agency of the Faculty of Economics and Management, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, grant no. 2021 A0019.

Corresponding authors

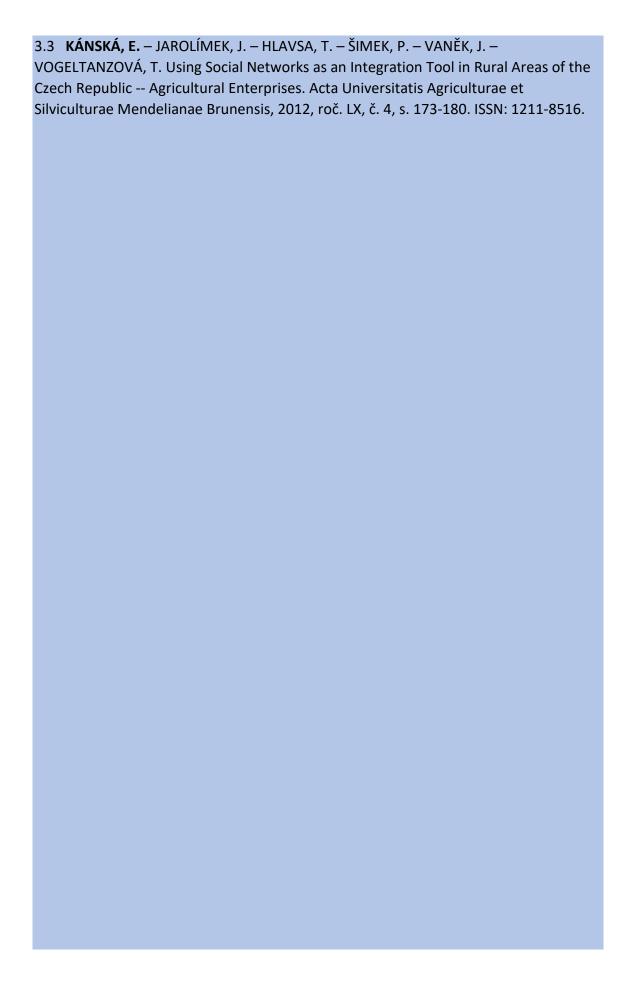
Ing. Eva Kánská

Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Economics and Management Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Kamýcká 129, 165 00 Prague, Czech Republic E-mail: kanska@pef.czu.cz

References

- [1] Albar, A. M. and Hoque, M. R. (2019) "Factors affecting the adoption of information and communication technology in small and medium enterprises: a perspective from rural Saudi Arabia", Information Technology for Development, Vol. 25, No. 4, pp. 715-738. E-ISSN 1554-0170, ISSN 0268-1102, DOI 10.1080/02681102.2017.1390437.
- [2] Bittner, S. and Müller, A. (2011) "Social networking tools and research information systems: Do they compete?", Webology. [On-line]. Available: http://www.webology.org/2011/v8n1/a82.html. [Accessed: 8 Aug. 2021].
- [3] Boyd, D. and Ellison, N. B. (2007) "Social Network Sites: Definition, History, and Scholarship". *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, Vol. 13, No.1, pp. 210-230. ISSN 1083-6101. DOI 10.1111/j.1083-6101.2007.00393.x.
- [4] Cardoso Castro, P.P. and Espinosa, A. (2020) "Identification of organisational pathologies: *Exploration of social network analysis to support the viable system model diagnostic", *Kybernetes*, Vol. 49, No. 2, pp. 285-312. ISSN 0368-492X. DOI 10.1108/K-10-2018-0557.
- [5] Eger, L., Petrtyl, J., Kunešová, H., Mičík, M. and Peška, M. (2015) "Marketing na internetu", West-Boheiman University Plzeň. ISBN 978-80-261-0573- 2 (in Czech).
- [6] Griner, M. (2009) "Everything you need to know about social media". [On-line]. Available: http://slideshare.net/griner/everything-you-needto-know-about-socialmedia-1937744. [Accessed: 23 July 2021].
- [7] H1 (2020) "Sociální sítě v Česku v roce 2019" [On-line]. Available: https://www.h1.cz/upload/680-social-trendy-2020-groupm.pdf. [Accessed: 23 July 2021]. (in Czech).
- [8] Harris, L. and Rae, A. (2009) "Social networks: the future of marketing for small business", Journal of Business Strategy, Vol. 30, No. 5, pp. 24-31. ISSN 0275-6668. DOI 10.1108/02756660910987581.
- [9] IMH, Influence Marketing Hub (2021) "28 Facebook Statistics Revenue, Users (+ Everything You Need to Know in (2021)". [On-line]. Available: https://influencermarketinghub.com/facebookstatistics/. [Accessed: 2 June 2021]. (in Czech).
- [10] Jarolímek, J. and Vaněk, J. (2003) "The intensity and quality of Internet usage in the agriculture sector and possibilities of its further development", *Plant, Soil and Environment*, Vol. 11, pp. 525-529. ISSN 1214-1178. DOI 10.17221/4188-PSE.
- [11] Kánská, E., Jarolímek, J., Hlavsa T., Šimek, P., Vaněk, J. and Vogeltanzová, T. (2012) "Using social networks as an integration tool in rural areas of the Czech Republic – agricultural enterprises", Acta Universitatis Agriculturae et Silviculturae Mendelianae Brunensis, Vol. 60, No. 4, pp. 173-180. ISSN 2464-8310. DOI 10.11118/actaun201260040173.
- [12] Kaplan, A. and Haenlin, M. (2010) "Users of the world, unite! The challenges and opportunities of Social Media", Business Horizons, Vol. 53, No. 1, pp. 59-68. ISSN 0007-6813. DOI 10.1016/j.bushor.2009.09.003.
- [13] Kozel, R., Mynářová, L. and Svobodová, H. (2011) "Moderní metody a techniky marketingového výzkumu", Prague: Grada. ISBN 978-80-247-3527-6. (in Czech).
- [14] Marquardt, D., Möllers, J. and Buchenrieder, G. (2011) "Why Do We Need Networking for European Rural Development Policies?", Eurochoices, Vol. 10, No. 2, pp. 22-29. ISSN 14780917. DOI 10.1111/j.1746-692X.2011.00196.x.
- [15] Safko, L. and Brake, D. K. (2009) "The social media bible: tactics, tools, and strategies for business success", Hoboken, N.J.. John Wiley. ISBN 978-0-470-41155-1.

- [16] Satin-Hernandez, E. and Robinson, L. (2015) "A Community Engagement Case Study of the Somerville Mobile Farmers' Market", Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development, Vol. 5, No. 4, pp. 95-98. E-ISSN 2152-0801. DOI 10.5304/jafscd.2015.054.015.
- [17] Sítě v hrsti (2020) "Kolik uživatelů používá sociální sítě v roce 2020?" Oct. 2020. [On-line]. Available: https://sitevhrsti.cz/velikost-socialnich-siti-2020/. [Accessed: 23 July 2021]. (in Czech).
- [18] Šimek, P., Stočes, M. and Vaněk, J. (2014) "Mobile Access to Information in the Agrarian Sector", AGRIS on-line Papers in Economics and Informatics, Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 89-96. ISSN 1804 1930. DOI 10.22004/ag.econ.182494.
- [19] Vaněk, J., Jarolímek, J. and Šimek, P. (2008) "Development of communication infrastructure in rural areas of the Czech Republic", Agricultural Economics, Vol. 54, No. 3, pp. 129-134. ISSN 0139-570X.
- [20] Zerrer, N. and Sept, A. (2020) "Smart Villagers as Actors of Digital Social Innovation in Rural Areas", Urban Planning, Vol. 5, No. 4, pp. 78-88. ISSN 2183-7635. DOI 10.17645/up.v5i4.3183.
- [21] Jarolímek, J., Stočes, M., Masner, J., Vaněk, J., Šimek, P., Pavlík, J. and Rajtr, J. (2017) "User-Technological Index of Precision Agriculture", Agris on-line Papers in Economics and Informatics, Vol. 9, No. 1, pp. 69-75. ISSN 1804-1930. DOI 10.7160/aol.2017.090106.



USING SOCIAL NETWORKS AS AN INTEGRATION TOOL IN RURAL AREAS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC – AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

E. Kánská, J. Jarolímek, T. Hlavsa, P. Šimek, J. Vaněk, T. Vogeltanzová

Received: February 28, 2012

Abstract

KÁNSKÁ, E., JAROLÍMEK, J., HLAVSA T., ŠIMEK, P., VANĚK, J., VOGELTANZOVÁ, T.: Using social networks as an integration tool in rural areas of the Czech Republic – agricultural enterprises. Acta univ. agric. et silvic. Mendel. Brun., 2012, LX, No. 4, pp. 173–180

The present paper is aimed at introducing a pilot study on the use of social networks in agricultural enterprises. It is focused in particular on using social media as a development tool with a view to increase the market competitiveness of agricultural enterprises. The primary data have been retrieved from a questionnaire survey of ICT use in agricultural enterprises of the Czech Republic (the so-called Exploration 2011). The questionnaire survey was targeted at agricultural enterprises farming at least the area of 100 hectares (a basic selection criterion of the complex survey). The survey dealt not only with monitoring social networks use in agricultural enterprises as such but as well with the promotional potential of social networks in agricultural enterprises with non-agricultural activities. The survey was focused on the Central Bohemian Region as it shows a high concentration of agricultural enterprises. The present view of social networks in agricultural enterprises within the framework of the above-mentioned complex survey has not been, as far as the authors are aware, neither researched nor published. The thematic focus of the paper follows recent development in this field and current world research trends. The data obtained in the survey were statistically processed and some of the interdependences were monitored.

 $social\ network,\ Facebook,\ agricultural\ activities,\ non-agricultural\ activities,\ enterprise,\ hypothesis,\ test$

Social media upsurge, or the upsurge of the social network as a whole, enables companies to establish new communication channels to groups who would otherwise be very hard to target and maintain a permanent active contact with. Not only can the agricultural enterprises use the developing social network as a personal communication tool but first of all as an effective marketing tool. Social network can work as a bridge providing active communication with the target group that would otherwise be hard to get in touch with or even impossible to reach at all (Červenková et al., 2011).

Social media have become an integral part of marketing strategies and cost structures of many companies all over the world (rem. It is necessary to mention that social media user support differs and is not the same all over the world. The difference subsists not only in their popularity but as well in the cross-cultural differences). The costs of these marketing activities have been growing constantly and so has the number of companies providing integration of corporate services with the social media. The Internet has become a transmitter for further rise and development of social network targeted at different user groups. Internet social media overcome one of the biggest limitations – the place of residency, respectively the bond to a certain location-place of business. They incorporate a structure of "nodes" representing individuals, groups or organizations. In the Czech Republic, social networks are still perceived as a tool for private interpersonal communication and not as a marketing tool. However, the number of companies using social networks as a source

of information or company promotion has been growing recently and the awareness of social media corporate potential has been raised too. It is therefore very interesting to research this expansion marketing life cycle both in general and within agricultural enterprises (Marquardt et al., 2011) and (Bittner and Müller, 2011).

Social media

We can say that social media are an artificial platform of "common knowledge" where an event or product can be highly valued. This can even be one of the reasons why social media have been gaining, compared to other media, increasing popularity. Advertisement, newspapers and leaflets are not so trustworthy, or in other words popular, within the new generation and modern users.

Social networks offer a wide range of functions suitable for promotional activities; we can use advertisement, predefined Applications and first of all Like Pages or Groups.

As for recent marketing trends, Like Pages that act as spot brands are the most popular offering adaptability, SEO URL and permanent development. Facebook is trying to actively predetermine these for marketing purposes on social networks (Knowles and Espinosa, 2011). Nevertheless, from the point of view of virtual spread possibilities, Groups seem to be more suitable even if they have just a limited possibility – in spite of ever developing of adding Applications and customizing. At the very beginning the Facebook was created as a tool for community communication. However, within the last two years, progressive and flexible companies started to use Facebook as amarketing to ol.

Suitable communication infrastructure providing broadband connectivity is conditional for the use of all modern internet technologies and applications, including social media. Social media develop very fast towards multimedia content that is closely related with high quality connection requirements. Rural areas generally face substantial connectivity problems (even with connection availability), especially with the connection quality. These problems have been monitored and analyzed by the Department of Information Technologies in

the long term and are described e.g. in the following papers: (Jarolimek and Vaněk, 2003) and (Vaněk *et al.*, 2008).

Social media users

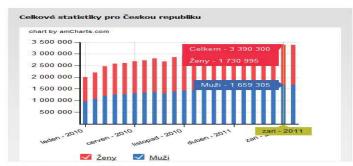
Social network works as a standard company and its investments. Facebook (the most spread social network in the Czech Republic) started to be an effective tool when it exceeded the so-called critical limit. This limit represents at least a 15% share on the social networks market. After having enough registered users to exceed the critical limit, its user numbers have not ceased to grow, resulting in higher popularity and approval. Fig. 1 clearly shows that Facebook has been recording high user numbers in the long-term while other social networks have been significantly falling behind. With an exception of Facebook, we can observe a general downward trend in user numbers. We will see in the next period whether the Facebook user numbers will stop decreasing or not. Since 2009, formerly very popular networks such as LibimseTi, Spolužáci and Lidé have been being replaced by Facebook whose number of registered users has rocketed. Fig. 1 clearly shows that the highest rate of daily users was recorded in the first quarter of 2011 and then started to go down reaching approximately the levels of the second quarter of 2010.

In the course of Facebook's six-year presence on the Czech market, 3,39QOO users were registered – as at 30th September 2011 (Fejsbüček, 2011b) – see Fig. 2, 3. These figures as well indicate the age structure of Facebook users and the male/female user ratio. As we can see, these figures are almost identical (Fejsbüček, 2011b). In Fig. 3, we can observe that Facebook is the most popular within the age group of 25-35.

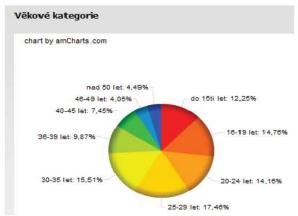
Facebook users are influenced by their lifestyle and that of their friends. Like Pages that are very popular among target group sintegrate presentations of many companies whose focus is on agriculture and agricultural products. So far, the BIO category is the most popular – Individual companies present their products to new or existing target customers (Fejsbůček, 2011a) and (Oreszczyn et al., 2010).



1: Social networks use (Google Trends, 2011)



2: Facebook users in the CR (Fejsbüćek, 2011b)



3: Facebock users – age groups (Fejsbüćek, 2011b)

AIMS AND METHODS

An extensive questionnaire survey – Exploration 2011 – on the ICT use and development in agriculture addressed all agricultural enterprises farming more than 100 ha of agricultural land. The focus on bigger agricultural enterprises resulted from the complex view of ICT development which can be monitored in particular within larger enterprises. Nevertheless, it does not influence the viewpoint related to the individual forms of enterprise. More than 1,000 questionnaires were collected. The survey was aimed at the current state and development of ICT, including questions related to the internet connectivity, internet use, mobile communication and last but not least social media use. The use of social media was analyzed in general and then in detail from the following points of view: so cial media use for company communication, for company presentation (promotion) and finally as a source of information. The survey paid special attention to those enterprises that diversify into

non-agricultural activities – such as e.g. agrotourism, transportation, wood processing etc. The data obtained in the survey were then statistically processed and some of the interdependences were monitored.

Statistical tests have been carried out for all four relationships shown in tables I-IV. The tests were aimed at verifying the correlation between the row and column variable. Both variables had two variants and were shown in the so-called association table. Two tests have been used for this purpose: the Chisquared test and Fisher's test. Employing the first or the second test was conditioned by the expected frequencies. If at least one cell of the table recorded an expected frequency lower than five, the Fisher's test has been adopted. If one none of the expected frequencies has been lower than five, the Chisquared test has been chosen. Both tests are based on the null hypothesis, i.e. hypothesis that there is no relationship between the phenomena measured. The validity of null hypothesis has been tested on

the basis of predefined type I error alpha (0.05) and maximum type I error, the so-called p-value, arisen from the test. If the p-value is higher than the predefined alpha, the null hypothesis is not rejected. Otherwise, the null hypothesis can be rejected and as a result, the alternative hypothesis is valid while the relationship between the phenomena measured is considered to be proven.

For the analysis sake, the SAS statistical software has been used.

has been used.

RESULTS

RESULTS

It stems from the survey that the target group actively uses social networks. The reasons for using social networks are shown in the tables below (table I, II, III, IV). All these enterprises diversify to some extent into non-agricultural activities. The use of social networks differs from using social networks in general through using social media for company communication and company presentation to using them as an information source. The social networks

I: Social networks in general

Table of non-agricultural activity and social networks use						
		Social net	m-4-1			
	_	NO	YES	— Total		
Non-agricultural	lactivity					
NO	Frequency	476	36	512		
YES	Frequency	459	49	508		
Total	Frequency	935	85	1 020		

Own source (Exploration 2011)

II: Social networks used for company communication

Table of non-agricultural activity and social networks use for company communication							
		Social networks use for c	Social networks use for company communication				
			YES	Total			
Non-agricultura	l activity						
NO	Frequency	498	14	512			
YES	Frequency	485	23	508			
Total	Frequency	983	37	1 020			

Own source (Exploration 2011)

 $\Pi I:$ Social networks use for company presentation

Ta	ble of non-agricultural act	ivity and social networks (use for company presentation	on		
		Social networks use for	Social networks use for company presentation			
		NO	YES	Total		
Non-agricultura	lactivity					
NO	Frequency	507	.5	512		
YES	Frequency	491	17	508		
Total	Frequency	998	22	1 020		

Own source (Exploration 2011)

IV: Social networks as a source of information

Table of non-agricultural activity and social networks use as a source of information						
	901	Social networks use as	Trans.			
		NO YES		Total		
Non-agricultural a	ctivity					
NO	Frequency	477	35	512		
YES	Frequency	474	34	508		
Total	Frequency	951	69	1020		

Own source (Exploration 2011)

are used primarily for company presentation, secondly for corporate communication and last but not least as a source of information.

The following hypotheses have been tested: There is no relationship/correlation between non-agricultural activities and
• using social networks (H1)

- $\bullet \ using social \, networks for company communication$ (H2)
- using social networks for company promotion (H3)
- using social networks as a source of information

It stems from Table V that no significant correlation within H1, H2 and H4 has been proven $(p\ {\rm is\ higher\ than\ 0.05}).$ It means that no substantial correlation exists between non-agricultural activity and using social networks in general, for company communication or as a source of information.

However, a correlation between non-agricultural activities and using social networks for company presentation has been proven (H3). Therefore, it can be assumed that if an enterprise incorporates some non-agricultural activity, the probability of using social networks for company presentation is higher than within those enterprises that do not diversify into any non-agricultural activity.

Furthermore, a correlation between the individual kinds of non-agricultural activities and social

networks use has been tested. The most relevant activities are shown in Table ${
m VI}$.

The following null hypotheses have been tested:
There is no relationship/correlation between using social network and

 agrotourism (H5), transportation (H6), wood processing (H7), metalworking (H8), forestry (H9), transportation and machinery maintenance (H10), hospitality industry (H11), construction industry (H12), meat processing (H13) and milk processing (H14).

It stems from Table VI that a notable correlation has been recorded only for two hypotheses – H5 and H11 while p-value is lower than 0.05. We can therefore assume that enterprises diversifying into agrotourism or hospitality industry are more likely to use social networks.

Other tested correlations are insignificant.

Correlation testing in a chosen region – Central Bohemian Region

Further testing was focused on agricultural enterprises that diversify into non-agricultural activities in a particular region of the Czech Republic. The most enterprises of this kind, 165 to be precise, are situated in the Central Bohemian Region.

At the beginning, basic hypotheses (identical to previous testing) were formulated. See Table VII.

V: Correlation between providing non-agricultural activities and using social networks

	Hypothesis	Degrees of freedom	Chi-squared test	Type I error "p"
	social networks use (H1)	1	2.482	0.115
dtural	social networks for company communication (H2)	1	2.746	0.116
on-agr tivity	social networks for company promotion (H3)	1	6.955	0.008
	social networks as a source of information (H4)	1	0.001	0.974

Own source (Exploration 2011)

VI: Correlation with the individual kinds of non-agricultural activity

Hypothesis		Degrees of freedom	Chi-squared test	Type I error "p"	Correlation proven
agrotourism		1	*)	0.032	YES
transportation		1.	0.001	0.971	NO
wood processing	use	1	*)	0.615	NO
metalworking		1	0.103	0.748	NO
forestry	ork	1	*)	0.437	NO
transportation and machinery maintenance	Socialnetworks	1,	1.134	0.247	NO
hospitality industry	cla	1	7.387	0.007	YES
construction industry	Š	1,	*)	1	NO
meat processing		1	*)	0.108	NO
milk processing		1	*)	0.264	NO

Note: *) the Fisher's test was used due to non-meeting the Chi-squared test criteria

Own source (Exploration 2011)

 $VII:\ \ Correlation\ between\ non-agricultural\ activity\ and\ social\ networks\ use-Central\ Bohemian\ Region$

	Hypothesis	Degrees of freedom	Chi-squared test	Type I error "p"	Correlation proven
	social networks use	1	1.264	0.261	NO
Non-agricultural activity	social networks for company communication	1	*)	0.499	NO
	social networks for company promotion	1	*)	0.077	NO
	social networks as a source of information	1	*)	0.734	NO

Note: *) the Fisher's test was used due to non-meeting the Chi-squared test criteria Own source (Exploration 2011)

 $VIII: \ \ Correlation\ with\ the\ individual\ kinds\ of\ non-agricultural\ aktivity-Central\ Bohemian\ Region$

Hypothesis		Degrees of freedom	Chi-squared test	Type I error "p"	Correlation proven
agrotourism		1	*)	0.201	NO
transportation		1	*)	0.71	NO
wood processing	e e	1	*)	1	NO
metalworking	s use	1	*)	1	NO
forestry	ork	1	*)	1	NO
transportation and machinery maintenance	Social networks	1	*)	1	NO
hospitality industry	ocía	1	*)	1	NO
construction industry	Š	1	*)	0.411	NO
meat processing		1	x	X	X
milk processing		ī	*)	1	NO

Note: *) the Fisher's test was used due to non-meeting the Chi-squared test criteria Own source (Exploration 2011)

It stems from Table VII that no correlation was

 $\begin{array}{l} proven (p \ is \ higher \ than \ 0.05). \\ As \ we \ can \ see \ from \ Table \ VII, \ no \ statistically \\ significant \ correlations \ were \ recorded \ while \ all \end{array}$ p-values were higher than 0.05. Meat processing correlation was not even tested at all as none of the enterprises declared to diversify into this activity.

CONCLUSION

The data and results obtained from the testing have not proven (neither in the Czech Republic as a whole nor in the chosen region) any correlation between non-agricultural activities and using social networks as a marketing tool. We can therefore say that this interesting opportunity to attract more customers (in the social network terminology "visitors" or in the Facebook terminology "Likes") is wasted as there exists a significant potential of acquiring new customers from the most numerous user group (25-35 years of age). The social network users could become active regular customers

(Google Trends, 2011). It is clear that Prague has more social network users than any other region of the Czech Republic. On the other hand, the number of agricultural enterprises is obviously low and the number of those using social networks for promotional purposes even lower. However, the most enterprises (165) of this kind are situated in the Central Bohemian Region and so the capital city of Prague provides a promising market thanks to its vicinity. Respectively, agrotourism, hospitality or accommodation are (can be) perspective for more distant rural regions.

Further development of social media marketing tools offers numerous interesting issues for a new paper and a follow-up survey in the forthcoming year as social networks development is closely connected with developing customer acquisition strategies.

The paper authors will keep on monitoring the development of social networks in this specific domain and expect to see a general upward trend in using social media in agricultural enterprises.

SUMMARY

The present paper is aimed at introducing a pilot study on the use of social networks in agricultural enterprises. It is in particular focused on using social media as a development tool with a view to increase the market competitiveness of agricultural enterprises.

The primary data have been retrieved from an extensive questionnaire survey of ICT use in agricultural enterprises of the Czech Republic (the so-called Exploration 2011). The use of social media was analyzed in general and then in detail from the following points of view: social media use for company communication, for company presentation (promotion) and finally as a source of information. The survey paid special attention to those enterprises that diversify into non-agricultural activities – such as e.g. agrotourism, transportation, wood processing etc. The data obtained in the survey were then statistically processed and some of the interdependences were monitored.

The study was targeted first at the Czech Republic as a whole, second at the Central Bohemian Region (resulting from a high concentration of agricultural enterprises) and third at the individual agricultural enterprises (cooperatives, joint-stock companies, limited liability companies and natural persons). All the fore-mentioned enterprises farm the total area of at least 100 hectares (conditional selection criterion of the survey). All legal forms of enterprise were included in the sample, i.e. cooperatives (accounting for 21% of respondents), joint-stock companies (17%), limited liability companies (22%), sole owners (37%), other or non-specified form (3%).

The topic of the paper, i.e. social networks use in agricultural enterprises, offers an original view of

The topic of the paper, i.e. social networks use in agricultural enterprises, offers an original view of social networks within the framework of the complex survey and has not been, as far as the authors are aware, neither researched nor published. The thematic focus of the paper follows recent development in this field and current world research trends.

The data obtained in the survey were subsequently analyzed and interpreted using statistical software. More than 1,000 questionnaires were collected from the respondents (enterprises) and processed statistically. The testing showed that the target group of enterprises slowly starts to be active on social networks. Social networks are used for company communication, company presentation (promotion) and last but not least as a source of information. However, statistical testing did not prove any correlation between using social networks in agricultural enterprises and their promotion on social networks. It can be therefore stated that agricultural enterprises have not been using social networks with a view to increase their competitiveness yet. Social networks are used the most as an information source.

Furthermore, the use of social networks has been analyzed within those enterprises that also pursue a non-agricultural activity. A correlation between diversifying into non-agricultural activities and using social networks for the sake of company presentation has been proven. Based on the survey, we can say that enterprises involved in agrotourism and hospitality are more likely to use social networks in their operation. However, even these enterprises do not employ the potential of social networks fully and the use is still at a low level.

Acknowledgement

The knowledge and data presented in the paper were obtained at the Faculty of Economics and Management of the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague as a result of the Research Program titled "Economy of the Czech Agriculture Resources and Their Efficient Use within the Framework of the Multifunctional Agri-food Systems" of the Czech Ministry of Education, Youthand Sports number VZ MSM 6046070906.

The data presented in the paper were obtained within the framework of the IGA grant No. 201111150043 titled "Social Networks as an Integration Tool in Rural Areas and Global Society" at the Faculty of Economics and Management of the Czech University of Life Sciences.

REFERENCES

ČERVENKOVÁ, E., ŠIMEK, P., VOGELTANZOVÁ, T., STOČES, M., 2011: Social Networks as an Integration Tool in Rural Areas – Agricultural Enterprises of the Czech Republic, Agris on-line Papers in Economics and Informatics, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 53–60. ISSN 1804-1930.

and Informatics, Czech University of Life Sciences
Prague, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 53–60. ISSN 1804-1930.
MARQUARDT, D., MÖLLERS, J., BUCHENRIEDER,
G., 2011: Why Do We Need Networking for
European Rural Development Policies?. Eurochoices
[online]. [cit. 2011-10-06]. Available at: http://

onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1746-692X.2011.00196.x/abstract;jsessionid=8AA2991 B1837C3D0EC307EF81FA6C297.d03t03?system Message=Wiley+Online+Library+will+be+disrup ted+8+Oct+from+10-14+BST+for+monthly+maint enance>.1SSN 14780917.
BITTNER, S., MÜLLER, A., 2011: Social networking

BITTNER, S., MÜLLER, A., 2011: Social networking tools and research information systems: Do they compete?. Webology [online]. [cit. 2011-10-06]. Available at: http://www.webology.org/2011/v8n1/a82.html.

http://www.webology.org/2011/v8n1/a82.html. KNOWLES, K., ESPINOSA, A., 2011: Towards an holistic framework for environmental change: The role of

- normative behaviour and informal networking to enhance sustainable business practices. Systemic Practice and Action Research [online]. 2009, 4, [cit. 2011-10-
- Action Research [offline]. 2009, 4, [cit. 2011-10-06]. Available at: http://www.springerlink.com/content/e7270283rn570h74/.

 JAROLÍMEK, J., VANĚK, J., 2003: The intensity and quality of Internet usage in the agriculture sector and possibilities of its further development, Plant, Soil and Environment, Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences, November 2003, pp. 525–529, ISSN 1214-1178.
- VANĚK, J., JAROLÍMEK, J., ŠIMEK, P., 2008: Development of communication infrastructure in rural areas of the Czech Republic, ISSN 0139-570X.

 Agricultural Economics, No. 3, pp. 129-134.

 FEJSBÜČEK, 2011a: [online], [cit. 28. 09. 2011].

 Available at: http://www.fejsbucek.cz/stra-

- nky/all?wh=fans&list=1&select=celkove-
- or statistiky&category=271>.

 ORESZCZYN, S., LANE, A. B., CARR, S., 2010: The role of networks of practice and webs of influencers on farmers' engagement with and learning about agricultural tinnovations. Journal of Rural Studies [online]. 2010, 4, [cit. 2011-10-06]. Available at: http:// www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/
- www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/ S0743016710000227>. FEJSBÜČEK, 2011b: [online], [cit. 28. 09. 2011]. Available at:http://www.fejsbucek.cz/cesko>. Google Trends, 2011. [online], [cit. 28. 09. 2011].
- Available at: http://trends.google.com/websites?- q=facebook.com%2C+lide.cz%2C+libimseti.cz%2C+spoluzaci.cz&geo=CZ&date=all&sort=0>.

Address

Ing. Eva Kánská, Katedra informačních technologií, Provozně ekonomická fakulta, Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze, Kamýcká 129, 165 21 Praha 6 – Suchdol, Česká republika, e-mail: kanska@pef.czu.cz

4 Informační a komunikační technologie – další aspekty

Čtvrtý článek "Regional Reports and Presentation of Regions in the Czech Republic" navazuje na čtvrtý článek a představuje další etapu šetření rozvoje informačních a komunikačních technologií především z pohledu metodiky a nových zájmových oblastí, které jsou dány dynamickým rozvojem ICT.

Metodicky byla upravena problematika vlastní zemědělské výroby, byly rozšířeny dotazy na oblast internetového připojení, využití internetu a mobilní komunikace. Poprvé byly do dotazníku nově přidány otázky ohledně přidružené zemědělské výroby, jako jsou agroturistika, dřevovýroba, zpracování masa, lesnictví, ubytování, hotelnictví apod. Novinkou bylo také rozšíření dotazů směrem k sociálním sítím²⁵ a jejich využití, spektru používaného programového vybavení v jednotlivých segmentech živočišné výroby, rostlinné výroby, ekonomiky a poradenství, ale také způsobům získávání informací pro podnikání.

Průzkum ukázal trend v nárůstu počtu laptopů a zařízení PDA (personální digitální asistent) na úkor desktopů (PC). Vysokorychlostní konektivita byla v případě pevného připojení řešena tradičně ADSL a Wi-Fi. Nově byl patrný nástup mobilní konektivity, který byl zapříčiněn nástupem mobilní technologie EDGE, která ve venkovských oblastech nabízela nízkou disponibilní rychlost takřka pod hranicí základního broadbandu. Je zde ale vidět progrese v konektivitě venkova, která se pomalu díky bezdrátovému broadbandu (rychlý mobilní internet – 3G sítě, LTE) zlepšovala.

Ve výsledcích byla zjevná změna v oblasti informačních zdrojů, kterou zapříčinila integrace všech oficiálních portálů (MZe ČR a Portálu farmáře) do jednoho portálového řešení eAGRI, vyjma SZIF.

Pátý článek "State and evaluation of information and communication technologies development in agricultural enterprises in Czech Republic" řešenou problematikou navazuje na předchozí články. V článku jsou prezentovány výsledky šetření ICT tentokrát z roku 2008 s vazbou na vývoj od předchozího stavu v roce 2003²⁶, což opět dokládá dlouholetou tradici šetření dané problematiky. V dané době proběhl překotný rozvoj ICT technologií, který se logicky začal projevovat také ve venkovských oblastech.

²⁵ Tato problematika je zpracována a v disertační práci okomentována v prvním a druhém článku.

²⁶ Jarolímek, J. – Vaněk, J. The intensity and quality of Internet usage in the agriculture sector and possibilities of its further development. *Plant, Soil and Environment,* roč. 2003, č. 11 s. 525-529. ISSN: 1214-1178.

Proto hlavním cílem šetření bylo zjistit míru rozvoje internetové konektivity ve venkovských regionech (zde působí naprostá většina podnikatelských subjektů v zemědělství) a dále zjistit stav a trendy rozvoje využívání ICT v řadě oblastí. V této době také probíhala neméně důležitá fáze nástupu elektronického bankovnictví, což byl pravděpodobný důvod, proč se rozvíjela konektivita i v odlehlejších venkovských oblastech. Podniky si zřizovaly konektivitu především pro výhody elektronického bankovnictví. Internetová konektivita v ČR se ale navzdory vývoji technologií a evropským i světovým trendům nevyvíjela směrem k přechodu na vysokorychlostní připojení. Pro elektronické bankovnictví nebo elektronickou komunikaci nebyla rychlost připojení zásadně limitujícím faktorem a ostatní využití internetových technologií nebylo příliš rozšířeno. Zlom nastal v roce 2007. Na toto období reaguje dotazníkové šetření, které poukázalo na jednotlivé technologie připojení, kdy velký podíl pokrývalo ADSL a dále Wi-Fi (což byla v ČR výrazně specifická situace). Další alternativou bylo mobilní připojení, které využívalo prakticky 12 % podniků.

Intenzita používání internetu byla také vysoká, internet začal být využíván prakticky denně. Pravidelně se začal využívat e-mail, elektronické bankovnictví, standardem byly i nákupy v e-shopech. Významným a zajímavým výsledkem je, že pouze necelá čtvrtina podniků měla v té době vlastní webové stránky. A více než desetina oslovených podniků plánovala mít své stránky v blízké budoucnosti. Ve srovnání s jinými resorty se zemědělská oblast v tomto ohledu držela zpátky. V té době vlastní e-shop provozovala pouze 4 % oslovených podniků.

ICT v zemědělských podnicích v ČR se v mnoha ukazatelích přibližuje obecným podmínkám ČR, nicméně dodnes přetrvaly mnohé odlišnosti a specifika, která "diskriminují" agrární sektor.

Jedná se o zmiňovanou digitální propast – dostupnost například vysokorychlostní připojení k internetu (širokopásmové připojení), internetové aplikace atd. Situace byla vážnější, protože bez státní strategie a podpory se v této oblasti (na rozdíl od všech vyspělých zemí a zemí EU) otevírají pomyslné nůžky ekonomického rozvoje mezi velkými aglomeracemi a malými sídly a digitální propast se tak dále zvětšuje.

Reports and Presentation of Regions in the Czech Republic. In Proceedings of HAICTA 2011 08.09.2011, Skiathos; Greece. : CEUR Workshop Proceedings, 2011. s. 667 – 674.
2011 08.09.2011, Skiathos; Greece.: CEUR Workshop Proceedings, 2011. s. 667 – 674.

Regional reports and presentations of regions in the Czech Republic

Jiří Vaněk, Jan Jarolímek, Michal Stočes, Pavel Šimek, Eva Kánská

All: Department of Information Technologies, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic, e-mail: simek@pef.czu.cz

Abstract. Availability of regional information on the internet can be researched minimally in two levels: the local information resources and the nationwide information resources. The paper deals with the evaluation of the internet use in case of availability of regional information at the nationwide level. From realized inquiries it is also apparent that internet services become a decisive resource of regional information. Above all it is dealt with web services; however, an important role starts to be played also by social networks.

Key words: Information availability, region, regional news service, support of business, social networks

Introduction

Inequality of economic and social relations between towns and rural regions is generally recognized; it is caused by quite a few historical, geographical, political and economic phenomena. In the period of information society development, the use of information and communication technologies is considered as one of the crucial tools for rural development and use of its potential.

Generally, it can be stated that a contribution for the country is caused by information availability, high-quality communication, availability of services and education and so on. However, it is also necessary to state that these common phenomena without creation of mutual relations and engagement of all appropriate regional structures will not independently create required results (Fan, 2010).

A line which connects directions of rural development are information and communication technologies (often replaced by an "all-embracing" term internet) and the contributions should be search for in more efficiently executed activities which bring economic profit (Pollone, 2006). On base of this it is possible to describe three areas in which ICT have a growth and development potential for rural areas:

- Support of business
- Business itself
- > Improvement of quality of life

The essence is to make rural and remote areas attractive, to reduce their isolation, and to achieve a higher productivity within innovative use of modern technologies of

Copyright ©by the paper's authors. Copying permitted only for private and academic purposes. In: M. Salampasis, A. Matopoulos (eds.): Proceedings of the International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies

for Sustainable Agri-production and Environment (HAICTA 2011), Skiathos, 8-11 September, 2011.

667

knowledge society. It requires a systematic innovation which means concurrent activities from the viewpoint of politics, technology and social implementation.

Availability of regional information is ranked in the area of business support which includes a complex of activities and processes that already take place in rural regions, but in which information and communication technologies multiply increase effectiveness, often in such a way that it is dealt with new activities and processes, non-viable earlier (Ke, 2009). As the main activities for business support we consider:

- Presentation of a region or information about a region (regional information), one of basic marketing tools of regional development; there are many potentially presented areas, e.g.
 - Services for interest activities (leisure-time activities) probably the most often mentioned and realized area including travelling, accommodation, sport, culture, products etc. (Ping. 2009).
 - Investment possibility an interest of every region are investors, however, it is not possible without introductory information
 - Production and services of a region specialties and specifics of a region
- Information availability a contribution for development can bee seen above all in their economic evaluation
- Education a better availability of education in regions is a keystone of human resource development and use of modern technologies
- Service availability making business and above all eGovernment, electronic banking, electronic communication, eConsultancy easier and more efficient, etc.

Material and used methods

Availability of regional information on the internet can be researched minimally in two levels: the local information resources and the nationwide information resources. Usability of local information resources for a region presentation outwardly is regarding to the general unfamiliarity with local conditions fundamentally limited by marketing visibility of this resource. At present, it is not sufficient , to be on the internet"; it is necessary the presented information to make more visible. Here, for example SEO/SEM is mentioned often, but also the interconnection into supraregional structures (Jarolímek, 2007). If it to be the contrary, this local information resource serves above all for needs of inhabitants of the given region, or more generally for those who know this region which is also very important, but it is not our investigation.

The paper deals with the evaluation of internet use in case of availability of regional information at the nationwide level (nationwide information resources). For orientation in the problems it is necessary to divide these resources according to used methods of obtaining and provision of information.

The methods of provision of regional information:

 Independent presentations of regions, information about regions are further divisions (e.g. professional)

668

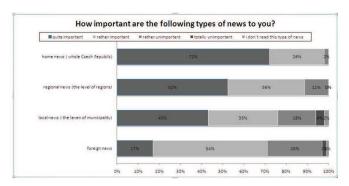
- > Content classification (news service, advertising, etc.) according to regions
- > Secondary product of other activities, most often of a local press

The methods of acquisition of regional information:

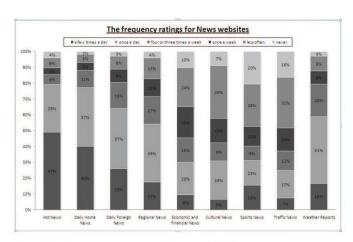
- > Editorial content information are acquired and processed by a professional team
- User content information are acquired from readers; we can ranged also blogs there
- Commercial communication (Advertising) publishing of information is paid in some form

Results and discussion

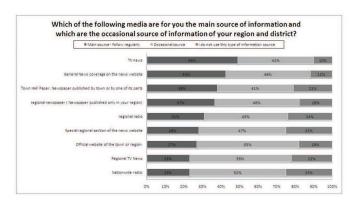
Even before a question, how available are regional information, it is necessary to answer whether regional information are needed and what are the preferred media at present. A relatively unambiguous answer is given by on each independent investigations made in regions of the Czech Republic in 2010. A firm Mediaresearch researched a representative sample of 547 internet users in the CR and the Czech University of Life Sciences a sample of 902 agricultural firms. The significance of regional news for users outweighs the foreign news service (the graph 1) and in ratings frequency in news service webs the regional news service is on the fourth place (the graph 2). From realized inquiries it is also apparent that internet services become a decisive resource of regional information (the graphs 3 and 4). Above all it is dealt with web services, however, an important role starts to be played also by social networks (Červenková, 2011). Also for example Hutchins, 2004 came to similar conclusions.



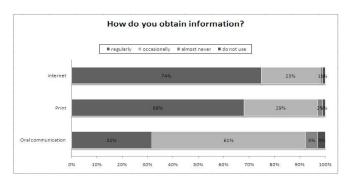
Graph 1: Significance of regional news (Mediaresearch, 2010)



Graph 2: The Frequency of news ratings (Mediaresearch, 2010)



Graph 3: Way of information acquisition (Mediaresearch, 2010)



Graph 4: Way of information acquisition (CULS, 2010)

Now we get to the evaluation of availability of regional information at the nationwide level. Regarding the dominance of internet access we deal only with this medium. It is necessary to state that the intention to publish regional information is relatively big; there are many news and branch servers which are engaged in this activity. The quality of provided information itself can be evaluated quite positively though the investigation did not dealt with that. This evaluation stems from a subjective observation. However, if we compare the ways of acquisition and provision of regional information, we will found out considerable differences in approaches of particular servers. In total, 11 news and branch servers (portals) were evaluated. The selection was made on base of continuous topicality of published news. The evaluation results are presented in the table 1.

From the evaluation it results that most nationwide information resources solves regionality of news service by use of classification and filtration of standardly processed content. However, the main problem must be looked for in integrity and completeness of provided news which is obviously given by problematic availability caused by collection logistics, human resources, and last but not least also by financial claims. This is indicated by some ambitious projects of regional news service suspended because of financial reasons (Aktuálně, 2011).

The most efficient communication at the lowermost level of social relations becomes interactive social networks. A public service has to be a pioneer in use of social networks to gain a personal relation with the future generations. The news content remains the same as in the past; what changes are distribution channels, and human involvement intensifies.

It is also interesting that map bases and generally the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) are not used at all for presentation of regional information on the researched servers.

Information resource	URL		rovision formatic		Acquisition of information		
		Independent presentation	Content classification	Secondary product	Editorial content	User content	Commercial communication
News servers	S						
iDnes.cz	www.idnes.cz	X			X	X	X
Novinky.cz	www.novinky.cz		X			X	
iRegiony	regiony.impuls.cz	X			X		X
Sedmička	www.sedmicka.cz			X	X		
Aktualne.cz	aktualn.centrum.cz		X		X		
RTA	www.rta.cz	X			X		
Regiony24	www.regiony24.cz	X			X		
CT24	www.ct24.cz		X		X		1
Branch serve	ers						1
Agris.cz	www.agris.cz		X		X		
Práce.cz	www.prace.cz		X				X
sReality	www.sreality.cz		X				X

Table 1. Information resource



Figure 1: Illustration of evaluated news and branch servers (portals), selection

Conclusion:

The interest in publishing of regional information is relatively big; there are many news and branch servers which deal with this activity. The quality of provided information itself can be evaluated quite positively.

From the evaluation it results that most nationwide information resources solves the regionality of news service by use of classification and filtration of standardly processed content. The main problem is in integrity and completeness of provided news which is obviously given by problematic availability caused by collection logistics, human resources, and last but not least also by financial claims. It is also possible to state that classification of methods of provision and publishing of regional information used in the survey is sufficient at present.

Acknowledgements

The knowledge presented in the paper was obtained as a result of the Research Programme 'Economy of the Czech Agriculture Resources and their Efficient Use within the Framework of the Multifunctional Agri-food Systems' of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic – No. MSM 6046070906.

Reference

Červenková, E., Šimek, P., Vogeltanzová, T., Stoces, M: Social Networks as an Integration Tool in Rural Areas – Agricultural Enterprises of the Czech Republic, In: Agris on-line Papers in Economics and Informatics, Volume III., N 1, 2011, p. 53 – 60

Fan, D., Wei, S.: Evaluation research of regional information industry competitiveness, In: 2nd International Conference on Information Science and Engineering, Hangzhou, 2010

Hutchins, B.: Castells, regional news media and the information age, In: Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies, Volume 18, Issue 4, 2004, p. 577 - 590

Jarolímek, J., Vaněk, J., Šimek, P.: eREGIO – Evaluation method for ICT regional use, In: : Environmental @ Rural Sustainability through ICT, Glasgow Caledonian University, 2007, p. 81-85

Ke, L.: Relevance of regional information industry to economic growth In: Xinan Jiaotong Daxue Xuebao/Journal of Southwest Jiaotong University, Volume 44, Issue 5, October 2009, p. 794-798

Ping, L.: The impact of information industry development to convergence of regional tourism, In: Proceedings of the $2009\ 6^{th}$ International Conference on Service Systems and Service Management, Xiamen, 2009, p. 153-155

Pollone, M., Occelli, S.: Information and Communication Technologies and Regional Development: The Case of Piedmont, Italy, In: Journal of Urban Technology, Volume 13, Issue 3, 2006, p. 93 - 118

Mediaresearch: Regional and local news service on internet, Prague, 2010

Konec projektu Naše adresa přišel náhle, PPF nevidělala [online] Aktuálně.cz, [cit. 2011-04-10] Available on: http://aktualne.centrum.cz/ekonomika/prace/clanek.phtml?id=675892

4.2 VANĚK, J. – KÁNSKÁ, E . – JAROLÍMEK, J. – ŠIMEK, P. State and Evaluation of Information and Communication Technologies Development in Agricultural Enterprises in Czech Republic. Plant, Soil and Environment, 2010, roč. 56 (2010), č. 3, s. 143-147.
ISSN: 1214-1178.

State and evaluation of information and communication technologies development in agricultural enterprises in the Czech Republic

J. Vaněk, E. Červenková, J. Jarolímek, P. Šimek

Department of Information Technologies, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Prague, Czech Republic

ABSTRACT

The paper presents selected information on the newest results of a wide investigation of the state of information and communication technologies development in agricultural production enterprises in the Czech Republic. The investigation was realized in the first half of 2009 with the main aim to analyze development of information infrastructure and actual trends in ICT use in rural regions where most entrepreneurial subjects operate. Besides a presentation of own research results, some obtained pieces of knowledge are then commented and eventually discussed in connection with official outputs of the Czech Statistical Office (CSO), if they have a certain relevance to the given problems.

Keywords: ICT; broadband; internet; www; operating system; PC

The investigation was carried out in the first half of 2009; till this time it has been the most extensive investigation of state and development of information and communication technologies in enterprises of the Czech Republic agrarian sector. This investigation was partially connected with a research realized in 2000-2003; it was closely related to a foregoing extensive investigation in 2008. The realization was undertaken by the Information and Consultancy Center (IPC) in cooperation with the Department of Information Technologies (KIT) of the Faculty of Economics and Management (FEM) at the Czech University of Life Sciences (CULS) in Prague. The extensive and targeted investigation (by a number of enterprises and by its focus) which included specially the agrarian sector brings a very interesting and relevant view of the given problems of the sector and, subsequently, also of the entire rural environment where these enterprises predominantly operate. It includes many points of view which have not been investigated and published yet.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

For realization of the first period of investigation in 2009, primarily enterprises that actively participated

in the inquiry realized in 2008 were selected. To secure the other period of research, an Agreement on Data Providing from the LPIS Register between FEM CULS in Prague and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of the Czech Republic (Department of Central Office of Registers) was made. On the basis of this agreement the MoA provided actual data over the Czech Republic which was used after processing for addressing of other group of enterprises within the second period of investigation in 2009.

A general basic condition for ranking an enterprise in the research was the acreage of managed land by the enterprise which was set to at least 100 ha. In the first half year in 2009 (both periods of the investigation), in total 3902 entrepreneurial subjects from all the Czech Republic were addressed. A well-tried procedure, used in 2008, was applied. All respondents received an accompanying letter with instructions and a questionnaire by email which they could fill in and send back. This questionnaire was also available for download on the Internet (with a possibility of off-line filling-in and sending back by email) and further as a web form (this one could be filled-in on-line, or could be saved uncompleted and finished later, i.e. a combination of on-line and off-line work). In both cases the agrarian web AGRIS (http://www.agris.cz), whose IPC operates

Supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Project No. MSM 6046070906.

PLANT SOIL ENVIRON., 56, 2010 (3): 144-147

in cooperation with KIT, was used. AGRIS is well-known for agricultural public in the long term and quite without doubt, it contributed to a relatively high number of answers. At the end of the investigation, 1008 questionnaires were received, which represents 25.83% answers.

A way of handover (acquisition) of results by respondents (a questionnaire form) is shown in Figure 1. Practically, two thirds of respondents preferred a classical paper form of questionnaire to electronic forms (off-line, on-line) whose representation was in total only a third (33.93%). This 'conservative' approach corresponds completely to the situation in 2008. In 2009 there was only a slight increase in the use of the www form at the expense of e-mail; however, there was no general change in favour to electronic form of filling-in and handover.

The situation and the development in the ICT field in the Czech Republic has been researched quite in details by the Czech Statistical Office (CSO). Its investigation has been realized since 2003 and is fully comparable with investigations realized in other EU countries. The results are published annually on the Internet and partially in a printed form. Nevertheless, the enterprises are divided here into three categories according to their size, or a number of employees (10-49, 50-249, 250 and more). From a view-point of the countryside itself, and subsequently of enterprises operating in the agrarian sector, this categorization is generally unsatisfactory, as well as the observed branches where the agrarian sector (agricultural enterprises) is not included at all (the only category is 'Processing industry'). CSO addressed to about 11 300 enterprises in its investigation. The text published in print contains the actual results of 2009 investigation; in some relevant cases they are compared with average results over the Czech

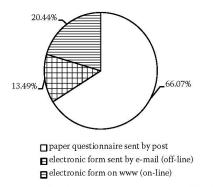


Figure 1. Questionnaire investigation – questionaire format (2009)

Republic published by CSO, which however show only the year 2008.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

One of the main research targets was focused on problems of the Internet and its use. The internet connection is available for an absolute majority of entrepreneurial subjects today (concretely almost 93%), whereas other almost 3% of enterprises plan to arrange it (Figure 2). The ascertained value of 93% approximates the CSO data for the category of small businesses in the Czech Republic where 94% is reported (to compare: it is 98% in medium businesses and 100% large enterprises).

If we look in details at particular connection technologies, a big share is covered by ADSL and further Wi-Fi (which is a significantly specific situation in the Czech Republic). Other alternative is a mobile connection, used practically by 12% of businesses. In contrast, still relatively a high number of enterprises are connected through slow technologies — ISDN or even Dial-up. The current representation of particular connection technologies is shown in Figure 3. It is necessary to mention here, that some enterprises combine several kinds of connection.

In light of broadband, the high-speed connectivity (ADSL, Wi-Fi, CDMA) is used by 66% enterprises. According to Eurostat, 79% of enterprises in the Czech Republic in 2008 had high-speed connection to the Internet, and ADSL amounted to 46% out of it (Eurostat 2009). For particular size categories, CSO mentions the shares of broadband as 75.7%, 90.9% and 96.8%, respectively. Yet, almost 31% of subjects still have a slow connection. The category 'others', which is brought by more than 3% of respondent enterprises, most likely belongs between both the groups. For example, the optical or CATV connection was not a specific subject of investigation here; it belongs among high-speed



Figure 2. Internet connectivity (2009)

145

PLANT SOIL ENVIRON., 56, 2010 (3): 144–147

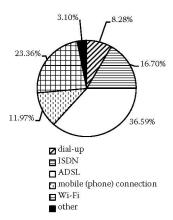


Figure 3. Technologies of internet connection (2009)

technologies, however, without a bigger significance from the viewpoint of rural space.

The intensity of Internet usage is also high; daily usage is mentioned by 93% businesses owning the internet connectivity; use areas are standard – the most frequent is e-mail, then www browsing, e-banking, and also purchase in the internet shops (for more details see Figure 4).

Only 24.5% of enterprises using the internet, have their own www pages (or 22.7% of all enterprises); further more than 13% enterprises are planning to arrange it. Theoretically, it means that almost 38% of enterprises should have their own www pages in the close future. In comparison with other resort and size groups of enterprises it is still a very low number (CSO generally presents a range between 70–93%). Other use areas are rather low, for example e-shop is operated by only less than 4.3% of enterprises. Of course, there is a question of the foundation (usability) of e-shop regarding a character of most agricultural subjects. Nevertheless, it is

very interesting that according to the investigation other 4.7% enterprises plan to arrange the e-shop – it is more than the number of the internet shop operating currently. The development reality will be likely significantly lower compared to declared plans (the planned increase is almost 115%).

E-shop in a kind of internet presentation with a service supply, and has, without doubt, an indispensable importance for example for enterprises offering services in the area of agri-tourism (accommodation booking, sale of products etc.).

Another area of investigation was a basic technical and program endowment; entirely according to expectation, a prevalence of MS Windows systems was obvious. It is related to a conservative approach of business sphere and it does not concern only the resort. The aversion to transition to Windows Vista is partially due to worse parameters of used computers. Windows systems are applied in total in almost 95% of computers; a detailed structure is shown in Figure 5. In the frame of the MS Windows platform, MS Windows XP system quite clearly prevails; Windows Vista takes only less than 6%. These operating systems are installed in more than 5400 computers; out of it 83.3% is in the category of PC (various configurations); 16.7% are mobile computers of the category notebook.

The research was also focused on many other directions of ICT use, for example knowledge and use of resort information portals, used application software, network installation, server operating systems, used peripheral equipment, setting of means of personal informatics as PDA and so on. Results of the mentioned investigations are not brought in this report, however, they will be gradually published, too.

The research carried out at the beginning of 2008 showed which changes the department had passed through in the ICT area since the last investigation in 2003, i.e. over five years; it mapped a

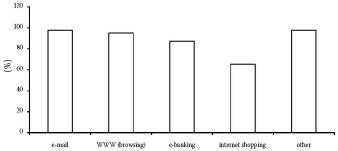


Figure 4. Internet using (2009)

146

PLANT SOIL ENVIRON., 56, 2010 (3): 144-147

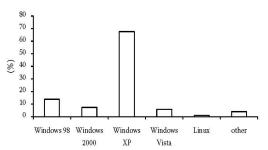


Figure 5. Operating systems PCs and notebooks (2009)

current development state, and indicated possible further development directions. The consecutive research realized in the first half of 2009 further enlarged these conclusions. It dealt with the biggest number of enterprises; with the use of data provided by MoA Czech Republic (from the LPIS register) all entrepreneurial subjects of the department with managed land from 100 ha upwards (in total 3902 businesses) were addressed; in total 1008 respondent questionnaires were acquired and worked out.

For the research in 2009, compared to the version 2008, the questionnaires were enlarged and specified, for example mobile connection was divided into small (GPRS) and speedy (CDMA), and so on. Actual results showed other space for subsequent investigations, for example in contrast to 2008 results, in category 'other', 3.1% appeared in the type of connection, and it is a question which technologies are included here. It can be supposed that it is dealt with enterprises near larger seats where CATV or optics (FTTx) can be used, which are categories which have not been individually observed yet for their theoretical inapplicableness in the country and which belong among prospective high-speed technologies. We assume that the research in this area will further continue also in next years.

The state of development of information and communication technologies in agricultural enterprises in the Czech Republic approximates general Czech Republic conditions in many indicators; however, many differences and specifics have persisted till this time which 'discriminate' the agrarian sector. This problem appreciably touches the country in general, thus also other subjects that carry busi-

ness here, as well as inhabitants. We speak about so called 'digital divide' – the availability of for example Internet connection, high-speed internet (broadband), internet applications etc. Moreover, the situation is more serious because without state strategy and support in this area (in contrary to all advanced countries and the EU countries) an imaginary scissors of economic development open between large agglomerations and small seats and thus the digital divide further increases.

Acknowledgements

The knowledge presented in the paper was obtained as a result of the Research Programme titled 'Economy of the Czech Agriculture Resources and their Efficient Use within the framework of the Multifunctional Agri-food Systems' of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic – No. MSM 6046070906.

REFERENCES

Vanèk J., Jarolímek J., Šimek P.: ICT adoption in rural community of the Czech Republic. In: World Conference on Agricultural Information and IT IAALD AFITA WCCA 2008, Tokyo, 771-775

Vaněk J., Jarolímek J., Šímek P. (2008): Development of communication infrastructure in rural areas of the Czech Republic, Prague. Agricultural Economics, 3: 129–134.

CSO – Information community in numbers (2009). Available at: http://www.czso.cz/csu/redakce.nsf/ii/informacni_spolecnost_v_cislech_2009 (In Czech)

Received on October 26, 2009

147

Corresponding author:

Ing. Jiří Vaněk Ph.D., Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Department of Information Technologies, Kamýcká 129, 165 21 Prague 6-Suchdol, Czech Republic e-mail: vanek@pef.czu.cz

PLANT SOIL ENVIRON., 56, 2010 (3): 144–147

Výsledky dosažené v rámci autorčiny vědecké a publikační činnosti dokládají komplexnost kontinuálního pohledu na vývoj adopce ICT v agrárním sektoru. Disertační práce se věnovala pouze vybraným aspektům ICT v agrárním sektoru z důvodu širokého záběru realizovaného šetření.

Samotná šetření byla zvolena vzhledem k probíhajícímu výzkumu katedry, aby výsledky disertační práce přispěly k rozšíření stávající vědecké činnosti. Na základě vědecké literatury a analýzy minulých šetření byly specifikovány rozšiřující oblasti (výzkumné oblasti) šetření a byly identifikovány nedostatky procesní organizace celého průzkumu. V průběhu 12 let, kdy šetření probíhala, došlo k návrhu pokročilé automatizované procesní organizace vlastního průzkumu. Výsledky získané z průzkumů přispěly k publikační činnosti zaplněním informační mezery a zároveň jsou zefektivněny procesy pro budoucí průzkumy, z nich nejbližší je plánován na rok 2024. Zároveň tato navržená metodika a výsledky šetření budou dále využívány pro výzkumnou činnost v rámci Katedry informačních technologií a její spolupráce s MZe ČR.

V současné době vzniká další publikace, která se věnuje výsledkům šetření a mapuje využití internetu a jeho využití pro zvýšení konkurenceschopnosti podniku v agrárním sektoru od roku 2008 do roku 2020.

V současnosti je zkoumaná oblast zemědělství charakterizována jako jedna z kulturních i průmyslových odvětví ekonomiky zaměřené na zajištění obyvatelstva potravinami a získání surovin pro řadu průmyslových odvětví. Digitální transformace je pro Českou republiku šancí k vnitřní modernizaci, přechodu na vzdělanostní ekonomiku a vznik domácích inovativních podniků s vysokou přidanou hodnotou. (MPO, 2020). Je třeba zvýšit schopnost obyvatel se podílet na digitální ekonomice, na využívání jejích přínosů a také odolávat negativním dopadům. Oblasti digitální transformace českého zemědělství nahrává nedostatek pracovních sil, snížený odbyt, rostoucí náklady, ale také boj s klimatickými podmínkami a byrokracií. Pravděpodobným hybatelem digitalizace zemědělství byla koronavirová krize, kterou doprovází problémy se suchem a výkyvy počasí. Zemědělci již jsou nuceni pružně reagovat a naučit se co nejefektivněji šetřit v každém z procesů.

S rozvojem informační společnosti a pokračující adopce ICT se i ve vybraném prostředí zemědělství a venkova nerovnováha mezi městem a venkovem v přístupu k vysokorychlostní konektivitě snižuje. Dochází tak postupně k překonávání problému digitální propasti (Digital Divide) ²⁷.

Neméně výrazným aspektem nerovnováhy a digitálního vyloučení je nerovnost způsobována socio-demografickou souvislostí. Tento problém znamená, že populace v ČR stárne, roste počet osob ve věku 65 a více let a zvyšuje se jejich váha v celé populaci. Seniorský věk zvláště ve spojení s nízkým vzděláním a nízkými příjmy vede k ICT izolaci, kterou zapříčiňuje hlavně rychlost proměn počítačových technologií (elektronizace služeb, nové technologie atp.). Ta nejvýraznější se odehrála v 90. letech v rozpětí jediné generace. Nadějí pro snížení této propasti je nově populace 55+, která vykazuje rostoucí trend aktivního stáří. Jedná se o seniory, kteří jsou stále vzdělanější, a i jejich očekávání od období života v postproduktivním věku se zvyšuje.

V ČR se dlouhodobě řeší geografická oblast digitální propasti, která se sice snižuje, ale stále existuje rozdíl mezi ČR a ostatními vyspělými zeměmi. Cesta ke zvýšení konektivity ve venkovských oblastech vyžaduje relativně malou podporu z veřejných zdrojů. Podle studie Ericsson Mobility Report proto bude do pěti let přibližně 40 procent FWA připojení založeno na 5G²⁸.

Aktuálnost řešeného problému potvrzuje MZe ČR – Národní agentura pro zemědělský výzkum, která vypsala Výzkumné potřeby pro veřejnou soutěž v roce 2022 v Programu aplikovaného výzkumu Ministerstva zemědělství ČR na období 2017 – 2025, ZEMĚ – Program II – Podpora státní politiky v agrárním sektoru, klíčová oblast Udržitelné zemědělství a lesnictví: definované výzkumné téma II Precizní zemědělství a digitalizace zemědělského sektoru, jehož cílem je zmapovat současný stav a využití technologií precizního zemědělství v praxi, ze kterého rovněž vyplývá návaznost na provedené a publikované průzkumy a možnost využití platformy pro další výzkum.

_

²⁷ The Digital Devide: Facing a Crisis or Creating a Myth? Cambridge: MIT, 2001. s. 289 – 298. ISBN 0-262-53193-3.

²⁸ Brejlová, I. (2021) "*5,4 miliardy pro český venkov."* [on-line]. Svět chytře. 2021. https://svetchytre.cz/a/pXACw/54-miliardy-pro-cesky-venkov-tolik-muzou-prinest-site-5g-tuzemskemuzemedelstvi

6 Seznam použitých zdrojů

Lisabonská strategie. (2006). [on-line]. [cit. 30. 06. 2022]. Dostupné z https://www.mpo.cz/dokument2860.html.

EJEMEYOVWI, J. O., OSABUOHIEN, E. S., BOWALE, E. I. K. (2020) ICT adoption, innovation and financial development in a digital world: empirical analysis from Africa Transnational Corporations. Review:1–15.

AKER, J.C. (2010) Information from markets near and far: mobile phones and agricultural markets in Niger American Economic Journal. APPL ECON Volume: 2, Pages: 46–59.

GAO, Y., ZANG, L., SUN, J. (2018) Does computer penetration increase farmer's income? An empirical study from China. TELECOMMUN POLICY. Volume: 42. Pages: 345–360.

JENSEN, R. (2007) The Digital Provide: Information (Technology), market performance, and welfare in the South Indian fisheries sector. Q J ECON. Volume: 122. Pages: 879–924.

ZBIEJCZUK, A. (2007). Web 2.0 - charakteristika a služby. Brno. Diplomová práce. Masarykova Univerzita, Fakulta sociálních studií, Katedra mediálních studií a žurnalistiky.

EGER, L. (2012) Vzdělávání dospělých a ICT. Plzeň: Nava, 2012. ISBN 9788072114283.

SAFKO, L. (2012) The social media bible: tactics, tools, and strategies for business success. 3rd ed. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley, 2012. ISBN 978-1-118-26974-9

SCOTT, K. (2006) Blogs and Social Media Conference; CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals is supporting one of the UK's first conferences dedicated to blogging and social media. In M2PressWIRE [2006-03-05].

POSPÍŠIL, J., ZÁVODNÁ, L. (2012) Jak na reklamu. Kralice na Hané: Computer Media, 2012. ISBN 978-80-7402-115-2.

JANOUCH, V. (2011) Internetový marketing. Brno: Computer Press, 2011. ISBN 978-80-251-2795-7.

JAROLÍMEK, J. AND VANĚK, J. (2003) The intensity and quality of Internet usage in the agriculture sector and possibilities of its further development. Plant, Soil and Environment, Czech Academy of Agrictuural Sciences, November 2003, ISSN: 1214-1178, pp: 525 – 529.

VANĚK, J., JAROLÍMEK, J. AND ŠIMEK, P. (2008) Development of communication infrastructure in rural areas of the Czech Republic, Agricultural Economics, ISSN 0139-570SX, Vol. 3, pp: 129 – 134.

ŠIMEK, P.; STOČES, M.; VANĚK, J. (2014) Mobile Access to Information in the Agrarian Sector. AGRIS on-line Papers in Economics and Informatics. ISSN: 184 – 1930, Volume 6, Issue 2, Pages 89 – 96.

Usnesení vlády č. 585 ze dne 25. července 2012. [on-line]. [cit. 12. 08. 2022]. Dostupné z < https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rvis/usneseni-c585_2012.pdf>.

MPO: Digitální Česko v. 2.0 Cesta k digitální ekonomice. (2013). [on-line]. [cit. 24. 07. 2022]. Dostupné z < https://www.mpo.cz/dokument127530.html>.

Speedtest Global Index ze dne 8. srpna 2022. [on-line]. [cit. 08. 08. 2022]. Dostupné z < https://www.speedtest.net/global-index >.

MOLNAR, Z., MILDEOVA, S., ŘEZANKOVÁ, H., BRIXI, R. A KALINA, J. (2012). Pokročilé metody vědecké práce. Praha: Profess Consulting, ISBN 978-80-7259-064-3.

AUTON, T. (2000). Classification by A. D. Gordon. Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Series D (The Statistician). Vol. 49. pp. 441-442. DOI: 10.2307/2681075.

HENDL, J. (2016). Kvalitativní výzkum: základní teorie, metody a aplikace. Čtvrté, přepracované a rozšířené vydání. Praha: Portál. ISBN 80-7367-040-2. 303.022.

BAILEY, CAROL A. (2018). A guide to qualitative field research. Third edition. Los Angeles: SAGE. ISBN-13: 978-1506306995.

CRESWELL, JOHN W, POTH, CH. N. (2018). Qualitative inquiry & research design: choosing among five approaches. Fourth edition. Los Angeles: SAGE. ISBN-13: 978-1506330204.

Katedra informačních technologií PEF. User-Technological Index of Precision Agriculture (UTIPA). [on-line]. [cit. 1. 10. 2022]. Dostupné z < https://www.utipa.info/cs/>.

The Digital Devide: Facing a Crisis or Creating a Myth? Cambridge: MIT, 2001. s. 289 – 298. ISBN 0-262-53193-3.

BREJLOVÁ, I. (2021) "5,4 miliardy pro český venkov." [on-line]. Svět chytře. 2021. [cit. 30. 09. 2022]. Dostupné z https://svetchytre.cz/a/pXACw/54-miliardy-pro-cesky-venkov-tolik-muzou-prinest-site-5g-tuzemskemu-zemedelstvi.

7 Seznam obrázků

Obrázek 1: Webový formulář – Průzkum 2021	14
Obrázek 2: Webový formulář – Průzkum 2021 – příklad otázek a)	14
Obrázek 3: Webový formulář – Průzkum 2021 – příklad otázek b)	15