



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Department of Addictology

First Faculty of Medicine and General University Hospital in Prague

Charles University in Prague

Research Associations and Their Addiction Journals: Maintaining and Building Capacity

Panel discussion leaded by Thomas F. Babor

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...different context makes different conditions.

- 1) National **Journal Adiktologie** has established in 2001 and is shared by authors/readers from the **Czech Republic and Slovak republic** (similar language and history) and sometimes by international authors (Journal Adiktologie has papers also in English - not only in special issues).
- 2) **Our profile is more oriented on local/regional (maybe a little bit National) perspective** with all consequences. Publisher/owner is small NGO established for this purpose in 2000.
- 3) We have **very close collaboration with 4 Associations in the Czech Republic and 1 from the Slovak Republic** – but with no financial participation/support. On the other hand **3 Czech Universities are direct supporters (including financial participation)** on publishing our Journal. The Journal is not sustainable/stabile without this financial support by universities.



Regional Journal means regional ambitions... (1)

- 1) Journal is a crucial tool for our national Association and Societies for **improvement of the addiction field generally** (science and practice) and for forming of basic frame of “addictology” (term what we use for addiction science - but the their requirements produce a lot of difficulties. **List of paradoxes:**
- 2) **People (members of Societies) from the field** have really **low interest in reading of scientific and theoretical papers**: they ask for very practical oriented papers with very simple structure.
- 3) This group **produce minimum papers**. These papers are usually “on the border” from the formal and generally quality perspective. They have problem with so fundamental aspects like citation practice/skills and working with international literature.
- 4) They have dominantly interest in clinical texts (not clinical research), usually more motivated by self-presentation need (personally or institutionally or both).



Regional Journal means regional ambitions... (2)

- 1) This group (**people from the practice**) is the smallest financial contributor (app. 10%).
- 2) There is really **low interest (in this group) in international context/** discussions and activities – they “*don't have money, time and ambitions*” in this area (unfortunately including clinical issues).

...and another (but compatible) point of view:

- 1) Our main donors (app. 60% of income: Ministries and Governmental office and Local governments) have fundamental requirement: the Journal has to be practical, clinical oriented Journal – not dominantly for researchers.
- 2) Research and professional societies are not able to support the Journal economically: they provide formal partner ship.



Regional Journal means regional ambitions... (3)

- 1) From the other hand **people from universities** are dominant source of papers (original writings) for the Journal.
- 2) For top-scientists (what means higher chance of our Journal for high-quality papers and citations) is our **Journal “too regional”**. We don't have IF (we have just indexing in international databases).
- 3) Because of assessment system of universities we have high number of bad quality papers from smaller (sometimes not only smaller) universities what means danger/risk for our Journal – **low scientific quality and dominantly theoretical works with no quality data and original research**: it is killing combination.
- 4) **Low number of higher quality papers means troubles with quality and motivation of reviewers.**



Where is a compromise?

- 1) Our national Associations/Research and professional societies have a lot of wishes and the Journal is important to them.
- 2) They give important political and professional/institutional support to the Journal.
- 3) They don't have a real power and are not donors: financial contribution by them is zero.
- 4) Research/Science has generally poor position in our Societies. Dominant perspective is clinical practice (in local context).
- 5) The Independency of our Journal is questionable: the owner/**publisher is completely independent but real donors and their requirements have significant influence** and create barrier between Journal scientific ambitions/scientific needs and real possibilities.
- 6) **Conflict** between local/regional functions and following fundamental ambitions to print and do the best science, **does not have any acceptable solution in this manner.**



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**Thank you for
your attention**