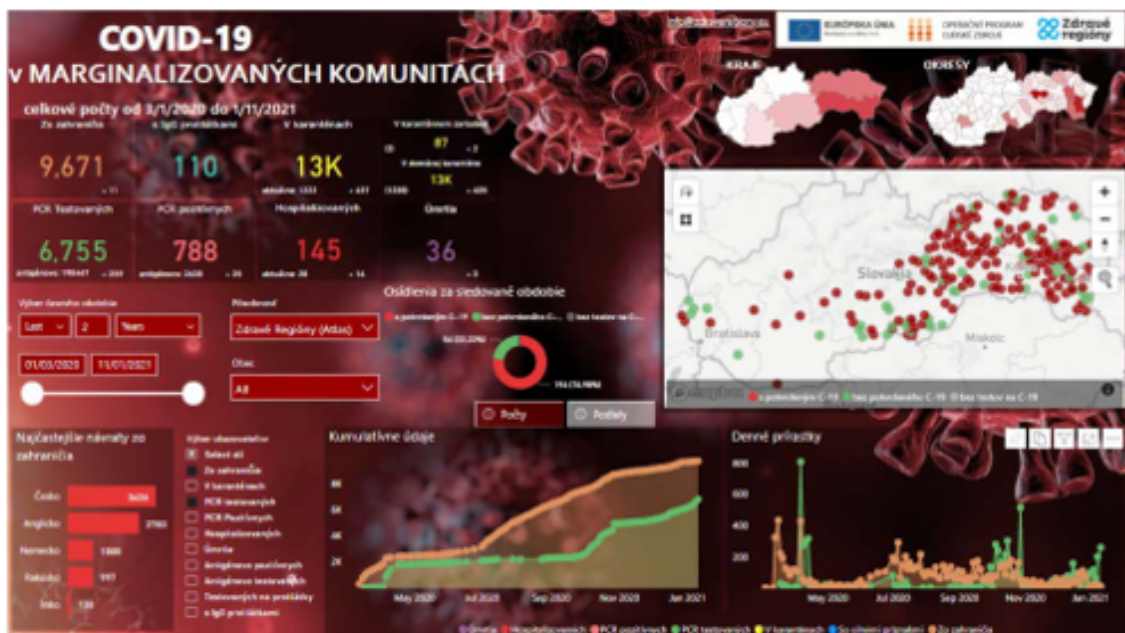




Institute of Ethnology
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PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF COVID-19 ACROSS SLOVAKIA'S MARGINALISED ROMA COMMUNITIES

Summary of the impact: Andrej Belak's continuous expert engagement in the state management of the COVID-19 pandemic across the country's marginalised Roma communities enabled gradual adoption of a more effective and sensitive approach to the pandemic spread and impacts (both health and social) across the social settings, increased local general awareness of the Roma vs non-Roma health inequity and its key (social) determinants, as well as promotion of the utility of critically applied and collaborative medical anthropology.



Underpinning research: Previous long-term medical anthropological research focusing on the social determinants of the extremely poor health status of Slovakia's marginalized Roma.

References to the research:

- <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-017-4029-x>
- <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph14121569>
- <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00038-018-1134-2>
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112739>

Details of the impact: Belák's expert engagement included and enabled the following:

- Development of an MRCs-dedicated COVID-19 epidemiological surveillance system
- Consultations for the central state pandemic crisis management bodies
- Setup of and leadership in the Slovak Ministry of Health's MRCs-dedicated panel on the pandemic
- Participation in selected control and prevention interventions across MRCs
- Continuous monitoring of the pandemic spread into and within the MRCs (identification of epidemic hot-spots and infection trends)
- Continuous monitoring of the pandemic health- and social impacts across the MRCs (via >10 indicators, including for testing, quarantines, hospitalisations, and deaths)
- Continuous monitoring of the vaccination against COVID-19 across the MRCs
- Effective and sensitive targeting and tailoring of COVID-19 prevention and control campaigns and interventions; personal participation in selected intervention pilots within MRCs
- Identification of a new SARS-CoV-2 variant breakthrough into and spread across Slovakia
- Continuous monitoring of and evidence on the unequal approaches to and impacts of the pandemic across the MRCs, compared to in the general population
- The White Crow civil society award to Andrej Belák for the engagement

Sources to corroborate the impacts:

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2666-5247\(21\)00155-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2666-5247(21)00155-5)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-99661-7>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/publikacie-ifp/komentare/komentare-z-roku-2022/1-vplyv-pandemie-marginalizovane-romske-komunity-januar-2022.html>

<https://www.zdraveregiony.eu/odporucany-postup-pre-samospravy/>