

Dávid Martinák, PhD.

Researcher, Institute of Economic Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences

✉ david.martinak@savba.sk |  0009-0007-5319-7643 |  Google Scholar

RESEARCH PROFILE

Economist working in the economics of education and labour economics. His research examines how education systems shape skills, labour market outcomes and educational inequality, with a focus on education-to-work transitions, skills mismatch and overeducation, vocational education and training, international student mobility, and the effects of technological change on employment. His work combines applied econometrics and causal inference with the analysis of administrative and survey data, and much of it is oriented towards evidence for public policy. Alongside his research at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, he works in education policy analysis at the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic.

Research interests: economics of education · labour economics · skills mismatch and overeducation · vocational education and training · graduate outcomes · international student mobility · technological change and employment · educational inequality · policy evaluation

EDUCATION

Slovak Academy of Sciences & University of Economics in Bratislava	2013 – 2019
PhD in Economic Theory	Bratislava, Slovakia
– Dissertation: Verifying the “skill-biased” and “routine-biased technical change” hypotheses in V4 countries.	
University of Turin & International Labour Organization	2018 – 2019
Master in Applied Labour Economics for Development	Turin, Italy
University of Economics in Bratislava	2008 – 2013
MSc in Economic Policy; BSc in Economics	Bratislava, Slovakia

POSITIONS

Institute of Economic Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences	2019 – present
Researcher (part-time)	Bratislava, Slovakia
– Empirical research on education-to-work transitions, skills mismatch, international student mobility, and the effects of technological change on the structure of employment.	
Education Policy Institute, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic	2022 – present
Head of Strategy Unit	Bratislava, Slovakia
– Leads a team producing quantitative analysis for education policy, including policy evaluation and expenditure analysis based on administrative data.	
– National coordinator for Slovakia in the European Network of Graduate Tracking (European Commission).	
Education Policy Institute, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic	2015 – 2021
Education Policy Analyst	Bratislava, Slovakia
– Analysis of graduate outcomes and student mobility; contributed to the development of the national graduate tracking system based on linked administrative data.	
– Secondment to the OECD Economics Department, contributing to work on skills for the Economic Survey of the Slovak Republic.	

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

MARTINÁK, D. & VARSÍK, S. (2026). Student Flight: Academic, Cultural and Economic Determinants of Degree Mobility. <i>Population, Space and Place</i> , 32(1), e70159.	2026
KOZÁK, M., KOZÁK, Š., KOZÁKOVÁ, A. & MARTINÁK, D. (2020). Is Fear of Robots Stealing Jobs Haunting European Workers? A Multilevel Study of Automation Insecurity in the EU. <i>IFAC-PapersOnLine</i> , 53(2), 17493–17498.	2020
MARTINÁK, D. (2020). Vplyv technologického pokroku na štruktúru zamestnanosti v krajinách V4 [The Impact of Technical Change on Employment Structure in V4 Countries]. <i>Politická ekonomie</i> , 68(1), 42–61.	2020
MARTINÁK, D. (2020). Overeducation of Tertiary Education Graduates in Slovakia: Relationship with the Field of Study. <i>SINAPPSI</i> , X(3), 93–110.	2020

MONOGRAPHS

FRANK, K., HALUŠKA, J., HVOZDÍKOVÁ, V., LICHNER, I., MARTINÁK, D., MIKLOŠOVIČ, T., RADVANSKÝ, M., STANKOVIČOVÁ, I. & VARSÍK, S. (2020). Regional Policy and the Labour Market after 2020. Bratislava: Institute of Economic Research SAS, 209 pp. ISBN 978-80-7144-319-3. 2020

SELECTED POLICY REPORTS

MARTINÁK, D. et al. (2025). Brain Drain III: Return the Stars to Me. Education Policy Institute & Institute for Social Policy. 2025

Value for Money Unit & Education Policy Institute (2025). Spending Review of Primary and Secondary Schools. Ministry of Finance SR & Ministry of Education SR. 2025

ŠKVARENINA, O. & MARTINÁK, D. (2023). Unenrolled Children: Reasons for Low Participation in Pre-primary Education. Education Policy Institute. 2023

BALIAK, M., BĚLÍN, M., DOMONKOS, Š. & MARTINÁK, D. (2022). Secondary School Graduates during the Pandemic. Institute for Social Policy & Education Policy Institute. 2022

MARTINÁK, D. & VARSÍK, S. (2021). Brain Drain II: Beyond the Seven Mountains. Education Policy Institute. 2021

MACHLICA, G., TOMAN, J., HALUŠ, M. & MARTINÁK, D. (2017). Enhancing Advanced Skills to Better Meet Labour Market Demand in the Slovak Republic. OECD Economics Department Working Papers, No. 1416. 2017

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Dual Reform of Vocational Education and Early Labour Market Outcomes (with V. Novák and K. Zígová). 11th LEER Conference on Education Economics, KU Leuven; SEA–NOeG Joint Conference, Central European University, Vienna; Meeting of the Institute of Economic Research (MIER), Smolenice. 2026

The Flight of Talent: Unveiling Slovakia's Student Outflow (with S. Varsík). 2nd International Conference Meeting of the Institute of Economic Research (MIER), Smolenice. 2023

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer for: Population, Space and Place (Wiley); Ekonomický časopis / Journal of Economics.

METHODS, SOFTWARE AND LANGUAGES

Methods: applied econometrics, causal inference and policy evaluation, panel data analysis, multilevel modelling, analysis of administrative and survey data.

Software: Stata, R.

Languages: Slovak (native), Czech (C2), English (C1), German (A2).