

## The IER Seminar in Empirical Economics

We would like to invite you to the **Empirical Seminar** series organized by the Institute of Economic Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Šancová 56 that will be held online. The seminar will take place on **April 8th, 2021 at 11:00**.

The speaker will be **Ing. Richard Kališ, PhD.** (Department of Economic Policy, Faculty of National Economy of the University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia).

The topic of the seminar is: ***Every step counts – evidence on the importance of the spatial proximity in the deregulated pharmacy retail market***

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### **Abstract**

The paper analyses the effects of competition on the retail pharmacy industry. Using individual data on prescriptions for a single municipality and aggregated firm-level data for the Slovak pharmacy market, we found very elastic demand regarding doctors and pharmacies' distance. Our results are in line with other findings that competition prevailed in the form of spatial proximity to doctors after industry deregulation. If a pharmacy aims to maximise the market share on prescriptions, the proximity to a doctor is crucial since almost half of all prescriptions are taken in the closest pharmacy from prescribing doctor. In terms of policy recommendation, this dependency can be used to preserve the wide accessibility of deregulated pharmacy retail industry through regulation of doctor's entry.

The seminar will be co-chaired by Mária Širaňová.