



GLOBAL EXISTENTIAL RISKS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GER 2018 CONFERENCE



GLOBAL EXISTENTIAL RISKS '2018

PREFACE

Global existential risks are increasingly entering the life of a man and in the scope unlikely in the past, are threat to his existence. For this reason, the investigation of existential risks has been the reason for the creation of several workplaces and projects. An example may be the Future of Humanity Institute at the University of Oxford University, founded in 2005 and headed by Nick Bostrom, philosopher and pioneer of transhumanism, or The Cambridge Project for Existential Risks, which became the basis for establishing the Center for the Study of Existential Risks, which was announced in 2012.

In Slovakia, the first activities related to the study of global existential risks were enforced by the Slovak Society for the Environment, a member of the ZSVTS. This society organized from 2011 to 2017 seven experimental conferences on "Global Existential Risks", the core of which was the issue of transhumanism and transhuman technologies and their associated global existential risks.

The issue of exploring global existential risks is related to the development of transhumanism and is explored and elaborated by the leading theoreticians of transhumanism Nick Bostrom, James Hughes, Milan Cirkovic, Ray Kurzweil, Eliezer Yudkowsky, Robin Hanson, Martin Rees, Calum Chace, Vaclav Smil and many others.

The development of transhumanism is linked to the predicted and rather vague risks associated for example with nanotechnology, Gray Goo Scenario, which counts on the loss of human control over nanobots manipulating atoms respectively molecules or with the emergence of superhuman intelligence.

The risks of transhumanism have been elaborated in detail by Nick Bostrom, who analyzed the possible human extinction scenarios as a result of the outbreak of transhumanism under the control of man.

The main risks associated with transhumanism include biological warfare, nano-war, nuclear war, space warfare, artificial intelligence, superintelligence, singularity, nanotechnological pollution, Gray Goo effect, gene manipulation, or something else.

However, global existential risks are also associated with threats other than those associated with transhuman technologies. The threat to human existence may also be outdated economic or political systems, or an unplanned economic or political crisis. According to Nick Bostrom, global existential risks are those that pose a serious threat to human existence on a global scale. For example,



global disasters can be caused by natural disasters, volcanic eruptions or pandemic earthquakes, nuclear accidents around the world, tyranny, uncontrollable scientific experiments, climate change, threats from space, or economic collapse.

The persistent and progressive global crisis and the growth of the number of global threats across national boundaries create a negative synergy effect that may result in a negative scenario of the extinction of human civilization or extinction of man as a species.

Research on global existential risks has undoubtedly become a necessity in Slovakia, as cross-border global impacts of existential risks are increasingly affecting the daily lives of Slovaks.

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