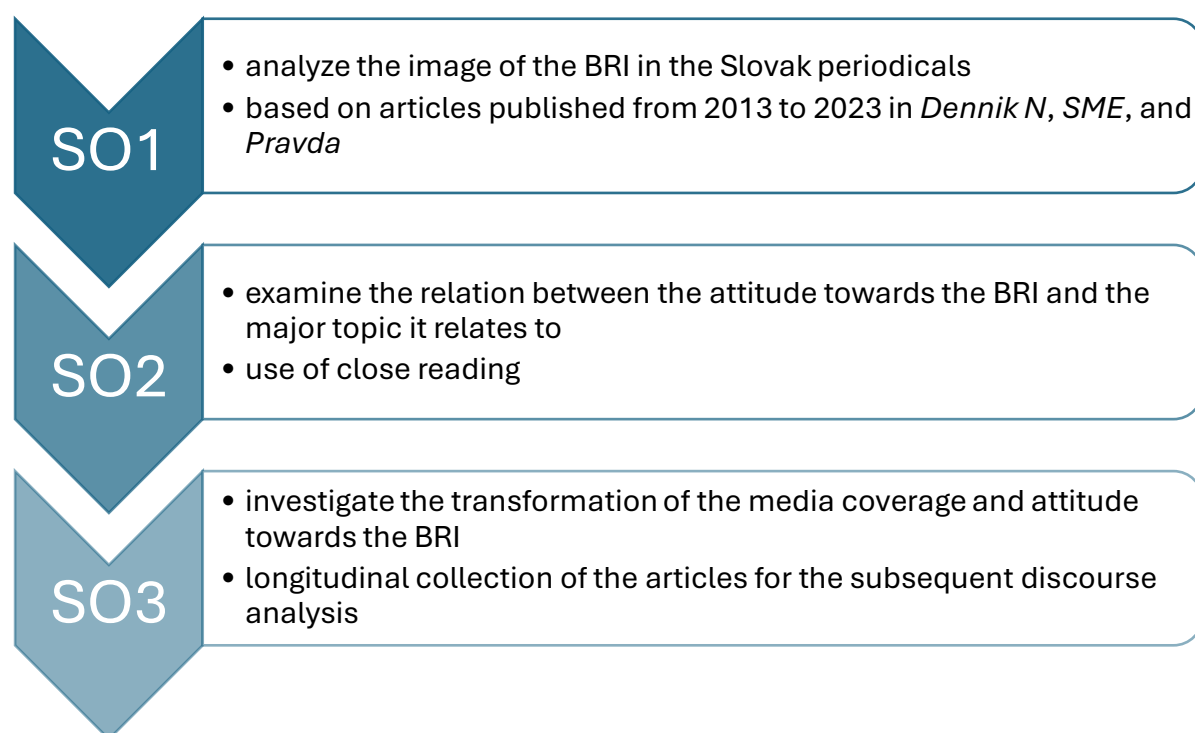


Project acronym: ViewBRI

Report type: Preliminary research findings (WP1, M1.1 Pilot phase research findings)

In line with the research questions and specific objectives of the ViewBRI project as introduced below, the preliminary set of data collected in the first phase of the research consists of the articles published from 2013 to 2016 in the studied periodicals *SME*, *Dennik N*, and *Pravda*. The pilot dataset was collected to test the feasibility of the proposed methodology in order to improve the future workflow used for evaluating the complete data.



The pilot dataset comprises 51 articles in total and the preliminary research findings are displayed from the perspective of the article's distribution from 2013 to 2016, their division among the analysed periodicals in total as well as a more detailed overview based on the year of publication and the newspaper. As Figure 1 shows, the majority of articles (53%, 27 articles) was published in 2016, which marks the last year of the studied period of the pilot dataset. The second highest number of articles was published in 2015

(37%, 19 articles) followed by comparably lower distribution rates in 2014 (8%, 4 articles) and 2013 (2%, 1 article).

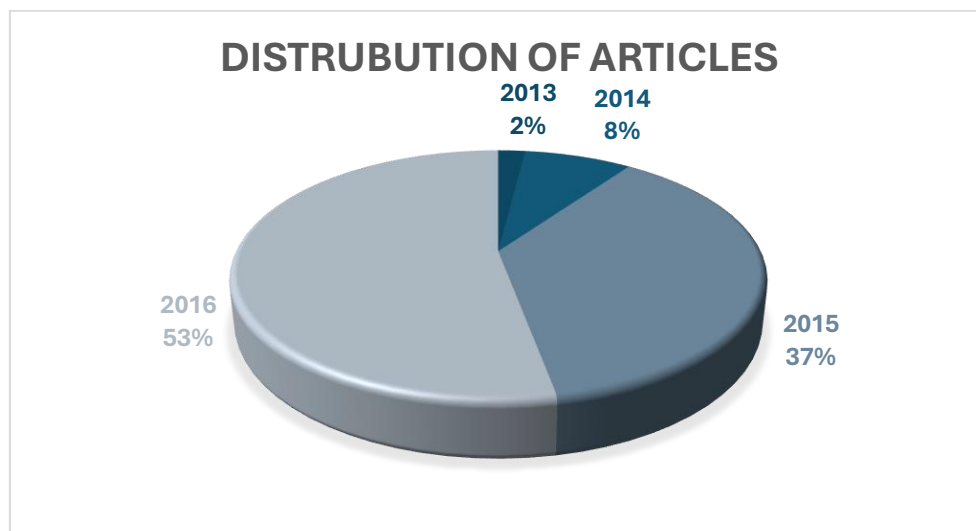


Figure 1. Overall distribution of articles 2013-2016

Despite the official announcement of the BRI in 2013¹, the pilot dataset shows that the Slovak media started to report on the initiative only later on when the activities for its promotion became more evident and they were often related to the 16+1 initiative launched in the Central and Eastern Europe².

Considering the division of the articles among the three periodicals published from 2013 to 2016 shown in Figure 2, the predominant number of articles was found in *SME* (53%, 27 articles) followed by *Pravda* (35%, 18 articles) and *Dennik N* (12%, 6 articles).

¹ See e.g., China Law Info. “*Tuidong gongjian Sichou zhi lu jingjidai he 21 shiji haishang Sichou zhi lu de yuanjing yu xingdong* 推动共建丝绸之路经济带和21世纪海上丝绸之路的愿景与行动” [Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road]. 2015, last accessed April 8, 2023. Online available at: <http://www.lawinfochina.com/display.aspx?id=144&lib=dbref&Search>; Xi, Jinping 习近平. “*Hongyang renmin youyi gongchuang meihao weilai* 弘扬人民友谊共创美好未来” [Promote Friendship Between Our People and Work Together to Build a Bright Future]. (Speech at Nazarbayev University). 2013a, last accessed April 8, 2023. Online available at: https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ziliao_674904/zyjh_674906/201309/t20130908_9869126.shtml; Xi, Jinping. “Promote Friendship Between Our People and Work Together to Build a Bright Future.” (Speech at Nazarbayev University). 2013b, last accessed April 8, 2023. Online available at: http://hk.ocmfa.gov.cn/eng/jbwzlm/xwdt/wsyw/201309/t20130913_7781669.htm.

² See e.g., Chen, Xiangming, Julie T., Miao, and Xue, Li. “China-led Globalization? Understanding and Making Policy for Risk in China’s Belt and Road Initiative.” *Regions Magazine* 287, nr. 1 (2019), last accessed April 10, 2023. Online available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13673882.2012.10554270>; Kironská, Kristína and Richard Turcsányi. “Slovak policy towards China in the age of Belt and Road Initiative and 16+1 Format.” *China-CEE Institute Working Paper*, nr. 2 (2017): 1-15.

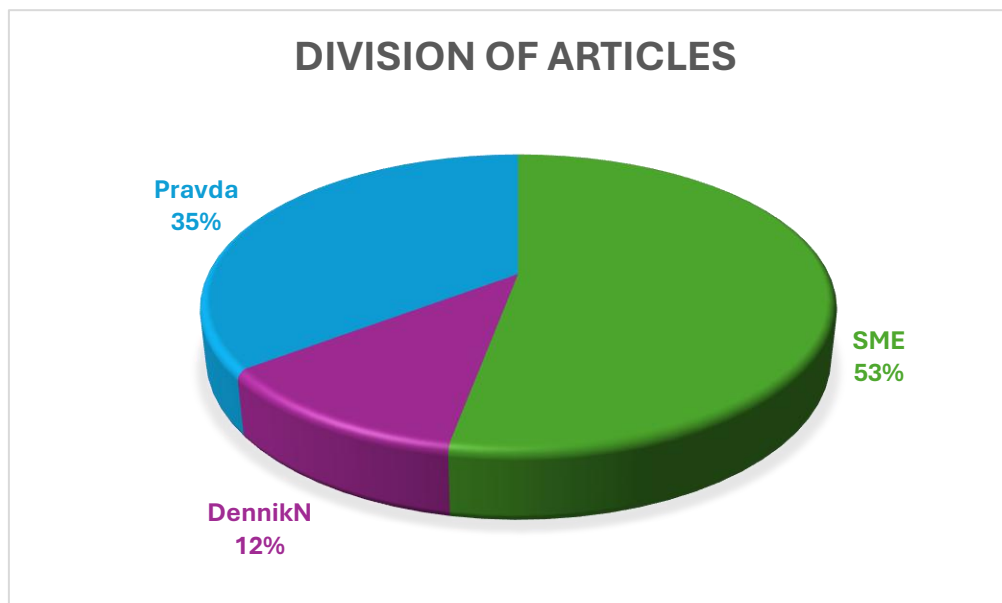


Figure 2. Division of articles in the periodicals (2013-2016)

In addition to the previous figure, the last variable displays a more comprehensive overview of the article's publication, not only based on the year of appearance but also according to the type of newspaper.

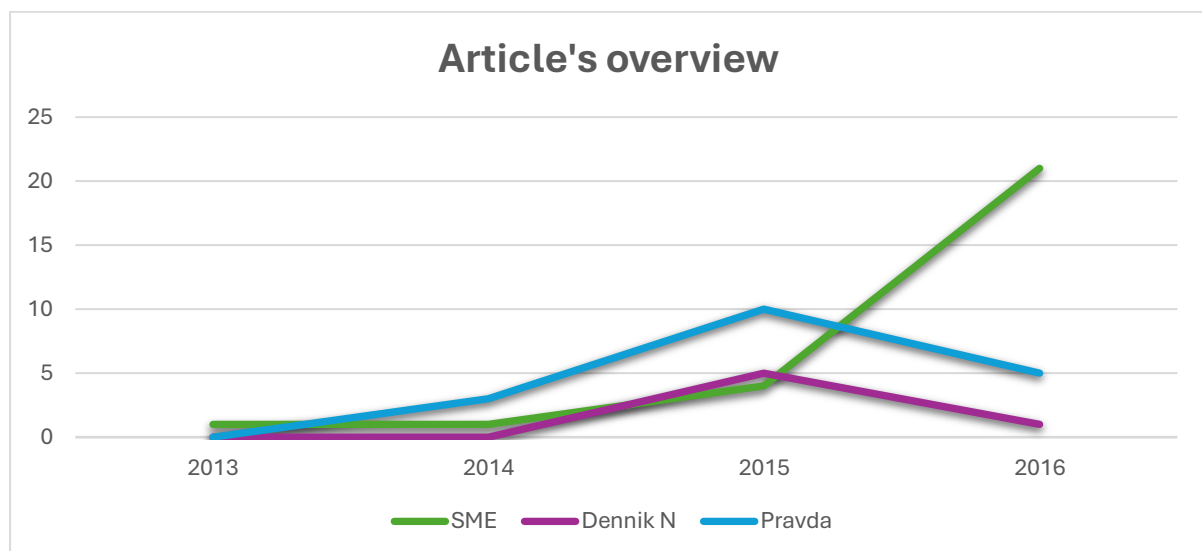


Figure 3. Article's overview (2013-2016)

As shown in Figure 3, the only newspaper with the constantly rising tendency on the article publication across the years is *SME*. Despite the low number of published articles in the first three years of the studied period (1 article in 2013 and 2014 respectively, 4

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articles in 2015), it represents the most active periodical in 2016 that published 21 articles in total. On the other hand, *Dennik N* and *Pravda* share to a certain extent a similar curve of article distribution, nevertheless, their publication record displays certain differences as well. The similarity in the article distribution discussing the BRI is found in 2013, when both periodicals, *Pravda* and *Dennik N*, did not publish any articles. Regarding the subsequent years and the publication record in *Pravda*, 3 articles are found in 2014 and the peak of the publication record can be found in 2015 with 10 articles followed by a decline in the year 2016 with 5 articles. The least active publication record can be found in *Dennik N* which published the BRI-themed articles first in 2015 (5 articles) with the peak number of articles followed by a decline in 2016 (1 article).