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**PODUZETNICI I NOVA KOMUNIKACIJSKA TEHNOLOGIJA:  
ZAPREKE ILI IZAZOVI**

**ENTREPRENEURS AND NEW COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: OBSTACLE OR CHALLENGE?**

**SAŽETAK:** Poduzetništvo predstavlja način razmišljanja i ponašanja, kontinuiranog pronalaženje novih ideja, kreativnosti, proaktivnosti i inicijative u ostvarenju ciljeva. Uspješna promocija poduzetničke ideje ostvaruje se marketinškom komunikacijom s potrošačima. Empirijskim istraživanjem željelo se utvrditi u kojoj mjeri poduzetnici u Hrvatskoj koriste društvene mreže kao novi oblik komunikacije s potrošačima. Konstruiran je poseban upitnik temeljem kojeg su prikupljeni podaci za 172 tvrtke. Pokazale su se razlike u korištenju društvenih mreža između tvrtki u domaćem i stranom vlasništvu, pri čemu su tvrtke s obrazovanijim zaposlenicima otvorenije prema prihvaćanju informacijske tehnologije u poslovanju. U ovom istraživanju starosna doba nije se pokazala statistički značajnom.

**KLJUČNE RIJEČI:** poduzetništvo, komunikacija, internet, interakcija, društvene mreže, potrošač

**ABSTRACT:** Entrepreneurship represents a certain way of thinking and type of behaviour; it's a continuous search for new ideas, creativity, proactivity and initiative in achieving goals. A successful promotion of an entrepreneurial idea is achieved through marketing communication with consumers. The purpose of this empirical research was to discover the extent in which entrepreneurs use social networks as a new form of communicating with consumers. A total of 172 companies have given information through a specifically designed questionnaire. Research has shown a difference in the extent of using social networks between domestic and foreign owned companies. Moreover, companies with more educated staff have proven to be more open towards accepting information technology in their business activities. This research hasn't shown significant statistical differences between different age groups.

**KEY WORDS:** entrepreneurship, communication, internet, interaction, social networks, consumer

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## UVOD

Poznato je da je gospodarski rast neke zemlje i smanjenje nezaposlenosti moguće temeljiti na poduzetničkom društvu i inovacijama. Ekonomski teoretičari poduzetništvo smatraju pogonskom snagom koja pokreće ekonomije mnogih zemalja, stvarajući nova poduzeća, radna mjesta i bogatstvo (Keats i Abercrombie, 1991; O'Gorman i sur, 1997; Hisrich i Peters, 1998; Bruyat i Julien, 2001; Škrtić, 2002; Casson, 2003; Gibb, 2005). Suvremene teorije poduzetništvo razumiju kao sveukupnu društvenu djelatnost, a ne samo kao jedno od područja ekonomije. Otac poduzetništva Joseph Schumpeter (1964) definira poduzetništvo kao stvaranje inovacija, naglašavajući njihovu važnost u gospodarskom rastu i razvoju. Prema Peteru Druckeru (1999) poduzetništvo predstavlja maksimizaciju mogućnosti da se u željenom pravcu usmjeri tok poslovanja, onemogućavajući inertnost i osrednjost kroz novu energiju. On smatra da poduzetništvo ima tri osnovna zadatka. Prvi je da pridonese podizanju uspješnosti postojećeg poslovanja, drugi da otkrije i aktivira nove mogućnosti i potencijale, a treći se odnosi na osiguranje budućnosti poslovanja. Osnovni instrument za postizanje navedenih ciljeva jesu sustavne tehnološke inovacije, inovacije u društvu i ekonomiji, kao ključni činitelji promjena resursa i njihove djelotvornosti u stvaranju novih dobara.

Poduzetništvo predstavlja način razmišljanja i ponašanja, kontinuirano pronalaženje novih ideja, kreativnosti, proaktivnosti i inicijative u ostvarenju ciljeva. Može se reći da djeluje kroz proces prepoznavanja prilika i ostvarivanja inovativnih ideja donoseći promjene u okruženju. Od poduzetnika se traži raspolaganje određenom razinom kompetencija, osobina, znanja i vještina u poslovnom postupanju. Neke od traženih kvaliteta poduzetnika jesu želja za postignućem i pripadnošću, sklonost preuzimanju rizika, potreba za autonomijom, sustavnost i kreativnost u pristupanju problemima, odlučnost, fleksibilnost, upornost, ali i poznavanje komunikacije s

## INTRODUCTION

It is a known fact that entrepreneurial society and innovation can be the basis of a country's economic growth and reduction of unemployment. Economic theorists see entrepreneurship as an economic driving force of a large number of companies, through creation of new companies, work places and wealth (Keats and Abercrombie, 1991; O'Gorman et al, 1997; Hisrich and Peters, 1998; Bruyat and Julien, 2001; Škrtić, 2002; Casson, 2003; Gibb, 2005). Contemporary theories see entrepreneurship as an overall social activity, not merely as an economic field. Joseph Schumpeter (1964), father of entrepreneurship, defines it as creation of innovation, and stresses their importance in economic growth and development. According to Peter Drucker (1999), entrepreneurship represents a maximisation

of opportunities to direct the business flow in a desired direction, unable sluggishness and mediocrity by using new energy. He believes there are three basic tasks of entrepreneurship. The first one is contributing to success of current business activities, the second one is discovering and activating new possibilities and potentials, and the third one is securing future activities. The basic instruments in achieving these goals are constant technologic, social and economic innovations, as key factors in changing resources and their effectiveness in creating new goods.

Entrepreneurship represents a certain way of thinking and type of behaviour; it's a continuous search for new ideas, creativity, proactivity and initiative in achieving goals. It could be said that it works as a process of recognising opportunities and realisation of innovative ideas, by bringing changes to an environment. An entrepreneur should posses a certain level of competence, personality, knowledge and skills while doing business activity. Some of the desired characteristics of an entrepreneur include striving for achievement and belonging, propensity to take risks, need for autonomy, dealing with problems creatively and systematically,

potrošačima (McClelland, 1961; McCarthy, 2000; Watkins, 1976; Schumpeter, 1934; Drucker, 1985; Hatch i Zweig, 2000; Cromie i Johns, 1983; Carson i suradnici, 1995).

Informacijsko-komunikacijska tehnologija (ICT) izmijenila je način poslovanja i otvorila novi kreativni prostor za poduzetničke ideje. Michel Porter je još 2001. godine izjavio da nije ključno pitanje konkurentnosti poduzeća primijeniti ili ne primjeniti internet tehnologiju već na koji način to učiniti.

### Komunikacijski modeli u poslovanju poduzetnika

Živimo u vremenu u kojem razvijanje tehnoloških rješenja u oblikovanju i prijenosu informacija rezultira pojavom novih komunikacijskih modela i daje novu dimenziju komunikacijskom procesu. Proces visokofragmentiranog tržišta utječe na potrebu izučavanja različitih modela komunikacije s potrošačima (Gatti, 2011). U globalnoj ekonomiji tržišno komuniciranje afirmira se kao mehanizam na relaciji mreža-znanje.

Naglasak je na interaktivnoj i dvosmjernoj komunikaciji koja razvija partnerski odnos s korisnicima u ostvarenju poslovnih ciljeva (Prahalađ i Ramaswamy, 2004; Vlašić i suradnici, 2007; Kraljević i Perkov, 2014).

Klasična komunikacija s korisnicima može se prikazati putem Berlovog komunikacijskog modela (1960). Sam autor model naziva SMCR, prema početnim slovima sastavnih dijelova modela: S (source) – pošiljatelj, M (message) – poruka, C (channel) – kanal, medij, R (receiver) – primatelj (Slika 1).

U klasičnom komunikacijskom modelu proces komuniciranja sastoji se od slanja poruke određenim kanalom, primanja informacije i dobivanja povratne informacije.

U današnjem poslovanju nije više dovoljno uspostaviti klasičnu komunikaciju s korisnicima. Tako nije dovoljno kreiranje jednostavne

determination, flexibility and perseverance, but also knowing how to communicate with the customers (McClelland, 1961; McCarthy, 2000; Watkins, 1976; Schumpeter, 1934; Drucker, 1985; Hatch and Zweig, 2000; Cromie and Johns, 1983; Carson et al, 1995).

Information and communication technology (ICT) has changed the way of doing business and opened a new creative space for entrepreneurial ideas. In 2001, Michel Porter stated that the crucial question of a company's competitiveness is not whether to apply the internet technology or not, but the way to do it.

### Communication models in entrepreneurial activities

We live in a time where developing technologic solutions in shaping and transferring information results in occurrence of new communication models and gives a new dimension to the communication process. The process of a highly fragmented market causes the need to study different communication models with the consumers (Gatti, 2011). In a global economy, market communication is being recognised as a mechanism in a network-knowledge relation.

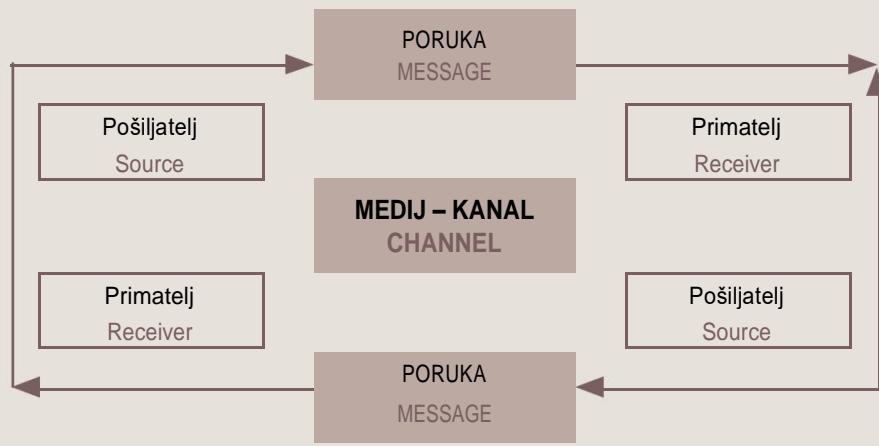
The emphasis is put on an interactive and two-way communication that develops a partnership with the users in achieving business goals (Prahalađ and Ramaswamy, 2004; Vlašić et al, 2007; Kraljević and Perkov, 2014).

Classic communication with the consumers can be shown through Berlo's Model of Communication (1960). The author himself calls it SMCR, after initial letters of its components: S – source, M – message, C – channel, R – receiver (Figure 1).

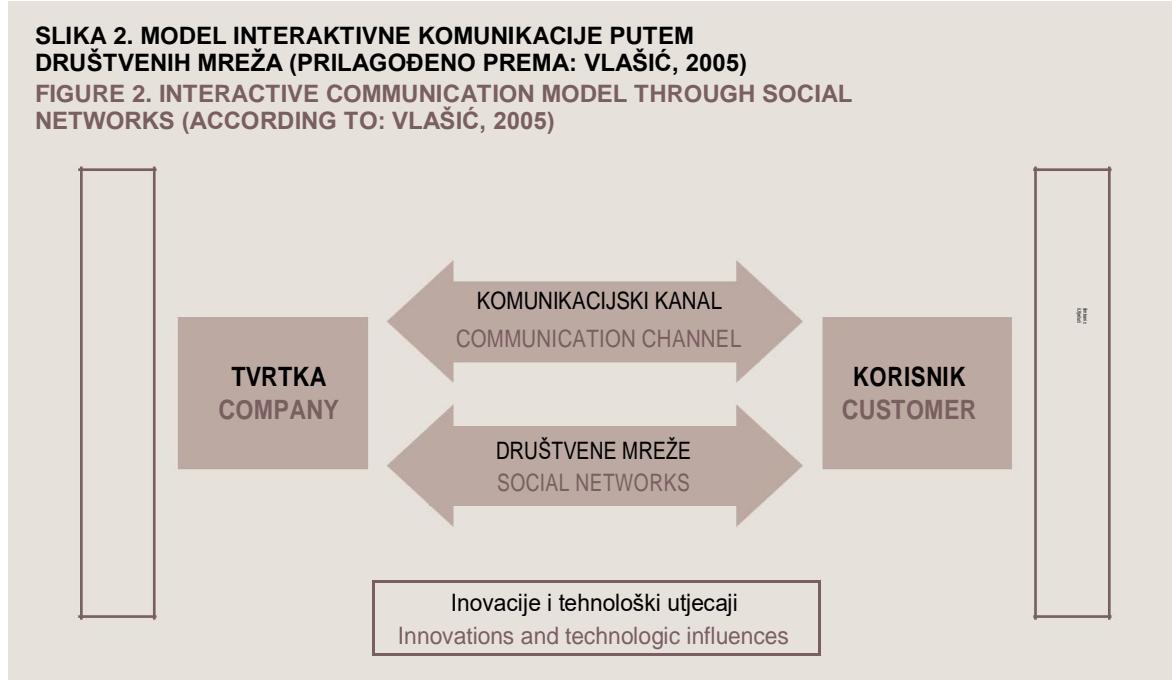
In a classic communication model, communication process is consisted of sending a message through a certain channel, receiving information and a response to it.

In today's business activity establishing classic communication is not sufficient. This is why

**SLIKA 1. PRIKAZ BERLOVOG MODELA (1960)**  
**FIGURE 1. BERLO'S MODEL OF COMMUNICATION (1960)**



**SLIKA 2. MODEL INTERAKTIVNE KOMUNIKACIJE PUTEM DRUŠTVENIH MREŽA (PRILAGOĐENO PREMA: VLAŠIĆ, 2005)**  
**FIGURE 2. INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATION MODEL THROUGH SOCIAL NETWORKS (ACCORDING TO: VLAŠIĆ, 2005)**



internetske stranice sa svrhom informiranja o proizvodima i uslugama, odnosno sama prisutnost na nekoj od društvenih mreža. Potrebno je sudjelovanje u komunikaciji i razumijevanje potreba samih potrošača. Društvene mreže novi su oblik marketinškog komunikacijskog alata za ostvarivanje konkurenatske prednosti u poduzetništvu. Na Slici 2 prikazan je model interaktivne komunikacije putem društvenih mreža.

Kao što je prikazano na Slici 1, u tradicionalnom komunikacijskom modelu postoji pošiljatelj poruke s jedne strane, a primatelj poruke s druge, dok je u modelu interaktivne komunikacije (Slika 2) to promijenjeno u dva komunikatora koja između sebe imaju uspostavljen interaktivni komunikacijski kanal putem društvenih mreža. Komunikatori međusobno dobrovoljno i besplatno razmjenjuju informacije o nekom proizvodu/usluzi, komentiraju, "lajkaju" ih te na taj način kreiraju što je moguće veću izloženost promotivnoj poruci većeg broja potencijalnih potrošača. Takav način korištenja društvenih mreža pomaže u kreiranju brenda te informiranju velikog broja potencijalnih kupaca (Peruta i suradnici, 2012; Zaglia, 2013; Lipsman i suradnici, 2012). Drugim riječima, personaliziranim pristupom pronalaze se potrošači/ klijenti, stvaraju se baze podataka korisne za daljnje poslovanje i plasiranje proizvoda/usluga (Mulhern, 2011; Obal i suradnici, 2011).

### Poslovanje putem društvenih mreža

Online društvene mreže su usluga temeljena na webu koja omogućuje pojedincima da izgrade javni ili djelomično javni profil unutar omeđenog sustava, da artikuliraju listu drugih korisnika s kojima dijele vezu te gledaju i koriste vlastiti popis veza i drugih veza unutar sustava (Boyd i Ellison, 2007). Prema najnovijim podacima, takav način udruživanja tehnologije i društvene interaktivnosti omogućuje društveno umrežavanje u kratkom vremenu i postaje integralni dio svakodnevnog života milijunima korisnika interneta diljem svijeta. Među najpoznatije društvene mreže ubrajaju se Facebook, Twitter i LinkedIn.

it is not enough to create a simple webpage with the purpose of informing about products and services, or simply to be present on a social network. It is necessary to participate in communication and understand the very needs of a consumer. Social networks are a new model of marketing communication tools for achieving entrepreneurial competitive advantage. Figure 2 shows an interactive communication model through social networks.

As Figure 1 shows, in the traditional communication model there is a source on the one side, and a receiver on the other, while in the interactive communication model (Figure 2) this figure changes into two communicators with an established interactive communication channel of social networks. Communicators exchange information on a product/service, comment and "like" voluntarily and free of charge, and in this way they create the greatest possible exposure to a promotional message on behalf of a larger number of potential consumers. This way of using the social networks helps in creating a brand and informing a large number of potential buyers (Peruta et al, 2012; Zaglia, 2013; Lipsman et al, 2012). In another words, personalised approach is applied in finding new clients/consumers, creating useful databases for future business, and placing new products/services on the market (Mulhern, 2011; Obal et al, 2011).

### Doing business by using social networks

Online social networks are web services that enable individuals to build a public or semi-public profile within a confined system, articulate a list of other users with whom they share a connection, watch and use their own list of connections, as well as other connections within a system (Boyd and Ellison, 2007). According to the latest data, this type of merging of technology and social interactivity allows social networking in a short period of time and becomes an integral part of everyday life for millions of users around the world. The most well known social networks include Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Najveći broj korisnika društvene mreže Facebook ima Amerika, slijede Indija, Brazil, Indonezija i Meksiko, dok se Republika Hrvatska nalazi na 75. mjestu (Socialbakers, 2014). Svjetski brendovi smatraju važnim angažman na društvenim mrežama, što je prikazano u Tablici 1.

Iz tablice je vidljivo da Coca-Cola zauzima prvo mjesto, slijede je Red Bull, Converse, PlayStation i Starbucks.

U istraživanju provedenom među sudionicima konferencije "Cisco Expo 2010" o ulozi društvenih mreža u Hrvatskoj, pokazalo se da je 82% tvrtki prisutno na webu putem internetske stranice. Od toga je 18% tvrtki prisutno na društvenim mrežama, 54% njih na web stranici navode informacije o tvrtki, 5% koristi Twitter kako bi korisnike informirali o novim događanjima, 13% prisutno je na kanalima društvenih mreža, a samo 28% ima web stranicu s interaktivnim značajkama, pri čemu je najčešće riječ o stranim brendovima koji posluju na području Republike Hrvatske. Istraživanje GfK provedeno u prosincu 2011. godine o korištenju interneta u Hrvatskoj pokazuje da je informacijska i komunikacijska tehnologija zastupljena u 70% kućanstva te da gotovo dvije

The largest number of Facebook users comes from USA, followed by India, Brasil, Indonesia and Mexico, with Croatia holding the 75<sup>th</sup> position (Socialbakers, 2014). The world brands consider engagement on social networks as a very important part of their activity, which is shown in Table 1.

The table shows that Coca-Cola holds the leading position, followed by Red Bull, Converse, PlayStation and Starbucks.

A survey on the role of social networks in Croatia, conducted among participants of a conference "Cisco Expo 2010", shows that 82% of companies are present on the internet through their webpage. Out of those, 18% is present on social networks, 54% offers company information on their webpage, 5% uses Twitter in order to inform users on the latest events, 13% is present on social network channels, and only 28% of them have a webpage with interactive characteristics, which are mostly foreign brands that do business in Croatia. A 2011 GfK research on using the internet in Croatia shows that information and communication technology is present in 70% of households, with almost two thirds of population over the age of 15

**Tablica 1. Ljestvica svjetskih brandova s najvećim brojem korisnika Facebooka  
(Socialbakers, 2014)**

**Table 1. List of world brands with the largest number of Facebook followers  
(Socialbakers, 2014)**

RANG / RANK	NAZIV BREnda / BRAND NAME	KORISNICI / FOLLOWERS
1	Coca-Cola	79 027 659
2	Red Bull	42 498 066
3	Converse	37 512 646
4	PlayStation	36 449 492
5	Starbucks	36 032 500

trećine građana starijih od 15 godina koristi internet. Internetom se koristi 74% ispitanika u svrhu traženja informacija o proizvodima/uslugama, 58% njih u dobi od 15 do 24 godina koristi društvene mreže, dok 20% ostvaruje kupnju na taj način. Prema podacima Državnog zavoda za statistiku (2012) na uzorku od 2.966 uključenih tvrtki, 61% njih navelo je prisutnost putem internetske stranice.

U nekim već provedenim istraživanjima potvrđeno je da prisutnost informacijske tehnologije pridonosi poslovanju (Dutta, Biren, 2001; Ranchhod, 2004; Pagon i Quigley, 2007), pri čemu se dio tih istraživanja odnosi na korištenje društvenih mreža u marketinške svrhe (Bajpai i Pandey, 2012; Lipsman i suradnici 2012; Zaglia, 2013). Međutim, na nacionalnoj razini nema provedenih istraživanja koja bi se bavila ovom problematikom s aspekta tvrtki kao korisnika društvenih mreža.

### Cilj i problemi istraživanja

Promjene koje informacijska tehnologija unosi u posovanje ne utječu jednako na sve poduzetnike. U ovom istraživanju analizirana su iskustva poduzeća u Republici Hrvatskoj (u domaćem i stranom vlasništvu) i njihovo korištenje društvenih mreža.

Cilj istraživanje bio je utvrditi u kojoj mjeri poduzetnici u Hrvatskoj koriste društvene mreže u marketinške svrhe, s obzirom na poduzeća u domaćem i stranom vlasništvu, dob, spol i obrazovanje poduzetnika. Sukladno tome postavljeni su sljedeći problemi istraživanja:

1. Utvrditi postoje li statistički značajne razlike u učestalosti korištenja društvenih mreža u poslovanju između poduzeća u domaćem i stranom vlasništvu.
2. Utvrditi utječe li dob i stručna spremu poduzetnika na stav prema korištenju i prihvatanju informacijske tehnologije u poslovanju.

using the internet. 74% of respondents use the internet in order to search for information on products/services, 58% in the age range of 15-24 uses social networks, while 20% does online shopping. According to 2012 research by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics on a sample of 2966 companies, 61% stated their presence on the internet through a webpage,

Some previously conducted surveys have confirmed that using the information technology benefits business (Dutta, Biren, 2001; Ranchhod, 2004; Pagon and Quigley, 2007), with some of them specifically focused on using social networks for marketing purposes (Bajpai and Pandey, 2012; Lipsman et al, 2012; Zaglia, 2013). However, there has been no research on the nation level that deals with the issue from the aspect of companies as social network users.

### Purpose of research and research problems

Changes in doing business introduced by the information technology do not affect all the entrepreneurs equally. This research analyses the experience of companies in Croatia (both domestic and foreign owned) and their use of social networks,

The purpose of research was to determine the rate in which entrepreneurs in Croatia use the social networks in marketing purposes, based on company ownership (foreign or domestic), age, sex and education of an entrepreneur. Research problems have been determined accordingly:

1. Determining whether there are statistical differences in using the social networks between domestic and foreign owned companies.
2. Determining whether age and education level of an entrepreneur affect the attitude towards using and accepting the information technology in business activities.

## METODOLOGIJA

### Sudionici ispitivanja

Uzorak istraživanja je prigodan, obuhvaćena su 172 sudionika, od toga 123 (72%) zaposlenih u tvrtkama u domaćem vlasništvu, a 49 (28%) u tvrtkama u stranom vlasništvu. Što se tiče spola, uključeno je 62 osobe muškog i 110 ženskog spola. Prosječna dob vlasnika tvrtki (N=125) je 49,46 godina, uz standardnu devijaciju od 11,78 godina, odnosno koeficijent varijacije 24%. Prosječna dob zaposlenika iznosi 34,83 (uz standardnu devijaciju 11,15 godina).

### Instrument istraživanja

Za potrebe istraživanja konstruiran je poseban *online* upitnik, putem kojeg su prikupljeni osnovni podaci o korištenju društvenih mreža. Upitnik je imao 24 pitanja, od kojih se na neka pitanja odgovaralo s DA/NE (primjeri pitanja: "Je li vaše poduzeće prisutno na društvenim mrežama?", "Smatraće li da društvene mreže otvaraju prostor poduzećima u svrhu marketinške komunikacije?", "Imate li zaposlenike educirane za provedbu komunikacije putem društvenih mreža?"). Na neka pitanja ponuđen je odabir odgovora, npr. pitanje: "Kojim se uslugama putem interneta koristi vaše poduzeće?" ima ponuđene odgovore: elektronička pošta, oglašavanje, internet bankasrvto, *online* narudžba, *online* ponuda, pretraživanje, komunikacija s kupcima. Za popunjavanje upitnika treba prosječno od 5 do 10 minuta.

### Postupak ispitivanja

Ispitivanje je provedeno tijekom mjeseca ožujka 2013. godine. Upitnik je odaslan udruzi Hrvatska poduzetnička inicijativa, s uputom o provođenju znanstvenog istraživanja vezanog uz korištenje društvenih mreža (Facebooka, Twiterra, LinkedIna, Flickr i drugih), kojim se želi ispitati u kojoj se mjeri tvrtke u svom poslovanju služe društvenim mrežama. Od 4 000 odaslanih upitnika odazvale su se 172 tvrtke, što ne ukazuje na dobar odaziv, međutim to je u ovakvoj vrsti istraživanja očekivano.

## METHODOLOGY

### Participants

The research has used the convenience sample, it included 172 participants, out of which 123 (72%) were employed in domestic owned companies, and 49 (28%) in foreign owned companies. When it comes to sex, it included 62 male and 110 female participants. Average company owner age (N=125) is 49,46, with standard deviation of 11,78 years, and coefficient of variation of 24%. Average employer age is 34,83 (with standard deviation of 11,15 years).

### Research instrument

Research has been carried out by using a specifically designed online questionnaire, which collected information on the use of social networks. The questionnaire was consisted of 24 questions. Some questions were yes/no questions (examples: "Is your company present on social networks?", "Do you believe that social networks open space for entrepreneurs with the purpose of marketing communication?", "Are your employees educated to use social networks?). Other questions were multiple choice questions, for example: "Which internet services does your company use?", which offered following choices: email, marketing, internet banking, online orders, online offers, research, communication with customers. It took 5 to 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire.

### Survey

The survey was conducted during March 2013. Questionnaires have been sent to the association Croatian Entrepreneurial Initiative, with a note informing the companies that scientific research being carried out on the use of social networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, etc.), with the purpose of finding out the rate at which companies use social networks in their business activities. Out of 4000 questionnaires sent, 172 companies have responded, which indicates a low response rate. However, such low response can be expected in this type of research.

## REZULTATI I RASPRAVA

Dobiveni rezultati razmatrani su s obzirom na karakteristike sudionika istraživanja i postavljene probleme istraživanja. U Tablici 2 prikazani su deskriptivni podaci sudionika istraživanja.

U istraživanje su uključene 123 tvrtke u domaćem (72%) i 49 tvrtki u stranom vlasništvu. Od ukupno 172 zaposlenika, 64% je žena, dok je muškaraca 36%. Najzastupljenija razina obrazovanja zaposlenika je visoka stručna spremu s 58% te srednja stručna spremu s 39%, dok je obrazovanje na razini osnovne škole, magistra znanosti i doktora znanosti zastupljeno u samo 1%. Što se tiče razine obrazovanja vlasnika tvrtke, 59% njih ima visoku stručnu spremu, 24% srednju stručnu spremu, 10% su magistri znanosti, 5% doktori znanosti, a 2% ih ima samo osnovnu školu. Čak 47% zaposlenika je u dobi od 20 do 30 godina, 29% ih je u dobi od 30 do 40 godina, 17% od 40 do 50 godina, dok je starijih od 60 godina u manjem postotku. Vlasnika tvrtki u dobi od 50 do 60 godina je 38%, od 40 do 50 godina 29%, a ostale starosne dobi zastupljene su u nešto manjem postotku.

### Korištenje društvenih mreža stranih i domaćih tvrtki

Rezultati dobiveni usporedbom korištenja društvenih mreža stranih i domaćih tvrtki prikazani su u Tablici 3. U tablici su navedene najznačajnije društvene mreže i proporcije tvrtki koje ih koriste. Testirane su hipoteze o proporciji korištenja društvenih mreža između tvrtki u domaćem i stranom vlasništvu. Uvidom u Tablicu 3 vidimo da se pokazala statistički značajna razlika u korištenju Twittera ( $p<0,05$ ;  $z=-2,14$ ) i LinkedIna ( $p<0,05$ ;  $z=-3,00$ ). Tvrte u stranom vlasništvu češće koriste navedene društvene mreže od onih u domaćem vlasništvu. Što se tiče razlike u korištenju Facebooka, ostalih društvenih mreža i ukupnog korištenja društvenih mreža, vidimo da se dobivene razlike, iako ih strane tvrtke više koriste, nisu pokazale statistički značajnjima. Ovako dobiveni podaci ne iznenađuju, jer je

## RESULTS AND DEBATE

The results have been analysed based on the characteristics of participants and research problems. Table 2 shows the participants' descriptive data.

123 domestic and 49 foreign owned companies have taken part in the survey. Out of 172 employees, 64% were women and 36% were men. The most represented education levels were undergraduate university degree with 58% and high school degree with 39%, while those with elementary school education, as well as those with graduate and postgraduate degrees were represented in only 1% of cases respectively. When it comes to education of company owners, 59% hold an undergraduate degree, 24% have a high school degree, 10% have MSc titles, 5% have a doctoral degree, while 2% have only elementary education. Almost 47% of employees are between the age of 20 and 30, 29% between 30 and 40, 17% between 40 and 50, while the percentage of employees over 60 is significantly lower. There are 38% of company owners in the 50-60 age range, 29% of them is between 40 and 50, with other age groups represented in lower percentages.

### Use of social networks in domestic and foreign owned companies

The results gained through comparing the use of social networks between foreign and domestic companies are shown in the Table 3. The table lists the most significant social networks and proportions of companies using them. We have tested the hypotheses on using social networks among domestic and foreign owned companies. By analysing Table 3, a statistically significant difference can be noted with the use of Twitter ( $p<0,05$ ;  $z=-2,14$ ) and LinkedIn ( $p<0,05$ ;  $z=-3,00$ ). Foreign owned companies use these two networks more often than the domestic ones. When it comes to using Facebook, other social networks and total use of social networks, although foreign companies do use them more often, the differences have not proven to be statistically significant. These results

**Tablica 2. Deskriptivni podaci sudionika istraživanja**  
**Table 2. Descriptive data on research participants**

		N	%
Zaposlenici (N=172)	domaća tvrtka / domestic company	123	72%
Employees (N=172)	strana tvrtka / foreign company	49	28%
Spol zaposlenika (N=172)	muško / male	62	36%
Sex of employees (N=172)	žensko / female	110	64%
Obrazovanje zaposlenika (N=172)	OŠ / elementary school	1	1%
Education level of employees (N=172)	SŠ / high school	67	39%
	VSS (VŠS) / undergraduate degree	100	58%
	magistar znanosti / graduate degree	2	1%
	doktor znanosti / postgraduate degree	2	1%
Obrazovanje vlasnika tvrtki (N=125)	OŠ / elementary school	3	2%
Education level of company owners (N=125)	SŠ / high school	39	24%
	VSS (VŠS) / undergraduate degree	95	59%
	magistar znanosti / graduate degree	17	10%
	doktor znanosti / postgraduate degree	8	5%
Dob zaposlenika (N=172)	20-30	80	47%
Age of employees (N=172)	30-40	50	29%
	40-50	29	17%
	50-60	8	5%
	60-70	3	2%
	70-100	2	1%
Dob vlasnika tvrtki (N=125)	20-30	9	7%
Age of company owners (N=125)	30-40	16	13%
	40-50	36	29%
	50-60	47	38%
	60-70	12	10%
	70-100	5	4%

**Tablica 3. Razlike u korištenju društvenih mreža stranih i domaćih tvrtki**

Table 3. Differences in the use of social networks between foreign and domestic owned companies

Društvena mreža Social network	postotci – domaće Domestic percentage	postotci – STRANE FOREIGN percentage	empirijska z-vrijednost empirical z-value
Facebook	38%	47%	-1,05
Twitter	7%	18%	-2,14*
LinkedIn	9%	27%	-3,00*
Ostalo / Other	11%	12%	-0,16
Ukupno koriste / Total use	45%	59%	-1,71

Facebook vjerojatno najprepoznatljivija društvena mreža na nacionalnoj razini.

Što se tiče mišljenja sudionika istraživanja o važnosti informacijske tehnologije za unapređenje poslovnog procesa (N=172), visok postotak njih iz domaćih (97,6%) i stranih (98%) tvrtki smatra da informacijska tehnologija može unaprijediti poslovne procese, pri čemu ne postoji statistički značajna razlika među zaposlenicima, sudionicima istraživanja u domaćim i stranim tvrtkama ( $z=0,16$ ;  $p>0,05$ ). I jedni i drugi (98% sudionika u stranim tvrtkama i 97,6% u domaćim tvrtkama) mišljenja su da korištenje društvenih mreža otvara prostor u marketinške svrhe.

Na pitanje imaju li kreiranu internetsku stranicu poduzeća 81,5% sudionika domaćih tvrtki odgovorilo je afirmativno, dok je na isto pitanje afirmativan odgovor dalo 95,9% sudionika stranih tvrtki. Registrirana razlika pokazala se statistički značajnom ( $z = 2,43$ ;  $p<0,05$ ). Ovaj podatak govori nam da se na razini domaćih tvrtki još uvijek ne prepoznaju i ne koriste mogućnosti koje pruža informacijska tehnologija. Drugim riječima, postoji svijest o njezinim mogućnostima i prednostima u poslovanju, ali s druge strane na planu ponašanja još uvijek se ne čini dovoljno.

Što se tiče prepoznavanja važnosti i uloge značajki interaktivnosti u komunikaciji s korisnicima,

are not surprising, as Facebook is most probably the most recognised social network on the national level.

When it comes to attitudes towards the importance of internet technology in improving the business process (N=172), a high percentage of participants from domestic (97,6%) and foreign (98%) companies considers that information technology can improve the business processes, with no statistically significant difference among participating employees in domestic and foreign companies ( $z=0,16$ ;  $p>0,05$ ). Both groups (98% in foreign and 97,6% in domestic) believe that use of social networks opens up marketing space.

Responding to whether they have a company webpage, 81,5% of participants from domestic companies responded positively, in comparison to 95,9% positive answers from participants from foreign companies. The registered difference has proven to be statistically significant ( $z = 2,43$ ;  $p<0,05$ ). This information shows that domestic company levels still do not recognise and do not take advantage of the possibilities offered by the information technology. In other words, there is an awareness of its possibilities and advantages in doing business, but not enough is being done in terms of behaving accordingly.

When it comes to recognizing the importance and the role of interactivity in communicating with

poput mogućnosti praćenja stanja narudžbe putem interneta, internetske stranice stranih tvrtki ove interaktivne značajke statistički značajno češće koriste u odnosu na domaće tvrtke ( $z=1,88$   $p<0,10$ ).

Rezultati pokazuju da čak 56,3% stranih tvrtki ima zaposlenike educirane za provedbu komunikacije putem društvenih medija, a samo 31,4% domaćih tvrtki, što je također statistički značajno ( $z=2,99$ ;  $p<0,05$ ). Pritom 68,8% sudionika iz stranih tvrtki i 64,5% sudionika iz domaćih tvrtki smatra da je najbolje angažirati agenciju koja bi se bavila društvenim medijima. No i u angažiranju agencija postoje razlike između domaćih i stranih tvrtki. Tako samo 21,4% sudionika iz domaćih tvrtki zaista koristi usluge profesionalnih agencija za društvene medije, što je statistički značajno manje od 58,3% stranih tvrtki koje to čine ( $z=4,62$ ;  $p<0,05$ ).

Iako su mišljenja sudionika istraživanja o potrebi ulaganja u informacijske tehnologije slična, rezultati pokazuju da sudionici iz domaćih tvrtki u značajno manjem postotku (81,0%) ulažu u informacijsku tehnologiju nego što to čine sudionici istraživanja iz stranih tvrtki (93%). Ova razlika statistički je značajna ( $z=2,07$ ;  $p<0,05$ ) i možemo reći da u našem slučaju tvrtke u stranom vlasništvu više ulažu u informacijske tehnologije. Na nacionalnoj razini ovom se problemu očito i dalje ne posvećuje dovoljno pozornosti.

### Dob vlasnika tvrtke i korištenje društvenih mreža

Općenito se za mlađe i obrazovanije osobe smatra da su sklonije korištenju društvenih mreža, pa nam se činilo opravdanim ispitati postoje li razlike s obzirom na dob i stručnu spremu vlasnika tvrtke u korištenju društvenih mreža između vlasnika tvrtki koji koriste društvene mreže u marketinške svrhe i onih koji ih ne koriste. U Tablici 4 prikazani su rezultati s obzirom na dob vlasnika tvrtke i mišljenje o pojedinim relevantnim pitanjima.

Povezanost starosne dobi vlasnika i korištenja društvenih mreža procijenjena je point-biserijalnim

users, such as the possibility of following the rate of online orders, websites of foreign companies use these interactive characteristics significantly more frequently in comparison to domestic ones ( $z=1,88$   $p<0,10$ ).

Results show that 56,3% of foreign companies employ staff educated for communicating via social media, with only 31,4% of domestic ones, which is also statistically significant ( $z=2,99$ ;  $p<0,05$ ). 68,8% of foreign company participants and 64,5% of domestic company participants consider it is best to hire an agency to handle the company's social media. However, there are differences in this matter among foreign and domestic companies as well, with only 21,4% of participants from domestic companies actually hiring the agencies, which is statistically significantly lower in comparison to 58,3% of foreign companies doing it ( $z=4,62$ ;  $p<0,05$ ).

Although participants have similar opinions on the need to invest in information technologies, results show that participants from domestic companies invest in a significantly lower percentage (81,0%) than the participants from foreign companies (93%). This is a statistically significant difference ( $z=2,07$ ;  $p<0,05$ ) and it can be said that in our case foreign owned companies invest more in information technologies. This problem has obviously not been given sufficient amount of attention at the national level.

### Age of company owners and use of social networks

It is generally considered that younger and more educated individuals are more prone to using social networks, so we considered it justified to question whether there are differences in using social networks in relation to age and education levels among company owners who use social networks for marketing purposes and those who do not. Table 4 shows the results based on company owners' age and their opinion on certain relevant questions.

koeficijentom korelacije. Dobivena vrijednost je neznatna ( $r=0,05$ ) i nije statistički značajna ( $t=0,53$ ;  $p>0,05$ ). Dakle, naša polazna hipoteza da postoje statistički značajne razlike u korištenju društvenih mreža sudionika s obzirom na dob u ovom istraživanju nije potvrđena. Dobiveni rezultat najvjerojatnije je povezan s činjenicom da su i sudionici ispitivanja iz domaćih (66,7%) i oni iz stranih tvrtki (75,5%) odgovorili da tvrtke potiču zaposlenike na edukaciju iz područja informacijske tehnologije. Na razini signifikantnosti od  $\alpha=0,05$  ne postoji statistički značajna razlika u poticanju zaposlenika na

Relation of owners' age and their use of social networks has been estimated with a point biserial correlation coefficient. The resulting value has proven as negligible ( $r=0,05$ ) and statistically insignificant ( $t=0,53$ ;  $p>0,05$ ). Therefore, our initial hypothesis on the statistical significance in relation to age has not been confirmed in this research. The given result is most probably connected to the fact that participants from both domestic (66.7%) and foreign (75,5%) companies responded that their companies encourage employees to educate themselves in the field of information technology. On the level of significance of  $\alpha=0,05$ , there is no

**Tablica 4. Korelacija između starosti vlasnika tvrtke i njihova mišljenja o informacijskoj i komunikacijskoj tehnologiji**

Table 4. Correlations between age of company owners and their opinions on information and communication technology

PITANJA / QUESTIONS	$r_{pb}$	empirijska t-vrijednost empirical t-value
Ulaže li Vaše poduzeće u informacijsku tehnologiju? Does your company invest in information technology?	1,15	1,62
Potičete li zaposlenike na edukaciju iz područja informacijske tehnologije? Do you encourage your employees to receive education in the field of information technology?	0,01	0,15
Imate li kreiranu internetsku stranicu poduzeća? Does your company have a webpage?	-0,04	-0,44
Ako da, ima li Vaša internetska stranica interaktivne značajke (npr. kupci mogu pratiti stanje narudžbe)? If yes, does your webpage have interactive characteristics (for example, can buyers follow the their order status)?	0,09	0,94
Je li Vaše poduzeće prisutno na društvenim mrežama? Is your company present on social networks?	0,05	0,53
Koristi li Vaše poduzeće za potrebe marketinga agenciju koja se bavi društvenim medijima? Does your company hire an agency for the purpose of marketing on social networks?	-0,05	-0,53
Imate li zaposlenike educirane za provedbu komunikacije putem društvenih mreža? Are your employees educated to use social networks?	0,11	1,24

edukaciju iz područja informacijske tehnologije između domaćih i stranih tvrtki ( $z=1,13$ ).

### **Stručna spremu vlasnika tvrtke i korištenje društvenih mreža**

Radi provjere postoji li povezanost između stručne spreme vlasnika tvrtki i mišljenja o informacijskoj i komunikacijskoj tehnologiji, izračunat je korelacija, također korištenjem point-biserijalnog koeficijenta korelaciije. Dobiveni rezultati prikazani su u sljedećoj tablici.

U Tablici 5 uočavamo da se korelacija pokazala neznatnom za sljedeća pitanja: Ulaže li Vaše poduzeće u informacijsku tehnologiju? Potičete li zaposlenike na edukaciju iz područja informacijske tehnologije? Imate li kreiranu internetsku stranicu poduzeća? Ako da, ima li Vaša internetska stranica interaktivne značajke (npr. kupci mogu pratiti stanje narudžbe)? Je li Vaše poduzeće prisutno na društvenim mrežama? Koristi li Vaše poduzeće za potrebe marketinga agenciju koja se bavi društvenim medijima? Imate li zaposlenike educirane za provedbu komunikacije putem društvenih mreža?

Dobivena povezanost između stručne spreme i korištenja društvenih mreža (pitanje: Je li Vaše poduzeće prisutno na društvenim mrežama?) iznosi  $r=0,13$ . Testiranje statističke značajnosti pokazuje da ne postoji statistički značajna povezanost između stručne spreme i korištenja društvenih mreža (pitanje: Je li Vaše poduzeće prisutno na društvenim mrežama?), a iznosi  $t=1,60$ ;  $p>0,05$ . Slaba, ali statistički značajna korelacija pokazala se između stručne spreme vlasnika tvrtke i ulaganja u informacijske tehnologije –  $r=0,23$  ( $t=3,00$ ;  $p<0,05$ ). Dakle, vlasnici tvrtki koji imaju veću stručnu spremu više ulažu u informacijske tehnologije. Sličan podatak dobiva se i između stručne spreme vlasnika tvrtke i poticanja zaposlenika na edukaciju iz informacijskih tehnologija. Dobivena je također slaba, pozitivna i statistički značajna korelacija –  $r=0,19$  ( $t=2,46$ ;  $p<0,05$ ). To znači da vlasnici tvrtki koji imaju veću stručnu spremu više potiču svoje

statistically significant difference in encouraging the education of employees between domestic and foreign companies ( $z=1,13$ ).

### **Education level of company owners and use of social networks**

With the purpose of establishing whether there is a connection between education levels of company owners and their opinions on the information and communication technology, a correlation has been calculated by using point biserial correlation coefficient.

Table 5 shows that correlation has proven as negligible for the following questions: Does your company invest in information technology? Do you encourage your employees to receive education in the field of information technology? Does your company have a webpage? If yes, does your webpage have interactive characteristics (for example, can buyers follow the their order status)? Is your company present on social networks? Does your company hire an agency for the purpose of marketing on social networks? Are your employees educated to use social networks?

The resulting correlation between education levels and the use of social networks (question: Is your company present on social networks?) is  $r=0,13$ . Testing the statistical significance shows that there is no statistically significant connection between education levels and the use of social networks (question: Is your company present on social networks?) and it amounts to  $t=1,60$ ;  $p>0,05$ . Statistically weak, but significant correlation exists between education levels of company owners and level of investment in information technologies –  $r=0,23$  ( $t=3,00$ ;  $p<0,05$ ). Therefore, company owners with higher education levels invest more in information technologies. The results are similar in case of comparing the education level of company owners and encouraging employees to be educated in using information technologies. The correlation is also weak, but positive and statistically significant –  $r=0,19$  ( $t=2,46$ ;  $p<0,05$ ). This means that company

**Tablica 5. Povezanost stručne spreme vlasnika tvrtki i relevantnih pitanja**

Table 5. Connection between education levels of company owners and relevant questions

PITANJA / QUESTIONS	r <sub>pb</sub>	empirijska t- vrijednost empirical t-value
Ulaže li Vaše poduzeće u informacijsku tehnologiju? Does your company invest in information technology?	0,23	3*
Potičete li zaposlenike na edukaciju iz područja informacijske tehnologije? Do you encourage your employees to receive education in the field of information technology?	0,19	2,46*
Imate li kreiranu internetsku stranicu poduzeća? Does your company have a webpage?	0,11	1,41
Ako da, ima li Vaša internetska stranica interaktivne značajke (npr. kupci mogu pratiti stanje narudžbe)? If yes, does your webpage have interactive characteristics (for example, can buyers follow the their order status)?	0,12	1,53
Je li Vaše poduzeće prisutno na društvenim mrežama? Is your company present on social networks?	0,13	1,6
Koristi li Vaše poduzeće za potrebe marketinga agenciju koja se bavi društvenim medijima? Does your company hire an agency for the purpose of marketing on social networks?	0,15	1,91
Imate li zaposlenike educirane za provedbu komunikacije putem društvenih mreža? Are your employees educated to use social networks?	0,15	1,95

zaposlenike na informatičku edukaciju. Ovako dobiveni rezultati sukladni su našim očekivanjima. Naime, iako se radi o slaboj povezanosti između ispitivanih fenomena, realno je za očekivati da osobe s višim stupnjem obrazovanja imaju više spoznaja o prednostima informatičkih znanja za ostvarivanje konkurenčke prednosti u poslovanju.

## ZAKLJUČAK

Istraživanje je potvrdilo postojanje značajnih razlika u korištenju društvenih mreža tvrtki u domaćem i stranom vlasništvu. Starosna dob sudionika nije bila presudna za korištenje

owners with higher levels of education encourage their employees to be more informatically educated. These results are in line with our expectations. The fact is that even though the connection between the studied phenomena is weak, it can be realistically expected that persons with higher education levels have better comprehension of the advantages of IT knowledge for achieving the competitive value in doing business.

## CONCLUSION

Research has confirmed the existence of significant differences in the use of information technologies

društvenih mreža. Međutim, potvrđeno je da stručna sprema sudionika ima utjecaj na korištenje i prihvatanje informacijsko-komunikacijske tehnologije, što je i statistički potvrđeno. Tako dobiveni i analizirani rezultati ankete govore da tvrtke u stranom vlasništvu više uđaju u informacijsko-komunikacijsku tehnologiju te više potiču svoje zaposlenike na informatičku edukaciju. S druge strane, kod tvrtki u domaćem vlasništvu postoji svijest o mogućnostima primjene informacijske i komunikacijske tehnologije u poslovanju, ali ih nedovoljno koriste. Kao i kod svakog istraživanja ovog tipa, postoje određena ograničenja pri izvođenju zaključaka iz dobivenih rezultata, a odnose se na vrijednost prikupljenih podataka. Prvo, odaziv sudionika je manji od očekivanog. Zatim, vrijednost prikupljenih podataka ovisi o stupnju u kojem su odgovori sudionika odraz njihove motivacije za pružanje iskrenih odgovora. Ipak, dobiveni rezultati istraživanja pokazuju da su potrebne i moguće nove aktivnosti u strategiji približavanja novih tehnologija domaćim poduzetnicima, koji će ih znati iskoristiti za jačanje svoje konkurenčke sposobnosti na tržištu.

between domestic and foreign owned companies. Age of participants was not crucial for the use of social networks. However, it has been statistically confirmed that education levels of participants do have an effect on the use and acceptance of information and communication technology. The received and analysed survey results show that foreign owned companies invest more in the information technology and encourage their employees more to be informatically educated. On the other hand, there is awareness among domestic companies on the possibilities of applying the information and communication technology in doing business, but it has not been sufficiently used. As in every research of this type, there are certain limitations in drawing conclusions based on the given results, and they are related to the value of the received results. Firstly, the companies' response to research was lower than expected. Secondly, the value of results depends on the level at which the participants' responses reflect their motivation in giving sincere answers. However, the research results show the need and possibility for new activities in strategically approaching domestic entrepreneurs with the new technologies, who would then know how to use them in order to strengthen their competitive capacity on the market.

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