**Analyzing the influence of ChatGPT on students’ knowledge and skills**

The introduction of ChatGPT4 in the public sphere has opened a possibility for students to use this general AI application to automatically obtain written essays, and then to submit them for personal evaluation. This allows them to save time and effort, but it may have interesting consequences on their level of knowledge and skills. Our study analyses the essays submitted for Continuous Control in a business modelling related course by two cohorts of students (before and after the public introduction of ChatGPT4) and includes a series of interviews with 10 students from each cohort. The findings indicate that the students using ChatGPT had a lower level of knowledge and skills regarding the topics of the course, but clearly had develop a new type of general capability related with their capacity to properly define, using the ChatGPT’ prompt, the format and the content of the essay they need. The paper infers that a widespread use of ChatGPT will ultimately result in a progressive reduction of substantive skills and capabilities elated with different disciplines, but an increase in the capabilities of using and manipulating ChatGPT. This relationship is probably mediated by the way in which students ae using ChatGPT to achieve the required essays.

Keywords: ChatGPT4, education, students’ essays, skills, capabilities