



## The University of Ruse recognised as one of the research universities in Bulgaria

26 October, 2022

By decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, the University of Ruse was included in the list of research universities in Bulgaria. With this act, the University of Ruse received another well-deserved recognition for its strategic orientation towards cutting-edge scientific achievements and innovations. Scientific effectiveness has long been an inalienable part of the multifaceted activity of the University of Ruse. It finds expression in the ever-increasing number of scientific publications indexed in globally recognized databases, in the numerous authoritative international scientific conferences organized at the university, in the quality of interdisciplinary scientific developments and their contribution to the development of the regional economy. The scientific capacity of the University of Ruse is measured by its participation in key national and international scientific projects and the University has proven its competitiveness, commensurate with the highest international recognition for scientific and scientific-applied research. A particularly strong point of the University of Ruse is the Social and Economic Impact indicator. The symbiosis between the university and its regional ecosystem is a driving force of economic and societal growth. Regional business relies on university science for its innovative development, and the University of Ruse draws innovative energy and creative impulses from its strong connection with public practice, becoming a „living laboratory“ for ideas and innovations.

The inclusion of the University of Ruse in the list of research universities in Bulgaria is an exceptional recognition of the scientific effectiveness, capacity and public influence of our Alma Mater. This is a high praise for the commitment and contribution of the entire academic community to the fulfilment of the university's vision of being innovative, forward-thinking and striving for excellence. This shared vision is the true pledge for continuous development, for creative restlessness, for the power to find followers in science, for the daring to meet and overcome challenges. I thank all our colleagues and our national and international partners for what we have achieved and will continue to achieve together!

*Academician Hristo Beloev, DTSc, Rector of the University of Ruse*



## Erasmus students at Ruse University

The University of Ruse has welcomed 90 students under the Erasmus+ program in the summer semester of the academic year 2021-2022. Students from 25 universities from 8 countries – Azerbaijan, Jordan, China, Spain, Portugal, Romania, Turkey and France, will be studying in all faculties of the Ruse Alma Mater and in the Silistra Branch.

The largest group is that of the Romanian students – 22, of which 14 will be studying and 8 will be conducting educational and production practice. It is a happy fact that four Romanian students from the University of Pitesti, who studied with us during the winter semester, have extended their Erasmus mobilities for another semester. This fact clearly shows their satisfaction with the training and facilities offered to them.

For the third year in a row, the University of Ruse welcomes students from France. During the summer semester, 20 French students from the private higher school ECE in Paris and Lyon will be studying in the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and

Automation. The collaboration started 3 years ago, and since then more than 50 students have been trained. In comparison, this academic year alone the incoming French students are 35 – 15 in the winter semester and 20 in the current one.

Students from China and Jordan make an interesting group too. For the first time, Jordanian students are studying at the University of Ruse. The group of six young people from the University of Zarqa is distributed among the coordinators from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation, the Faculty of Business and Management and the Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare. The pandemic has temporarily limited travel to and from China for students and teachers, but six of the Chinese students are already in Ruse and are looking forward to starting their lectures at the Faculty of Education and Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation. They have arrived under agreements with universities in Shanghai and Liaoning – Shanghai Polytechnic University and Liaoning Institute of Science and Engineering.

Traditionally, Erasmus students from Spain study at the university, and most of them choose the University

## The Rector awarded with the honorary title Doctor Honoris Causa

11 October, 2022

The Rector of the University of Ruse Academician Hristo Beloev was awarded with the honorary title *Doctor Honoris Causa* of the Andizhan Mechanical Engineering Institute, Uzbekistan.

The solemn ceremony in Andizhan was part of the eighth partner meeting of the Eurasian project HiEdTec. It took place at the Andizhan Youth Centre in the presence of more than 600 guests, leaders of institutions, rectors of foreign and domestic universities from Uzbekistan, lecturers, students.

The solemn ceremony in Andizhan was part of the eighth partner meeting of the Eurasian project HiEdTec. It took place at the Andizhan Youth Centre in the presence of more than 600 guests, leaders of institutions, rectors of foreign and domestic universities from Uzbekistan, lecturers, students.

The Rector of the Andizhan Mechanical Engineering Institute, prof. Umid Turdialiev, announced the decision of the Scientific Council of the Institute for awarding Academician Hristo Beloev with the honorary title *Doctor Honoris Causa*. He reported the joint activities of the two universities, Acad. Beloev's contribution and held the award ceremony.

The Honorary Diploma was conferred to Academician Beloev both by the Rector of the Andizhan Mechanical Engineering Institute, prof. Umid Turdialiev and by Mr. Nasibulo Muminov – Governor of Andizhan region.

of Ruse for an entire academic year. Spanish students have chosen majors from six of the university's eight faculties, as well as at the Silistra Branch. Obviously, the efforts of the professors and coordinators are highly appreciated because the students who arrived are from 12 partner universities from all over Spain.

Incoming student mobility in this academic year exceeds 150 people from 34 universities from 11 countries. What better certificate for quality work done internationally!

*Erasmus office*



## Scientific conference of the University of Ruse 2022

28 October, 2022

On October 28, 2022, the 61st Scientific Conference, organized by the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ and the Union of Scientists – Ruse, on the topic „New industries, digital economy, society – projections of the future – V“, was officially launched. Prof. Diana Antonova, DSc, opened the conference, noting that the forum is a real celebration of science at the University of Ruse.



The Rector of the University, Academician Hristo Beloev, officially opened the conference and congratulated all its participants. In 2022, 357 reports were delivered in various scientific fields. The conference also enjoys strong international participation.

The forum started with plenary papers. The first was presented by **Assoc. Prof. Dilyan Ferdinandov**, MD, MPH, PhD, FEBNS from the Department of Neurosurgery of the Medical University – Sofia, Neurosurgery Clinic, UMBAL „St. Ivan Rilski“, Sofia, with a lecture on: *Technical progress and trends in neurosurgery*

### PROJECT ASEAN FACTORI 4.0

The second stage of training lecturers from Savannakhet University (SKU), Laos, in compliance with the activities under the Project Across South East Asian Nations: From Automation and Control Training to the Overall Roll-out of Industry 4.0: ASEAN FACTORI 4.0. was held in the newly-built Education Centre of SKU by the lecturers from the University of Ruse Prof. Plamen Daskalov, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Tsvetelina Georgieva, PhD. The vice-rector of SKU, Assoc. Prof. Sitha Khemmarath, PhD welcomed the Ruse University team



and wished them efficient work. At this stage of the training, the focus is on the practical part, working with the platform designed and built in the higher school. In the course of the training the trainees have to prepare the labs for their students. The final goal is obtaining accreditation of the respective curricula by the institutional bodies responsible, so that the training could be held in the next years. Such training is going to be held by the University of Ruse in the second university, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand in November as well. During the

for a better life. The lecture was extremely interesting for those present in the hall, as different areas of science were touched upon. The second plenary paper was delivered by **d-r rer. nat. Dirk Wagener** – Head of the innovative ZELLCRAFT program at the Rotherbaum Center for Prevention and Health Management – Hamburg, Germany, on the topic: *The innovative ZELLCRAFT program at the Rotherbaum Center for Prevention and Health Management – noticeably more energy in every cell of the human body.* **Academician Chavdar Rumelin** from the Institute of Robotics at BAS and director of the National Competence Center „Quantum Communication, Intelligent Security Systems and Risk Management“ – presented to the audience a lecture on the topic: *Innovations in technology – from the invisible and impossible to the future today.*



The plenary papers were on significant topics affecting today's modern times and enjoyed great interest from the audience consisting of students and lecturers.

The conference program continued with sectional meetings and cultural activities.

*Information by the PR office.*

next stages of training in the two universities, the Asian colleagues, mentored by the partners from the University of Ruse, will conduct practical training of students and company representatives from Laos and Thailand.

### Technological exhibition ITAP 2022 in Asia

Asia's largest technology exhibition in the fields of Industry 4.0, Automation, Robotics, 3D and additive technologies and the Internet of Things ITAP 2022 was held in Singapore from 18 to 20 October 2022. The event was attended by representatives of the ASEAN FACTORI 4.0 project, which is financed under the Erasmus+ program (No. 609854-EPP-1-2019-1-FR-EPPKA2 CBHE-JP). The project aims to build a Center of Excellence in Industrial Automation in seven universities from Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. The activities are led by Prof. Hamed Yahoui from Claude Bernard University in Lyon, and teams from the University of Ruse from the Departments of Telecommunications and Automation and Mechatronics and the University of Grenoble participate.

Assoc. Prof. Plamen Zahariev, PhD, from the Department of Telecommunications took part in ITAP 2022, as a representative of the University of Ruse. During the exhibition, contacts were made with a number of companies, academic institutions and organizations from Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Germany, Belgium, etc. Possibilities for future joint activities and projects in various fields were discussed, as well as opportunities for implementing bilateral student and teacher exchange agreements between the Ruse Alma Mater and the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Ngee Ann Polytechnic University, Singapore Institute of Technology and several universities from Indonesia and Thailand.

The exhibition was preceded by the first face-to-face meeting of the ASEAN FACTORI 4.0 project consortium, during which the activities carried out so far and the planned future meetings, round tables, trainings and events were discussed. A series of scientific publications with the participation of professors from the University of Ruse and partner universities from Cambodia and Thailand were also discussed and planned.

*Prepared by the TC and AandM Departments.*

## Conferences at the University of Ruse, 2022

### 8th International Scientific Conference EEŞAE

The 8th International Scientific Conference Energy Efficiency and Agricultural Engineering was held at the University of Ruse from 30.06. to 02.07. 2022. In the course of three days, the participants from Romania, France, South Africa, Mexico,



Turkiye, Slovakia, Russia, Moldova, Serbia and many Bulgarian higher schools discussed the results from research in the field of modern power engineering and agriculture. A special focus was put on the challenges facing modern education and training. For the first time, the event included a panel called Dialogue University – Business. Leading companies, specializing in the field of renewable energy sources, research journals and teams, working on international projects, related to the Conference topic, made presentations during this session.



A large Romanian delegation, led by Cor. Mem. Valentin Nedeff, President of the Senate in „Vasile Alecsandri „University of Bacau (Romania), got acquainted with the educational and research infrastructure of the University of Ruse. A *Collaboration Agreement in the Area of Scientific Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer* between the two organisations was signed. The scientific conference had many cultural events on its agenda as well.

*Prepared by Assoc Prof. Boris Evstatiev.*

### International Scientific Conference CompSysTech

In June 2022, the XXIII International Scientific Conference on Computer Systems and Technologies CompSysTech was held at the University of Ruse. The vice-rector for academic work Prof. Plamen Kangalov delivered a welcoming speech to the participants and organizers of the conference. Congratulatory addresses were received from numerous institutions and business representatives.

The plenary papers were offered by:



**Assoc. Prof. Dimiter Prodanov, PhD** – Institute of Information and Communication Technologies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences on the research topic of: *Active Segmentation: Differential geometry meets machine learning.*

**Bernhard Spanlang** – Chief Technical Officer & Co-Founder, Virtual Bodyworks, with a paper on: *Virtual reality embodiment to foster positive behaviour.*

**Prof. Amar Ramdane-Cherif** – Full Professor at the University of Versailles, Paris Saclay, France, with a research paper on: *Dynamic architecture for multimodal applications to reinforce machine environment interaction.*

On June 18, 35 scientific reports by scientists from Bulgaria, Great Britain, France, Greece, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Slovakia, and Turkmenistan were discussed in a total of 7 sections.

According to the idea of Academician Petar Kenderov, students who have excelled in their work and already have certain achievements in the field of computing participate in the work of the conference every year. The academician traditionally leads the student section and guides the future scientists. The authors of the most interesting papers in each section were awarded The Best Paper crystal prize.

For more than 15 years, the papers presented at CompSysTech have been



published in the virtual library of the Association for Computing Machinery – the most authoritative international association in the field of computing, and indexed by SCOPUS, which is an indicator of the scientific level of the conference, initiator and organizer of which is AOXIT. One of the reasons for this is that prominent scientists from almost all European countries are included in the program committee of the conference.

*Prepared by Prof. Angel Smrikarov.*

## The University of Ruse celebrates its 77th anniversary

On November 14, 2022, the University of Ruse marked the 77th anniversary of its founding, as well as the 172nd anniversary of the birth of its patron, Angel Kanchev. This remarkable anniversary is a sign of a preserved tradition and a bright presence in national and international academic practice.



The solemn day began with the laying of wreaths in front of the patron of Ruse University – Angel Kanchev. It was followed by the opening of the traditional annual exhibition of „Printed and electronic publications of lecturers of the University of Ruse“ in the lobby of the Main Building. 148 editions were



selected for the exhibition, divided into ten groups – monographs, books, textbooks, manuals and teaching aids, dissertations and abstracts, theses, collections of reports, scientific publications, materials on international projects and advertising materials. There are 13 monographs; 9 books, of which 3 are fiction; 3 studios; 12 textbooks and teaching aids; 6 manuals; 17 dissertations and abstracts; 15 theses; 22 scientific publications, 8 of which with an impact factor; 4 scientific works with the participation of professors from the University of Ruse; 2 scientific papers from conferences; 1 journal of the University of Ruse; 1 collection with the participation of a student from the University of Ruse; 2 utility model registration certificates; 5 issues from „Studentska Iskra“ newspaper; 1 set of materials on an international project and 35 pieces of advertising materials.

Guests at the celebration of Ruse University were Pencho Milkov – Mayor of Ruse Municipality, Anatoli Stanev – Regional Governor of Ruse Region, Ivo Pazardzhiev – Chairman of Ruse Municipal

Council, His Eminence Metropolitan Naum of Ruse, Deputy Mayors of Ruse Municipality – Magdalina Stefanova, Encho Enchev and Dimitar Nedev; Rositsa Georgieva – head of the RUO-Ruse.

The celebration was opened by the Rector of the University of Ruse, Academician Hristo Beloev, who sent his best wishes to all present, and the host of the celebration



was Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD – Deputy rector for academic work. „Today we celebrate the 77th anniversary of the establishment of our beloved Alma Mater. We welcome this remarkable anniversary with excitement and pride for the achieved success and implemented ideas and initiatives, and with them we categorically state that the University of Ruse convincingly and without appeal „stands tall“ / as it sounds in our anthem / in the national and international educational and research space“, said the Rector of the University Academician Hristo Beloev.

The ceremony of awarding diplomas to those who obtained scientific degrees in the past year was part of the celebration of the University of Ruse.

Twenty-two are the new „doctors“, with the largest representation being the Faculty of Law – 7, and the Faculty of „Business and Management“ – 6. The scientific degree „Doctor of Sciences“ was obtained by Maria Plamenova Nikolova from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Boris Ivanov Evstatiev from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation.

In the past year, ten teachers acquired the academic position of associate professor, and four became professors.

Congratulation on behalf of those who acquired a PhD title.

Slavi Georgiev, PhD, from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Education gave a speech on behalf of the awarded.

The Rector of the University of Ruse, academician Hristo Beloev, presented the diplomas and offered his best wishes to everyone for the success achieved.



## Graduation of the class of 2022 of the University of Ruse



On September 30, 2022, the official Promotion of the Class of 2022 took place in the Kanev Center of the University of Ruse. Twenty-three excellent students and seventy-six top students in their majors received their diplomas from the Rector of the University of Ruse, Academician Hristo Beloev. A total of 967 graduates received their diplomas from the Ruse Alma Mater. The presenter of the ceremony was Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD – Deputy Rector for academic work.

The guests of the celebration were the Mayor of Ruse Municipality Pencho Milkov, the Chairman of the Ruse Municipal Council Ivo Pazardzhiev and His Eminence Metropolitan Naum of Ruse.

„Dear graduates, believe in yourselves and boldly follow your dreams, because you are capable of achieving them! Never forget the way to your native alma mater“ – were the Rector’s words to the graduates.

The Mayor of the Municipality of Ruse, the Chairman of the Municipal Council of Ruse and His Eminence the Metropolitan of Ruse sent their best wishes to the Body of Rectors, the teaching

staff and the graduates and wished them „Good luck!“. Congratulatory addresses were received from numerous government, non-government and private institutions.

On behalf of the master degree graduates, a welcoming speech was delivered by Georgi Dimitrov, a master’s engineer in electronics, majoring in „Electronics“, who graduated with full honours, the top of the class among the graduates from the technical specialties. He thanked the professors from the University of Ruse on behalf of the honourees with the words: „On a day like this, we must take stock of the path we have walked personally in order to obtain the necessary knowledge to be recognised with these diplomas. Graduation is a very important stage in a person’s life. The acquired knowledge and experience are an important step on the life ladder. All of us have worked hard to be here today. My appeal to all young people is to stay in Bulgaria, get their education here and contribute to the economic and social growth of the country.

Remember that one should not stop learning

throughout one’s life.

I wish all the efforts made for personal development in the academic environment of Ruse University to be a springboard to the top, because each of us deserves it.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues, I thank the teachers for the high level of education, for the patience and for everything learned over the years. The last few years have been full of challenges and difficulties, but together we have managed to adapt. The contribution to this adaptability of ours is also thanks to our academic mentors through the years. The last few years have been full of challenges and difficulties, but together we have managed to adapt. The contribution to this adaptability of ours is also thanks to our academic mentors.

Above all, I wish everyone health, inspiration and professional success.“

Angel Ivanov, who graduated with full honours in the „Plant Science“ specialty, thanked the teaching staff of the University of Ruse on behalf of his fellow bachelors: „Thank you for what you have done for us“.



## Innovative events and projects

### A delegation from McMaster University, Canada, on a visit to the University of Ruse

20 to 26th May, 2022

Four lecturers from the Department of Electronics and Computer Sciences of McMaster University, Canada, are on a visit to the University of Ruse and its Department of Electronics from 20 to 26th May, 2022. The work visit is within the frame of a bilateral agreement under the Erasmus+ Programme, Activity KA107, with Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Shtereva as the coordinator for the University of Ruse. The four members of the delegation, Prof. Jamal Deen, PhD; Prof. Mohamed Bakr, PhD; Matier Howlader, PhD; and Joseph Peric, MSc, are leading specialists in the field of micro- and nanotechnologies, as well as in the educational technologies.



On 23 May 2022, the Canadian researchers met with the rector of the University of Ruse, Acad. Hristo Beloiev, DTSc, the Vice rectors Prof. Plamen Daskalov, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD, as well as members of the Department of Electronics – Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Shtereva, PhD; Assoc. Prof. Anelia Manukova, DSc. The rector acquainted the guests with the educational traditions, the existing teaching and research facilities and teaching resources of the University. The opportunities for expanding the cooperation between the two universities through joint research and publications, exchange of research potential and establishing sustainable partnership and dialogue were discussed. The two parties find common position for the development of the relations of cooperation and mutual support.

The work programme of the Canadian researchers started on 21 May with a training in CAD systems, used by electrical engineers. The training was led by Joe Peric for Bachelor and master degree students from Vidin in the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation of the University of Ruse.

On 25th May, 2022 the lecturers from McMasters University gave lectures to the academic community at the University of Ruse on „Problem-oriented Education in Microelectronics”, „Smart Sensors and Smart Homes in Healthcare”, by Prof. Jamal Deen, PhD; „Inverted Classroom“ by Prof. Mohamed Bakr, PhD and „Nanotechnologies” by Matier Howlader, PhD.

All lectures were hybrid – face-to-face and online.

McMaster University has 135-year history and is one of four Canadian Universities that are in the top 100 research institutes in the field of Technical Sciences, Healthcare, Natural Sciences, and Humanitarian Sciences. .

*Prepared by Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Shtereva.*

### CLAAS, Germany, makes another Donation to the Agrarian and Industrial Faculty

26th May, 2022

Representatives of CLAAS, Germany officially presented a real ROTO PLUS separation mechanism from a CLAAS APS HYBRID harvester. At the ceremony were present Finn Petersen, Chief Service Manager of CLAAS, Germany, Mr. Mihael Beyer – regional director for Southeast Europe, Nikolay Tsekov, Sales Manager in RAPID-KB Ltd., an official representative of CLAAS in Bulgaria, Svetlin Staychev Head of Department After-sales Services in RAPID-KB Ltd.

Prof. Plamen Kangalov, Vice Rector for Education, opened the ceremony and outlined the long-term cooperation between the University of Ruse and CLAAS, as well as their official representative, RAPID-KB Ltd. Mr. Petersen noted the

significance of the mechanism donated and said it is still being used in the new models of harvesters such as TRYON in the company. Mr. Beyer spoke about the contribution of the three organisations to the preparation of highly qualified engineers for our agriculture. Lecturers and students from the Agrarian and Industrial Faculty were present at the ceremony as well.



After the ceremonial ribbon cutting, the guests had a meeting for discussing the opportunities for expanding the cooperation where a decision was made to create a specific Action plan for upgrading the curricula and syllabi for the degree programmes Agricultural Machinery and Technologies, Agrarian Engineering and Management and Servicing of Machinery. It was also agreed to include a lecture and a practical workshop training course taught by specialists from RAPID-KB Ltd. to the students from the above-mentioned degree programmes.

### Diplomat from Israeli Mission visited the University of Ruse

13 October, 2022

Vice-chief of Israeli Mission, HE Naama Levi visited the University of Ruse today. She met the University management, represented by Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD, Vice-rector in Education and Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD, Vice-rector in Communications Policy and International Relations. They presented the strong position of the University of Ruse in the international space, as well as its various scientific fields.



Before the lecture in front of students and lecturers, HE Levi was shown around the modern facilities of the University. Her interest in the highly advanced Hall of the Future, where doctoral students and other student groups are trained was great.

She asked questions, related to studying Computer Science at

the University of Ruse, related to the topic of the lecture in Hall 2 of Kaneff Centre.

HE Naama Levi's lecture was titled „Israel as a startup nation“. The audience heard an inspiring talk about the 74-year history of the state of Israel and the factors, which stand behind its success as a highly advanced, prospering nation, attracting a number of high tech global companies in the field of innovations.

## Innovative events and projects

### Project ICT\_EDUPAND

Lecturers from the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ participated in the second workshop under Project 2020-1-PL01-KA226-HE-096196 Holistic approach towards problem-based ICT education based on international cooperation in pandemic conditions, which was held in the city of Nis, Serbia, from June 13 to 14, 2022. The meeting was hosted by the University of Niš, Faculty of Electronics. It was attended by eight participants from the four partner organizations.



At the transnational meeting, the partners presented the results obtained so far on the main activities, as well as coordinated the subsequent joint actions to fulfil the set goals and tasks of the project.

Project coordinator Prof. Jaroslaw Makau from Bialystok Polytechnic University, Poland, demonstrated appropriate technical means for online teaching in e-learning to students.

In addition, the project schedule, financial management, quality management and sustainability plan were discussed, providing information on project coordination and how the team works.

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In the period September 29–30, 2022, the University of Ruse held a third workshop on the project ICT\_EDUPAND Project 2020-1-PL01-KA226-HE-096196 Holistic approach towards problem-based ICT education based on international cooperation in pandemic conditions. The educational initiative is financed under the Erasmus+ program of the European Commission. Partners of the Ruse team are: Bialystok Polytechnic University, Poland; University of Nis, Nis, Serbia; Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway.

The main goal of the project is to introduce modern educational approaches and methods for teaching engineering students in the conditions of a pandemic. The work on the project gives the Ruse team the opportunity to use the experience and capacity accumulated so far and to carry out a successful exchange of new and effective educational practices. The activities for the Bulgarian team are carried out and coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Teodor Iliev, PhD (team leader), Prof. Ivaylo Stoyanov, PhD, Assis. prof. Ivanka Tsvetkova, PhD, and assis. prof. Vencislav Keseev, PhD.

Eleven participants from 4 partner organizations of 4 European countries attended the meeting at Ruse University: Bialystok University of Technology, Poland – project coordinator; University of Nis, Nis, Serbia; Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway; Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, Bulgaria.

At the working meeting, the intellectual products and results achieved so far were presented and discussed, as well as the next tasks for the individual activities of the project. From the academic year 2022-2023, new modern educational approaches for teaching students in 8 academic disciplines will be applied consistently. At the meeting, it was agreed that in April 2023, a training seminar for teachers and students using the method of Problem-Based Learning will be held at the University of Ruse.

The work on this educational project gives the Ruse team the opportunity to use its experience and capacity accumulated so far and to carry out a successful exchange of new and effective educational practices. The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the content, which reflects the views of the authors alone, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

*Prepared by Assoc. Prof. Teodor Iliev.*

### Study Visit of Clinical Nutrition Experts from Palestine

On 23 February 2022 was the last day of the successful study visit of Palestinian lectures in clinical nutrition and dietetics at the University of Ruse. In the course of a week, the 10 colleagues from Palestine discussed problems of the specialised hospital nutrition for various chronic diseases; nutrition of newborns and most recent practices in it, introduced by WHO; problems of the national systems for clinical nutrition in the EU member-states. As a partner and co-coordinator in the project „Enhancement of practice in clinical and dietary nutrition in Palestine“, the University of Ruse proposed lectures at a European level, prepared by lecturers in the Health Care Department of the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care and the Management and Social Work Department of the Faculty of Business and Management, with the national consultant in clinical and dietary nutrition, Prof. Donka Baykova, PhD as a visiting lecturer in the team.

The guests from Al Azra University in Gaza and the Palestinian Technical College expressed their gratitude to the Rector of the University of Ruse for the warm welcome and the beneficial cooperation between the Palestinian higher schools and the University of Ruse, which has been going on for two years now. Academician Hristo Beloev, in his turn, wished them success in their challenging



goal to change the culture and models, which have been established for years, and help them face the patients' needs. He assured them that they can rely on the European experience, expertise and cooperation, provided by the University of Ruse.

During their training in Ruse, the Palestinian specialists visited UMBAL Medica, where they got acquainted with the practice of the hospital in the organisation of clinical nutrition.



In the following months, representatives of the Bulgarian team under the project, funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the EU, are going to visit the Al Azra University, in order to evaluate the possibilities for transfer of European expertise, know-how and experience in the clinical nutrition system of Palestine.

*Prepared by Prof. Ivanichka Serbezova.*

## Innovative project

# Convention for the Establishment of the European Cross-Border University AKROS



7 Mart 2022

Rectors and Presidents of 10 European higher schools, including the University of Ruse, signed a Convention for the establishing of European Cross-border University ACROSS.

The step taken is related to the preparation of a project proposal under the Call for European Universities – Partnerships for Excellence, published at the end of November 2021. Partners in the project alliance, led by Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany are: Bialystok University of Technology, Poland, University of Craiova, Romania, University of Girona, Spain, University of Lleida, Spain, University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia, University of Perpignan, France, Rēzekne Academy of Technology, Latvia, University of Ruse, Bulgaria and University Udine, Italy. (The serial number of the universities in the partnership agreement follows the alphabetical order of the respective cities in English). The cities of two of the universities in the consortium – Chemnitz and Nova Gorica – have been declared European capitals of culture for 2025.

The virtual meeting of the rectors of the 10 higher schools was opened by the President of the Chemnitz University of Technology, prof. Gerd Strochmayer, PhD, who noted that with the establishment of the university network ACROSS, the partners not only emphasize the significance of the international cooperation in higher education, but also give impetus to successful cross-border transfer and exchange of ideas and initiatives. The Vice-President of Chemnitz University of Technology, prof. Maximilian Eibl, PhD, who was the moderator of the event, emphasized the fact that in the last two years, the consortium partners have invested a lot of labour and efforts, in order to intensify their cooperation and form a common vision for a European cross-border university. In his presentation of the project proposal, prof. Eibl summarized what has been achieved by the project consortium so far, focusing on the strategic partner meeting in Chemnitz in September 2021 and the jointly organised European Cross-Border Doctorials and Winter School program.



Prof. Eibl outlined the strategic priorities of the European Cross-border University ACROSS, such as: effective cross-border, trans-national and interregional cooperation in the field of higher education and research; training professionals in joint educational programmes and establishing communities of practice, in order to face the future challenges in their cross-border regions and in Europe; creating strong, continuous relations with the regional ecosystems and all stakeholder countries; of regional development in all its spheres and aspects.

A distinctive feature of all universities, included in the consortium is that they are located in cross-border regions and are acquainted

with the challenges facing their development: economic and social inequality, language and cultural barriers. A study from 2016 on the special and cohesion development of Europe, shows that the cross-border regions in EU cover 40 % of the territory and 30 % of the population and the GDP, which is indisputable proof for the substantial potential of the idea for a European Cross-border University. Under the motto „Collaborative leadership in cross-border territories”, ACROSS aims at forming common European educational space for over 100 000 students and nearly 10 000 lecturers and administration, serving as a model for other cross-border regions and the promising European regional development.

As a participant in the meeting, Acad. Hristo Beloev – Rector of the University of Ruse presented the achievements of the University and its leadership position in the cross-border Bulgarian-Romanian region and the Danube space. With his signature under the Convention for establishing the European Cross-border University ACROSS, Acad. Beloev confirmed the ambitions and priorities of the academic community of the University of Ruse for national and international leadership in education, science, innovations and regional development.

*Prepared by Assoc. Prof. Dessislava Atanasova.*

## Visits and Achievements



### MEDUS „Inovative Educational Approaches and Practices for Enhancing Efficiency of Social Inclusion and Academic Performance of Learning Migrants“

9 May 2022

The first international meeting under the Project MEDUS „Inovative Educational Approaches and Practices for Enhancing Efficiency of Social Inclusion and Academic Performance of Learning Migrants“ No 2021-1-LT01-KA220-SCH-000024051 was held in Kaneff centre University of Ruse.

The main goal of the project is to develop the professional competences of teachers and specialist staff for creating an inclusive academic, social and emotional environment for the training of migrants.

The project participants noted their successful activities in partnership with the University of Ruse and the significance of the project in view of the current situation in Ukraine.

The guests were welcomed by the Rector of the University of Ruse, Academician Hristo Beloev, DTSc, DHC mult. The University was represented by Assoc. Prof. Emilia Velikova – project coordinator, and Assoc. Prof. Yuri Kandilarov – head of department of Mathematics with the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Education.

Also present at the meeting were the Mayor of the Slivo pole Municipality, a project participant – Valentin Atanasov, MEng, Maria Mireva, MEng – headmaster of „St. St. Paisii Hilendarski“ school in Slivo Pole, as well as Ms. Antoaneta Yabanzova – Director of the Secretariat of the Bulgarian Red Cross – Ruse, which is also a project participant.

The international participants in the project present were: Mrs. Laymute Ruzgiene – Project Coordinator, Director of the Educational Centre, Kaunas region – Lithuania and Assoc. Prof. Ion Mierlus-Mazilu – Head of Department Mathematics and Informatics at the Technical University in Construction in Bucharest, Romania.

The project aims at developing the professional competences of teachers and specialised staff for creating an inclusive academic, social and emotional environment for the training of migrants. The project direct target groups are: teachers who are working or planning to work with migrant students; specialised staff, providing pedagogical and psychological help at school; migrant students. An indirect target group consists of parents of migrant students. The expected project impacts are:

Developing professional, digital, social, communication and team work competences of teachers and specialised staff; acquiring better understanding and greater responsiveness to the needs of the different groups (migrant parents and students), which will aid direct teaching, on one hand, and the better academic achievements and/or emotional state of the groups, on the other. Innovative materials and tools will be provided for the teachers and specialised staff. These are progressive educational technologies, innovative teaching materials, digital scenarios, best pedagogical practices, vertical classroom model.

*Prepared by Assoc. Prof. Emiliya Velikova.*

### Erasmus cooperation of the University of Ruse with France

For the third year in a row, the University of Ruse welcomes students from France.

**Assoc. Prof. Galina Ivanova, coordinator of the agreement with ECE in Paris gave an interview on the Erasmus cooperation with ECE in Paris published in an abridged version brief by Studentska Iskra.**

#### **How was the connection with France established?**

The relationship between the University of Ruse and ECE Paris, France dates back to 2008. The Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ) is a partner in the four European Thematic Computing Networks coordinated by the University of Ruse. In 2017, on a working visit to France, I met Prof. Manolo Hina from ECE Paris, who works with Prof. Amar Sherif from UVSQ.

#### **How long have we been working in cooperation with ECE Paris?**

In 2017, we signed a bilateral agreement under the Erasmus+ program between ECE Paris and the University of Ruse. In November 2017, with senior inspector Milena Bogdanova from the Erasmus

office of Ruse University, we were invited to visit ECE Paris to attend an international meeting with partner universities with which ECE Paris has concluded student exchange agreements. At this meeting we presented our university and met students and their parents. Since 2017, we have been having an annual exchange of students and teachers under the ERASMUS+ program with ECE Paris. For the last 5 years, nearly 100 students from France have studied at the University of Ruse. The joint cooperation between our universities is growing thanks to the positive evaluation of the students for the training and the attitude they receive from professors and coordinators at the University of Ruse.

#### **What traits distinguish the French students?**

At the University of Ruse, we organize various events such as concerts, celebrations, sports competitions, etc. All international students are also invited and included. Every year, students from France demonstrate their talents and present them by participating in organized events. On

March 20, 2019, they sang a wonderful French song in the university lobby on the International Francophonie Day at the University of Ruse.

#### **How do you benefit from working in a multicultural environment?**

Every year, more than 100 foreign students arrive at the University of Ruse to study for one or two semesters. I lead two disciplines in English for foreign students: Software Engineering and Computer Reliability and Security. Usually the work teams are multicultural with students from France, China, Georgia, Romania and their projects are very interesting.

#### **What do you want to tell those who are planning to visit Bulgaria?**

Ruse is the largest Bulgarian city on the Danube River. It is also known as the Little Vienna, with architecture dating from the end of the 19th century. Bulgarians are friendly and any international student can find many friends here.

## European Scientists Night 2022 at the University of Ruse

On 30 September and 1 October 2022, the European Researchers' Night was held again at the University of Ruse. It passed under the slogan *Together for green and digital Europe*.

The University of Ruse has been organizing the European Researchers' Night since its first edition in 2006. In the last few years, it has been part of the consortium of universities and research institutes under the K-TRIO project (Knowledge gained in Training, Research and Innovation brings more Opportunities:  $K^*(T+R+I)=O$ ), coordinated by Sofia University. The project is financed by the Horizon Europe Program and is aimed at initiating and conducting the European Researchers' Night in six Bulgarian cities – Burgas, Varna, Plovdiv, Ruse, Sofia and Stara Zagora. The main goal of the project is to raise public awareness of the importance of scientific research and the activities of scientists.

The green and digital messages of the Researchers' Night 2022 were present as an accent and the focus of all the events of the rich program of the University of Ruse, separated into several blocks.

An exhibition and a discussion club were included in the K-TRIO block for everyone.

The exhibition with authors' photographs *For a green Europe with imagination*, was opened by the rector Academician Hristo Beloev in the central lobby of the rectorate. It presented the talented view on the subject of two university professors –

Prof. Stepan Terziyan and Assoc. Prof. Romyana Lebedova. The exhibition included 20 author's works, each of them capturing the author's excitement with unique natural objects or historical landmarks. For the visitors, the aesthetic delight and the recognition of the talent that elevated the scientist's mission beyond the academic spaces remained.

The discussion club on the subject of Smart Cities brought together participants tempted by the topic in a face-to-face and virtual format in the doctoral hall Educational

Space of the Future at the university. The presenters on the topic Prof. Delia Dimitriou, PhD, and Prof. Ilia Iliev, PhD, participated online. Prof. Delia Dimitriou is a world-renowned scientist in the field of smart solutions for green urban mobility and carbon neutrality. She has Romanian and British citizenship and has a long experience as a research assistant at Manchester Metropolitan University (UK) and since 2009 as an advisor to the European Commission on calls for research and innovation projects



and initiatives in the field of low-carbon transport and smart cities. Prof. Ilia Iliev is a long-time lecturer at the Agrarian and Industrial Faculty of the University of Ruse and a consultant to an avant-garde American company in the field of the green transition. The presentations of the two scientists aroused great interest among the French and Kazakh Erasmus students present in the hall, as well as among the virtual participants.

In the program of the Researchers' Night at the University of Ruse, a competition on the topic of Smart Green Cities was announced in 3 categories – drawing,



presentation and essay. 30 author's works were received from participants of different ages from all over the country (Sofia, Varna, Burgas, Ruse, Nessebar, Kyustendil, Popovo, Svishtov, etc.), and the jury's task in the „drawing“ category proved to be particularly difficult, where, apart from the pre-announced prizes for the first 3 places, many incentive prizes were also given out. To the delight of the organizers, students from the University of Ruse were among the awardees in the three categories.

Block K-TRIO for children was one of the most emotional blocks of events – it is through these events that the European Researchers' Night, as a pan-European initiative, achieves its mission to the greatest extent – to tell about science and its

achievements in an accessible language and as much as possible to bring it closer to human everyday life, simultaneously igniting genuine interest and scientific curiosity.

On the hospitable campus of the University of Ruse, three events took place in this block: A Scientist for a Day, A Panel Discussion with the participation of students from secondary schools in Ruse and A Children's show with demonstrations of professional clubs of the university.

*The Scholar for a Day* event is traditional for the University of Ruse. On it, university laboratories open their doors widely to inquisitive students from secondary schools in Ruse, making them empathetic to the most innovative academic ideas and developments. Although the university-secondary school dialogue is a common and good practice for the University of Ruse with synergistic effects for both parties, at the Researchers' Night the meetings between creators of science and future researchers bring particular fascination and often determine the career orientation of adolescents. At this year's edition of the Night, the interest of more than 100 students was piqued by the Electronics, Industrial Communications and Wireless Technology and Digital Layered Energy Systems laboratories, with their leaders and collaborators giving their best to satisfy the youths' curiosity.

The discussion on the topic „*Professions of the future*“ provoked the youthful passion for debates of students from three elite secondary schools in Ruse: Geo Milev English High School, Baba Tonka Mathematical High School and Friedrich Schiller German Language High School, divided in three teams of three participants. The students expressed opinions and positions on a very current topic in the context of the unprecedented advance development of high technologies and artificial intelligence. The jury and the audience were impressed by the good preparation of the teams, the originality and independence of the positions expressed by the participants, as well as their ability to think critically. The discussion went smoothly and with the necessary tolerance for other people's opinions under the skilful leadership of the president of the Student Council of the University of Ruse, Angel Ivanov. It was difficult for the jury, whose members were teachers from the participating schools and chairman Assoc. Prof. Kaloyan Stoyanov, as the director of the Career Centre of the University of Ruse, to single out the best performing team and therefore, they quite justly awarded all the students with attractive backpacks with the logo of K- TRIO – Scientists in the Knowledge Triangle.



## European Scientists Night 2022 at the University of Ruse



To complete the series of events in the program of the Researchers' Night at the University of Ruse, the children's show Science for young and old took place in the alley of the Night of scientists. More than 20 small participants took part in the show, which was full of surprises – planting trees in the Alley of the Night of Scientists, the beginning of which was set on the Night of Scientists 2021 at the University of Ruse and on the territory of its affiliates in Silistra, Razgrad and Vidin; fun participation in the demonstrations of the professional clubs on Innovative Transport Technologies and Industrial Communications and Wireless Technologies; fun games with the animators from the club „Veseliatsi“. The space in front of Building 2 of the University of Ruse became a territory of sincere children's curiosity and cheerfulness, and even the smallest participants contributed to the success of the event, watering the newly planted trees in the Alley of the Night of Scientists.

The different blocks of events in the European Night of Scientists 2022 are content-oriented to different target groups and audiences, but have a common goal, philosophy and mission – to present scientists as „one of us“, as a person with diverse interests and talents who not only stands behind the teaching chair or in the scientific laboratory, but inspires and captivates followers with his vision for the future, with a youthful spirit and a memorable presence.

Two events were included in the block K-TRIO Persons in the program of the Night of Scientists 2022 at the University of Ruse – the scientific-applied seminar for PhD students and young scientists Tandems in Science for Green and Digital Europe and the beloved by all talent shows in Scientists on Stage.

The event *Tandems in science for green and digital Europe* is being held for the first time at the University of Ruse, as part of the Researchers' Night programme. In it, successful tandems of a research supervisor and a doctoral student presented to the audience their joint creative process and revealed the secret of success. Two creative tandems with doctoral students who recently defended their dissertations took part in the presentation: Assoc. Prof. Galina Ivanova – Vasil Kozov, PhD; Assoc. Prof. Irena Valova – Tsvetelina Mladenova, PhD, and a tandem with a doctoral student who is currently working on his dissertation work and, in addition to his scientific supervisor, also works with a scientific consultant/mentor from practice: Assoc. Prof. Anelia Manukova, DSc; Deyan Levski, PhD – head of the company „Photolytics“ Ltd Ruse and PhD student Denis Sami.



From the participation of the tandems in the event, it became clear that the support of the scientific supervisor is very important, but even more important are

the human and scientific symbiosis, the continuous dialogue, the communication that enriches both parties and produces excellent results. And the results are even better when the topic of the dissertation is set by practice and a successful person from real business participates in the creative process, encouraging non-standard thinking and innovation.

The *Scientists on Stage* event has always been perceived as a kind of culmination in the program of the Researchers' Night at the University of Ruse. In it, scientists from the university present themselves in the different role of poets, musicians, singers, artists and practitioners. This year's edition of the event brought surprises in the form of appearances by talents from outside the Ruse Alma Mater and can quite rightly be called *Scholars on Stage and Friends*. Friendly greetings to the academic community



were presented by the „Sun“ vocal group with artistic director Natalia Konstantinova, PhD, and the Star Dance studio with director Antonia Koseva. The little „suns“ thrilled the audience with professional vocal performances, and the graces of the dance group conquered hearts with an elegant dance with choreography based on verses by Prof. Mira Dushkova – an indisputable poetic talent and a long-time participant in the Night of Scientists.

The stellar performances of Ruse University talents included: original poems and academic humor in a brilliant digital format by Prof. Angel Smrikarov; scientific discovery of architectural masterpieces in Ruse with the lens of Prof. Stepan Terzian; a look at the artistic hobby of the scientist and woodcarver Iskra Ilieva, PhD; the colorful inspiration of Di-Light – Diana Georgieva, who recently presented a solo exhibition; the Poetic Mirror of Prof. Mira Dushkova and Assoc. Prof. Zivodar Dushkov – author's poetry of father and daughter, who reached heights in their poetic messages with spiritual unity, but with different poetic imagery and poetic suggestions; the vocal surprise presented by Ivaylo Nikolaev, PhD, and his talented three-year-old son, which showed that the university scientist with talent knows how to pass the baton.

At the finale of *Scientists on the stage*, five exciting performances were offered by teachers from Taraklia State University „Grigoriy Tsamblak“ in Taraklia, Moldova, and the four performers from the vocal-instrumental group „Tabula Raza“ – Dimitar Grozev, PhD; Maya Grozeva, PhD; Nina Tagarova, PhD, and Sergey Kalinkov, PhD, blew up the hall with rock and pop pieces, one of which in a premiere performance with text by Zivodar Dushkov and music by Dimitar Grozev.



An exceptional contribution to the success of the event was made by its irresistible presenter – the famous journalist Tsveta Nenova, who is a doctoral student at the University of Ruse.

Scientists' Night 2022 at the University of Ruse is already in history, but the memory of unforgettable meetings with the multifaceted personality of the scientist remains – immersed in scientific challenges, but at the same time inspiring, colorful and able to motivate and leave followers.

*Prepared by Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova and Prof. Juliana Popova.*

## Sixth Innovative Youth EXPO 2022

9 June 2022

In front of Kaneff Centre was opened the *Sixth International Innovative Youth Expo*, which was the final event of the 24th Spring Holidays of Science in the University of Ruse. The initiative was held by the Academic management and the Student Council of the University of Ruse, under the patronage of the Minister of education and science and with the participation of the National Representation of the Student Councils in Bulgaria.



The rector of the University of Ruse, Academician Hristo Beloev, DSc opened the EXPO and Academician Nikolay Denkov, Minister of education and science, gave a welcome speech to the participants and guests. The latter were also greeted by the Vice-mayor of Ruse – Mr. Dimitar Nedev. Many organisations, institutions and businesses also sent congratulatory addresses.



The projects of over 300 participants from high schools in Ruse and the region, Bulgarian and European universities and institutes of BAS were presented at 70 stands in the large hall of Kaneff Centre. This year, for the first time individual participants in the EXPO'22 were awarded by a jury from members of the Student Council, chaired by Alexander Uzunov, vice-chairperson of the National Representation of the Student Councils in Bulgaria.

The variety of projects, prototypes, experimental models, samples and demonstrations was impressive. Some of the attractions of EXPO'22 were 3D designs and models of various objects; prototypes of a fuel cell and an electric automobile, prototypes of systems for measuring environmental and human body parameters; demonstrations: shooting with study weapons; air quality measurement station and many other interesting developments of the participants in EXDPO'22.

Two other important events for the university were held in parallel:

1. Round table „Together for a Better Socio-Ecological World without Discrimination“ on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the professional field „Social activities“.

Final session of the student scientific conference – Best Paper'22



Acad. Beloev and Acad. Denkov opened the Round Table „Together for a better Social and Ecological World without Discrimination“, wishing success and fruitful work to its participants.

On the big stage of Kanev Center the student ensembles offered some entertainment with their wonderful dance performances. Stefania Gornachka from the music school in Ruse also gave a musical greeting.

The winners of Best Paper'22, the best English presenters of the competition „Inspire'22“ and the successful graduates of the first class of the International Social Laboratory „Edu4Future“ received their awards at the end of the event.

Traditionally, the *International Innovative Youth Expo* ended with a raffle. The big prize from it was won by the students of Nedka Ivan Lazarova Vocational School of Clothing, who presented an impressive fashion show to the audience.

*Presented by the Erasmus office.*

## Erasmus, 2022

РУСЕНСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ · АНГЕЛ КЪНЧЕВ ·



## The Erasmus students in 2022–2023

On October 6, 2022, the first official meeting of Erasmus students at the University of Ruse with the Body of Rectors and their teachers was held.

The Rector Academician Hristo Beloev congratulated all the students and



assured them that they are welcome at Ruse University and that they can count on responsiveness and support from the academic leadership. The vice-rector for internationalization and communication policy Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova also congratulated the students.



In 2022, the university will train 62 incoming students from 8 countries: France, Romania, Italy, Spain, Germany, Portugal, Poland, Turkey, from 21 universities. The largest group from one university is the French one from ECE Paris – 16 students, and the largest group from one country is the Spanish one – 23 students from 11 universities. 13 of them will be trained for the entire academic year, and the rest only during the winter semester. The faculties that accept Erasmus students are: FEEA, AIF, TF, FBM and FPNO.

*Presented by the Erasmus office.*

## Erasmus+ Programme

The University of Ruse maintains an active international cooperation in various fields with more than 130 framework bilateral agreements and about 680 agreements under the Erasmus+ programme and with higher schools around the world. The Erasmus programme became part of the international activities of the University of Ruse in 1999. According to it, the university annually works on projects of two types of mobility – within the European Union (KA 103) and in countries outside the EU (KA 107). Under the first type of project, the university sends between 50 and 100 students on a long-term study and practice mobility, or on a short-term doctoral exchange for one week. It also carries out over 150 mobilities of university teachers and

employees. Reciprocally, the university accepts foreign professors to deliver lectures, including representatives of companies, which brings internationalization to the education. For 23 years, more than 4,500 students, doctoral students, teachers and staff have been sent and welcomed, information meetings, lectures, seminars, conferences, Erasmus study weeks and other events aimed at increasing awareness of the program and implementation of its activities have been organized.

The University of Ruse also actively works in terms of mobility in countries outside the European Union. To date, the university has completed over 300 reciprocal mobilities with universities from Asia (China, Vietnam), North America (Canada), Central Asia (Kazakhstan), the Middle East (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine), Western Balkan countries, Jordan, Russia, etc.

In 2020, the COVID pandemic seriously affected international activities and in particular the Erasmus

Programme. Many student and faculty mobilities were cancelled or postponed. This trend continued in the following year.

The university's efforts are highly appreciated by the National Erasmus Agency, and for this activity the Ruse Alma Mater consistently ranks first in the amount of funding and has been awarded three times by the National Erasmus Agency in Sofia in recognition of the quality performance of the undertaken activities. The latest project envisages mobilities both with long-standing partners and with new ones from Kosovo, Moldova, Albania. All mobilities are made possible with the help of significant financial support from the European Commission through the Human Resources Development Agency.

*Prepared by Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova.*

## Innovative project

### International Project for Game Therapy for Children

The University of Ruse starts 2022 with a new international project, directed to the development of syllabi and materials based on game therapy as an effective tool for intervention in children.

The outcomes of the project will be applicable in the practice of nursery, kindergarten and elementary school teachers, as well as useful for all specialists, whose application field is related to holistic solutions of medical, educational and psychological problems, appearing in early childhood.



In the context of social and psychological negatives resulting from the restrictions because of the pandemic crisis COVID-19, the initiative of the University of Ruse becomes even more relevant. It starts today (20.01.2022) with a hybrid meeting of the partners from Bulgaria, Belgium, Turkey and Portugal, who are gathering face-to-face and virtually in Ruse to discuss the implementation of the two-year project Training in game therapy for intervention in young children, in accordance with the European credit transfer system for vocational education and training (ECVET)<sup>4</sup>, for which the University has signed a funding agreement with the National Erasmus+ Agency.

Game therapy is both a scientific area and a professional activity, hence it is expected that the National Association of Professionals Working with People with Disabilities and the Centre for Psychological Support and Intervention „Analytical Zone“, which are partner organisations with a serious practical experience will have a significant contribution to the successful implementation of the project.

The challenging international endeavour will be coordinated by the University of Ruse, which is planning to involve in its implementation academic staff from two faculties with a different expertise, due to the interdisciplinary nature of the project.

The Project is funded by the ERASMUS+ Programme, activity KA2, Project number 2021-1-BG01-KA220-VET-0000248055.

*Prepared by Assoc. Prof. Dessislava Atanasova.*

### Innovation Camp on Decarbonization of Transport

10 to 13 May, 2022

An innovation camp „Decarbonization of Transport in Ruse During the Green Transition – Building Innovative Capacity for the Future“ was held at the University of Ruse under the programme Science Meets Regions of the Joint research Centre of the European Commission.

The organisers of the event were the Municipality of Ruse, the University of Ruse and the Association of the Danube Municipalities. Co-chairs of the event were Mr. Pencho Milkov, Mayor of Ruse Municipality and Academician Hristo Beloev, DTSc, Rector of the University of Ruse.

The event was under the patronage of the President of RBulgaria, Rumen Radev, who sent a congratulatory address to the participants. The Minister of Education and Science, Academician Nikolay Denkov also greeted the forum with an address. With a video message, Ms. Maria Gabriel, the EU Commissary on innovations, research, culture, education and youth, reviewed the role of the University of Ruse in the European higher education space and estimated highly the contributions of the research teams and the management of the University to

the European Green Agenda.

Guests at the opening were also the EU member of Parliament Mr. Petar Vitanov, the Bulgarian MPs prof. Mihail Iliev and Mr. Kalin Ivanov, the Vice-Mayor of Ruse Mr. Dimitar Nedev, the Vice – Governor of Ruse, Mr. Lyudmil Hristov, who also expressed their approval of the special engagement of the academic community of the University of Ruse with the ecological issues facing Europe and the world.

The main goal of the Innovation Camp is to expand the capacity for developing policies in the field of transport and special urban planning through close cooperation between the authorities, science, business and citizens for eco-friendly and smart city and regional transport systems.

### International Pilot Project for Student Internships in Digital Environment

28 February 2022

the implementation of activities under Project 2020-1-RS01-KA226-HE-094527 „Digital internship model for higher professional studies“ – DIMPS, funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, component KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices and call for proposals KA226 – Partnerships for Digital Education Readiness was completed successfully.

The Lead Partner in the Project is the Academy for Applied Sciences of Western Serbia (Uzice, Serbia), and the other partners in the implementation of the Project are the University of Ruse, the University of Western Attica (Egaleo, Greece) and the Higher Technical School for Applied Sciences (Novi Sad, Serbia).

The results from the implementation of Project DIMPS are three – a methodology for conducting student internships in an electronic environment has been created, an online platform for conducting internships in various fields of higher education has been designed and implemented and a set of auxiliary tools has been developed – guides and instructions for conducting internships and working with the platform. In the conditions of global pandemic COVID-19, which does not allow quality attendance of student internships, the creation and use of this online platform allows students to participate fully in the effective implementation of this mandatory element of their education.

In the period October – December, 2021, 21 students from Serbia conducted their mandatory student internships online, following the developed methodology and using the created platform. The topics of the internships were in the field of software engineering, information and communication technologies, entrepreneurship, tourism and hospitality management. The following Bulgarian companies from Ruse participated as associate partners for providing internships in the field of information and communication technologies: „Tornado studio“ Ltd and „Teracom“ Ltd, while the tour agency „Alexandra Travel“ Ltd offered internships in the sphere of tourism. Five of the Serbian students chose these partner companies of the University of Ruse to have their internships in.

The project activities of the University of Ruse were carried out by Prof. Georgi Hristov, PhD (project coordinator/координатор for the University of Ruse), Assoc. Prof. Nina Bencheva, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Plamen Zahariev, PhD, assis. prof. Diana Kinaneva, PhD, Georgi Georgiev, BSc from the Department of Telecommunications and Assoc. Prof. Ivan Beloev, PhD, from the Department of Transport.

*Prepared by Assoc. Prof. Plamen Zahariev.*

### Students and PhD Students Competed in Presentation Skills in English

The Foreign Languages Department with the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Technologies of the University of Ruse has organised a competition on Public Speaking in English for a second year in a row. This year's topic was „Sustainable development – facing the challenges for the 21 century“. Students and PhD students from the University of Ruse presented their own ideas or working solutions from the world practice on problems, related to sustainability in different spheres of life: transport, digitalization, education, fashion, cybersecurity, ecology, design. The presentations were divided into two sections: Humanities and Technical Sciences. On behalf of the Mayor of Ruse Municipality, Mr. Pencho Milkov, a congratulatory address was delivered by Mr. Ivailo Kadishev – director of Directorate International Policies, economic activities and analyses, who was a member of the jury.

## The University Sport Centre presents the achievements in 2022



On December 13, 2022, the traditional celebration for presenting the success and awarding student athletes, sports figures and activists from the sports and tourism sections and clubs who achieved high results in the field of sports and tourism in 2022 took place in the Kanev Center of the University of Ruse. The event was attended by Deputy Mayor Encho Enchev, regional governor Anatoli Stanev, representatives from the „Education, Sports and Youth Activities“ department in the Municipality of Ruse, teachers, students and guests. The awards were presented by academician Hristo Beloiev and the chairman of the Student Council Angel Ivanov.

Encho Enchev, Anatoli Stanev and Academician Hristo Beloiev addressed the attendees.

*The head of the University Sports Center Prof. Borislav Angelov, PhD made an extensive retrospective of the success of the student athletes:*

„It's been another successful year for student sports, in which student athletes added new cups and medals to the rich sports showcase of Ruse University. According to an established tradition, in the creation of which the University of Ruse was the first among higher education institutions in Bulgaria, today the academic community and the sports community of the city of Ruse present their success and award the students who have achieved high results in the field of sports and tourism in 2022

The retrospective should begin with the success of the student athletes of the university at the highest student sports forums in our country – the National Student Universiade and the Summer Student Games.

The eighth National Student Universiade was held from May 14 to 19 in Sofia. The recapitulation of medals won and prize rankings achieved is more than impressive: 11 medals (1 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze) and fourth, fifth, sixth and eighth place rankings. The successes were achieved in the conditions of extremely strong competition, as the teams of some universities included athletes of the highest national level.

In 2022, the **football team** coached by Kamen Simeonov became the student champion. The title won is of utmost importance. For many years in a row, the team has always ranked in one of the prize places, but still failed to win the championship title. Our excellent competitor in **swimming sports**, Berna Velinova, became a four-time silver medalist: in 100-meter crawl, 100-meter backstroke, 200-meter crawl and 200-meter combined

swimming. Bogomil Yakovchev also contributed to the results achieved in swimming, who achieved fourth and fifth place in the 100- and 200-meter backstroke. **Table tennis** again pleased us with excellent rankings – bronze medal for the women's team, bronze for Ognyan Todorov in the men's competition and bronze medal for Ognyan and Pavel Tsolov in the men's doubles. Our successes in the **badminton** tournament are also respectable – a silver medal for Svetoslav Goranov in the individual competition and bronze medals in the doubles competition and in the team competition. In **athletics**, Dimitrichka Velikova is sixth in the discus throw, and the volleyball players ranked eighth.



The **Summer student games** were held from September 2 to 7 in Kranevo. The student-athletes of the University of Ruse won 17 medals – 3 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze. Traditionally, competitors in swimming sports performed strongly. Bogomil Yakovchev won 1 gold and 2 silver medals, and Berna Velinova – 1 silver and 2 bronze medals. The university's table tennis teams also performed at a very high level. Gold medals were won by Ognyan Todorov in the individual competition and Ognyan Todorov and Pavel Tsolov in the men's doubles competition. Silver medals were won by Konstantin Kamburov and Nuray Niyaziev in the men's doubles tournament, Pavel Tsolov and Kalina Hristova in the mixed doubles competition and Ivelina Ivanova and Adriana Ivanova in the women's doubles competition.

Pavel Tsolov, Konstantin Kamburov, Ivelina Ivanova and Adriana Ivanova won bronze medals in the individual competitions. In the team competition, the table tennis players took second place among women and men. The athletes of the University of Ruse performed at the expected high level in team sports. The 3x3 basketball players took the prestigious fifth and seventh places in the women's and men's competitions, respectively, and the women's and men's volleyball players reached the quarter-final stage of the beach volleyball tournaments.

With a total of 28 medals won (4 gold, 13 silver and 11 bronze) at the two highest forums in the field of student sports, the University of Ruse has successfully defended its reputation as one of the most sporting universities in our country. The success of the student-athletes would not be possible without the dedicated work of their teachers and coaches. We are most grateful to Mima Voikova (volleyball), Kamen Simeonov (football), Iskra Ilieva (basketball), Valeri Yordanov and Pavel Tsolov (table tennis), Milena Grigorova (athletics), Iliyan Ilchev (badminton) and Valentin Kamenarov (orienteering and cross-country running).

High achievements in 2022 were also achieved by students of the University of Ruse, who participated in competitions at home and abroad, held outside the framework of the national student championships. Ivan Banchev won a silver medal in **archery** at the European Championships in Lilleshall (Great Britain). Ivan is a multiple medalist of European championships, republican champion and national competitor. It is preparing for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Gabriela Dimitrova again became the champion of the state championship in **boxing** and participated in the world and European championships in 2022. Gabriela, who is a two-time medalist of European championships, multiple republican and Balkan champion, is also preparing for the Olympic Games in 2024. Doctoral student Pavel Tsolov (for several months a teacher in the Department of Physical Education and Sports) participated in the European University Games in Lodz (Poland) and reached the round of 16 in the strong **table tennis** tournament. Nikolay Genov, national **orienteering** competitor, won a silver medal at the National Cup „Bulgaria-2022“ and participated in the World Youth Championship.

## The University Sport Centre presents the achievements in 2022



As we have noted on other occasions, Ruse University is the only one in Bulgaria that annually holds its own internal *Spring and Autumn Olympiads*. The organizers of the sports games are the Sports Commission of the Student Council and the sports sections of the „Academic“ University Sports Society. Within the framework of the spring sports games, competitions were held in all collective and individual sports developed at the university. The Olympiad ended, as is tradition, with the „Strong Man“ strength all-around tournament, which once again aroused great interest among students and the Ruse sports community. During the tournament, the students who had won the spring sports games received their cups and medals.

In 2022, the University Sports Centre found appropriate ways to work with secondary schools, the Municipality of Ruse and other partner organizations in the country and the region, and a number of sports events, significant for the university and the city, were organized and held. The most significant among them are: the international athletics marathon „Prista Run“; the international sports dance tournament „Ruse“; the state orienteering championship; the Ruse weightlifting tournament; the table tennis tournament for people with disabilities; the traditional sports and tourism holiday of the University of Ruse; the day of movement in the Youth Park; the demonstration of sports skills with sports clubs from the city on the territory of the university, etc.

During the year, the *Sport Climbing and Alpinism Club* of the Sports, Tourism and Nature Protection Society „Akademic“ participated with two of its representatives in the state championship in ski mountaineering in the area of Kartala near Blagoevgrad. The representatives of the club won the prized fifth place. The climbers also participated in the Maliovitza Cup, taking seventh place out of 53 participants. The members of the club serviced the tours of six climbing massifs along the Rusensky Lom river, and in the autumn they supported the Open competition for children on the rocks near the „Alpinist“ hut. During the seventeenth consecutive Tourist Exhibition „Weekend tourism“ and the fourteenth Festival of tourist entertainment and animations, an open climbing on an artificial wall of the centre in the city of Ruse was organized with the participation of over 400 children. An open climbing event was held in Razgrad, a sports afternoon at the „Hristo Botev“ primary school in the same city, as well as climbing on an artificial wall in the square next to the Regional Library in the city of Ruse on the occasion of the European Researchers' Night.

*Speleoclub „Academic“* of the company organized two field exploratory hikes in the area of the village of Ivanovo, an orienteering competition in the „Orlova Chuka“ cave with 45 participants, of which 26 were students and schoolchildren. During the year, a children's section of the „Cave Bear“ Scout Club was created and a mobile rope garden was built with the participation of 21 students. Students and members of the club took part in a number of performances and in the implementation of



a large number of projects in the areas of the Rusenski Lom Nature Park and the Central Balkan National Park. The cavemen took part in the „Orlova Chuka-2022“ Spring Assembly, in the jubilee events of the „Prista“ Caving Club, in the Children's Night at the Museum (organized by the Ruse Regional History Museum), in the sports festival of the University of Ruse in Khan Dalboka, Tutrakan, in the 15th Balkan Speleosobor in the town of Dryanovo, in the 9th expedition of the Bulgarian Caving Society to explore the caves within the historical and archaeological reserve „Sboryanovo“. With reports and presentations, the members of the club participated in the 18th International Congress of Speleology in Savoy Mont-Blanc, France and in the 3rd National Forum of Speleology in Dryanovo.

Over 250 schoolchildren, students, veterans and other citizens of the city of Ruse took part in the traditional *Cross-walk „Ruse 2022“*, organized by the Sports-Tourism and Nature Protection Society „Academic“, the Student Council at the University of Ruse and the Municipality of Ruse. This year's route, with a length of 7.5 km, started in the Obratsov chiflik, passed by the „Minzuhar“ hut and ended in the Lipnik forest park. It was completed according to the participants' preference:

walking, running or a combined rhythm.

*The hiking and mountaineering club* of the Society with a group of 16 tourists, under the leadership of assis. prof. Pavel Petrov, PhD, climbed Mount Gotsev, the summit of Mount Slavyanka. The second group, led by Associate Professor Plamenka, PhD, Hristova and guide Dimitar Pamukchiev, went on an eight-day route in Stara Planina and a three-day route in Vitoshka.

The tourist kayakers of the company, led by assis. prof. Yavor Neikov and Martin Nikolov, assistant professor. A large group of water tourists from Ruse and the country also joined the March.

A short retrospect is impossible to cover in its entirety the work in the field of sports and tourism at the University of Ruse for 2022. But from the retrospect, it is clear that there have been successes, which are sufficient reason for a positive assessment. These successes would not have been possible without the policy of the academic leadership for the development of the sports base and unreserved support of sports and tourism activities at the university. The good work is based on the steps taken to expand the partnership in the field of sports and tourism with schools, sports organizations and the Municipality of Ruse“.



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