ВЕСТНИК НА РУСЕНСКИЯ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ "АНГЕЛ ҚЪНЧЕВ"



Civil dialogue on the topic "Digital technologies: opportunities and challenges" with the participation of MARIYA GABRIEL, European commissioner for Digital Economy and Society

"In the history of Bulgaria and Europe, the University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev"has a special place. Love of knowledge, values from the past experience and clear vision for the future:

Keep on making us proud of you! Digital Europe needs you!"

Mariya Gabriel

22 February 2019

Today the University of Ruse hosted a Civil dialogue on the topic "Digital technologies: opportunities and challenges" with the participation of Mariya Gabriel, European commissioner for Digital Economy and Society.

The European Commissioner presented the first programme in the field of digital technologies for Europe, which will be funded with 9,2 billion





Euro by the next long-term budget of the European Commission for the period 2021—2027. The Commission's proposal is directed to five areas: Supercomputers; Artificial Intelligence; Cyber security and trust; Digital skills and Ensuring widespread digital technologies in the economy and society.

The challenges we face with the development of the means of communication and the necessity for all to bear responsibility in distributing information have been discussed. During the discussion, the role of Digital innovation hubs was outlined, as well as the perspective for creating such structures in every area of the European Union. "Ruse is turning into one such hub in Bulgaria quite rightfully" – said Ms. Gabriel.

The participants in the civil dialogue had the chance to test their digital skills by using and electronic platform to ask and answer questions via their smart phones.

Digital transformation provides a unique opportunity for economic growth, innovations and new job vacancies and in this aspect, the University of Ruse puts a strong accent on digitization in the field of education and adapting the study content to the digital generation.

The University of Ruse awarded a Quality Sign for their work on the Erasmus+ programme

On 6 December 2018, the University of Ruse was awarded a Quality Excellence Sign for their work on the Erasmus+ programme, at a ceremony in the Central Military Club – Sofia. The event was part of the traditional Valorisation conference under the Erasmus+ programme, organized by the Center for Human Resources Development (CHRD)– Sofia, which is the National Erasmus agency in Bulgaria.

Mr. Georg Georgiev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Petar Nikolov – Deputy Minister of education and science, representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sport participated in the conference. Both Ministers emphasized the extreme importance of the Erasmus+ programme – the largest, most popular and most effective programme of the European Commission in the field of education, training, youth and sport.

The Executive Director of CHRD, Mr. Petyo Kanev, greeted the representatives of the institutions awarded and reviewed projects and activities, implemented in Bulgaria with the support of the Erasmus+ programme. Over 39 million Euro will be granted by the EC under the Erasmus+ Programme for projects and other accompanying activities in 2019. The budget has a 7% increase compared to this year.

Out of 271 Erasmus projects, selected in 2017, 40 were awarded with Quality Excellence Sign, among which only four are university projects – the University of Ruse, The Medical University – Varna, the Higher school of management – Varna and the national Academy of Music Prof. Pancho Vladigerov.

The award of the University of Ruse was accepted by the Erasmus Coordinator and Vicerector of internationalization and communication policy – Prof. Juliana Popova, PhD.

STUDENTSKA ISKRA / STUDENT SPARK

The University of Ruse becomes the founder of HEInnovate academic network



15 June 2018

Rector COR MEM Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc proposed the establishment of a Network of entrepreneurial universities during the international conference "HEInnovate: Supporting institutional change in higher education".

The international conference dedicated to innovations in higher education convened at the University of Ruse more than 150 representatives of academic communities of European universities, entrepreneurs, politicians and teams of the Directorate General in Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission. The forum was organized by the European Commission in partnership with the University of Ruse and the Ministry of Education and Science of R Bulgaria.

Partner training workshops in the first day provided opportunities for establishing contacts between representatives of the academic communities and start-up companies in Europe. The participants focused on V two of HEInnovate's dimensions: "Training And support of entrepreneurs", with Emilian Enev of Startup Factory as a moderator and "Entrepreneurial teaching and learning", moderated by Irina Kostadinova, PhD, from the Faculty of Business and |Management of the University of Ruse.

The "speed dating" format chosen allowed presenters from Poland, Romania, the Netherlands, Croatia, Ireland, Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria to share good practices, exchange ideas and get recommendations for their future work by the participants in the discussion, who kept rotating at the different tables. The heated debates during the sessions and the newly established contacts laid the foundations for future joint endeavours.

During the debate on the regional perspective of higher education, the challenges and the drivers, which could turn innovations and entrepreneurship into reality were discussed in two panels. In the first part the topic was "Measuring the impact of higher education institutions on innovations", with talks given by Mr Koen Jonkers from the Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Ivana Radonova, PhD from the Higher Education Directorate of the Ministry of Education and Science and prof. Daniel Bratanov, Dean of the Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare with the University of Ruse. The second panel was dedicated to the impact higher education has on the local and regional development. The moderator of this panel was Mr. John Edwards from the Joint Research Centre while Svilen Kunev, Phd, from the Management And Business Development Department with the University of Ruse, Ms Desislava Koleva, ,Projects and Economic development', Gabrovo municipality Ms Agatha Filimon, North-East Regional Development Agency, Romania, and Anne Deloise, University of Orleans, France were the panellists.

The second day of the forum started with a plenary session in the presence of the Deputy minister of education and science, Mr. Peter Nikolov, Mr. Georgi Dimitrov - Deputy Head of Unit , Innovation and EIT, DG EAC, European Commission, the deputy mayor of Ruse, Mr. Strahil Karapchanski and Assoc. prof. Maria Fartunova from the Council of Rectors, Bulgaria.

In his welcoming address, the Rector of the University of Ruse, COR MEM Prof. Hristo Beloev declared that the academic community appreciates the privilege to host the HEInnovate forum and to be co-organiser. "Ever since 2013, when the University of Ruse was selected by the Ministry of Science and Education to be one of five pilot universities to participate in the implementation of HEInnovate project for Bulgaria, we have seen that it is our mission to be among the entrepreneurial universities in Europe and to direct our efforts towards building entrepreneurial culture among its students and lecturers", stated the Rector. At the end of his speech he announced the foundation of HEInnovate Academic network, where all universities and institutions, participating in the Conference to be co-founders. "Our vision is to start a consortium of the higher education institutions, who share the mission, guiding principles and values of HEInnovate", added, COR MEM Beloev.

In his address to the audience, Deputy Minister Peter Nikolov said that the Conference at the University of Ruse is the closing event of the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council in the field of education. He reported the recent meetings and high-level discussions in the field of higher education and summarised the key results from the forum in Ruse, namely, the conclusions about the needs of further

heinnovate

deepening and stimulating the cooperation between universities, businesses and the environment.

The idea for founding HEInnovate Academic network was welcomed by Mr. Georgi Dimitrov, as well as by Assoc. prof. Fartunova. The plenary paper was presented by Prof. Slavica Singer, UNESCO Chair in Entrepreneurship, J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, Croatia. She presented the experience of her team and highlighted the importance of cooperation between HEInnovate partners.

The EU Member of Parliament and creator of the A.L.E.C.O programme – Mr. Andrey Novakov took part in the debate on the digital transformation of universities. He commented that the bureaucratic burden when funding innovative projects and ideas should be reduced while at the same time a balance must be sought between the protection of taxpayers' funds and the access to financial resources for the entrepreneurs. The remaining participants in the discussion - Ms Isabel Schünemann, Hochschulforum Digitalisierung (tbc), Prof. Andrew Szony, University of Toronto and Mr Rahul Bansal, Deputy Director Education, Climate-KIC (tbc) shared their experience and emphasised the idea that computers are only a means for solving problems, but the human factor and the organisational culture are more important. Prof. Angel Smrikarov - Director of the Centre for Innovative Educational Technologies of the University of Ruse - presented the draft of the National programme for digitalisation of education, which has already earned a broad national and international support.

At the end of the two-day conference, the new eighth dimension of HEInnovate tool for digital transformation of higher education institutions was announced. It will supplement the remaining seven – leadership and guidance; organisational capacity; teaching and learning; paths for entrepreneurs; cooperation between universities and businesses; internationalisation of institutions and measuring the impact.

The Innovative Youth EXPO at the University of Ruse, 2018



14 June 2018

The forum is part of the International conference "HEInnovate: Supporting institutional change in higher education"

The innovative Youth EXPO was opened by the Rector of the University of Ruse, COR MEM Prof. Hristo Beloev, who recalled its history and emphasized the fact that it keeps attracting more and more participants. The third edition of the forum is part of the International conference "HEInnovate: Supporting institutional change in higher education" (14-16 June 2018), which is held under the auspices of the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with the UN and has been coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Science of Bulgaria (MES).

The forum was greeted by the Deputy Mayor of Ruse, Mr. Strahil Karapchanski, Mr. Georgi Dimitrov - Deputy Head of Unit, Innovation and EIT, DG EAC, European Commission, Ms Angelina Lambreva – director of Higher Education Directorate in MES, Ms. Rositsa Georgieva – Head of Regional Management of Education in Ruse and Yana Vangelova – Chair of the National Representation of Student Unions in Bulgaria.

The participants in the HEInnovate Conference and the Youth EXPO III were greeted by the students from the high school of Mathematics with the performance "Mothers and Sons.

All 38 participants – research teams, student companies, university student professional clubs and start-ups – presented their developments, models and prototypes during the EXPO.

A life-saving drone, providing first aid to patients with cardiac arrest was demonstrated by the team from the University of medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj Napoka, Romania.

Some of the most attractive participants were the members of "Trenvio" team, students in the digital master degree programme of the European Institute of Innovations and Technologies, part of the Sorbonne University. They presented a group travel shipping company, where travelers buy local quality products and deliver them to customers. On one hand, travellers earn pocket money, on the other hand, their customers obtain locally inaccessible goods. The services are offered by creating and administering a secure, user-friendly and powerful platform, guaranteed both parties. The project NEVROtech of the University of Lisbon connects virtual reality and neurosciences for treatment of phobias. The innovative method, together with the traditional ones, allows the optimization of the therapy. It combines virtual







reality and EEG-signals, providing objective indicators for qualitative measuring of therapeutic efficiency.





The start-up company of the institute for higher education Saint Martin, Malta showed to the public in Kaneff Centre the project INTACT, which won the European Junior Achievement challenge for 2017 in Helsinki. The team presented a technology, increasing the safety for bikers. Shock sensors, mounted in the biker's helmet, are connected to a smart phone application, which automatically alarms the emergency services and the relatives of the injured person, identifying the location of the accident.

The High School of Mathematics in Ruse was



represented by three school companies - "VICEM", "Retyres" and "Master Minds". One of the school teams has developed a biopesticide, which protects the bees, another one has developed a technology for producing motor oils from old tires, and the third team is working for better communication between officers in the institutions and people with hearing impairment, creating a kind of Call Centre with sign language interpreters.

Students from "Vazrazhdane" High School showed a model of electrical bicycle with an auto locking system and possibility for tracing through a mobile app while their peers from the English Language School demonstrated a system for cleaning of aquariums. Students from the Vocational High school for Clothes "Nedka Ivan Lazarova" demonstrated transforming clothing from the collection "Bulgaria – part of the colourful world of Europe".

Different teams from the University of Ruse showed their developments, dominated by automobiles. The Automobile driver club showed a proto-type of electric car, "Four Wheels" – karting automobiles with alternative drive, while HydRU demonstrated a prototype of urban car driven by a fuel cell. Robots, airplane models, made by students, technologies for digitalisation and visualisation of historical and cultural monuments, prototypes of systems for measuring environmental parameters and physiological parameters of the human body were only some of the developments seen by the audience.

The Innovative Youth EXPO at the University of Ruse, 2017

From May 11 to 13, 2017, Innovative Youth EXPO II was held on the initiative of the Academic Leadership and the Student Council of the University of Ruse with the support of the National Representation of Student Councils in Bulgaria and the Ministry of Education and Science. 33 participants - universities, secondary schools, institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and scientific laboratories, presented their innovative developments. The event was opened by the rector, Prof. Velizara Pencheva, and the official guests were the Executive Director of the Employment Agency Dragomir Nikolov, the director of the Municipal Foundation "Ruse - a Free Spirit City"



Elena Minkova, the Head of the Regional Education Directorate – Ruse, Dimitar Raynov, the Municipal Councilor, Galin Grigorov, Deputy Chair of the National Representation of Student Councils, Gabriela Naskova and others.

In front of Kanev Center

were shown the two cars with which the University of Ruse will participate in the Shell eco-marathon competition in 2017.

Futuristic clothing with built-in LED lights was presented by Nedka Ivan

Lazarova Apprenticeship. Among the exhibits were the models of the Cosmos series, with lighting implanted in the fabric, resembling a night sky.

315



The Advance Youth Team, made up of students at the Geo Milev Profesional English School, showed their idea of protecting pedestrians crossing unsafe hiking traile. The davice

hiking trails. The device they have developed has a sensor that detects the person approaching the trail and gives a signal to the incoming car driver. The driver stops and the pedestrian has enough time to reach the other sidewalk. The practical realization of the device is carried



out with the assistance and technical support of PhD students and lecturers from the Department of Electronics and the Department of Transport of the University of Ruse.

The team of the University Robotics Club showed a dron, which collects waste from hard-to-reach places with a removable hand. The High School of Mathematics and IT participated in the Innovative Expo with several student teams. Some of them demonstrated the functions of their lego robots. One of the developments of the young mathematicians is aimed at visually impaired people and is a luminous white cane. Its purpose is both to assist the movement of the blind and to warn other participants in the movement.





The "MicroBio Art" Club members with Razgrad Branch presented to the public their latest paintings painted with microbial cultures, while



students from the Silistra branch demonstrated innovative didactic models and electronic educational resources.

Youth Forum Barriers and Incentives for Youth Entrepreneurship brought together representatives of student formations, student clubs, research institutes, employers and start-ups. The director of the municipal foundation "Ruse – a city of the free spirit" Elena Minkova presented examples of support for the youth initiatives in the city and the programs, which calls for application with project proposals. At the closing part of the exhibition the participants were greeted by the cultural clubs of the University of Ruse and there was a prize draw for the registered visitors and participants.

The Innovative Youth EXPO at the University of Ruse, 2016

In June 2016, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Science, Meglena Kuneva, opened the first of its kind Innovative Youth Expo at the University of Ruse.



In her greetings to the guests, Meglena Kuneva said: "There really is not a more important and more crucial word than the word innovation. Without enhancing the growth of our economy, we cannot reach those dreams we have as a country for more justice, more opportunities for everyone, and more solidarity in society." She also turned to the high school and university students who participated in the event, saying: "You have two tasks - to be yourself and to give everything you are capable of to society."



Prof. Velizara Pencheva, Rector of the University of Ruse, emphasized the first things that have happened in Ruse and the challenges to higher education. "Today we want not only to show that young people have ideas and knowledge, but also to show them how much we need them, with their urge and out-of-the-box thinkingunusualness. This expo is our support for those who will walk the difficult path between theory and practice", said the Rector. The Deputy Minister of Economy Daniela Vesieva participated in the discussion as well.

Twenty-two universities, schools, clubs and centers were presented with their stands. Teams from the five Bulgarian universities participating in the international research HEInnovate presented themselves in the first edition of the Innovative Youth Expo. The Technical University of Sofia, the University of Mining and Geology, the University of Forestry, the University of Economics in Varna and the University of Ruse presented their entrepreneurship and industry projects.

In 2014, a joint initiative of the European Commission, the Directorate-General for Education and Culture and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development with its Program for Economic and Employment Development, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, made the study "Encouraging Entrepreneurial Universities in Europe: Project HEInnovate - National Review: Bulgaria." The findings in the University of Ruse Report stated that entrepreneurship is a significant part of



the university strategy and that the higher education institution is a driving force for the development of entrepreneurship in the wider regional, social and public environment.

Therefore, it is logical to have a Forum as an Innovative Youth Expo to be held in Ruse, on the initiative of the Academic Staff of the University of Ruse and the Student Council, supported by the National Representation of Student Councils in Bulgaria and the Ministry of Education and Science.

Within the framework of the Exhibition were presented the cars with which the University Ruse and the Technical University of Sofia will participate in the Shell Eco-marathon competition, drones and robots, created in the university laboratories.



All faculties and branches of the University of Ruse presented their own developments - from the exchange of good pedagogical practices, the JUMP project club of students and PhD students from the Faculty of Business and Management, through research laboratories in electronics and autonomous robotic and embedded systems to the works of Palitra club members and the microorganism drawings from Microbio Art Club from Razgrad Branch.

The young artists from the High School of Mathematics and IT and their peers from the vocational high schools of industrial technology, clothing,

woodworking and internal architecture and electrical engineering together took part in the Youth Expo with their works. In the discussion "Challenges to Youth Entrepreneurship", high school and university students and young entrepreneurs told their successful stories. The meeting was attended by the Minister of Education, Meglena Kuneva, the Deputy Minister of Economy, Daniela Vesieva, the Director of Higher Education Directorate at



the Ministry of Education and Science, Assoc. prof. Maria Fartunova and the President of the Council of Rectors, Prof. Lyuben Totev.

Ivona Yordanova of the High School of Mathematics and IT in Ruse shared the practice of older students supporting the younger ones in the realization of

> their ideas by giving examples of charity bazaars that gathered funds for the renovation of schoolrooms in the school. The PhD student Tsvetomir Gotsov presented the activity of the Student Research Laboratory of Electronics at the University of Ruse and the combination of the theoretical knowledge with the practical challenges he is having in the real environment, as well as the team work and the results achieved. Emilian Enev from Startup Factory informed the audience about the projects implemented jointly with the University of Ruse and the opportunities offered by

the shared workspace managed by the company. The work of the municipal foundation "Ruse - a city of free spirit" was presented by Deputy Mayor Dr. Strahil Karapchanski, who gave examples of supported initiatives in the city.

The Minister of Regional Development and Public Works Lilyana Pavlova delivered a lecture on "Infrastructure Projects in Northern Bulgaria".

STUDENTSKA ISKRA / STUDENT SPARK

Erasmus weeks



Fifth International Erasmus week at the University of Ruse

14 May 2018

The Fifth International Erasmus week at the University of Ruse started today. On behalf of the academic leadership, the guests were greeted by Prof. Plamen Kangalov, Vice-rector of Education, and Prof. Juliana Popova, Vice-rector of internationalisation and communication policy, presented the University of Ruse. The topic of this year's event is "Internationalisation of higher education – opportunities and challenges"and it concerns all institutions of higher education on a global scale.

A total of 25 participants from nine countries (Romania, Lithuania, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Macedonia and Great Britain) will take part in trainings and give lectures at the University of Ruse between 14 and 18 May. The Agenda of the Fifth International Erasmus week includes presentations of different universities, sharing experience and exchange of good practices in the field of international relations.

Later today, the guests will visit the Exposition of the University of Ruse History and the historical part of Ruse. The Fifth International Erasmus week will finish with a field trip to the medieval capital of Bulgaria, Veliko Turnovo.





University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev" have organized five staff training weeks

The first edition was in the period 6 – 10 May 2013, "Mobile student generation: transfer of European good practices" with participants from Belgium and Estonia.

The second one "New skills for better jobs", 12 – 16 May 2014, attracted 20 participants from 8 countries – Austria, Greece, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Spain and Turkey.

The next staff training week was organized within the period 13 – 17 June 2016 under the topic "The New Agenda of the European Higher Education Institutions", providing the opportunity to 18 colleagues from 12 countries – Albania, China, Estonia, Germany, Kosovo, Latvia, Macedonia, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom to meet and discuss the new HEI agenda.

The Fourth one – Opening of Erasmus Programme to the world – challenges and perspectives, 15 – 19 May 2017, had 19 participants from institutions from 7 countries – Armenia, China, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Latvia and Russia.

In the last edition, called "The Agenda for Internationalisation of Higher Education – Opportunities and Challenges", 14 – 18 May 2018 took part 28 people from 10 countries – Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, the Ukraine, the United Kingdom.

LOOK IN...

STUDENTSKA ISKRA / STUDENT SPARK



The Fourth International Erasmus Week

15 May 2017

Representatives of seven countries take part in the Fourth International Erasmus Week at the University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev"

Nineteen lecturers from 7 universities from Europe and Asia are taking part in the Fourth International Erasmus Week at the University of Ruse. Representatives of the academic community of Armenia, Germany, Georgia, Estonia, China, Latvia and Russia are exchanging experience and good practices in the various forms of the Erasmus Programme.

Today's event started with a welcome address from the Vice – Rector on European Integration and International Relation, prof. Juliana Popova and another one from the Secretary-in-chief of the University, Assoc. prof. Tanya Grozeva.

The topics of the Fourth International Erasmus Week are dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of the Erasmus mobility programme. Special emphasis is put on ebcouraging the participation of young people with disabilities in it. On Thursday, 18 May, the participants will meet the members of the University club "Diverse and Equal" and exchange ideas for cooperation with the students with special needs.









STUDENTSKA ISKRA / STUDENT SPARK

Erasmus weeks



International Academic Erasmus week at the University of Ruse

13 June, 2016

The University of Ruse is hosting the Third International academic Erasmus week. The events, which start today, have as their topic "The New Agenda of the European institutions for higher education". The forum was opened by the vice-rector in Education, Prof. Plamen Kangalov, who greeted the participants and wished them efficient work and useful meetings in Ruse and the University.

In the course of 5 days, 14 representatives of partner universities from Latvia, Turkey, Estonia, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Slovenia, and Albania will exchange experience and good practices in different spheres of the Erasmus Programme. Two PhD students from China, who are currently studying at the University of Ruse are among the participants in the Erasmus week.

The vice-rector in European integration and international cooperation, Prof. Juliana Popova presented the agenda of the forum for the whole week. The meeting started with a presentation of the University of Ruse and the opportunities for studying in it. Later the guests will have a lesson in Bulgarian language and culture. The discussions on the main topic will be on Tuesday and Wednesday. The programme includes a tour of Ruse and participation in university sports event on Thursday.

The participants will discuss the development of new technologies, the globalisation of the economy and culture, the competition on the education services market, the cultural diversity in the context of the new agenda of higher institutions in Europe, where modernisation and internationalisation have no alternative.

First International Academic Erasmus week

10 may 2013

From 6 to 10 May 2013 The University of Ruse was the organizer and host of the First International Academic Week. The university was attended by lecturers and students from foreign partner universities with which Erasmus bilateral agreements were concluded and outgoing and incoming mobility was conducted. The foreign participants in the week are from Belgium, Britain, Estonia, Turkey and Hungary.

The organizers of the European Integration and International Co-operation Directorate of the University organized for their guests a Round Table entitled "Mobile Student Generation" and a working seminar on "Erasmus – Traditions and Visions for the Future" with the participation of Ms Savena Borissova, Senior Expert on Erasmus Program at the Center for Human Resources Development, Sofia.

As part of the program of the First International Academic Week, organized by the University of Ruse, the foreign participants and the Bulgarian participants planted an alley with decorative shrubs, called EUROPEAN ERASMUS ALLEY. The event was dedicated to May 9 – Europe Day. Shrubs are 7 as many as the next 2014 – 2020 programming period. A Memorandum of Cooperation on Education, Science, Mobility and Joint Project Implementation was then signed.

The Bulgarian language and Bulgarian folklore classes were the emotional finale of the international week. The foreign guests touched the richness of our people – language and folklore.







СТУДЕНТСКА ИСКРА

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