



## Highest recognition from the Ministry of Education and Science for the work of the University of Ruse



15 October, 2021

On 15 October, 2021, the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) sent the good news that the work of the University of Ruse for the first year of implementing the Policy for development of the higher school, approved with an Ordinance of the Minister of education and science is assessed with the highest grade, 4.00, which means 100% achievement and over-fulfilment of all indicator values in the strategic document.

This is an exceptional recognition of the quality of educational and research activities of the University, of the high level of innovation and digitalisation of educational content achieved, of the effectiveness of research and international activities and of the overall multifaceted upward development of the University of Ruse.

The maximum grade received gives grounds for satisfaction and gratitude for the efforts of the entire academic community – a deserved appreciation of our lecturers and researchers for their tireless pursuit of self-improvement and alignment with

the best European and world academic practices.

Appreciation is granted to the students and PhD students of the University of Ruse for their high achievements and partnership in the education and research processes, to all the collaborators and partners of the University, for whom the success of the higher school is a mission and a vocation.

Special gratitude is granted to the colleagues from the Ministry of Education and Science for their support and beneficial cooperation.

The highest evaluation of the work of the University of Ruse undoubtedly proves its potential as an enterprising and innovative institution, committed to the development of the regional ecosystem. But this evaluation also obliges us to move forward with unabated energy, aiming at ever higher achievements.

May we keep building the future of the University of Ruse as an open innovation space, where the spirit of tradition, innovative ideas and the respect to the enduring academic values thrive together.

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

## The Rector was elected Academician of BAS

26 October, 2021

On 26 October 2021, the Rector of the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev”, Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc, was elected by the meeting of the academicians of BAS, for Academician in the field of engineering sciences.

„This is high evaluation not just for me but also for the research teams from the country and abroad, which I am managing, for the engineering community in the country, for the University of Ruse and our city”, shared Academician Beloev.

Academician Hristo Ivanov Beloev was born in 1958. He is a leading Bulgarian scientist in the field of research, development and implementation of modern agricultural machinery and new anti-erosion, energy saving and environmentally friendly technologies for flat and sloping terrain. In 2014, he was elected a corresponding member of BAS.

Academician Hristo Beloev is the Rector of the University of Ruse for a third mandate and a professor in the Agrarian and Industrial Faculty. He is the Chairperson of the Union of Scientists – Ruse Branch, and a member of the Municipal Council of Ruse.

He has been awarded many times by national and international institutions, academic and research organisations, universities, associations. One of the significant distinctions is St. St. Cyril and Methodius Order – 1st degree conferred by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, for outstanding merits in the field of education and science in 2015.

22 May, 2021

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021 the official groundbreaking ceremony for the education and research complex with the University of Ruse took place. The ceremony started with welcoming words by the rector of the University, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc. The Mayor of Ruse, Mr. Pencho Milkov, congratulated the audience as well. The event was attended by the Vice mayors of Ruse and the Regional Governor of Ruse, Borislav Bulgarinov.

The groundbreaking was performed by the Rector of the University, the Mayor of Ruse Municipality, the Regional Governor of Ruse region and Mr. Iliyan Iliev – a representative of the contractor company „Roan-90“.

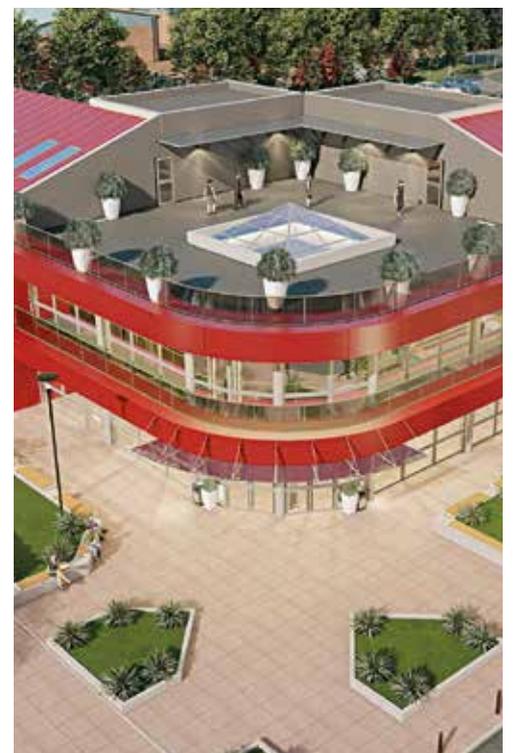
The total value of the project is 5 million BGN, with 3 million granted by the state, and the rest – own funds of the University. The education and research complex is expected to be finished by the summer of 2022.

The building will be L-shaped and two-storeyed. In the smaller part, on an area of 1000 m<sup>2</sup>, study halls, labs and offices will be incorporated.

In the longer part, on 2000 m<sup>2</sup> there will be an exhibition area and seven advanced interdisciplinary laboratories: Laboratory of Precise technologies for sustainable agriculture and protection of natural resources; Laboratory of Multi-modal human-machine interface and systems for 3D kinematics and special visualisation; Laboratory of Digital, additive, energy-assisted innovative technologies; Laboratory of Low carbon mobility and intelligent transport systems; Laboratory of Digital energy systems 4.0; Laboratory of Educational space of the future; Laboratory of Advanced health technologies.

These laboratories are multi-disciplinary and in each of them scientists and specialists from various professional fields will be working, which will enhance the development and implementation of new technologies, together with the business.

The newly built university research complex will enable companies, universities and institutes in the country and abroad to work collaboratively and participate in major science development projects.



## Scientific conference of the University of Ruse 2021 and 5D ALLIANCE



The 60-ieth International Scientific Conference of the University of Ruse was opened by Prof. Diana Antonova, PhD – vice-rector of research, who greeted the participants in the study hall, as well as the numerous researchers, attending online. The forum brought together researchers from 17 countries and partners in the research family of 5D ALLIANCE.

On the eve of the Day of the Awakeners, the University of Ruse opened its 60-ieth International Scientific Conference of the University and the Union of Scientists – Ruse with the plenary paper of the Rector, Academician Hristo Beloev, on the topic „Modernisation of higher education in Bulgaria and the role of the regional university”.

The Conference was held in the period 28–30 October 2021, including the plenary session and 28 parallel virtual thematic sessions, in which researchers from 17 countries in Europe and Asia presented 314 research papers, united around the leading topic of the scientific event „New industries, digital economy, society – projections of the future IV“. This is the fourth edition on this topic, due to the interest of scientists from Bulgaria and abroad in researching various processes, trends and practices in the conditions of transforming socio-economic environment – from regional to global dimensions. As part of the Conference, sessions were held in the Branches in Silistra (15 October 2021), and Razgrad (5 November 2021), which comes as confirmation of the role of the University of Ruse as a factor for the development of the regions.

A major event in the Conference agenda was the First official meeting of the project partners in Digital technological systems for clean and secure environment – 5D ALLIANCE“, part of the National Roadmap of research infrastructure of the Republic of Bulgaria. The project is coordinated by the University of Ruse and is unique as it aims to design and develop a hybrid type of digital distributed research infrastructure, which should be a driving force for socio-economic progress in the Danube microregion.

5D ALLIANCE unites 11 universities and institutes in the country and 13 associated partners. The partner meeting was held on 29 October 2021 with the participation of rectors and directors of research institutes and organisations – full members of the Alliance. At this meeting, the plans for

the development of the consortium infrastructure was presented and a legal form of registration was chosen.

5D ALLIANCE unites in one family teams of researchers, who interact without borders, find innovative solutions for industries by developing their potential in the context of global connectivity, shared resources, know-how and expertise. The concept of 5D ALLIANCE is not just an illustration of Ruse University and its partners' vision for modernisation in the field of research, but also a step forward on the path of open science in Bulgaria.

„I am convinced that the energy, innovation and combined efforts, capacity and resources of all partners in 5D ALLIANCE will allow us to build a shared research infrastructure, significant for the future of Bulgaria and the Danube area, which will spread new horizons for many young researchers!“ – shared Academician Beloev.

The project was highly estimated by the European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science when selecting proposals, which would become part of the National Roadmap of research infrastructure of the Republic of Bulgaria at the end of last year. The role of this Map is to prioritize the research sites of importance, so that they can receive administrative, technical and financial support in the future for the implementation of significant research projects.

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The academic event continued with two more plenary papers. Assoc. prof. Alexander Kunchev, PhD in the Ministry of healthcare – Chief State Inspector of Healthcare, presented a paper on: „Conclusions for public health, imposed by the pandemic“, and Assoc. prof. Mateo Rossi – Sanio University, Bienvenuto, Italy, and an associate professor in corporate finance in LUISS, Rome, Italy, presented a paper on the topic: „ESG (environment, social control and governance) and corporative financial result: the mediating role of green innovations. Examples of European companies“.

The topics of the plenary sessions are relevant for our time and arouse the interest not only of the scientific community, but also of the whole society.

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## Conferences at the University of Ruse, 2021

### International conference on the topic of Diversity

On 5-6 June in the halls of Kaneff Centre of the University of Ruse, an international conference was held with the special participation of HE Christoph Eichhorn, Ambassador of FR Germany in the Republic of Bulgaria, organised by the Bulgarian-Romania Interuniversity Europe centre (BRIE) on the topic of Diversity. The conference was organised within the framework of the annual Danube school under the motto „Danube, inclusive, empathetic and responsive society based on European values“.



In the beginning of the conference, a retrospective analysis was made of Elias Canetti's works. In 1981, New York Times noted that Elias Canetti was the first writer born in Bulgaria, who has won a Nobel Prize. In fact, the author's identity is more often connected with his birthplace – Ruse (then Rustchuk), a city, originating more than 23 centuries ago on the River Danube!

For the rest of his life, Elias Canetti repeatedly returned to his childhood memories. In „The tongue set free“ (1977) he wrote about his native town: „You could hear seven or eight languages every day. There were Bulgarians, Turks, Greeks, Albanians, Armenians and Gypsies, together with two groups of Jews, who hated each other heartily – the Sephardi's, who spoke Ladino, a type of archaic Spanish, and the Ashkenazi“. The cultural diversity that surrounded him left its mark on his later insights into the nature of human mind and the existence of „irrational“ biases. He grew up as a polyglot and a student of world cultures, including those of nations and groups, which had received little or no attention. Canetti's works reveal his multilingual life and his experience with various cultural influences.



HE Christoph Eichhorn, Ambassador of FR Germany in the Republic of Bulgaria

Today is also a time for responsibility. The difference is labelled as a dangerous alien manifestation. The cultural, ethnical and religious diversity in Europe after the migration crisis is associated yet again with fear, born out of the contact with alien cultures. The project Diversity is a proof of such resistance. The partners have studied cultural communities in Ruse and along the Danube. The results from the study are shared among a wide audience of students and young professionals. The lecturers, the role play, the special participation of HE Christoph Eichhorn and the cultural programme were dedicated to getting to know the different cultures without prejudices and with respect for their achievements. The conference participants believe that in this way, they add value to the social design of a Danube inclusive,

### Conference CompSysTech

June 2021

In June 2021, the 22nd International Scientific Conference in Computer Systems and Technologies CompSysTech was held at the University of Ruse. The rector of the University, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc welcomed the participants and wished them successful participation.



The plenary papers were as follows:

*Prof. Rumyana Peycheva-Forsait* – Director of the National Centre for Distance Learning - The effect of the teachers' experience in online education during the pandemic on their views of strengths and weaknesses of e-learning;

*Prof. Martin Vechev, PhD* – Professor in Computer Science at ETH Zurich, „Certified Deep Learning“;

*Prof. Dr. Yiorgos Chrysanthou* – Professor in Computer Science at University of Cyprus, - „Data Driven Character Simulation“.

There were 40 research papers presented in 6 sections. Academician Peter Kenderov has initiated the participation of high school students, who already have certain achievements in the field of computing. So once again this year he supervised the high school students section and guided the future researchers.

The authors with the greatest scientific contribution were awarded with the Crystal Prize Best Paper. For 13 years now the papers, presented at CompSysTech have been published in the virtual library of the Association for Computing Machinery and are indexed by SCOPUS, which is an indicator for the scientific value of the conference.

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participatory and responsive society, based on European values, recognizing the culturally diverse human potential as the creator of the future.

On the first day of the conference, reports were presented by the academic management of the university and the graduates of BRIE. The first day ended with a role play „If I were you“, prepared by PhD students in political studies and the improvisation troupe ViZHna! led by Ivaylo Nenov and Iliyan Ilkov. The second day was dedicated to the special participation of HE Ambassador Christoph Eichhorn on the topic „One bed – different dreams? German – Bulgarian discussion about Europe“. More than 100 young people – students from the University of Ruse and from the high schools in our town, took part in the discussion. The cultural programme at the end of the conference included visits to historical sites in Ruse.

The organisers from BRIE express their gratitude to HE Ambassador Christoph Eichhorn and to Mila Ilieva – officer at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Republic of Bulgaria.

BRIE is the only cross-border educational and research structure in Southeast Europe that is developing on the basis of an international agreement and conducts training for international students (in English with additional classes in German and Romanian language) in Master degree programmes. The network includes the University of Ruse, the Academy of Economics – Bucharest, as well as the German Universities in Regensburg, Viadrina and Kempten.

*Material submitted by Assoc. prof. Mimi Kornazheva, PhD*

## The University of Ruse celebrates its 76th anniversary

12 November, 2021

On 12 November 2021, the 76th anniversary of the founding of the University of Ruse was celebrated, as well as 171 years since the birth of the patron of the University – Angel Kanchev. The Mayor of Ruse – Pencho Milkov, the regional governor – Borislav Bulgarinov and his deputies – Stefka

channel. After the welcoming speeches of P. Milkov and B. Bulgarinov, the Rector of the University of Ruse, Academician Hristo Beloiev, delivered an academic speech in which he shared:

„On November 12, we address all of you, the worthy creators of knowledge and science at the University of Ruse, with words of gratitude. Lecturers,



Karakoleva and Sinan Hebibov were guests at the celebration.

The start of the celebration was given by the ceremony of laying a wreath at the monument of Angel Kanchev in front of the University. Due to the safety measures for the pandemic, only a small number of representatives from the academic management, lecturers, administration, students and PhD students gathered in the front lobby. All the remaining members of the academic community and friends of the University of Ruse were made a part of the celebration by broadcasting it live on the university's YouTube

administrative staff, students, PhD students, alumni are our priceless capital of creative inspiration, respect to the wealth of ideas, critical evaluation, tolerance to diversity, youthful impulses and spirit, unquenchable faith in the triumph of academic and human values.“

On the occasion of the Day of the University of Ruse (November 12), the Body Rectors and the University Library organized the 21st edition of the traditional Exhibition of Printed and Electronic Editions of lecturers, doctoral students and students, which was officially opened by the Rector

Acad. Hristo Beloiev. In 2021, the exhibition presented a total of 150 editions in Bulgarian and English, divided into 11 categories. Academician Beloiev presented the diplomas to the colleagues who ranked first in each category, as well as the special award to Prof. Dr. Juliana Popova and the team for advertising materials related to the jubilee celebration of the 75th anniversary of the University of Ruse.

Traditionally, on this day the Rector, Academician Hristo Beloiev, presented the diplomas to colleagues who defended their scientific degrees and received scientific positions in 2020 and 2021. Despite the challenges and difficulties, during this period 25 lecturers defended their PhD theses and 3 became „Doctors of Science“. The academic position of „Associate Professor“ was awarded to 9 lecturers, and the professors of the University of Ruse increased by three.

The celebration ended with the anthem of the university, „our inner space for creativity in education and science“ in the words of Academician Beloiev.

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## Graduation of the class of 2021 of the University of Ruse



On 23rd September 2021, the official ceremony for the Graduation of the class of 2021 of the University of Ruse was held. The Honours graduates and those with the highest grades in each degree programme received their diplomas from the Rector of the University, Cor. Mem. Prof Hristo Beloev, DTSc.

„Dear graduates, you know, you are achievers and we believe in you unconditionally! Believe in yourself and follow your dreams boldly, because you are able to fulfil them!“ – were the words of Prof. Beloev to the alumni of the University of Ruse.

The Mayor of the Municipality of Ruse, the District Governor and His Eminence Metropolitan Naum of Ruse extended their congratulations to the Body of Rectors, the teaching staff and the graduates. Congratulatory addresses were received from many public, non-governmental and private institutions.

The mathematician-financier Alexandra Klimenko,

the graduate with the highest grades among the humanities graduates, thanked the lecturers from the University of Ruse on behalf of the excellent students and wished everyone health, creative enthusiasm and strength.

In 2021, 1360 graduates received their diplomas from the Alma Mater in Ruse. From September 23rd to 25th, 2021, the ceremony continued by faculties in the courtyard of the campus, in compliance with anti-epidemic requirements.

### **Razgrad Branch**

On the opening day of the academic year in Razgrad Branch, on September 20, 2021, the official ceremony of awarding the diplomas of Bachelors and Masters Alumni 2021 was held. The Director of Razgrad Branch Prof. Gencho Popov, PhD welcomed the graduates and wished them success. The Bachelor alumni planted the Graduation Tree: for 2021 it is

Photinia – an evergreen, blooming with beautiful white flowers, with a pleasant smell and red fruits that ripen in autumn and often remain on the tree in winter. Traditionally, the Tree of the Graduation is a gift from Bozhinel Hristov.

The tradition of the masters, who address their message to students and teachers, was observed and the message was placed in the specially prepared Time Capsule.

### **Silistra Branch**

On 28th September 2021, the academic year was opened in the Silistra Branch of the University of Ruse. On behalf of the Body of Rectors, Prof. Diana Antonova, PhD, conferred diplomas to the students with the highest grades in their studies and state exams, and the vice-deans awarded the diplomas to 30 graduates.

### **Vidin Branch**

On 8 October 2021, in Vidin Branch of the University of Ruse 60 graduates received their diplomas for successful graduation. All this happened at a ceremony, held in the Theatre Hall.

On behalf of the academic management, the Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc congratulated the students with the words: „You are among the first, who started their studies in the Branch of Vidin, when it was already accredited. Now, with your diplomas, you will start working in different structures, each of you according to their degree programme“. Prof. Beloev assured the audience that the Branch will continue to respond to the needs of the local business through starting new degree programmes.

„Vidin is already an academic city. For a second year in a row we confer diplomas to our students here, but for the first time we have alumni of the accredited Vidin Branch. Thank you that five years ago you believed in our efforts and found a reason to stay in our city“, said the administrative director of the Vidin Branch Momchil Stankov, addressing the students.



## Innovative events and projects

### University Botanical Garden

On 27 May 2021, the academic community of the University of Ruse saw the opening of the University Botanical Garden, with some species which are over 100 years old.

The activity for investigating the possibility of setting up a University Botanical Garden started back in the summer of 2020, when a detailed research was conducted on the flora species variety in the park of the University of Ruse. The work was done by Petya Angelova, PhD, a lecturer in Botany and Taxonomy of Plants, and students from the degree programme Plant Growing with the Agrarian and Industrial Faculty of the University of Ruse.

As a result of the research, it was revealed that the park hosts over 300 local and foreign tree and shrub species, which, together with the diversity of forms count to about 400 taxons. When identifying the age of the flora species, it was found out that some of them were planted in the years before the Liberation of Bulgaria in the 19th century.

Given the impressive results of the study, the idea arose to expose the dendrological collection of the park of the University of Ruse and to turn the territory into a botanical garden, by categorizing and documenting the plants grown in it for scientific purposes. The plant species are presented with their names according to the internationally established botanical nomenclature.

Gradual reconstruction of the existing green areas and enrichment of the plant collection is planned, while the species' diversity is to be exposed by creating dendrological routes with information boards.

Currently, the Botanical garden has a Rose garden and an Orchard. Several more thematic corners are to be established: herb garden, Alpine garden with



cold-resistant succulent plants, a nook of decorative grasses, a greenhouse, etc. When all this is done, the University Botanical Garden will become an interesting, beautiful and unique park, provoking interest in botany and initiatives related to environmental education and art for all ages.

The aim of the University Botanical Garden is to demonstrate the richness and diversity of both native tree and shrub species and foreign ones. At the moment there can be seen typical tree, shrub and grass representatives of the Bulgarian

flora, as well as foreign species. In addition to exotic species in the garden, there is an opportunity to see rare trees such as paper, liquidamber, ancient representatives of the two-part ginkgo biloba and metasequoia.

The creation of the University Botanical Garden is a long creative process that requires not only a lot of special knowledge, but also patience and constant care. Undoubtedly, the leading place in this process belongs to the professionals, but the academic community of the university welcomes every support from the hearts of our fellow citizens, local institutions and organizations, for whom increasing the green wealth of our city is a cause.

*Material submitted  
by Petya Angelova, PhD*



### Trilateral working meeting

On 17 November 2021 a trilateral meeting was held with the participation of Academician Nikolay Denkov, Minister of Education and Science, directors of directorates in the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Exterior; the Chairperson of Tarakliya region, Mr. Ivan Paslar, the Rector of the Tarakliya State University "Grigoriy Tsamblak", representatives of ministries in Moldova and the Rector of the University of Ruse Hristo Beloev.

An analysis of the biannual activity of transforming TSU into a branch of the University of Ruse, as well as of the problems and future objectives was made.

In the period 6–10 December 2021 an online meeting will be held at the level of Ministries of Education and the Exterior of Bulgaria and Moldova for clarifying the issues on transforming TSU into a branch of the University of Ruse.



## Innovative events and projects

### Development of electronic surveillance in the Republic of Bulgaria

On 16 April 2021 the University of Ruse, together with the Ministry of Justice and Directorate General Execution of Sentences carried out a practical training „Development of electronic surveillance in the Republic of Bulgaria“. At the same time, the Day of the Bulgarian Constitution and the professional holiday of the Bulgarian lawyers were celebrated.



The Rector of the University of Ruse Cor.Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc opened the meeting and noted that the topic of the workshop is extremely important and up-to-date. The vice-Minister of Justice, Prof. Nikolay Prodanov and Chief Commissioner Ivaylo Yordanov – Director of Directorate General Execution of Sentences also spoke at the opening.

Also participating in the workshop were: Senior Commissioner Teodor Atanasov - Director of the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior – Ruse, Commissioner Pavlin Kodzhahristov – Deputy Director of the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Ruse, Chief Inspector Plamen

Parvanov - Head of the First Regional Department of the Ministry of Interior – Ruse, Chief Inspector Yavor Yankov - Head of the Second Regional Department of the Ministry of Interior - Ruse, Georgi Georgiev – District Prosecutor, Yana Ilieva – District Prosecutor, Angel Stefanov - Chairman of the Bar Association – Ruse, Commissioner Nadia Radkovska – Head of the International Cooperation and Staff Training Department in the General Directorate for the Execution of Sentences, Commissioner Yulian Shemshirov – Head of the Department for Social Activities and Educational Work with Offenders in the General Directorate for the Execution of Sentences, Inspector Rosen Kirilov – Inspector of Security of the Electronic Surveillance System in the Regional Service for the Execution of Sentences - Sofia, Commissioner Iskra Stoyanova – Head of the Regional Service for the Execution of Sentences – Veliko Tarnovo, Prof. Dr. Plamen Panayotov - Consultant of the working group at the Ministry of Justice, prepared the concept for penal policy of the Republic of Bulgaria, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kremena Rayanova – Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Ruse, and Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Svetlin Antonov - Head of the Department of Criminal Law and Security at the Faculty of Law, University of Ruse and Head of the Arrests Department at the Regional Service for the Execution of Sentences – Ruse.



Various aspects of electronic surveillance, penalties and other restrictive measures were presented by the lecturers to the court representatives in Ruse, the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Interior, the General Directorate for Execution of Sentences and its territorial services, lawyers, professors, PhD students and students at the University of Ruse. The training also included a

discussion on issues related to the practical application of electronic surveillance. In addition to the presentations given by the guests on the topic, there was a demonstration of the work of technical devices through which electronic monitoring is carried out. The event was also broadcast online, where many students, PhD students, lecturers and practitioners took part.

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### International Earth Day

On 22 April 2021, the University of Ruse celebrated the Earth Day and the Day of Trees, celebrated in China. To mark the activity of the study hall „Confucius“ with the University of Ruse, three coniferous trees were planted and a special plate was put by them as a sign of the eternal friendship between Bulgaria and China.

The Rector of the University of Ruse, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc



congratulated the lecturers in Chinese on all the educational and cultural initiatives during the years, and, in their turn, they thanked him for the hospitality, concern and support. Then the Rector and representatives of the academic management planted the trees, symbolising the strong friendship between the two countries, and the students who are studying Chinese at the University watered them.



Assoc. prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD – Vice-rector in internationalisation and communication policy, Prof. Velizara Pencheva, PhD – Chairperson of the Assembly General and Prof. Juliana Popova – Coordinator Interinstitutional Communications attended the event.

### European Universities Association

At the end of April 2021, the European Universities Association celebrated its twentieth anniversary. The University of Ruse has been a part of it for more than ten years. On the occasion of the holiday, Cor. Mem. Prof. Dr. Hristo Beloev sent an online greeting to the President and the leadership of the Association, noting that our membership there is a privilege and responsibility.

The European University Association creates state-of-the-art educational policies by uniting and connecting universities in Europe. Angel Kanchev University of Ruse has broad leadership positions in the Danube region. The university strives to be at the spearhead of ideas, as an entrepreneurial and innovative university and to develop wide educational and scientific networks with its European partners.

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## Innovative project

# The University of Ruse designed and built a river vessel with hybrid power – solar panel, electrical battery, hydrogen fuel cell

On November 25, 2021 in the waters of the Danube near Silistra was held the first demonstration voyage of the upgraded ecological vessel HydRUforce with hybrid drive based on solar energy - battery - hydrogen fuel cell. It is the first of its kind in Bulgaria and is the result from the work of a team of the Angel Kanchev University of Ruse with partners from various institutions - BAS, Technical University - Sofia, Ruse Municipality and Silistra Municipality.

The event was attended by the Mayor of Silistra Julian Naydenov, PhD, the Regional Governor of Silistra Eli Todorova and the Deputy Governor Mincho Yordanov, the Deputy Mayor of Ruse Dimitar Nedev, representatives of the Maritime Administration, the Vice-Rector of the University of Ruse Prof. Dr. Plamen Daskalov, the Dean of the Faculty of Transport Assoc. Prof. Dr. Assen Assenov and the Director of the Branch of the University of Ruse Assoc. Prof. Dr. Romyana Lebedova, professors, students and citizens.

Prof. Plamen Daskalov, who is also part of the team, greeted all participants on behalf of the academic management of the university and presented diplomas to the team, signed by the Rector Academician Hristo Belovev.

The development has zero carbon emissions and is under the National Research Program „Low Carbon Energy in Transport and Life“ (E Plus), funded by the Ministry of Education and Science. The additional financial resource is from the University of Ruse - the academic capital of Northern Bulgaria.

The presentation was opened by the project manager Prof. Dr. Velizara Pencheva from the University of Ruse, to whom the regional governor Eli Todorova handed a special congratulatory address. It states: „I wish you to successfully continue your pre-announced intentions to legalize the vessel, as well as the subsequent tests and evaluations of individual elements set out in the project.“

The Mayor of Silistra Dr. Julian Naydenov thanked the University of Ruse for the opportunity to create a vessel based on a pontoon with a solar roof, built under the project „Clean Access in the cross-border area Silistra - Calarasi“, funded by a cross-border cooperation program. On the Bulgarian side, the Municipality of Silistra and the University of Ruse are partners again.

In her speech, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Romyana Lebedova - Director of the Silistra Branch, said that students from the engineering department of the university have participated in the project, which for them is an invaluable practical and



scientific experience. Together with other participants in it - professors, associate professors and doctoral students, they received congratulatory letters on behalf of Academician Hristo Belovev - Rector of the University of Ruse.

Assoc. Prof. Assen Assenov presented the main systems of the vessel and together with the other members of the team - Assoc. Prof. Ivan Beloev, Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Grozev and Assoc. Prof. Tsvetelina Georgieva, answered questions. They were actively supported by the doctoral students Eng. Valeri Georgiev and Eng. Stoyan Nyagolov.

A congratulatory address was also received from the Executive Director of the Association of Danube Municipalities „Danube“, which states that as an organization of 34 local authorities from the Danube region in Bulgaria, the association is located in the centre of the ecosystem for decarbonization of the Danube region. „We hope that together with the University of Ruse and other stakeholders we will be able to achieve an ambitious vision, turning the region into an example of achieving Europe’s climate goals.“

Prof. Pencheva announced to the audience that in 2022 the team led by her will continue to work with several ambitious tasks, including the legalization of the vessel in the conditions of insufficient regulatory norms for this type of hybrids, related to innovation with hydrogen as a source of energy.

Several other activities are included in the field of research tasks of the research team: testing in real operating conditions, as well as evaluations of the efficiency of energy management, of energy costs at different loads, etc. A concept for training and demonstrations in a real hydrogen facility is also to be developed.

Traditional for such projects, the publicity of the scientific results obtained is also relevant. Some of these results have already been published in the form of accumulated expertise, shared at international scientific conferences.

*Material submitted  
by Prof. Velizara Pencheva, PhD.*



Building HydRUforce, Bulgaria adds its contribution to the research for using low carbon energy in the domestic waterway transport of Europe.

The hull of the vessel is a pontoon with a solar roof, built under the project „Clean access to the cross-border area Silistra- Călărăși.“

It is envisaged that the demonstration vessel will transport a maximum of 12 people with the crew, at a speed of 5-7 km /h upstream and 12-14 km /h downstream, respectively.

The vessel has a rectangular shape with the following specifications: length 10.5 m; width 4.5 m; height 2.5 m; weight 3.5 t. The propulsion of the vessel is provided by two electric motors with a maximum power of 10 kW and a nominal voltage of 48V. Each electric motor is connected to a group of 400Ah batteries with a voltage of 48V. In addition, two hydrogen fuel cells with a nominal power of 3 kW are connected to extend the buoyancy range; rated voltage 48 V; rated current 60 A; efficiency  $\geq 50\%$ ; Hydrogen operating pressure  $\leq 0.06$  MPa and consumption of 36 l / min. Hydrogen for the fuel cells is provided by special 10-liter cylinders with a mass of 15.2 kg, a capacity of 1.8 cubic meters, and a mass of hydrogen only 0.150 kg, at a pressure of 20 MPa. One cylinder can keep the fuel cell running for 50 minutes. Solar panels with a total power of 7 kW are installed on the roof of the vessel to use the sun’s energy to recharge the batteries..

## Visits and Achievements

### Meeting between universities in China and in the countries from Central and Eastern Europe

On 2 December 2021, in Ningbo, Zhedjan Province, China, and online, the 7th meeting of the Consortium of higher schools in China and the countries from Central and Eastern Europe was held. The common topic of the meeting was „The sustainable development of the cooperation in higher education between China and the countries from Central and Eastern Europe. The meeting was streamed due to the restrictions for the Covid 19 pandemic.



Representatives of 8 countries from Central and Eastern Europe - Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Serbia and RS Macedonia took part online. Academician Hristo Beloev - Rector of the University of Ruse, presented the Vision for modernization of higher education at the University of Ruse and the cooperation with China in the panel session.

The topic was „Digital Transformation of Education in a Pandemic Context, Joint Nurture of Talent and Research Programs in Agriculture, Language Learning, Digital Economics and the Health Industry, University Cooperation“. The Vice Rector for Internationalization and Communication Policy Assoc. Prof. Dr. Desislava Atanasova also took part in the meeting.

### Opportunities for cooperation between universities and SMS with EIT

On 22 October 2021, the Rector of the University of Ruse Academician Hristo Beloev presented the Vision for modernization of the Ruse Alma Mater at a virtual Round table Opportunities for cooperation between universities and SMEs with EIT, organized on the initiative of the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Maria Gabriel and the Minister of Education and Science Academician Nikolay Denkov.

The forum was attended by the Minister of Economy Daniela Vezeva, the Director of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Martin Kern and Wesley Kroc – Head of Education and HEInnovate of (EIT).

Directors of innovation structures and research centres from Europe presented the challenges and results of investing in innovation, science and education, meeting the modern needs of the labour market in the context of globalization and digital transformation of societies to more than 130 participants.

Representatives of key stakeholders, business partners and the managements of Sofia and Ruse Universities discussed opportunities for cooperation and future initiatives.

The central topic of discussion was the modernization of higher education. The emphasis in the presentation of the University of Ruse was the regional and macro-regional importance of the university as a factor of positive change and



socio-economic progress through sustainable and targeted policy of prudent investment, cooperation and sharing of infrastructures and resources between partner public, private and non-governmental organizations leading to the development and intelligent specialization of the Danube region.

*Information PR of UR.*

## European Scientists Night 2021 at the University of Ruse

On 24 and 25 September 2021, the European Night of Scientists has once again been celebrated at the University of Ruse since 2006. The event was organized under the K-TRIO project (Knowledge gained in Training, Research and Innovation brings more Opportunities:  $K^*(T+R+I)=O$ ), coordinated by Sofia University, with the active participation of the University of Ruse as part of the project Consortium. The project is funded by Horizon 2020 and is aimed at initiating and conducting the European Night of Scientists in six Bulgarian cities - Burgas, Varna, Plovdiv, Ruse, Sofia and Stara Zagora, as its main goal is to raise public awareness of the importance of scientific research and the activity of scientists.

The European Night of Scientists 2021 was held under the motto *Science and innovation is the key to the future we want*, and one of the leading messages of the initiative Science and innovation is at the heart of *Green and Digital Europe* – served as a unifying thread of all events in the program of the University of Ruse.

**On 24 September 2021** the Rector of the University of Ruse Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev opened the event with the announcement of the results of the youth competition „Green innovations change lives“. More than 15 competition entries were received in three categories – essay, drawing and presentation on the topic, which competed for the attractive prizes.

The exhibition „Green Ideas in Science and Everyday Life“, opened by the Rector in the central lobby of the University, aroused interest. The photos of Prof. Dr. Stepan Terziyan and Dr. Nikolay Kovachev excited the visitors with the power of their artistic messages for a clean, beautiful and greener environment. Special emphasis in the exhibition was placed through the photographs illustrating the public causes of the University Tourist and Environmental Society „Academic“, convincingly demonstrated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rusi Minev, and the boards revealing the eco-bias of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniel Pavlov, show their eyes to the unknown face of scientists at the University of Ruse.

The next event in the program of the Night was the Discussion Club on „The European Green Deal and the Bulgarian Contribution“ with the participation of Prof. Daria Vladikova and Dr. Maria Tsankova. Prof. Vladikova is an extremely authoritative name on a national and international scale in the field of hydrogen and fuel cells. She leads the national research program on low carbon energy, in which the University of Ruse is a partner and active participant. Maria Tsankova holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Limerick and has been the Executive Director of the Association of Danube Municipalities since 2014. The guests in the discussion club presented the latest developments on the European Green Deal and outlined the prospects for Bulgaria in this regard.

Traditionally, one of the events with the most visitors in the program of the Night is Open Doors of Laboratories at the University of Ruse. This year, three of the laboratories at the university opened their doors to students from high schools in Ruse and the region - in Electronics with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anelia Manukova, in Industrial Communications and Wireless Technology, where the enthusiastic team of Assoc. Georgi Hristov and Assoc. Prof. Plamen Zahariiev work, and in Digital Layered Energy Systems with Head Pr. Assistant Professor Dr. Emil Yankov. Visitors had the opportunity to take on the role of „Scientists for a Day“ and experience the curious and challenging world of science, attractively presented in one of the large halls of the university.

The next two events of the European Scientists' Night program at the University of Ruse were also aimed at the youth audience. In the debate on „Green Innovation“ with the participation of students from the Mathematical and English High Schools in Ruse, the teams from the two elite high schools discussed the topic of green entrepreneurship and its relevance today, presenting their views „for“ and „against“ and showed how innovative ideas are born. Authoritative jury with the participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Desislava Atanasova, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svilen Kunev and Tinka Arbe (a graduate of the University of Ruse with an

impressive career at UBS-Zurich) praised the performance of the teams, with awards and certificates received by all participants.

In the scientific-applied workshop for doctoral students and young scientists on „One Green Europe“ moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ivanova were presented original ideas for the future of green and digital Europe through presentations of developments in the field of green transport technologies, renewable energy sources, green economy, etc. The event highlighted the participation of young scientists from the Department of Transport at the University of Ruse, who demonstrated the capabilities of a mobile laboratory for hydrogen and fuel cells. The promotion of the author's video of Dr. Teodor Kyuchukov for the green magical spaces of the University of Ruse fully fit into the „green“ theme of this year's edition of the Night of Scientists.

And as every year, the culmination of the program for the first day of the Night was the event „Scientists on Stage“, in which talented representatives of the academic community of the university revealed the „unknown role“ of scientists such as poet, musician, actor, artist, applicator or passionate photographer. The virtual stage of the University of Ruse gathered acquaintances and new faces, inspired by the vast world of literature and art. The moderator of the event was PhD student Tsveta Nenova, and the talented and imaginative performers were: Prof. Dr. Angel



Smrikarov, Prof. Dr. Stepan Terziyan, Dr. Iskra Ilieva, Dr. Nikolay Kovachev and Diana Georgieva with impressive presentations of their artistic hobbies; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rusi Rusev - with exciting poetry from two new collections of poems, the last of which with illustrations and co-authored with his granddaughter Yanitsa; Dr. Petya Stefanova, Dr. Ivaylo Nikolaev and Dr. Milena Velikova - with talented musical performances that gathered a storm of applause in the chat on the virtual stage. For the first time, professors from Taraklia State University, Moldova, took part in the program of the Night, congratulating the academic community of the University of Ruse with talented musical and poetic performances. At the end of „Scientists on Stage“ were the performances of the vocal-instrumental group „Tabula Raza“ with the participation of Dr. Dimitar Grozev, Dr. Maya Grozeva, Dr. Sergei Kalinkov and Dr. Nina Tagarova. It is a curious fact that the talented group was born a few years ago during the Scientists' Night and since then it has been constantly proving its stage presence. On the occasion of the final performance of the author's song about Ruse by Sergei Kalinkov, the Rector of the University of Ruse, who was part of the audience of the event, offered his assistance in turning this song into the anthem of Ruse after a little processing.

**On 25 September 2021** the programme of the European Night of Scientists at the University of Ruse continued with the starting the Alley of the Night of Scientists and demonstrations of the professional clubs of the university. The event was conceived as a children's show and gathered many children on the site in front of the University Building 2. The young participants diligently helped Prof. Beloev and Assoc. Prof. Atanasova to plant the first trees in the Alley of Scientists' Night, and then had the opportunity to „drive“ a cute car with a hydrogen cell and launch a police drone provided by lecturers from the laboratories of „Green Transport Technologies „and“ Industrial Communications and Wireless Technologies „. The joyful emotions for the children continued with competitions and games under the charming guidance of the animators from „Veselyatsite“, costumed like Spring and Autumn.

For the first time, the European Scientists' Night, organized by the University of Ruse, expanded its scope to include the branches of the University of Razgrad, Silistra, Vidin and Taraklia, Moldova (future branch). An alley of the Scientists' Night was launched in each of the branches, which will be enriched with new tree species every year.

*Material submitted by  
Assoc. prof. Dessislava Atanasova, PhD and Prof. Juliana Popova, PhD*

## Fifth Innovative Youth EXPO 2021

In the beginning of June 2021, the Fifth Innovative Youth EXPO was held within the frames of the 23rd Spring holidays of the University of Ruse. This is a joint initiative of the Academic Management and the Student Council of the University, under the patronage of the Minister of Education and science, who sent an address of congratulations.



The event started with words of welcome by the Rector, Cor.Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc, who wished the participants success and work in a face-to-face environment. Among the official guests of the event were: the Mayor of Ruse Municipality, Mr. Pencho Milkov and Vice-Mayors, the Governor of Ruse region – Mr. Borislav Bulgarinov and Vice-governors, the Governor of Razgrad region – Mr. Ivan Genchev, and his Vice-governor – Mr. Nayden Kusov, the Vice-governor of Silistra region – Mr. Mincho Yordanov, the Vice-chair person of the National Representation of Student Councils – Mr. Stanimir Boyadviev, representatives of the Ruse University Body of Rectors, business, public institutions, students and high school students.



The official guests present greeted the participants while the Minister of agriculture and foods, Prof. Hristo Bozukov, the Mayor of Silistra Municipality, Julian Naydenov, the Director of Lyuben Karavelov Regional library, Teodora Evtimova and others sent congratulatory addresses.

The Fifth Innovative Youth EXPO started with an extravagant fashion show entitled Covid-19 Pro Fashion in red and black, with clothes designed by the students of the High school of Fashion Design in Ruse. It was followed by presentations of over 250 participants in 38 teams, which had exhibited their projects on 38 stalls. Among them were high school students – winners in national competitions such as School companies „BioFoam“ and „KafEco“ from the High school of Mathematics, Ruse; Gaming club „Zenith“ from the German Language High School in Ruse – winner of the competition „Be a Young Entrepreneur, organised by „Bulgarian Entrepreneur „ journal and Ruse Municipality; the joint teams of the English Language School and the Faculty of Business and Management – Entrepreneurship Module under the

projects „Cooking Masters“, „FarinaFlo“ and „FutureHow“; the student teams of the Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare, which has created the student film „Kinezitherapy after Covid -19“; Agrarian and Industrial Faculty - with 3D models of objects designed by students from Industrial Design, and an almanac – „Remarkable plant species in the University Botanical garden“, compiled by students and lecturers from the degree programme of Plant Growing; the Exhibition „130 years of European spirit in the educational work in Silistra (1890-1913)“, organised by the University Branch Research and Educational Laboratory Cultural and Historic Heritage; the activities of the 5D ALLIANCE – laboratory in digital, layered energy-aided innovative technologies and the 5D ALLIANCE – Research laboratory Low carbon mobility and intelligent transport systems.



Significant interest was aroused by the developments of a student and doctoral student in Electronics with energy efficiency systems – the student Stoyan Valkov presented an electronic control system for transport lines for energy efficiency, and PhD student Yordan Stoev presented a multifunctional electronic monitoring system and process control to improve the management of energy flows in homes.

During the exhibition, the prizes of the university Public Speaking in English contest Inspire were conferred by the head of the Department of Foreign Languages, Sen. lecturer Elitsa Georgieva. The first – year student in Bulgarian language and History, Michaela Georgieva, won the First prize with her presentation The Four Colours of Modern Education and the Grand Prix was won by Nikolay Raykov from the degree programme Informatics and Information Technologies in Business, on the topic The Evolution of Smartphone.



The participants were greeted by the dancers from the University Folk Dancing group Harmony.

While the guests of the event were touring the stands, a live parallel event was broadcast – the Student Scientific Session: Best Paper Crystal Prize, 2021. In the competition for the best scientific report and presentation in English participated the winners of the Student Scientific Session in the faculties.

*Information PR of UR.*

## Erasmus, 2021



On 7 October 2021 the Erasmus academic year started officially at the University of Ruse for 60 incoming students. Of them 12 students will be at the University for the whole year and the rest – for a semester. They come from 8 countries – Azerbaijan, Belgium, Estonia, France, Italy, Spain, Romania and Turkey, and from 20 universities. The largest group from a single university

is from France, ECE University in Paris, the largest number of students from one country are the Spanish students, sent from 9 universities. The students study in 7 faculties, with the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation welcoming the largest number of them.

The Erasmus Coordinators wish a successful year to all students!

## A survey among Erasmus students

### November 2021

In November 2021, Studentska Iskra newspaper in collaboration with the Erasmus office of the University of Ruse and senior inspector Diana Georgieva from International relations subdivision conducted a survey among the Erasmus students, studying at the University during the winter semester 2021 - 2022. The survey was focused on training in an epidemiological environment and the expectations of students in foreign countries. The questions and answers by Luis Thomas Walh Sylvester (Spain), Maria Rosario Martinez Rubio (Spain) and Matthew Jordan (France) showed that the youth-seeking spirit is characteristic of young people, despite the difficult situation in Europe.

#### 1. What motivated you to come in Ruse for such a long period in times when most people avoid travelling abroad at all?

**Luis Thomas (Es):** Erasmus experience has always been something I've wanted to do for a long time. However, I have been doubting to do it during the last few years because of the situation and other factors. One of the reasons I decided to come was because one of my friends did Erasmus last year and it was an awesome experience for her and another friend was going to experience it this year. Other reason was because I was kind of demotivated with my studies and environment and I really needed a change in my life to open my mind. Plus, I've always wanted to visit or live in many places and this was a chance to live abroad and experience new cultures for some time.

**Maria Rosario (Es):** Because I like to know different countries and cultures and it was an opportunity to also practice languages.

**Matthieu Jollard (Fr):** I already visited in the past country from Eastern Europe such as Russia and I wanted to come back to East Europe.

#### 2. How do you assess the COVID measures in the town and in the university in terms of studying and everyday life? If possible, compare them to the ones, applied in your city and/or university.

**Luis Thomas (Es):** Well, in the university the COVID measures are stricter

than in the town, but it's not that strict after all. However, it's fine since most of us are vaccinated. Where I live, the COVID measures were much stricter everywhere during the worst moments of the pandemic. Nowadays, things are better but we keep some measures, less strict, to avoid any new outbreak.

**Maria Rosario (Es):** The COVID measures in general in Ruse I have seen very lax for how the situation is. In Spain, the current COVID situation is good, so there are much fewer restrictions, but when it was bad, the restrictions were tougher than here.

**Matthieu Jollard (Fr):** Covid measure are almost the same here in Ruse and in France people need to wear a mask when entering a shop or a public building. But the university is still open in France.

#### 3. Do you prefer online or face-to-face education in our university?

**Luis Thomas (Es):** In my opinion, face-to-face education is better or more comfortable here, since I live near the university and I share my room with more people who might be sleeping or focusing on other things at the time I have a lesson.

**Maria Rosario (Es):** I prefer face-to-face because it is better to meet classmates and teachers.

**Matthieu Jollard (Fr):** Of course I prefer being in a Classroom than in my room it was nice at the beginning of the crisis but now I can't focus more than 5 minutes when I am listening to an online lecture.

#### 4. Do you feel safe here?

**Luis Thomas (Es):** Yes! I feel safe and comfortable here after some time.

**Maria Rosario (Es):** Yes, I always feel safe.

**Matthieu Jollard (Fr):** Yes, I feel safe.

*Material submitted by  
Diana Georgieva and Assoc. prof. Anelia Manukova, PhD.*

On 25 March, 2021 the start was given of the new seven-year period of the Erasmus+ Programme (2021 – 2027), which has existed since 1987, and in which the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ has participated for 22 years.

For the period of its participation, the University of Ruse has implemented dozens of projects for cooperation with European higher schools and has sent over 1400 students and PhD students for exchange study and internships to European Universities and companies. In recent years, the University of Ruse has been using the opportunities the Programme offers for partnerships all over the world, and has realized projects and mobilities with higher schools

from Asia. With one of them, the Shanghai Polytechnic University, the University of Ruse has expanded the cooperation by signing an Agreement for education with the purpose of obtaining a dual diploma for students from both countries.

With over 500 bilateral agreements for mobilities with Universities from and outside the EU and an annual funding of over 500 000 Euro, the University of Ruse offers its students and lecturers huge opportunities for exchange, funded by the Programme.

*Material submitted by Assoc. prof. Dessislava Atanasova, PhD*

## Еразъм, 2021

## Erasmus+ Programme



For the 7 years of the previous phase of the Erasmus+ Programme (2014–2020) the University of Ruse has been awarded 3 times for excellent implementation of mobility projects under the Programme. The highest recognition came on 25th June 2021 for the fourth time, during the conference, organized by the Centre for Human Resources Development at the opening of the new seven-year period of the programmes Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (2021–2027).

At this official event, educational institutions which have implemented projects with outstanding contribution during the entire seven-year period (2014–2021) were awarded. The Minister of Education and Science conferred a Certificate for high quality project implementation for 2016–2017 to the Vice-rector of the University of Ruse, Assoc. prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD.

In one academic year, in parallel with the traditional mobilities to EU countries, the University of Ruse carried out 144 mobilities with 19 universities from non-EU countries, with a budget of 342,894.00 Euros under the international mobility project and this was the highest budget among the Bulgarian universities that worked on this activity for the respective year.

The partners of the project were from 5 countries – Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Palestine and China. The training involved 6 Bulgarian and 54 international students, with 43 Bulgarian and 41 foreign lecturers giving lectures in host universities. Some of the lecturers participated in the International Erasmus week, organized by the University of Ruse, during which students and lecturers celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Erasmus Programme together.

The success of the project is due to observing the principles of the Erasmus University Charter and the positive attitude and strong engagement of our Erasmus coordinators – Prof. Juliana Popova (University Erasmus Coordinator of the Year), Assoc. Assoc. Smrikarova, Assoc. Prof. Tsv. Harakchiyska, Assoc. Prof. L. Todorova, Assoc. Prof. L. Mikhailova, Prof. K. Grigorova, Assoc. Prof. E. Kolarov, Assoc. Prof. D. Pavlov, Assoc. Prof. N. Bencheva, Prof. St. Damyanov. The success of the project is evidenced by the overall satisfaction of the participants, expressed in the mandatory EU survey of the program and amounting to 100 percent, as well as the established image of the University of Ruse at the international level and in-depth cooperation with partner universities.

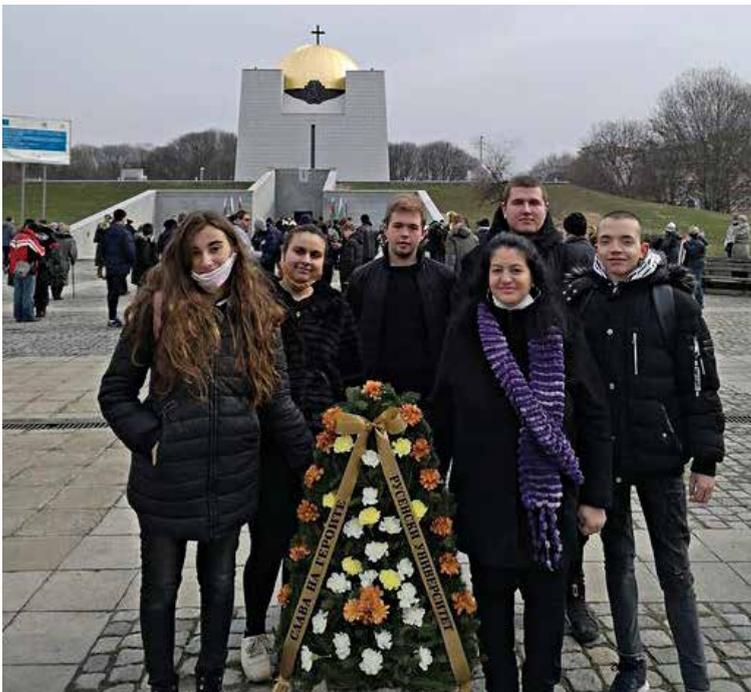
*Material submitted by Prof. J. Popova, PhD.*

## Keep the Bulgarian spirit holy and clean

## Preserve the Bulgarian spirit Club

Every year, the University club Preserve the Bulgarian spirit demonstrates patriotism preserved in the memory of our ancestors through the events it organises and reminds young people that memory and traditions must be known and remembered.

On 20 February 2021 the Club Preserve the Bulgarian spirit laid a flower wreath in the Pantheon of Revivalists in Ruse, commemorating the feat of those who died for the freedom of the city. Students from the degree programme Bulgarian Language and History and lecturers from the University took part in this event.



On 3 March 2021, traditionally, students from the club marked the Independence Day. They participated in the planned event for Ruse, in front of the Statue of Liberty, laying a wreath in memory of those who died for the freedom of our Motherland.

*Material submitted by Pr. Assistant Reneta Zlateva.*



## The University Sports Centre presents...

### Thirty years Echo club with Academic Students Tourist and Conservation Society



In 2021, the academic tourist community of the University of Ruse marked the 30th anniversary of Echo Tourist Club, which is part of Academic Students Tourist and Conservation Society.

An anniversary poster and postcards were printed on the occasion and a hike to Echo hut with radial hikes was organised.

The organised climb of Yumruka peak was related to the Memorial date 28 March 1990, when 23 lecturers and administration from the University of Ruse established the Echo club. At the meeting that took place in the hut, the 20 participants, current club members, were greeted by the Chairperson of Academic Students Tourist and Conservation Society, Assoc. prof. Rusi Minev, PhD, who is also a club member. Pr. Assistant Julia Zlateva, one of the founders, shared interesting moments from the annual calendar of the club, rich in feats, challenging moments and success.

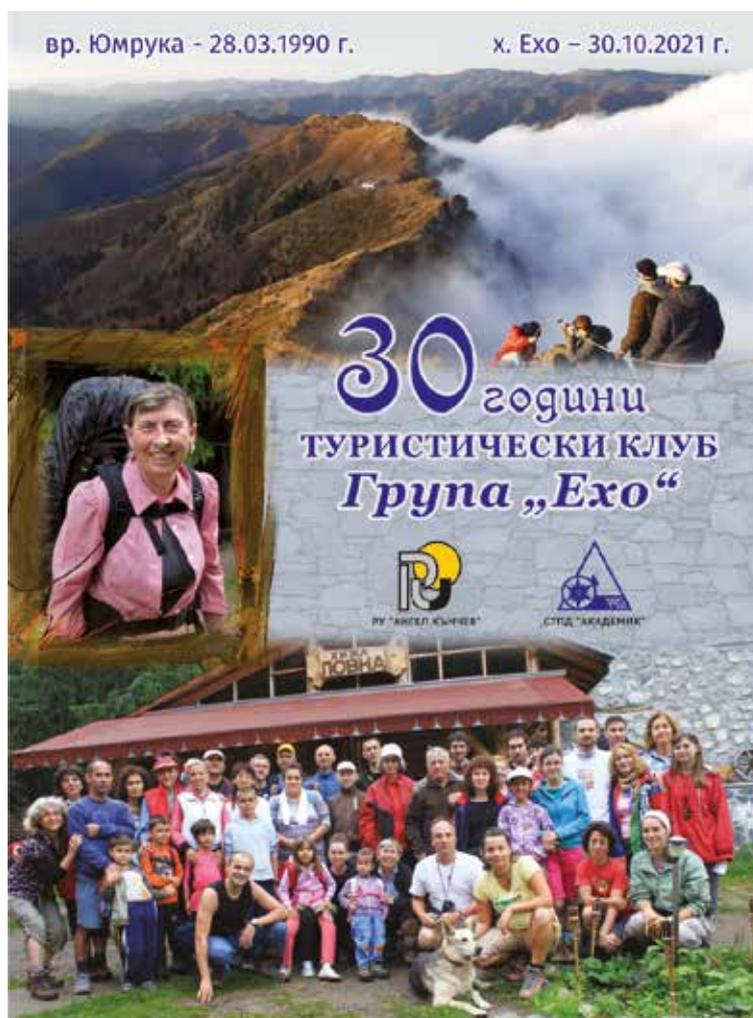
The initiator and club's Head for the entire period of its existence is Assoc. prof. Plamenka Hristova.

Plamenka Hristova has been an excellent organiser and mountain guide since 1990, who has led and guided dozens of hiking groups, excursions, working brigades to Echo and Kozya stena huts, and sports holidays. She has participated in the development and implementation of society projects under various programmes.



Assoc. Prof. Hristova was awarded by the Society, the University of Ruse, as well as the Bulgarian Tourist Union, the latter conferring to her the highest honours, „Aleko“ medal, for her long-standing and dedicated work for the development of tourism among the academic communities in Ruse and the country.

On the occasion of the club's anniversary, for special merits and contribution to the development of tourism, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamenka



Hristova was awarded a plaque of the Bulgarian Tourist Union. The award was presented at a meeting of the Academic Council of the University of Ruse on November 23, 2021.



## Университетски спортен център представя...

### Autumn student sport events 2021



#### National Autumn University Championship in table tennis

Under the leadership of Dr. Valeri Yordanov, Head of the FVS Department, the teams of the University of Ruse in table tennis performed quite successfully at the Autumn University Championship 2021.

The Ruse team of female students was composed of third-year students Ivelina Ivanova, Adriana Ivanova and first-year student Iveta Ilieva. They achieved three victories against UNWE at 3: 0, against Medical University (Plovdiv) – 3: 1 and against Plovdiv University - 3: 0 and took second place. This is an excellent position before the final tournament of the National Universiade in 2022.

The men in the team Ognyan Todorov, Konstantin Kamburov and Svetoslav Goranov performed as expected. Sixth place in the standings is a prerequisite to move forward after playing in the spring matches.



#### National Autumn University Championship in swimming

The University of Ruse was represented by our excellent swimmer Bogomil Yakovchev (Law) in the autumn swimming championship. He competed in the 50 meters backstroke.

After a strong and powerful swim, he „wedged“ between the two representatives of the National Sports Academy and won second place.

#### National University Championship in football

In the hall of the National Football Base „Boyana“ in Sofia was held the National University Football Championship for 2021. The best 12 student football teams took part, divided into four preliminary groups. The team of the University of Ruse, headed by Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Kamen Simeonov, performed really well, winning bronze medals after a 3: 2 victory over the Technical University – Sofia; 7: 0 over the Higher School of Civil Engineering - Sofia; and 9: 2 over New Bulgarian University - Sofia.

The Ruse team consisted of Mert Tasim, Galen Yordanov, Nevzi Niyaziev,



Deniz Nedzhmiev – captain, Berkan Ibryamov, Stanimir Angelov, Kristian Marinov, Atilla Yumer, Vladimir Perchemliev, Tihomir Drumev – goalkeeper.

In the semi-finals, on the way to first place, the team fought with dignity, but lost 2: 4 to the team of UNWE – Sofia. The Ruse team ranked third.

The Ruse captain of the team Deniz Nedzhmiev was chosen as the most useful player of the tournament, who, with his inspiring game, led the team from victory to victory.



#### Danube marathon Prista

The fourth edition of the Danube marathon „Prista“ was held on the excellent routes of Western Park Ruse with start / finish in front of Metro - Ruse. In partnership with a number of co-organizers, the University Sports

Centre at the University of Ruse was instrumental in organizing and conducting the marathon once again. The participation amounted to 154 runners from 21 cities in the country.

The winners in the longest distance of 35 km with 820 meters of level difference were the strong athletes Ivaylo Valev from Pleven and Atanaska Atanasova from Sofia.

Apart from students, Assoc. Prof. Valentin Bobilov, PhD also took part in the run. He successfully ran the 14-kilometer distance.

*Valentin Kamenarov,  
University sport.*



## The University Sport Centre presents the achievements in 2021



### Ceremony on naming of a sports hall

**October, 2021**

The work on the modernization of the sports facilities at the University of Ruse and the search for appropriate forms of cooperation with high schools and partner organizations in the field of sports and tourism continues despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic.

On October 6, 2021, the sports hall Academic-1 was named after Assoc. Prof. Dr. Joseph Ganev. The Rector of the University of Ruse Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSC, together with the Deputy Regional Governor of Ruse Principal Assistant, Dr. Stefka Karakoleva solemnly unveiled the memorial plaque placed at the entrance of the hall. Dr. Karakoleva presented a congratulatory address on behalf of the District Governor of Ruse District Borislav Bulgarinov.

The representatives of the academic community, the media and the public also witnessed the signing

of an Agreement for joint activities between the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ and the Sports School „Major Atanas Uzunov“ – Ruse.

The finale of the celebration was set with the opening of the renovated gym of the university. The total investment for it exceeds BGN 10,000. The funds are entirely at the expense of the University of Ruse. All appliances have been updated and two more have been purchased. The floor is covered with new flooring, corresponding to the purpose of the hall.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yosif Ganev is the first professor of physical education and sports at the University of Ruse. He laid the material and methodological foundations of education in the discipline of Physical Education and Sports at the University. In 1959 he became the first head of the newly formed Department of Physical Education and Sports and headed this department until 1985.

The contribution of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yosif Ganev for the construction of the university sports base is significant. In 1964 the first sports hall Academic-1 was built and the open sports grounds in front of it. The development of the sports facilities during this period continues with the construction of the

football field and the athletics track around it.

The contribution of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yosif Ganev for the involvement of students in active sports not only in the learning process, but also outside it is remarkable. On his initiative, the first university football and basketball tournaments were organized.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yosif Ganev has also contributed to the development of new, non-traditional sports at the University of Ruse, which are gaining popularity in our country in the 70s of last century. In 1970, the foundations of water skiing in the city of Ruse were laid and later - of figure skating with water skis. In the next few years, the University of Ruse established itself as a leading force in the field of water sports. After 1985, he continued to work actively on the methodology of teaching the discipline of Physical Education and Sports and on the scientific aspects of the training process in the preparation of sports teams. A significant part of these developments have found application in the work with student-athletes of the University of Ruse.

*Material submitted by Prof. Borislav Angelov.*



Photography: Nikolay Kovachev, PhD



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