



## The University of Ruse elected new management for 2019–2023 mandate

On 26 November 2019, the University of Ruse elected its rector for the 2019–2023 mandate. The academic community voted its trust in *Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSC, DHC mult.* with 203 positive votes out of 229 voters. This trust proves the significant role of prof. Beloev in the development of the University through the years.

At the first session of the Assembly General for each mandate the Rector, the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Assembly and the Chairperson of the Control Council are elected. *Prof. Velizara Pencheva, PhD*, and *Assoc. prof. Anelia Manukova, PhD*, were re-elected as Chairperson and Vice-chairperson; *Assoc. prof. Mitko Nikolov, PhD*, was elected Chairperson of the Control Council. The voting was conducted in accordance with the Higher Education Act and the Regulations for nominating candidates for elections of management positions in the University of Ruse.



After the elections, *Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSC, DHC mult.* expressed before a representative of „Studentska iskra“ newspaper his gratitude for the trust of the academic community of the University of Ruse and outlined the significant role of the University:

„We state to the world categorically that the Ruse Alma Mater has a lot to be proud of and „stand high“ (as the lyrics of our hymn read) in the national and international educational and research space.

The messages, which the University of Ruse sends to its partners, to the present and future students, to the citizens of the regions, where it is located, to the national and international communities, are Strength, Dignity and Authority.

The strength of the University of Ruse is in its multi-profile nature, in the diverse palette of professional fields and degree programmes, in its ability to adapt to the dynamics of the environment and to find the right solution to all challenges. This strength inspires confidence for the future and constantly charges us with positive creative energy.

The dignity of the University of Ruse is measured by its tradition of many years, by the dedicated work of the numerous members of the academic community, by its achievements, created by the deeds of all of us – the people, who have bound their present and future with the Ruse Alma Mater.

The authority of the University of Ruse is everything that we have done our best to achieve: it is coping with the vicissitudes of time, building partnerships, turning bold ideas into reality and rallying around a single cause – the cause of the University of Ruse.

Together we will enhance the influence of the University in Bulgaria, in the crossborder and Danube region, we will make the University of Ruse a standard – for high quality of the study process, for successful partnership with the business and the institutions, for successful realisation of the students,

and for achievements in research.

A year ago, the University of Ruse received a targeted subsidy of 1 million BGN, as a first installment towards the 3 million project for building a modern, high-tech research centre. Besides being a hub for scientific and business development, this centre will complete its architectural composition – all buildings will be connected to the Main building and will combine tradition and modernity.

The University of Ruse collaborates actively with the Ministry of education and science, the Ministry of foreign affairs and the Presidency for transforming the State Higher School in Taraklia into a branch of the University.

Let us preserve the strength and dignity of our University and expand its authority!

May it continue to be our second home and our fortress of knowledge, wisdom and faith in the eternal power of spirit!“

The newly elected Body of Rectors is as follows:  
*Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD* – Vice-rector in Education;  
*Prof. Diana Antonova, PhD* – Vice-rector in Research;  
*Assoc. prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD* – Vice-rector in Internationalisation and Communication Policies;

Dear readers,

Today, our society is characterised by overwhelming information, by the emergence of social sensitivity and by the quest to overcome any problems through dialogue and cooperation. It is education that guides young people through the process of socialisation into the modern conditions, thus becoming an important factor, focusing on providing opportunities for acquiring, implementing and disseminating information, values and skills. Education is a treasure, which we accumulate throughout our whole life, but the key to this treasure is the path and the hard work along it as we acquire knowledge and discover it within us.

Issue 408 of the university newspaper „Studentska iskara“ marks the beginning of an annual issue in English, which will present the achievements of the University of Ruse to the partners and visitors of Ruse Alma Mater. Its goal is to contribute to the positioning of the University in the international space through information about the significant events, conferences and projects during the past year.

Studentska Iskra is the only university newspaper in Bulgaria that has not changed its name since 1958 and has not severed its links with its readers. From its pages you can always feel the pulse of the University of Ruse and the life of its academic community.

Each issue of this chronicle is a step towards the future, a step towards creating a history of the current events, events and initiatives of the academic community of the University of Ruse.

The issues of the academic newspaper in English will be a mirror of university life, of innovations and scientific forums, of student achievements and success.

**Assoc. Prof. Anelia Manukova, PhD**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

*Prof. Plamen Daskalov, PhD* – Vice-rector in Coordination, Development and Continuing Education;  
*Assoc. prof. Tanya Grozeva, PhD* – Secretary-in-Chief; and *Valeriy Gegov* – Deputy rector Deputy rector Economic Activities.





## Conference at the University of Ruse, 2019



### Balkan Universities Association

19 April, Friday

The fifth annual meeting of Balkan Universities Association was held from 16 to 18 April 2019 in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Over 250 representatives of 48 universities from 11 countries participated in the event. Bulgaria was represented by three universities – the University of Ruse, Sofia University and the Agrarian University in Plovdiv. Twelve universities were admitted as new members and the Statutes of the Association were signed.

The participants from the University of Ruse, led by Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc, held a number of partner meetings, discussing and agreeing on the parameters for future cooperation.

The conference „The UN goals 2030 for sustainable development of the universities in the Balkan region“ was held in the framework of the meeting. The representatives of the University of Ruse delivered a talk on „The University of Ruse as a driving force of regional development.“

### Conference CompSysTech

21 June 2019

„The University of Ruse is aware of the significance of knowledge as motivator of young people in our society!“ - Ms. Karina Angelieva, Deputy Minister of education and science



On 21 June 2019 two anniversaries were marked at the University of Ruse. The first one is the anniversary of the Academic Society on Computer Systems and Information Technologies, whose members are over 60 departments and institutes in computing from all over the country. The second one is related to the 20-ieth edition of the International Conference on Computer Systems and Technologies CompSysTech.

Ms. Karina Angelieva opened the conference, expressing her delight in having the opportunity to give a start to such a sustainable initiative and wishing the team energy and enthusiasm for years to come. Deputy minister Angelieva noted that the atmosphere in the University of Ruse is very special and she feels lucky to be its guest. „...The various research teams of the University serve as an example for building bridges not only between them, but also between different representatives of the public, private and NGO sectors“, was her conclusion.

The Rector of the University of Ruse, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc also congratulated the organisers and participants on the two anniversaries. He wished to the academic society on computing to grow and become

stronger, and to the conference participants – success and beneficial contacts.

At the beginning of the conference humanoid robots competed in reading from the screen.

The plenary session included the following three speakers: Prof. Ivan Dimov – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), „How close we are to the real quantum computer?“; Prof. Avram Escenazi – BAS, „Influence of ICT on the labour market – professions to disappear and others to emerge“; Prof. Roman Zahariev – BAS, „Using humanoids in healthcare“.

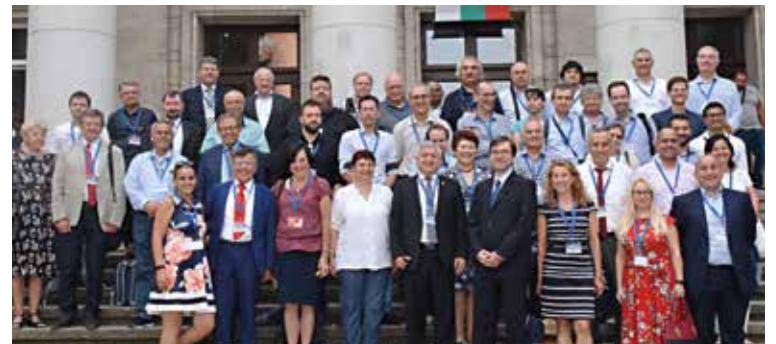
During the sessions, 63 papers of over 100 researchers from 10 countries were presented. Five papers from high school students have also been accepted for presentation.

### Conference EAEEIE

4 September 2019

The 29th Annual Conference of the European Association for Education in Electrical and Information Engineering (EAEEIE) started on 4th September at the University of Ruse and continued to 6th September, 2019.

The forum was opened by the honorary Chairpersons of the conference, the Rector of the University of Ruse, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc and the Chairperson of EAEEIE Jaromir Hrad, PhD.



Prof. Beloev greeted the participants and assured them that the academic leadership and the organisers would take care of their present stay both in the University and in Ruse. He confirmed that the Ruse Alma Mater is aware of the necessity and fully supports the work for improving the quality of educational resources and processes in this field, so significant for humanity - electrical engineering and information technologies. Finally, the Rector extended wishes for new initiatives and beneficial work to all participants.

The Chairperson of EAEEIE Jaromir Hrad, PhD, expressed his gratitude for the hospitality. He wished all the participants a successful conference and new contacts because the work in this field is crucial for the development of the Balkans. 62 papers were approved for participation by researchers from 19 countries (France, Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Finland, Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, Israel, Italy, the Czech Republic, Poland, Greece, Spain, Latvia and Bulgaria). The co-authors are 212 in total, with the biggest number from Romania and the Czech Republic. The papers presented will be indexed in a number of international databases such as Scopus, Google Scholar, dblp, etc.



## Conference at the University of Ruse, 2019



### University of Ruse Conference

22 October 2019

The University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ and the Union of Scientists – Ruse, organised the 58th Annual International Scientific Conference. Scientific and plenary sessions were in Silistra on 18th October, in Ruse – on 24th, 25th and 26th October and in Razgrad on 1st and 2nd November, 2019. The topic of the conference was „New industries, digital economy, society – projections of the future - II“.

The Chairperson of the Organising Committee was Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc, Rector of the University of Ruse and Chairperson of the Union of Scientists – Ruse and Prof. Diana Antonova, PhD, Vice-rector in Research was the Scientific Secretary.

During the sessions 294 papers were presented by their authors from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Poland, Macedonia, Croatia, Italy, Greece, France, the USA, Australia and Great Britain.

The plenary papers were presented by:



*Prof. Emile Nicolas Karailiev*, PhD, Pantheon-Sorbonne University – Paris 1, France, Institute D'administration des entreprises (IAE) – University Schools of Management, France, – Public-private partnerships (PPP) for the preparation of large

investment projects – examples from France and Bulgaria;



*Prof. Kostadin Kostadinov*, PhD, Institute of Mechanics – BAS, advisor to the Minister of Education and Science, – Entrepreneurship and business planning of starting companies for exploiting and commercialisation of research results;



and *Prof. Danail Petrov*, DMSc, FETCS, FEBTS, Head of „St. Sofia“ Breast Surgery Clinic, Medical University, Sofia – Personalised approach to neoplastic lung diseases and quality of living – through the eyes of the thoracic surgeon.

### Conference on Occupational Therapy

31 May 2019

The Second International Conference on Occupational Therapy „From Root to Fruit in the Balkan Countries“, organised jointly with Vasile Alexandri University, Bacau, Romania, started on 31st May 2019 at the University of Ruse. The two universities are long-term partners and pioneers in the development of Occupational therapy as a university degree programme and health-related profession in Bulgaria and Romania.

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

and guests of the conference. He reminded them that the University of Ruse was co-organiser of the First International Conference on Occupational Therapy, held in Bacau under the title Occupational Therapy – present and future perspectives. The fact that today our University is hosting the second conference is a proof for our commitment to the initiative and the fruitful cooperation with the university in Bacau. Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc assured the participants that the higher school will continue to support and aid the development of the degree programme and the profession of occupational therapist.

For 13 years now the University of Ruse is the only one in Bulgaria to offer this degree programme,

### Arnaudov's readings

On 11–12 October 2019 the University of Ruse hosted the 11th Conference dedicated to Academician Mihail Arnaudov 2019. Traditionally, it was organised by the Department of Bulgarian Language, Literature and Fine Arts and the Research centre in folklore, literature and linguistics „St. Dimitar Basarbovski“ in partnership with the Regional Museum of History – Ruse, and the Regional Library „Lyuben Karavelov“ – Ruse.

Researchers in the humanities from the University of Ruse, Sofia University, Veliko Turnovo University, Shumen University, the Institutes in Bulgarian Language; Literature; Ethnology and Folklore with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences participated in the different sections of the conference – „Mihail Arnaudov - personality, works and ideas“, „Folklore and Ethnology“, „Cultural Studies“, „Literary Studies“ and „Linguistics“. Linguists from Novi Sad University, Serbia, International School of languages „NovaMova“ – Ukraine, historians and archaeologists from Vinitsa, Northern Macedonia shared their research papers. The plenary paper on the topic of „Studies in contemporary literature in a digital environment“, presented by prof. Reneta Bozhankova (Sofia University), enjoyed expected interest and was followed by discussions.

This year, the conference was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Research centre in folklore, literature and linguistics „St. Dimitar Basarbovski“ and of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Education.

The parallel programme of the conference offered a lecture by Prof. Bozhankova on the topic of „Digital humanities and the modern university“ and thematic exhibitions „Fusion“ – on the 30th anniversary of the modern Arts festival „Process- Space“ and 20th anniversary of „Lomea“ Symposium, Ceramic icons from the Fortress in Vinitsa and Mihail Arnaudov and the Bulgarian Revival, exhibited in the Regional Museum of History – Ruse and the Regional Library „Lyuben Karavelov“ – Ruse.

Arnaudov's conference has become an event in the life of Bulgarian Humanities and the University of Ruse, but most importantly, it has turned into a bridge between the generations.

and in 2014 it was officially recognized by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.

The forum aims to initiate a constructive dialogue between the state institutions, higher schools and NGOs for clarifying the essence of Occupational therapy as a university degree programme and health profession.



## The Fourth Innovative Youth EXPO at the University of Ruse, 2019



13 May 2019

The 21st Days of Science and 4th Innovative Youth EXPO are held at the University of Ruse. The events are organised by the Academic Management and the Student Council of the University under the auspices of the Minister of Education and Science of Bulgaria.

The Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc, opened the event and welcomed the guests, noting that the event is unique for the North Central Region because it provides the opportunity for scientists of different generations and professions to gather and exchange experience. „The University is the logical venue for this meeting because it is here that science is born and disseminated“, said he.

Official guests for the opening were the Mayor of Ruse – Mr. Plamen Stoilov, Deputy Governors of Ruse region – Mr. Svilen Ivanov and Valentin Kolev, Father Marin from the Ruse Metropolitan, the Members of Parliament – Ms. Svetlana Angelova and Mr. Andrian Rajkov. The Mayor pointed out the high appreciation of the community of Ruse



for the University of Ruse – the place where young people show how big their dreams are. The Deputy Governor, Mr. Ivanov, expressed his belief that such events support the successful development of the city.

This year, students from 8 high schools in Ruse, 22 labs and clubs of the University of Ruse, The Institute of Mechanics with the BAS – Sofia, the Centre of Excellence (UNITE) and the Centre of Competence – Digitalisation of Economy in Big Data Environment participated. Many agricultural and transport companies demonstrated their technologies, equipment and vehicles in front of Kaneff Centre.

The 26 participants from 10 countries in the 6th Erasmus week organised by the University participated in the discussion forum „Dialogues about Education“. Erasmus representatives from Armenia, Vietnam, Germany, Georgia, Spain, China, Poland, Turkey and France discussed higher education issues at the World Café format, organised by lecturers from the Faculty of Business and Management of the University.

The best student papers in different scientific fields were awarded Best paper Crystal Prize'19. The teams participating in the 4th Youth EXPO also received some awards after their short presentations on the stage of Kaneff Centre.

At the end of the day the European week of Public Health was marked by a number of events, organised by professional club „Fitness. Health. Tone“, the Department of PE and Sport, the Department pedagogy, Psychology and History, the Student Council, Cheerleaders' club and Sports Society Academic, under the auspices of the European Association of Public Health (EUPHA) and the initiative of BPHA.

## The University of Ruse in HEInnovate

24 June 2019

In the period 20th–21st June 2019 a delegation from the University of Ruse participated in HEInnovate initiative of the European Commission for stimulating entrepreneurial universities. This year the topic of the event was „Supporting Innovation and Entrepreneurship in and through Higher Education“ and it coincided with the official events in Bucharest on closing the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The international initiative was held in the Main building of the Bucharest Politechnica, in the presence of academic representatives from all EU member-states. At the opening of the event, the University of Ruse was given the opportunity to present its achievements under HEInnovate. Three representatives of the University of Ruse took part in the forum.

Prof. Juliana Popova, PhD, Vice Rector in Internationalisation and Communication Policy, participated in the panel „Setting the Scene – The innovative and entrepreneurial higher education institution“ and acquainted the official participants and guests with the main fields in which the University of Ruse is working actively at a national and international level, with representatives of the business, academic community and public administration.

Assoc. prof. Daniel Pavlov, PhD, Head of the Centre for Promotion of Entrepreneurship, participated in the panel „Preparing and Supporting Entrepreneurs“ and presented the latest initiatives at the University of Ruse for stimulating entrepreneurial behavior in students – INNOVENTER, INTERGEN, „From the experience of an entrepreneur“, „Competition for developing business

plans“ and others.

Anabel Krusteva, a student in Business Management, participated in the student panel „Preparing and Supporting Entrepreneurs“ and attracted the attention of the entire public with her entrepreneurial spirit and the success of her company for light fixtures – „Balkan Light Export“ Ltd.



The three representatives of the University of Ruse were invited to present at the forum by Mr. Peter Bauer, European Commission, based on the entire contribution of the University to improving the state of affairs at a local, national and international level.



## The Innovative events, 2019



### NASA International Space Apps Challenge

24 October 2019

On 19 and 20th October 2019 the biggest hackaton in the world was held – International Space Apps Challenge 2019. It was organised under the auspices of NASA and was held simultaneously in over 200 cities all over the world. For the third year in a row Ruse took part and the event was traditionally hosted by the University of Ruse. The competition was also held in Sofia and Burgas.

In the competition in Ruse participated 52 young people in 17 teams. More than half of them were high school students, predominantly from „Baba Tonka“ High Scholl of Mathematics. There were representatives from „Apostol Arnaudov“ High School of Electronics and Engineering, „Otec Paisii“ Basic School, „Geo Milev“ English Language High School and „Konstantin-Kiril the Philosopher“ High School of European Languages. A great number of students from the University of Ruse, New Bulgarian University, the University of Veliko Turnovo and Falmouth University, Great Britain also took part in the hackaton.

The participants developed and presented projects, proposing their own solutions to challenges, posed by NASA. The presentations were public and the event was life-streamed.

After a discussion, the jury consisting of: Assoc. prof. Milko Marinov and Assoc. prof. Irena Valova from the Department of Computer Systems and Technologies, Stefan Shopov, MSEng from MentorMate and Danail Momchev from Econt – a company that sponsored the event, Tsvetelina Mladenova, MSEng and Pr. assistant Yordan Kalmukov, PhD from the Department of Computer Systems and Technologies selected two teams that will go to the world finals:

- **inFrames** with members Nikolai Marinov (4th-year student, Computer Systems and Technologies in UR), Stefan Stefanov (first-year student, Information Technologies in NBU) and Dian Donchev (3-rd year student, Game Art in Falmouth University, Great Britain). The team worked on the challenge for evaluation of lunar samples before or during a mission. The aim is to discover and bring back to Earth various objects that have scientific significance, rather than samples from materials that have already been well-studied.

- **Bit Robots** with members Vyara Simeonova (8th grade student in „Baba Tonka“ High Scholl of Mathematics-Ruse), Simeon Baltadjiev (1st-year student in Computer Systems and Technologies in UR), Yordan Ganey (1st-year student in Software Engineering in UR). The team worked on the same challenge as inFrames – for evaluation of lunar samples

during a mission, in order to collect only materials that have scientific value and ignore the rest. The competitors proposed systems of automated robots, which will discover, study and collect lunar samples.

The projects of inFrames and Bit Robots will be evaluated by NASA experts during the world finals.

Organisationa and companies that supported and provided prizes for the winners were: The University of Ruse; Econt; MentorMate; NetWorx; Musala Soft; ICN.bg; TeledidPro; UBER and Macsoft.

### Meeting of the East and the West

11 March 2019

The Rector of the University of Ruse, COR. MEM. Prof. Hristo Beloiev, DTSc, opened the first partner meeting under the project Modernisation Of Higher Education In Central Asia Through New Technologies with the words: „We are proud that the European Commission ranked the project of this large Euro-Asian consortium second. The University of Ruse has focused its efforts on the digitization of higher education since the beginning of the 21 century.



So far, our Alma Mater is the initiator and coordinator of 5 large-scale European projects with the participation of dozens of universities from almost all European countries. We would like to express our gratitude to our long-standing partners from Italy (28-year old cooperation and three joint thematic networks in the field of education), Luxemburg (10 years of cooperation) and Portugal (12-year old cooperation and a joint project for distance learning). We hope to fulfil our function as the coordinator of this project, drawing on our experience so far. I welcome our new colleagues and friends from Kazakhstan, Kirgiztan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan“.

At the opening were present H.E. Temirtai Izbastin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Bulgaria, Mr. Davlatzoda Saifiddin – deputy Minister of education and science of Tajikistan, Prof. Kurmanbek Abdildaev – Rector

of Issik-Kulski State University, 9 vice rectors, as well as Deans and Heads of Departments.

\*\*\*

9 December 2019

From 2nd to 6th December in the capital of Uzbekistan the Third partner meeting under the Eurasian project „Modernisation of Higher Education in Central Asia through New Technologies“ was held at the Tashkent State Economic University. In this meeting 54 representatives from 9 partner institutions took part, including Bulgaria, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

As the Rector of the University of Ruse, who participated as a plenary speaker via a pre-recorded lecture, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloiev mentioned, this is the sixth large scale project of the type „thematic network“, initiated and coordinated by our University, but the first one which has specific outcomes as early as the end of the third year.

Besides reporting on the state of affairs and the results from the monitoring by the external evaluator, training of trainers was performed on days 2, 3 and 4 according to the agenda. Prof. Smrikarov gave a talk on the requirements for starting the digital transformation of education. He also lectured on developing asynchronous distance learning – how to make a digital library and on developing blended learning. Prof. Vassilev informed the participants why to use and how to choose an interactive board. All participants in the training were very motivated and asked many questions. There were also two practical exercises on those topics.

At the end of the meeting, Certificates for successful participation in the Training Course for Improving Lecturers' Skills in Innovative Educational Technologies and Didactic Models were awarded.

The 15 partner universities from Central Asia have adopted a Concept for adapting the education system to the digital generation, which has been approved by the respective Ministries of Education, published in the respective national language, in Russian and English, and is going to be distributed to all nearly 350 universities in these countries.

Centres of Innovation Educational Technologies, modelled after the one at the University of Ruse, are in the process of establishing in every partner university in Central Asia.

## Visits in the University of Ruse, 2019

### Civil dialogue on the topic „Digital technologies: opportunities and challenges“ with the participation of Mariya Gabriel

*„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

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 an 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 frame agreement for cooperation with the State Humanitarian University of Izmail, Ukraine

5 June 2019

Prof. Yaroslav Kichuk – Rector of The State Humanitarian University of Izmail, Ukraine, Nikola Karaivanov – Honorary Chairperson of the Bulgarian Association for Research and Development and Nikola Draganov – programme director of Energy, Economy and Environment in the Bulgarian Association for Research and Development, signed a frame agreement for cooperation.



The Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc presented to the guests the history, structure and international achievements of the higher school in Ruse. He informed them that the University of Ruse maintains contact with over 15 universities from Ukraine. „The agreement with the State Humanitarian University of Izmail, located on the River Danube provides perspectives for expanding the contacts and opportunities for cooperation in the Danube Region“, noted prof. Beloev.

Prof. Yaroslav Kichuk presented the State Humanitarian University of Izmail, which is the only state university in this city. In the four faculties of the University, Bulgarian language is taught and there is a degree programme in Bulgarian philology. Bulgarian is also taught in Sunday schools, as well as in courses for improvement of qualification, added prof. Kichuk.

At the end of the meeting the two rectors signed a Frame agreement for cooperation and the first activity under this agreement will be the participation in the Scientific conference of the University of Ruse in October. The visitors got acquainted with the facilities of the University of Ruse.

### Expanding the cooperation between the Baku Higher Oil School in Azerbaijan and the University of Ruse

11 April 2019,

Lecturers from Baku Higher Oil School - Baku Azerbaijan are on a one-week visit to the University of Ruse.

For the first time, this academic year the University of Ruse received funding for student and lecturer exchange under the Erasmus+ programme with Azerbaijan. As a result, the Head of Department Automation of engineering processes, assoc. prof. Nayla Alahverdieva and assoc. prof. Syulejman Syuleimanidze are in Ruse for a week.

The cooperation between the two universities started back in 2014 with the signing of a bilateral agreement. On the basis of it, Baku Higher Oil School adopted the curriculum of the bachelor degree programme „Computer Control and Automation“, developed by the Department of Automation and Mechatronics, in the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation of the University of Ruse. The lecturers from the University of Ruse have developed all study materials for the subjects in the curriculum in English.

The agenda of the visit includes work visits, educational workshop, meetings with the university management. During one of the meetings with the Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc the opportunity for expanding the cooperation between the two institutions by developing a master degree programme with the perspective of obtaining dual diploma was discussed.

### The agreement for cooperation with Kadri Zeka University in Gjilan, Kosovo

9 July 2019

The Rector, Asoc. Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi, the Vice-rector in International Relations and the President of the Steering Committee of Kadri Zeka University in Gjilan, Kosovo, were on a visit to the University of Ruse.

The Rector, Cor.Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc expressed his satisfaction, also on behalf of the University management with the visit of Kadri Zeka University academic leaders. The University of Ruse is modern and innovative and is the initiator of a number of policies on the development of education in Bulgaria. He expressed his belief that the cooperation between the two universities will be beneficial and will contribute to the development of higher education on the Balkans.

Asoc. Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi explained that the history of the institution he is representing, started back in 1963 as a pedagogical school, in 2004 several faculties were established and in 2013 the Kadri Zeka University was approved officially. Today the higher school has around 7000 students from Eastern Kosovo, Southern Serbia and Northern Macedonia. Despite the fact that it is a relatively young institution, it has some firm positions in Erasmus project implementation, offers training in two Master degree programmes with double diplomas and is planning to expand its partnerships, as well as to establish new faculties.



## Visits in the University of Ruse, 2019

### Another double diploma from Shanghai Polytechnic University

12 September 2019

A delegation from Shanghai Polytechnic University visited the University of Ruse. Our guests were the Dean of the College of Engineering Prof. Cao Jianqing, the Head of the Computer Systems and Technologies Department – Assoc. prof. Chen Lin, the Head of the Electronics Department – Assoc. prof. Song Shaojing and the lecturer from the same department – Dr. Hu Jinyan.

The aim of this visit was the re-signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the two universities, commenting on the state of the agreement for issuing double degree diplomas in the degree programme Computer Engineering and discussing the possibilities for signing an agreement for joint training and double degree diplomas in Electronics.

The rector of the University of Ruse, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc, expressed his satisfaction of meeting the Dean of the College of Engineering with Shanghai Polytechnic University again. He presented the history and the numerous achievements of the University of Ruse, which provide good grounds for strengthening and expanding the cooperation between the two institutions. The opportunity for joint



training and double degree diplomas in Electronics is a natural consequence of the successful work on implementing the agreement for Computer Engineering, as well as on the Erasmus+ exchange of lecturers and students, approved for a second year in a row.

Shanghai Polytechnic University was founded in 1960 and trains students in 78 degree programmes, most of which in the field of engineering. There are also degree programmes in Management, Economics, Literature, Science and Arts. The staff is 1100, of which 800 lecturers. Full-time students are 13 044, and part-time - 8 500. Shanghai Polytechnic University is in cooperation with 150 partners from 36 countries on programmes for joint training, student and lecturer mobility, joint research, conferences, etc.

The delegation was acquainted with the Concept of the University of Ruse for adapting the education system to the digital generation. They also visited Kaneff Centre, the Publishing Centre and the University Campus. In the afternoon there were meetings with the lecturers from Computer Systems and Technologies and from Electronics Departments, as well as presentations on the research and project work of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation.

### Meeting of Mr. Ignat Kaneff with the academic community



18 October 2019

Mr. Ignat Kaneff, DHC of the University of Ruse, met with the academic community of our Alma Mater in Kaneff Centre.

In the beginning, Prof. Plamen Kangelov, Vice-rector in Education, conferred the Crystal Prize of the University of Ruse to Mr. Kaneff, on behalf of the Body of Rectors, with gratitude for all he has done for the young people in the University and the city. Prof. Kangelov expressed his hope that this support will be sustainable and there will be more meetings like this, inviting Mr. Kaneff to the 75th Anniversary of the University of Ruse, which will be celebrated next year (12 November 2020).

Prof. Pencheva presented to Mr. Kaneff a book of photographs, titled *The Chronicle of Patriotism*, which has the following dedication: This album is a humble gift from the academic community of the University of Ruse to the great patriot and the man with a big heart **IGNAT KANEFF** – Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Ruse... Thank you, dear Igi! Be healthy and keep setting an example to the young people with your energy, dedication and real

human presence!"

The Album is a collection of photographs from significant events related to Mr. Kaneff, ever since his first meeting with the Rector of the University, Prof. Hristo Beloev in October, 2012 to present.



The meeting continued with presentation of the biography of Ignat Kaneff „Becoming a Somebody“ by Steven Niscic, Anna-Maria Kaneff, Kristina Maria Kaneff and Didi Kaneff and technical editor COR. MEM. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc. Milena Popova,

the translator of the book into Bulgarian explained that this is the second edition. In October 2016, the guests to the 90th anniversary of Mr. Kaneff received a copy of the first edition of „Becoming a Somebody“. The new edition is expanded by more than 100 pages and three new Chapters, Epilogue and an annex with memories and anecdotes by representatives of the authorities, employees, partners and friends of Mr. Kaneff. The book describes his life, but at the same time it is a historic milieu of life in Europe and the world in almost one hundred years. „Becoming a Somebody“ narrates the life story of Mr. Kaneff and his family and emphasises on the lessons he has learned. His life and work in Canada is presented – from the first one-storey house he built in 1952 to the giant skyscrapers, golf courses, office and community buildings, as well as his considerable financial support of numerous noble causes.

Mr. Kaneff expressed his gratitude for the respect and with tears in his eyes he shared: „Words fail me to describe the feelings, but if I start crying now, I will be crying all night. What started in 2012 will not stop today“ – he said in the end.

## Innovative Youth Meeting, 2019

### INNOVENTER

14 March 2019

A work meeting was held under the INNOVENTER – a Project for Innovative Professional Entrepreneurship trainings, financed by the Transnational programme INTERREG Balkans – Mediterranean 2014–2020.

The Rector of the University, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc welcomed the guests to the University of Ruse. He pointed out the fact that the higher school has always created a favourable environment for various institutions to meet and discuss ideas, good practices and challenges faced by society today. He wished the participants success in implementing the project because social entrepreneurship is topical and

a need is felt for purposeful activities in this direction.

The main idea of the project is to create professionally oriented training in social entrepreneurship for small and medium-sized enterprises so that they can implement innovations while at the same time employing disadvantaged people. In the workshop participated representatives of schools and other educational institutions from Sofia, Plovdiv, Razgrad and the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“, Association Maria Curie -MSA (Bulgaria), Community help in Albania, Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, DYEKO – a network supporting entrepreneurship and social economy (Greece), Association for Management Consulting (BURM).

### Social Work World Day

21 March 2019

On 19th March 2019, at the lobby of Building 2 of the University of Ruse, students and lecturers from the Social Worker Club in professional field Social Work celebrated Social Work World Day.



First, the Chairperson of the club, assoc. prof. Sasho Nunev, PhD pointed out the significance of this day for the professional and academic communities of social workers all over the world. He put an emphasis on the topic of this

year's World Day – promoting the significance of human relationships in people's everyday life, the professional activities of social workers and the training of their future colleagues.

Teams of students from the degree programme Social Work presented their posters, dedicated

to the celebration, revealing their ideas in the context of the topic. They composed a colourful interactive mural from their posters. After that, in a flashmob, they expressed their position that the barriers in human relationships must be overcome. In this way, the young people declared their empathy and active attitude to the importance and necessity to develop human relationships. A video prepared by the Club was uploaded to the

European Association of Schools of Social Work website, as a greeting address to their colleagues from over 300 schools and organisations in Europe – members of the Association.

### Innovation and creativity for life- IC4Life

11 April 2019

From 1st to 6th April 2019, the University of Ruse hosted for a second time the module „Innovations and Creativity for Life- IC4Life“. The participants were 27 students and 6 lecturers from Belgium, Great Britain, Denmark, Lithuania and Bulgaria. The University of Ruse was represented by 13 students from various degree programmes – Occupational Therapy, Computer Systems and Technologies, Industrial Design, Business and Management, Public Administration. Five students and one lecturer from the degree programme Graphic Design at the University of Gloucestershire, England participated online.

In the course of a week, the students worked in five international and interdisciplinary teams on developing innovative solutions of specifically assigned problems – simulation of tactile manipulation, an inclusive playground, classroom of the future, visual impairment and memory loss. In addition, the students had to work out a prototype and business plan for their execution.

Working together with their peers and lecturers, the students obtained theoretical knowledge on the specifics of creative thinking, the principles of prototyping and business planning. At the end of the week the teams presented their developments, which were evaluated on five criteria – creativity, innovations, applicability, business plan and presentation.

Traditionally, the first evening was dedicated to cultural values – each country presented their national dishes, drinks, music, dances, sights, etc. One of the tasks was „Cultural riddles“ – the students had to discover and visit at least three of the local historical sights and tourist attractions.

The training held at the University of Ruse is an exceptional opportunity for internationalisation of our students, without the need for them to leave the country.

### Project I-CARE

28 June 2019

A group of 10 lecturers from universities in Palestine – Gaza, visited the University of Ruse in the period 16-29 June 2019 and attended a course in Kinesiology. The programme included visits to the two university hospitals in Ruse. Besides the training, held at the Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare, the lecturers visited some laboratories at the Faculty of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering.

The mid-year meeting of the project consortium was held, where the outcomes achieved were reported and the future trainings in Slovenia and Palestine were discussed. The Project consortium consists of 8 partners – 4 from Palestine and 4 from the EU. The University Al Azar in Gaza, represented by Ahmed Issa, PhD, is the Coordinator.

The University of Ruse is a partner, represented by its Department of Public Health and Social Work with the Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare. The lecturers from the Faculty acquainted their colleagues from Gaza with the good practices in rehabilitation technologies, and created prerequisites for starting a training in Rehabilitation engineering in the partner universities in Gaza.

The I-CARE project is funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the EU and has a budget of EUR 914,469.00. Its goal is to transfer knowledge and skills in rehabilitation technologies from established European academic institutions to universities and hospitals in Gaza strip, in the course of three years.

### Partnership with Savonia University, Finland

22 November 2019

A meeting was held with the Rectors' management and the leadership of the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care. The Rector of the University of Ruse, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc, presented the University of Ruse and its multidisciplinary profile, as well as its numerous achievements in the national and international space. He emphasised the firm positioning of the University in the Danube scientific and educational space. He wished the teams successful collaboration on implementing virtual and added reality in the work with students.

The Department of Health Care is a partner under a project of Yatrus Foundation – „Virtual Innovations for Entrepreneurship and Growth“, and a project of Savonia University – „Future Technologies in Education“. Lecturers from the Department visited the Finnish university in August 2019 and made contacts with lecturers in similar fields. The colleagues from Savonia University have expressed a desire to sign a bilateral agreement under the Erasmus+ programme, which the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care supported. The thematic fields for cooperation between the two universities are: „Perioperative nursing care“ and „Intensive nursing care“. The University of Ruse, Savonia University – Kuopio, Finland, Yatrus Foundation and UMBAL „Kaneff“ develop joint virtual educational in the following fields: Anaesthesiologist nursing care, Clinical laboratory and Microbiology.



## Innovative Youth Meeting, 2019

### Successful performance in the Shell Eco-Marathon in London

8 July 2019

Another successful performance of the two University of Ruse teams in the Shell Eco-Marathon in London – Avtomobilist and HydRU was marked.

The race took place from 1st to 5th July 2019 at the Mercedes Benz World Race Track near London. Over 1500 students from engineering degree programmes from 28 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and America took part in the competition with 140 vehicles. The teams aligned their cars at the starter grid, divided into two main categories: Prototype vehicles and UrbanConcept cars. In each category, vehicles were powered by energy sources that ranged from traditional diesel and gasoline fuel, to lower-carbon technologies such as battery electric and hydrogen fuel cells. The main goal of the competition was to travel as far as they could on the equivalent of one litre of fuel or 1kWh of electricity.



Team Avtomobilist participated in the competition for the 6th time. They competed with a battery-electric prototype in the eco-bolide category. They covered a distance of 424 km/kWh and took the 15th position out of 41 participants in this category. The team had developed a completely new prototype, whose design was highly evaluated by the race organisers. The Director General of Shell Eco-marathon Norman Koch mentioned that this was one of the cars with an impressive design.



For a third year in a row HydRU Racing Team participated in the race in the UrbanConcept cars category, driven by hydrogen cell. After a year's hard work on their new automobile, HydRU Racing Team passed the technical inspection successfully and the result they achieved surpassed their previous results and placed them at the 5th position in the final classification in their category. Thanks to the efforts over the years, the name of the University of Ruse was heard in this competition and the technical inspectors applauded the perfect technical performance of the cars.

### Building industrial connections of the University of Ruse

21 October 2019

Kristiyan Velkovski, a student in the Department of Telecommunication at the University of Ruse, won the Helmut CLAAS International Scholarship after presenting his diploma thesis and Presiyan Zhelyazkov won one of the prizes in the section International Student Awards at this year's edition of the competition organized by CLAAS Foundation.



The Helmut CLAAS scholarship is aimed at helping four outstanding bachelor degree students in their Master degrees. It is conferred after the Panel, consisting of leading scholars and businessmen from Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, reviews their bachelor degree theses. The participants come from Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, Hungary, Slovakia, Russia, Croatia, Romania,

etc. They practically defend their theses in front of a larger audience and the Panel. After their presentations they answer questions, which are often rather complicated. Of the four places in the ranking, Kristiyan Velkovski, who is studying in Internet and Mobile Communications degree programme, was ranked first.

In 2016, Nikolay Atanasov was the first student from the University of Ruse to win one of the prizes in the section International Student Awards. Such prizes were later conferred to other bachelor degree students from Ruse: Teodor Nenov, Kristiyan Georgiev, and this year – to Presiyan Zhelyazkov – a student in Agrarian Engineering degree programme.

Connections with leading businesses and industrial enterprises are of paramount importance for the development of a university. The analysing of their research and development activities and implementing them in the study process are ways of improvement of young specialists and motivating the PhD students work.

At the end of 2015, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc supported the intensifying of relations with CLAAS. Study materials for the education and training at the University of Ruse were developed with the approval of CLAAS. Further relations were established with companies manufacturing precise agriculture machinery, which were also involved in the development of study materials.



Experts from CLAAS supported relations with other companies, developing know-how, software and hardware for agriculture. An opportunity has been provided for acquisition of significant and state-of-the-art achievements not only from the sphere of Agriculture 4.0. but also from Industry 4.0.



## Erasmus, 2019



### Sixth Erasmus week

13–17 May 2019

One of the indisputable contributions of the Erasmus+ programme is that it is functioning as an enormous interuniversity laboratory for exchange of good practices, innovative methods for education and assessment, as well as joint interdisciplinary scientific performances. Through this programme, the European higher education is promoted all over the world, it becomes more competitive and contributes to overcoming cultural boundaries and geographic distances. The Erasmus students and lecturers increase in numbers, the contacts become closer and the results from the programme surpass all expectations.

This optimistic balance is a result of the dedication of partner universities, turning the

partner dialogue into a main priority of their strategies for internationalisation with the help of the Erasmus programme.

For a sixth year in a row, the University of Ruse has declared its desire to gather under its hospitable roof Erasmus partners from near and far with the single purpose of continuing the development and promotion of the partner dialogue.

The main topics to be discussed and analysed in the sixth Erasmus week, organised by the University of Ruse, are related to: Innovative methods of education and research in partner institutions and the opportunities for their mutual transfer; Conducting joint trainings in various degree programmes and awarding dual diplomas; Organising joint summer schools for practical training or joint PhD schools of 2-month duration and financing of the participants by the Erasmus programme; Involving the partners

of the universities from the business and other sectors in the training and research, etc.

The University of Ruse will offer the participants in the Sixth Erasmus week fruitful and pleasant meetings in a friendly environment, exciting experiences in the beautiful city of Ruse and unforgettable memories.

Twenty-six representatives of partner universities from 10 countries are going to participate in the sixth Erasmus week organised by the University of Ruse: Armenia, Vietnam, Germany, Georgia, Spain, China, Poland, Romania, Turkey and France.

A special edition of the University newspaper „Student spark“ has been printed in English, where a retrospective review of the five Erasmus weeks held at the University of Ruse, as well as the three previous editions of the innovative youth EXPO were outlined.

### The Erasmus programme at the University of Ruse turns 20

13 December 2019

The 20ieth anniversary of the Erasmus programme at the University of Ruse was celebrated. The celebration was also dedicated to the forthcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays. The Body of rectors, Erasmus coordinators, lecturers and students from the partner universities attended the event.

The Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloov, greeted the guests with the anniversary and the Holiday Season. He expressed special gratitude to the students, who had chosen the University of Ruse for their mobility period. He assured them that they will not only have the chance to meet colleagues and exchange experience, but also make friendships for life.

The Erasmus programme has changed the lives of thousands of people worldwide. For the 20-year period, the University of Ruse has sent 1371 students for education and training and hosted 448 students. The lecturer mobilities for lectures and training are 1356. These data do not include the current semester. At present we have 58 in-coming students from 7 countries.

On the occasion of the anniversary, some outstanding Erasmus coordinators were awarded for their efficient work in sending and welcoming students, organising mobilities and establishing the authority of the University of Ruse in the European space: honorary assoc. prof. Stoyanka Smrikarova, prof. Antoaneta Dobreva, PhD, assoc. prof. Emilia Velikova, PhD, Prof. Rossen Ivanov, PhD, assoc. prof. Lilia Todorova, PhD, Eva Parvanova, assoc. prof. Tsvetelina Harakchiiska, PhD, assoc. prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD, assoc. prof. Teodor Iliev, PhD, Principal assis-tant Seher Kadirova, PhD, assoc. prof. Nina Bencheva, prof. Stepan Tersiyann, DTSc. and principal assistant Boris Kostov, PhD. Assoc. prof. Galina Antonova was the first outgoing Erasmus student

and assoc. prof. Nina Bencheva – the first outgoing PhD student. The two Erasmus of-ficers – Milena Bogdanova and Diana Georgieva, responsible for outgoing and incoming students, respectively were also awarded special diplomas for their lifelong service. All awards were conferred to the awardees by prof. Juliana Popova, vice-rector in Internationalisation and communication policies for the period 2012-2019.

The student clubs presented the traditions and customs related to Christmas Eve and Christmas and demonstrated how „survaknica“ is made.

All coordinators and students were treated to a special pie with fortune pieces. They received small Christmas gifts and wishes for wonderful holidays and warm memories from the University of Ruse, our city and our country.

\*\*\*

For the academic 2019–2020 under 58 international students arrived at the University of Ruse to study for a semester or a year under the exchange programme Erasmus+. On 3 October 2019, a party was organised for the incoming Erasmus students to celebrate their arrival. On behalf of the academic management of they were greeted. The coordinators and lecturers of the Erasmus students and the Chairperson

of the Student Council, Stanimir Boyadjiev were also present. After getting acquainted with the opportunities that the University of Ruse offers and its achievements, the students delivered short presentations of their countries and universities.

The Erasmus+ Programme is funded by the European Commission and includes not only EU countries, but also some partner-countries from all over the world. The countries which have sent students to the University of Ruse this semester are 7 and the universities are 20. The largest number – 23 students, come from Spain. The other countries are represented as follows: Italy, France and Romania – 8 students each.; Poland and Turkey – 4 and Portugal – 2. The young people will study in different faculties of the University of Ruse.





## The University Sport Centre presents the achievements of the students in 2019



On 4th November 2019, the traditional annual ceremony for presenting the achievements and awarding the student with high results in the field of sport and tourism during the year was held at the University of Ruse. The Mayor of Ruse, Pencho Milkov, the deputy governor of Ruse region – Valentin Kolev, the Chairperson of the Municipal Council of Ruse – Ivo Pazardzhiev, Eleonora Gurbanova – chief expert of the Ministry of youth and sport, responsible for Ruse were the official guests of the ceremony.

The Mayor, Pencho Milkov, greeted the students and the lecturers, expressing his pride not only of being a University of Ruse alumnus, but also of chairing the Sports committee with the Municipal Council of Ruse. He promised that from his position as a Mayor, he will do his best for the development of sport in the University and in the Municipality.

Valentin Kolev expressed his pleasure at being a guest of the event and greeted the academic management and the lecturers for their efforts to develop sports. He conferred a congratulatory address on behalf of the Regional Governor Galin Grigorov.

Ivo Pazardzhiev, who is also a University of Ruse alumni, shared with the audience that he would always be proud of it. He expressed his gratitude to the generation that has raised him in the spirit of sport and wished numerous sports prizes in the future.

The Rector of the University of Ruse Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc expressed his gratitude to all students for their high sports achievements. He noted that the academic management has as its priority the development of the different talents of the students. A proof of it are the numerous sports, cultural and professional student clubs.

Special guests of the ceremony were the Olympic swimming champion Tanya Bogomilova and her coach – the multiple Republican swimming champion and record holder Georgi Dangelakov. The Rector awarded them with a plaque of the University of Ruse.

From the retrospective notes of the Head of the University Sports Centre, Prof. Borislav Angelov, PhD, it became clear that there are numerous successful events, which give grounds for pride. In 2019 at the National Student Olympiad and the National summer student games a total of 26 medals were won – 12 gold, 10 silver and 4 bronze ones. Based on the results achieved, the Club Council of the University Sports Complex „Academician“ elected as Sportsmen of the Year 2019 Berna Velinova and Bogomil Yakovchev. These achievements would not have been possible without the policy of the academic management towards improvement of the

university sports facilities and unreserved support for university sport and tourism.

During the passing 2019, the University Sport Center found appropriate modes of working with the high schools, the Municipality of Ruse and other partner organisations, and a number of sporting events, notable for the university and the city were organised. Some of the more significant ones are the track-and-field marathon „Prista run“, the sports orientation competition for Ruse cup (45th edition), the Ruse weightlifting tournament, the table tennis tournament for people with disabilities and many others.



The University of Ruse is the only one in Bulgaria that holds its annual spring and autumn Olympiads. These are organised by the Sport Committee of the Student Council and the sport sections of the University Sports Complex „Academician“. The number of participants in those events exceeds 1000, a new element being the involvement of the high schools in Ruse.

### PRIZES

In 2019, the students-sportsmen of the University of Ruse won a total of 26 medals won – 12 gold, 10 silver and 4 bronze ones at the National Student Olympiad and the National summer student games.

### National Olympiade 2019, Varna

#### Gold medals

1. Georgi Petrov – judo, cat. up to 73 kg
2. Berna Velinova – swimming, 200 m free style.

#### Silver medals

1. Georgi Todorov – judo, cat. up to 66 kg
2. Berna Velinova – swimming, 100 m back stroke
3. Bogomil Yakovchev – swimming, 50 m free style and 50 m back stroke
4. Veselka Ilieva, Monika Tsaneva and Steliyana Nikolaeva – table tennis team play.

#### Bronze medals

1. Viktor Ivanov – judo, cat. over 100 kg
2. Berna Velinova – swimming, 200 m combined.
3. Sevilyai Sali – swimming, 50 m free style and 50 m back stroke.

### National summer student games 2019, Kranevo

#### Gold medals

1. Bogomil Yakovchev swimming, 50 m free style and 50 m and 100 m back stroke.
2. Berna Velinova – swimming, 100 m free style and 200 m combined
3. Veselka Ilieva – table tennis
4. Veselka Ilieva and Steliyana Nikolaeva – table tennis pairs and team play
5. Konstantin Nachev and Hristo Kostov – beach volleyball
6. Combination relay.

#### Silver medals

1. Berna Velinova – swimming, 100 m bust
2. Sevilyai Sali – swimming, 50 m back stroke
3. Steliyana Nikolaeva – table tennis
4. Basketball 3x3
5. Football.

### Competitions at home and abroad

1. Gabriela Dimitrova – boxing, gold medals at the European Olympic games in Minsk and the international tournament „Balkan“ and at the State Championship.

2. Mitko Kolev – carate, Champion title in the Kumite style at the State Championship and prizes from prestigious international tournaments.

3. Todor Yordanov – arm wrestling, national youth champion and bronze medallist in arm wrestling – men and 5th at the youth European tournament in Greece.

Въз основа на постигнатите резултати клубният съвет на Университетския спортен клуб „Академик“ определи за спортисти на годината на Русенския университет Берна Велинова и Богомил Яковчев.



## Erasmus, 2019



## International youth conference

20 December 2019

An International youth conference Turning Point: 20 Years of Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, was opened at the University of Ruse.

The foreign participants were greeted by the Vice Mayor in Economics, Investments and Property, Ms. Zlatomira Stefanova, who delivered a welcome address from the Mayor of Ruse, Mr. Pencho Milkov. On behalf of the Regional governor, a welcome address was delivered by Mr. Georgi Georgiev, an expert in PR and a PhD student of the University of Ruse.

The Rector Cor. Mem. Hristo Beloev, DTSc, opened the Conference with a plenary speech on the topic of establishing and developing BRIE (Bulgarian-Romanian Interuniversity Europe Centre). BRIE was founded under a project of the Stability Pact and the initiative of The German Rectors' Conference in 2002. In 2002 the first international students were admitted. In 2006 the Agreement for cooperation and mutual aid in implementing BRIE activities between the governments of Romania and Bulgaria came into force.

Eva Parvanova, a PhD student at the University of Ruse, delivered a presentation, which was a

visual story of the events, borders and people in the history of BRIE.

The agenda of the Conference included a discussion, led by Assoc. prof. Mimi Kornazheva, related to the issue whether the relations between the European Union and the Western Balkans are at a turning point. Assoc. prof. Emanuil Kolarov, a BRIE lecturer, commented on the administrative structure of countries from the Western Balkans as a challenge for their accession to the EU. Prof. Claudia Popesky, a lecturer in BRIE from the Bucharest University of Economics, spoke about the crossborder cooperation between Bulgaria and Romania and the lessons learned that can help the public administration in the Western Balkans. In the afternoon, students from BRIE from Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Romania covered issues, related to the topic of the conference.

The conference continued with generating ideas for projects on the 4 Danube strategy, which could be useful for the countries from the Western Balkans in the context of their preparation for joining the EU. The afternoon was dedicated to a session with Prof. Penka Angelova, a Chairperson of the International society Elias Kaneti and the first Director of BRIE. At the end, there was sightseeing in Ruse.



## German Agency for Academic Exchange DAAD

5 November 2019

The German Agency for Academic Exchange (DAAD) presented at the University of Ruse opportunities for academic stay in Germany. The lecturer Andreas Chetkovski, who is a DAAD scholar at the University of Veliko Turnovo spoke to students from the University of Ruse. He was introduced to the audience by prof. Juliana Popova, Vice-rector on Internationalisation and communication policy.

Mr. Chetkovski presented the opportunities for summer language courses in Germany. The deadline for submitting applications is 1 December 2019 and the approved applicants are granted a scholarship, travel expenses and health insurance coverage. For those who would like to pursue a

master degree course or spend a shorter period in a German university, DAAD also offers a monthly grant to the amount of 850 Euro plus travel expenses and health insurance. The deadline for application is 15 November every year. DAAD also offers research programmes for young scholars, researchers and experienced lecturers.

There are 238 universities and 107 student bodies in DAAD's structure. It is the largest independent organisation for student exchange in the world. It has three strategic areas – scholarships for excellent students who get the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience in some of the best universities, exchange to improve the internationalisation and building bridges for overcoming conflicts, as well as academic cooperation for exchange of good practices and development of research.

Globally, there are 15 regional offices and 57 information points of the Agency.



STUDENTSKA ISKRA

vestiskra@uni-ruse.bg  
www.uni-ruse.bg/university/newspaper

Newspaper of University of Ruse  
8, Studentska Str., Ruse, Bulgaria

**Studentska Iskra Newspaper is the bearer of the „St. St. Cyril and Methodius „Second degree Order, by Decree No. 1517 / 19.05.1983 of the State Council of the Republic of Bulgaria, and was awarded the First Sign of the University of Ruse on 05.02.2013 and the Crystal Prize of the University of Ruse on 05.02.2018.**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Assoc. Prof. Anelia Manukova, PhD  
**Translation from Bulgarian:** Milena Popova  
**Reporters:** Victoria Ivanova, Milena Popova  
**Photo reporters:** Juliana Andonova, Diana Georgieva  
**The newspaper is published in electronic format and in paper form and is distributed free of charge.**  
**Issued on 30.01.2020**