



The University of Ruse Elected the Rector for 2024–2027

On December 21st, 2023, a ceremony was held for the exchange of regalia in the reception hall of the Rectorate of the University of Ruse. The ceremony began with the inauguration of the rector Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhDEng, elected by the General Assembly of the University of Ruse with a majority, on December 5th, 2023.

Academician Hristo Beloev handed over the leadership to the newly elected rector, solemnly handing him the symbols of the rector's power – the necklace and the rector's staff, embodying the rector's dignity and power, the ring and the symbolic key of the University.

Science for the implementation of the higher school management programme. As a result, the university will have access to more than BGN 30 million for research activities and work on scientific projects in the next three-year period.

„The university is in an enviably good position, and we are handing over its administration at quite high positions and established authority both nationally and internationally“, Academician Beloev also remarked.

Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhDEng, presented Academician Beloev with the symbol of wisdom – the owl, as a sign of appreciation from the entire collegium for his extremely wise leadership of the

Dear readers,

Issue 430 of the University newspaper „Studentska iskra“ in English 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.

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

Prof. Aneliya Manukova, DSc
Editor-in-Chief



Academician Hristo Beloev, Rector 2020–2023, and Professor Plamen Kangalov, Rector 2024–2027.



„The University of Ruse is an institution built 78 years ago, and I have been in it for more than 40 years of my conscious life. In recent years, we have been talking about the university with three words – strength, dignity and authority. The university has its strength and dignity thanks to all our colleagues, employees, students. Authority is built over the years, and I want to wish Prof. Kangalov, PhDEng, and the new rector's leadership, which will be elected in January, to consider these words. We should be proud of what we achieve and continue to build the authority that the university has gained. And today, handing over the staff to the new rector, I strongly believe that the conquered peaks will be defended and we will move towards conquering new ones“, said Academician Beloev.

He pointed out that he is proud of everything that has been achieved over the years, of what has been built and renovated on the university campus, as well as of the good financial condition and excellent accreditation scores. Among the highest achievements of the University, Academician Beloev pointed out the awarding of the status of a research university and the excellent evaluation received for three consecutive years by the Ministry of Education and

university, thanks to which many ambitious, bold and grandiose projects have been implemented, leading to the prosperity of the Ruse Higher School.

„For me, being Rector of Ruse University is an honour and a duty. I call on all members of the academic community to be responsible and work in the name and for the development of the university. I assure you that I will endeavor to lead this prestigious

institution with the same degree of commitment and dedication as all those before me. During my term as rector of Ruse University, I will strive to uphold the authority and leadership position of our higher school, as well as look for ways for it to achieve new heights,“ said the newly elected rector, Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhDEng, and expressed his gratitude to Academician Beloev for his words of support and well wishing.



Inauguration ceremony for the Rector of the University of Ruse

Scientific Conference of the University of Ruse 2023

28th October, 2023

The University of Ruse and the Union of Scientists – Ruse branch organized the 62nd annual international scientific conference with scientific and plenary sessions, respectively: in Silistra on 27th October, in Ruse – on 27th and 28th October, and in Razgrad on 3rd and 4th November, 2023.

The topic of the 2023 conference is „New Industries, Digital Economy, and Society – Future Projections VI“.



The agenda included the presentation of more than 390 scientific papers, presented on all days of the session, as well as other parallel scientific forum events.

By tradition, 30 thematic fields are distinguished in the three cities of the forum (24 in Ruse, 3 in Silistra, 3 in Razgrad). The number of sessions in scientific fields, plenary reports and accompanying scientific events is 47 (37 in Ruse, 5 in Silistra, 5 in Razgrad). The total number

of abstracts and plenary reports from the agenda is 386 (317 in Ruse, 29 in Silistra, 40 in Razgrad).

Participants and listeners of the conference in the halls and online of the parallel scientific events were scientists and researchers from: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Poland, France, Spain, India, Kazakhstan, Slovenia, Macedonia, Slovakia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Palestine.

Plenary reports at the opening of the conference were delivered by:

- Michel Perello, PhD, Founder and Director of Consulta Europa, Las Palmas, Canarias, Spain, on the topic: European Projects for the Modernization and Competitiveness of Universities.

- Prof. Bogdan Fleaka, PhD, Polytechnic University, Bucharest,

Romania, on the topic: Analysis of Current Trends in Sustainable Development Monitoring.

- Uwe Köhler, General Manager at Husqvarna Construction Tools, Ruse, Bulgaria, on the topic: The Transition to Industry 5.0 and its Impact on People's Lives.

- Prof. Donka Baikova, specialist in nutrition and dietetics, MC Markovs, Sofia, Bulgaria, on the topic: Nutrition in the Prevention of Modern Socially Significant

Chronic Non-infectious and Acute Viral Diseases.

The authors discussed their views in the following research areas and topics that correspond to the topic of the conference: Agricultural Machinery and Technologies; Repair and Reliability; Heat Engineering, Hydro- and Pneumatic Engineering; Ecology and Environmental Protection; Industrial Design; Chemical Technologies; Biotechnology and Food Technology; Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Technologies; Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation; Communication Systems and Networks; Transport and Mechanical Sciences; Economics and Management; Intercultural and Political Communication; European Studies and International Security; Social Work; Mathematics, Informatics and Physics; Pedagogy and Psychology; History, Ethnology and Folklore; Linguistics, Literature and art Studies; Health Promotion; Medical and Clinical Diagnostic Activity; Health Care; Law Science; National Security; Quality of Higher Education.

The scientific papers and discussions contributed to deepening the understanding related to various aspects of regional economic transformation based on the application of innovative strategies and approaches to new industries, the digital economy, society and its links with the business environment and quality of life. The use of systemic thinking is the basis for creating effective applications and best practices in many areas of science and its impact on business development and growth. The future is generated in three aspects that find enduring trends and evidence in the present.

Information by the PR office.

Centre of Excellence

7th November 2023

Unique research laboratories opened their doors in the new Center of Excellence of the University of Ruse, which was opened with an official ceremony on November 7th, 2023 by the Rector of the Ruse Alma Mater, Academician Hristo Beloev.



The ceremony was attended by guests from partner public, business, non-governmental and academic organizations. They wished success and research drive to scientists in their search for innovative solutions to life challenges in the conditions of global digital transformation.

The high-tech facilities, without an analogue in the country, were financed with European funds under the Operational Program „Science and Education for Intelligent Growth“ and are one of the five elements in the composition of a distributed research infrastructure under the „Universities of Science, Informatics and Technologies in the e-Society“ project (UNITE). Within the framework of this project, related research facilities

are being built on the territory of both the University of Ruse and the other partners – Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, Technical University – Sofia, Burgas University „Prof. Asen Zlatarov“ and Shumen University „Bishop Konstantin Preslavski“, whose representatives also attended the opening.

The Centre for Excellence at the University of Ruse comprises five high-tech laboratories with different specializations.

The „Digitization and 3D Scanning“ laboratory provides services and carries out research in the field of modern 3D technologies for digitization and creation of three-dimensional digital content. It has a set of seven 3D scanners with which scientists can create high-quality 3D models of existing objects. The equipment allows scanning everything from objects the size of a coin to objects the size of the University of Ruse building.

There is also a digital photography and videography space equipped with a background system, as well as several drones that are used for aerial photography. These resources make it possible to create 3D models of entire architectural complexes and archaeological excavations.

The „3D Design and Modelling“ laboratory will develop new approaches and methods for computer modelling. The unique capabilities of this laboratory are related to the kinematic capture system, which allows to make digital models of various actions and processes such as folk dances and customs or other elements of intangible cultural heritage, choreographies, sports routines and capture of dynamic processes and movements of any bodies.

The physical reproduction and replication of the created 3D models is a priority of the „3D Prototyping and Replication of Objects“ laboratory. It has extremely precise 3D printers that can reproduce medical models, be used to print surgical guides, splints, implants, dental casts, prostheses, etc. The laboratory also operates several industrial 3D printers that allow replicating and prototyping models from various engineering materials, high-temperature alloys and medical composite materials, including the creation of small models from carbon, polypropylene, rubber and various metals. The capabilities of the laboratory are complemented by equipment for precision laser cutting and engraving. This enables the University of Ruse scientists not only to create and test innovative processes and products, but also to attract development partners with whom to implement projects jointly in support of business or to develop complex and specific engineering tasks for details and models beyond mainstream solutions and applications.

In the laboratories of „Augmented and Mixed Reality“ and „Serious Games and Simulations“, the research team of the University of Ruse and its partners will carry out scientific research and experiments in the fields of augmented, mixed and virtual reality, hologram technologies, as well as in the field of human-machine interactions and robotics.

The University's newly opened Centre of Excellence also has a seminar room with a capacity of 30 people, office space and a room with a professional video conferencing system. The realization of the laboratory complex in Ruse, which is part of the national and European road map of the research infrastructure, is another step in realizing the vision of the University of Ruse to strengthen its position as an internationally recognized and significant academic institution for regional development, which provides the competitive advantages for local economies in the Danube region. *Information by the PR office.*

Conferences at the University of Ruse, 2023

Research Complex

13th November 2023

As part of the university's birthday celebration, the Research Complex, which was built in one year, was opened. The construction works are worth over 6 million BGN, and the equipment of the laboratories in it will be provided in the frame of various projects, the largest of which is worth 12 million BGN. Of these, 4 million will be invested in the development of the scientific and personnel potential of the University of Ruse, and the remaining funds will be used to expand the equipment.



Guests at the celebration of the University of Ruse were the Deputy Minister of Education and Science Prof. Genka Petrova, Pencho Milkov – Mayor of Ruse Municipality, Danail Kovachev – Regional Governor of Ruse Region, Ivo Pazardzhiev – Chairman of the Ruse Municipal Council, the Deputy Mayors of Ruse Municipality – Encho Enchev and Dimitar Nedev; Ivan Belchev – deputy in the 49th National Assembly from 19th MIR – Ruse. Prof. Petrova, Pencho Milkov and Danail Kovachev extended their greetings and later inspected the laboratories of the complex with interest.



The management of the university expressed its confidence that together with the Centre of Excellence, recently opened, this complex will become a home of science and innovation for talented scientists and innovators, a home of creativity and ideas that ranked the University of Ruse among the 10 research universities in Bulgaria.

Prepared by Assoc Prof. Dessislava Atanasova.

International Scientific Conference CompSysTech

On June 16th, 2023, the 24th International Scientific Conference CompSysTech'23 was held at the University of Ruse.



The organizers of the conference are the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Union of Automation and Informatics „John Atanasov“ and the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“. A total of 30 reports were presented in person and online by scientists from 11 countries: the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Cyprus, China, Georgia, Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Finland and Bulgaria.

The event traditionally opens with a musical performance, but in 2023 the tradition was innovated, when the flute performance by Principal Assistant Petya Stefanova, PhD was accompanied by the robot Sana with her dance.

The conference participants were greeted by the rector of the university, Academician Hristo Beloev, who noted the importance of the forum, its popularity and its high level – „We are glad that the CompSysTech conference is already established and is becoming more and more popular in the country and in Europe. The fact that today, face-to-face and online scholars from several countries are participating is ample proof of this. Another proof of the attractiveness and high level of the conference is the fact that for more than 16 years the papers presented at CompSysTech have been published in the virtual library of the Computer Association – the most authoritative international organization in the field of computing, and indexed by SCOPUS. The Google Scholar profile of the conference is also very impressive. That the conference has an impact rank is also a fact that deserves special mention.“



A congratulatory address was also received from the Chairman of the Union of Automation and Informatics „John Atanasov“, Prof. Kosta Boshnakov, PhD Eng.

Prof. Virginio Cantoni, PhD, University of Pavia, Italy, participated in the plenary session. The other plenary speakers were Prof. Yang Jinghui, PhD, Shanghai Polytechnic University, Shanghai, China; Associate Professor Yordan Kolev, PhD, Technical University, Varna.

Prepared by Prof. Angel Smrikarov.

The University of Ruse Celebrates its 78th Anniversary

On November 13th, 2023, the „Angel Kanchev“ University of Ruse celebrated its seventy-eighth birthday with the opening of another major investment project – the Scientific Research Complex. This is a sign of a preserved tradition and a bright presence in the national and international



academic space.

The solemn day began with the laying of wreaths in front of the monument of the patron of Ruse University, Angel Kanchev. Following that, the traditional annual exhibition of „Print and Electronic Publications of Ruse University Lecturers“ was opened by the rector Academician Beloev with the words „The traditional annual exhibition of printed and electronic publications of the

lecturers is an extremely important event for our academic community, because it presents in a material dimension, the intellectual output of our scientists – their research pursuits and their achievements in educational technologies used in the learning process. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the distinguished colleagues for their contribution to



achieving the much-desired entry of our university into the group of research higher education institutions.“ The exhibition of printed and electronic publications for 2023 presents a total of 146 publications distributed in 10 categories as follows: 9 monographs; 4 books, of which 1 is fiction; 1 studium; 10 textbooks; 8 manuals and study aids; 29 dissertations and abstracts; 2 diploma theses; 39 scientific publications, 13 of which with an impact factor;



7 scientific papers from conferences; 9 volumes Scientific works of the University of Ruse; 5 editions of Ruse University; 2 pieces of student art; 6 issues from „Studentska Iskra“ and 15 advertising materials. Prizes were awarded in 10 categories, such as monographs and books, textbooks, manuals and teaching aids, dissertations and abstracts, publications of the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“, scientific publications, fiction, advertising materials, etc.

At the meeting in Kanev Center, the Rector Academician Hristo Beloev delivered an academic speech in which he outlined the main fields of development of the Ruse Alma Mater. Diplomas and books – luxury editions of the BAS, were awarded to retired professors who had made a significant contribution to the university's research and educational activities.

The meeting continued with the ceremony of awarding diplomas to those who acquired scientific degrees and academic positions in the past year. Thirty – three diplomas for the scientific degree Doctor, one – for the scientific degree Doctor of Sciences, five – for the academic position of Associate Professor, and four – for the academic position of Professor were awarded.



Graduation of the Class of 2023 of the University of Ruse



On September 29th, 2023, an official ceremony for the Promotion of the Class of 2023 was held in the Kanev Center of the University of Ruse. A total of 1,096 graduates received their diplomas from the Ruse Alma Mater. The rector of the university, Academician Hristo Beloev, personally presented the diplomas to 14 full honors students and 53 first-class graduates. The balance for the academic year 2022–2023 is 1284 graduates.

Academician Hristo Beloev congratulated the graduates: „Dear graduates, you are knowledgeable, you are capable and we unreservedly believe in you!“ We are convinced that each of our graduates raises the status of the University of Ruse, pours their intellectual energy into it, and makes it more sustainable and stronger“.

All the guests extended their best wishes to the rector's management, the teaching staff and the graduates and wished them a successful realisation of their potential. Congratulatory addresses were received from the President of the Republic of Bulgaria Rumen Radev, the Minister of Education and Science Prof. Galin Tsokov and numerous state, non-governmental and private institutions.

Kristiyan Hristov, who graduated with full honours in the degree programme „Internet and Multimedia Communications“, thanked the teaching staff of the University of Ruse on behalf of his fellow bachelors.

Razgrad Branch

The regional governor Vladimir Dimitrov congratulated the academic leadership of the Razgrad Branch of the University of Ruse during the solemn opening of the academic year on September 18th, 2023. Dimitrov presented a congratulatory address to the director, Prof. Gencho Popov, PhD, and to the administrative director, Prof. Stanka Damyanova, DSc.



Class of 2023 – Razgrad Branch

Silistra Branch

On September 28th, 2023, the academic year 2023–2024 was opened in the Silistra branch of the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ and diplomas were awarded to the graduates of the class of 2023.

Vidin Branch

The solemn ceremony on the occasion of the opening of the new academic year for the first-year students from the Vidin Branch of the University of Ruse and the graduation of the class of 2023 began with a procession, to the sounds of the City Brass Orchestra. In the building of the „Vladimir Trendafilov“ drama theatre, a total of 103 graduates received their diplomas for a completed bachelor's degree of higher education, of whom two were full honours. In the academic year 2023–2024, 143 new students are beginning their studies at the Vidin branch.



Class of 2023 – Vidin Branch



Class of 2023 – Silistra Branch

Innovative Events and Projects

DeepGreenInno Project

26th to 27th October, 2023

On October 26th and 27th, 2023, the University of Ruse hosted a national seminar „Recognizing the Deep Technological Potential and Using the Results of Scientific Research“ under the Project DeepGreenInno – Deep Tech in Material Sciences: Greening the Balkan HEIs Innovation and Entrepreneurial Potential (Deep Technologies in Materials Science), funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).



The forum was opened by the rector of the University of Ruse, Academician Hristo Beloev and the vice-rector, Assoc. prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD. Full partners in the DeepGreenInno project are the University of Banja Luka – leading partner; International University of Sarajevo – Bosnia and Herzegovina; POLIS University – Albania; Innovation Center Banja Luka – Bosnia and Herzegovina; University Union Nikola Tesla – Serbia; Institute of Chemical Sciences and Technologies „G. Natta“ CNR – Italy; Innovation Greece; University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ – Bulgaria. Associate partners are the University of Novi Sad – Serbia, and the Science and Technology Park Novi Sad – Serbia.

The main goal of the „DeepGreenInno“ project is to increase innovative capacity in green materials technologies, green chemistry and environmental protection related to materials production. It will support the development of high-quality innovation training related to environmentally friendly material production by introducing the principles of „green“ innovation. The innovation potential in this area will be promoted among students from the partner universities, encouraging them to seek self-employment in start-ups or to look for greener solutions in their companies if they are already employed.

During the workshop, speakers from the DeepGreenInno consortium talked about a variety of materials and technologies, but also how entrepreneurial skills should merge with modern materials science research. Although innovations classified as deep technologies are more difficult to implement and often require large investments, it is necessary to increase the self-confidence of young researchers and teach them how to seek funding so that their discoveries can reach the markets.

Prepared by Assoc. Prof. Mariya Nikolova, DSc.

way they defend their identity, freedom and security, or in other words – a language policy that discriminates against the language of a certain group, and causes conflicts and wars.



The conference was opened with a welcome address by the rector of the University of Ruse, Academician Hristo Beloev. He congratulated the organizers and participants for the selection of current topics and for establishing BRIE as a centre of international research and scientific projects. Congratulations were also received from the Regional governor Danail Kovachev. He emphasized the dedication and professionalism with which the organizers annually add value to the European identity of Ruse and the region.

In the first part of the conference, results of four studies were presented. Assoc. Prof. Mimi Kornazheva, PhD, director of BRIE, revealed the crises in Europe and the subsequent impulses for European integration not only in the last 30 years, but also in the period after the Second World War. Assistant prof. E. Parvanova, PhD, a graduate of BRIE, outlined the strengths and weaknesses of the UN Security Council and the need for its reformation. A. Radu, PhD, BRIE graduate and adviser to the Minister of Internal Affairs of Romania, dwelt in detail on the current challenges facing the Schengen area and the upcoming inclusion of Bulgaria and Romania. Doctoral student M. Nikolov, graduate of BRIE, spoke on the topic of national populism in EU member states as an internal risk for the future of the Union.

Three speakers took part in the second part of the conference. Prof. P. Angelova, PhD, president of the Elias Canetti International Society and first director of BRIE, devoted her presentation to the topic of learning the Bulgarian language as a second language and defined multilingualism as an asset. Lothar Jaschke – Deputy Head of the Representation of the European Union in South Sudan, dedicated his presentation to the dynamics in the development of the Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy. Finally, with an interactive presentation, doctoral student B. Tsenova, a graduate of BRIE, outlined the current language situation in Bulgaria, which covers both Bulgarian as the official language and the mother tongues of Armenians, Vlachs, Greeks, Jews, Roma, Russians, and Turks.

Information by Assoc. Prof. Mimi Kornadzheva, PhD.

The Role of languages in Europe and the Danube Region

14th to 16th December, 2023

From December 14th to 16th, 2023, the University of Ruse hosted the annual international youth conference of the Danube School, co-organized by the Bulgarian – Romanian Interuniversity Europe Centre – BRIE, the Elias Canetti International Society, European Initiatives without Borders and the European Danube Academy, Ulm, Germany. The event attracted 30 participants from Bulgaria, Vietnam, India, Cyprus, China, Moldova, Romania, North Macedonia, and Ukraine.

The conference was held under the motto LEAD (Languages and Encounters along the Danube), touching on two main topics. The forum outlined the leading role of the European Union in overcoming political and economic crises and in managing conflicts by peaceful means, as 1st November 2023 marks 30 years since the entry into force of the Union Treaty.

The other topic that the participants discussed was the leading role of languages in the processes of nation-building in Europe and in the entire Danube region since the 19th century. The thesis was substantiated that human communities fight for the existence of their languages, because in this

Conference of the Consortium of Higher Schools in Central and Eastern Europe and China

30th October, 2023

On October 30th, 2023, the Eighth Conference of the Consortium of Higher Schools from Central and Eastern Europe and China was held at Transylvania University in Brasov, Romania. As a member of this consortium since 2017, the University of Ruse was represented at the forum by the vice-rector for development, coordination and continuing education Prof. Plamen Daskalov, PhD, and Prof. Yuliana Popova, PhD – coordinator of inter-institutional communications. More than 50 rectors and vice-rectors of universities from Eastern Europe and China took part in the conference. They presented the processes of digitalization of education and scientific research in their higher schools. The University of Ruse also participated with a presentation of its achievements in the field of digital transformation.

Prof. Plamen Daskalov, PhD, was included as a representative of Eastern European universities in the business presidium. He summarized the results of the conference in a closing speech.

Innovative Events and Projects

Procedure for the Accession of Tarakliya University to the University of Ruse

On November 28th, 2023, a video conference was held between the management of the University of Ruse, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Bulgaria in Chisinau, Moldova. The main topic of the meeting, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Education and Science Prof. Genka Petrova, was the upcoming signing of the agreement between the governments of Bulgaria and Moldova on the accession of Tarakliya State University „Grigory Tsamblak“ (TSU) to the structure of the University of Ruse. The meeting was attended by experts of the Ministry of Education and Culture from the departments „Higher Education“, „State Property“, legal, financial and international relations, as well as representatives of the Embassy of Bulgaria in Chisinau. The new ambassador of Bulgaria to Moldova H.E. Maya Dobrova is also actively involved in the preparation of the text for the agreement.



Important aspects of future cooperation between the two educational institutions, including academic and administrative details were discussed at the meeting. The rector of the University of Ruse Academician Hristo Beloev confirmed the readiness for the act of accession, indicating that the University will offer 3 majors for training to our compatriots from the Tarakliya and Bolgrad regions – Business Management, Agricultural and Transport Technology, and Computer Science. The selection of these programs is fully tailored to the needs of specialists in the places inhabited by more than 40,000 of our compatriots.

It is expected that at the end of January 2024, the governments of Bulgaria and Moldova will officially sign the agreement on the accession of the Tarakliya State University to the structure of the University of Ruse.

On November 1st, 2023, on the Day of People's Awakeners, the government of Moldova decided to join the University of Tarkliya to the structure of the University of Ruse. This long-awaited news became a fact during the visit of the vice president of Bulgaria Iliana Yotova to Moldova and is the result of the negotiations between the presidents of the two countries Maya Sandu and Rumén Radev on October 2022.

The University of Ruse has been supporting the development of the Tarakliya State University since its establishment in 2004, providing methodological assistance and information resources. In 2016, the Academic Council of the University made a decision to add TSU as a branch in the structure of the Ruse Higher School and approved annual plans for joint work. The university's commitment to the preservation of the Bulgarian communities in Moldova and Ukraine is reflected in the Development Policy of the University of Ruse, as well as in the specially developed programme for working with the Bulgarian communities abroad.

The university maintains an active relationship with the leadership of the Tarakliya region in Moldova and is involved in many initiatives of our compatriots – folklore festivals, exhibitions of agricultural producers, Olympiads in the Bulgarian language and others. Linguistic practices and qualification courses are held annually at the University of Ruse for pupils, students and teachers from Tarakliya and other regions in Moldova.

The material is prepared by Assoc. Prof. Dessislava Atanasova, PhD, and the PR office.

Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 23rd November, 2023, the rector of the University of Ruse, Academician Hristo Beloev, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Maria Gabriel signed a cooperation agreement between the University of Ruse and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The goal is to provide students with opportunities for training, gaining experience and career development.

The University of Ruse is the third higher education institution with which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signs a memorandum, after Sofia University „Kliment Ohridski“ and the University of National and World Economy (UNWE). Among the planned activities are: the organization of student internships and meetings with diplomats; conducting joint trainings, round tables and conferences; increasing professional qualifications by presenting real cases and problems from practice.



Academician Hristo Beloev expressed the satisfaction of the entire academic community of the University of Ruse with the long-term cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Diplomatic Institute at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and personally the Deputy Prime Minister Maria Gabriel and the University of Ruse.

The signing of the Agreement provides new opportunities for cooperation between the two institutions. It not only strengthens academic connections but also enriches the educational experience of students.

Maria Gabriel stated that the Agreement is a concrete vision of the need to invest in the development of young people at the very beginning of their education. „We welcome the innovation and critical thinking of young people. I am glad that together with the University of Ruse we will work together for the exchange of experience and the inclusion of ideas, illustrating the youth perspective in diplomacy. Let's defend Bulgaria's rightful place in the dynamically developing world together and turn challenges into opportunities for students, universities and Bulgaria“, concluded the Deputy Prime Minister.

The agreement not only provides a practical perspective for students, but also creates a cultural and educational environment for the exchange of ideas and experiences between educational and diplomatic institutions. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with activities in foreign diplomacy.

On December 2nd, 2023, students from the Faculty of Law of the University of Ruse visited the administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria during the Open Doors Day, where they got to know the structure of the ministry and the activities of the directorates.

The future lawyers met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria Maria Gabriel. They debated current topics and asked questions, showing an enviable knowledge of public international law.

The students had a chance to take a sample test for a trainee attaché, as well as to learn about activities in foreign diplomacy. They looked at the types of diplomatic documents, grams, notes and paid attention to the skills of conducting international negotiations.

On the Open Day, the students visited the Minister's office, the meeting rooms, the Treaty Hall, the briefing podium and the Situation Centre at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The material was provided by Assoc. Prof. Kremena Rayanova, PhD, and the PR office.

Innovative Project

The University of Ruse Awarded Renowned Professor Khamba Lama Damdinsuren Natsagdorj with the Honorary DHC

9th February, 2023

On 9th February, 2023, the academic management of the University of Ruse welcomed the renowned Prof. Khamba Lama Damdinsuren Natsagdorj, Director of the Medical Training centre of Traditional Mongolian Medicine Manba Datsan in Ulan Bator and Rector of the University of Traditional Mongolian Medicine "Otoch Manramba", accompanied by H.E. Lhagvasuren Sayanaa – Ambassador of Mongolia in Bulgaria.

The Rector of the University of Ruse Acad. Hristo Beloev opened the meeting,



welcomed the guests and presented H.E. Lhagvasuren Sayanaa and Prof. Khamba Lama Damdinsuren Natsagdorj to the audience.

Other official visitors were Assoc. prof Kiril Panayotov, MD – owner of Medica University Hospital, Mrs. Alice Murtezova – administrative director of Medica, prof Kamen Milkov – honorary consul of Mongolia in Bulgaria.

Prof. Natsagdorj has prepared for the audience an attractive lecture, connected to the application of the Mongolian traditional medicine from antiquity to present

day. The lecture was illustrated with interesting examples, which captivated all the attention of those present in the hall.

The lecture was followed by the ceremony for awarding Prof. Khamba Lama Damdinsuren Natsagdorj with the honorary title Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Ruse. He expressed his gratitude and warm feelings, saying that Ruse



University will forever remain in his heart.

In the month of May 2017, during the visit of representatives of Medica Medical Institutions to the University of Traditional Mongolian Medicine in Ulaanbaatar – Mongolia, a tripartite contract was drawn up between the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“, the University of Traditional Mongolian Medicine „Otoch Manramba“ and Medical facilities „Medica“. On the basis of this contract, permanent and long-term cooperation between the three countries has been established. The three institutions declared their willingness to continue the exchange of knowledge and good practices and expand this cooperation in the future with joint research and other scientific activities.

The History of the Refetoff's

On September 14th, 2023, a presentation of the book „History of the Refetoff's Family“ took place at the University of Ruse, with author Dr. Veselina Antonova and translator Vyara Popova.

The bilingual edition (in Bulgarian and English) recreates the memories of Samuil Refetoff about life in his hometown and friendships that have withstood time and in a fascinating way.

Prof. Refetoff attended the event at the University of Ruse together with his wife, daughter and many family friends. In the hall, in addition to representatives of the university's academic collegium, there were also members of the city's medical community. The meeting took place in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

The presentation was opened by the rector of the University of Ruse, Academician Hristo Beloev, who greeted all those present on his own behalf and on behalf of the academic community. The vice-rector for internationalization and communication policy Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD, presented Prof. Refetoff as an Honorary Doctor of the University of Ruse from 2019.

The author of the book, Veselina Antonova, PhD, told the story of her acquaintance with Prof. Refetoff and the creation of the book, and Prof. Refetoff thanked the author for her work and said that thanks to her research, he learned about the history of the family even things that he did not know.



Veselin Petrov – childhood friend of Prof. Refetoff, expressed his compliments to Dr. Antonova's work and spoke warmly about his friend's love for Bulgaria, Ruse and the University of Ruse.

Prof. Petar Ivanov from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Arts spoke briefly about the scientific contributions of Prof. Refetoff, his nomination for the Nobel Prize and emphasized that all this makes him one of the world's most famous scientists with Ruse roots. Prof. Refetoff was presented with a congratulatory address and the „Peter Beron“ medal by the BANI Academic Council.

The translator of „History of the Refetoff's Family“ Vyara Popova expressed her great pleasure from participating in the project. She emphasized the fact that in the book the facts from the history of the family are very cleverly interwoven with those from the history of the city. In this way, the book brings even more interesting and valuable information to its readers.

Professor Petkova from the University of Connecticut said that despite his white hair, Professor Refetoff is still a functional member of the University of Chicago and many researchers work under his leadership. His scientific work continues – he is extremely valued and respected.

The Ruse medical community had sent its representative to the event, who expressed gratitude to Prof. Refetoff for his scientific achievements, thanks to which early screening for thyroid problems in newborns is carried out today.

Prof. Refetoff's wife told the audience about his return to his Bulgarian roots and the love for Bulgaria that he has passed on to his children. Prof. Refetoff's daughter Solveig took part in the meeting with an emotional speech. The book is precious to her, her siblings and their children because it is a link to their past. She cordially thanked the author and the translator.

Prof. Refetoff is a world-renowned scientist with Bulgarian roots, born in Ruse. The book tells the readers about the family history of the Refetoff family and the atmosphere in Ruse from the creation of the Jewish community here at the end of the 18th century until the 1940s, when geopolitical events after the end of the Second World War forced the Refetoffs, as well as hundreds of other Jewish families to leave the homeland.

Visits and Achievements

Cooperation with Vietnam

24th November 2023

The University of Ruse welcomed lecturers and students from Vietnam under the Erasmus+ program. The university with which a bilateral agreement was signed seven years ago is Nong Lam in Ho Chi Minh City.

Hui Bih Nguyen, who is a professor in the field of Agricultural Engineering, Nam Cuen Nguyen a lecturer in Renewable Energy Sources and Dee Lam FAM – lecturer in the field of Agricultural Engineering arrived for a five-day visit to the university. They were also accompanied by Tan Duong DO, an employee and member of the International Department, who will be on exchange training for mobilities.



The four guests met with the Rector Academician Hristo Beloev, the Vice-Rector for Education Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhDEng, and the Vice-Rector for Internationalization and Computer Policy and University Erasmus+ Coordinator Assoc. Desislava Atanasova, PhD.

Together they discussed the possibilities for upgrading the cooperation between the two universities through the development of joint projects, participation in scientific conferences, joint publications in refereed journals, exchange of lecturers and students, as well as training of doctoral students.

It is in connection with the doctoral studies that a plan is to be prepared for two of the Vietnamese lecturers. The topics will be specified, and the doctoral studies will be part-time and with two supervisors from the University of Ruse and from Vietnam's Nong Lam. It is expected that the two PhD students will be officially enrolled at the end of January.

Two students from Ho Chi Minh also arrived to study at the Ruse Alma Mater under the Erasmus programme – My Bui Thi Yen, who majors in „Agrarian Sciences“ and Toan Nguyen Thai – in „Informatics“. They will stay here for a period of 4 months.

The visit of lecturers and students from Vietnam is realized under the Erasmus+ program, invitation 2022, with countries outside the European Union.

27th November 2023

Two lecturers from Nong Lam University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam met with their supervisors and professors of the Extended Research Unit at the Agrarian and Industrial Faculty of the University of Ruse to discuss potential topics for their future doctoral theses. The Vietnamese delegation is on an Erasmus+ mobility, in the frame of the bilateral agreement signed between the two universities seven years ago.

Nam Quyen Nguyen, a lecturer in the field of Renewable Energy Sources, will work on the topic of the effect of photovoltaics in Vietnam, and Die Lam FAM, a lecturer in the field of Agricultural Engineering, will prepare a thesis on the developments in the cocoa production process. The doctoral studies will be in a correspondence form (part-time) with two supervisors – the rector of the University of Ruse, academician Hristo Beloev and Hui Bih Nguyen, who is a professor at the Vietnamese Nong Lam.

The two doctoral candidates presented key points in their future developments and action plans to their academic supervisors, and the members of the Research Unit including the vice-rector for academic work Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhDEng, the vice-rector for Development, Coordination and Continuing education Prof. Plamen Daskalov, PhD, and the vice-rector for Internationalization and Communication Policy and university Erasmus+ coordinator Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD.

Academician Beloev said that the University of Ruse has experience in both topics. He emphasized that cooperation between the two universities in the field of agriculture should be expanded. Joint activities such as development of joint projects, participation in scientific conferences, joint publications in refereed journals, exchange of lecturers and students will be undertaken. The two PhD students are a big step in the joint work, added Academician Beloev.

Prof. Huy Bih Nguyen shared that this is his third visit to the University of Ruse, and the reason for his choice of the latter as host university for the two PhD students is that in Vietnam all specialists in the field of agriculture have graduated from the University of Ruse.

After discussing the topics, the two Vietnamese PhD candidates were given approval for the start of their studies and received advice from their research supervisors that will help them develop specific and relevant research projects.

Under this contract, Ruse University conducts mobility with 12 countries, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Jordan, Russia, Vietnam, China and Kyrgyzstan. For the last two academic years from 2022 to 2024, 18 lecturers and 22 students visited the University of Ruse, and in the new academic year 23 lecturers and 9 students are expected.

The guests' agenda includes academic meetings with professors from the Department of Agricultural Technology, as well as sightseeing and a trip to Veliko Turnovo.

Green support for a sustainable future

Sophomore Kiril Milanov from the Industrial Management degree programme of the University of Ruse won first place at the third edition of the competition for students with high academic achievements „Green support for a sustainable future 2023“ of the Ministry of Environment and Water.

The 20-year-old young man from Vidin showed profound knowledge and original ideas in the field of sustainable mobility. Kirill impressed the jury with his exquisite language skills both in his essay and during the interview with the selection committee for this year's laureate.

„The topic of energy saving has attracted my interest since my school days, and in my spare time I have been helping my father, who is involved in wind energy and has several patented projects. I am



motivated to find professional realization in the field of environmental protection. I have participated in the implementation of projects protecting the environment, some of which have already been patented. I also have a number of awards in various contests and competitions,” said Kiril

Milanov, who graduated from the Mathematical High School in Vidin with honours.

The prize for the student from the University of Ruse is annual financial support to the amount of BGN 2,970, provided by the Enterprise for the Management of Environmental Protection Activities with the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

The competition Green Support for a Sustainable Future is held for the third year in a row under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Water, within the framework of the European Commission's European Mobility Week campaign. The purpose of the competition is to identify and support high-achieving students who are studying in environment-related majors and have interests in ecology. The organizer is the Executive Agency for the Environment.

The material is provided by the PR office.

European Scientists Night 2023 at the University of Ruse

On 29th and 30th September, 2023, the European Night of Scientists 2023 took place at the University of Ruse and its branches in Silistra, Razgrad and Vidin. It was held under the motto Together for a Green and Digital Europe. The opening of the Night in the central lobby of the Rectorate was impressive with the presence of the entire academic leadership of the university and the acting mayor of Ruse Municipality Dimitar Nedev, PhD, the deputy regional governor Georgi Georgiev and the chairman of the Ruse Municipal Council, Ivo Pazardzhiev. The rector, Academician Hristo Beloev and the official guests congratulated the scientists from Ruse University and noted the significance of the event for the citizens of the city of Ruse and the region.



The prize-winners of the competition for essay, drawing or presentation on the topic My View of the Careers of the Future received their prizes personally from the rector of the University of Ruse with great excitement and joy. A total of 27 pupils and students took part in the competition, expressing their active attitude to the current topic of the competition with a pen, brush or digital means. The most

impressive developments of the participants will be published in the university newspaper Studentska Iskra.

The Scientists' Night at the University of Ruse started also with the opening of the exhibition about Dimitrana Ivanova – a citizen of Ruse and a leader of the women's movement in Bulgaria at the beginning of the 20th century, who made a substantial contribution to social science with her works on women's rights and their equal participation



in public life. The curator of the Regional History Museum in Ruse, Reneta Roskheva – author of the exhibition, presented it to the academic community of the university.

With the next event from the Scientists' Night programme at the University of Ruse, the participants moved from the space of culture and spirit to the educational space of the future. The round table on the topic The Digital Future of the Economy, Education and Culture with the participation of students from secondary schools in Ruse and students from the University of Ruse ignited in young people the spark



of curiosity about science and its immense possibilities. The interesting presentations of Prof. Plamen Daskalov, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. Tsvetelina Georgieva, PhD, in the Digital Industry panel, Assoc. Galina Ivanova, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. Valentina Voynohovska, DSc, in the Digital Education panel and Victoria Ivanova, PhD, in the Digital Culture panel contributed to this.



The programme of the Scientists' Night at Ruse University continued with the traditional event Scholar for a Day, in which students from secondary schools in Ruse took part. The laboratories of the University of Ruse in Electronics,

Industrial Communications and Wireless Technologies and Digital Layered Energy Systems opened their doors to the curious eyes of young people, and the mentors Snezhinka Zaharieva, PhD, Prof. Georgi Hristov, PhD, Diana Kinaneva, PhD, and Emil Yankov, PhD, invested talent and teaching skills to turn science into an interesting and challenging activity.



The event Europe Relies on You was aimed at the students – future scientists, where 4 teams presented themselves: from the Geo Milev English Language High School /2 teams/, Baba Tonka Mathematical High School and St. Constantine-Cyril the Philosopher Secondary School for European Languages. The students



had prepared interesting presentations on the topic with different emphases: eco-entrepreneurship, the activity of young people to protect the environment, the voice of young people in the protection of human rights, a vision of the youth contribution to future education and culture in Europe. What made the strongest impression to the jury was the ability and skill

of the presenters to speak in front of an unfamiliar audience, to persuade and to state their positions in an unapologetic and artistic way.

European Scientists Night 2023 at the University of Ruse

The „academic“ programme of the Scientists' Night at the University of Ruse 2023 was the event Tandems in Science, where successful tandems of doctoral students of the University of Ruse and their scientific supervisors presented themselves. The forum is in its second year after its first edition at the Scientists' Night in 2022, and this year's Tandems charged the audience with astonishing messages of continuity, humanity and friendship, resulting in high scientific achievements. The tandems that made their presentations were: Assoc. Prof. Valentina Voynohovska, PhD – Veselina Ancheva, PhD; Assoc. Prof. Daniel Lyubenov, PhD – Filip Kirilov, PhD; Assoc. Prof. Tsvetelina Harakchiyska, PhD – Tanya Borisova, PhD; Prof. Julia Doncheva, DSc – Ekaterina Ivanova, PhD; Assoc. prof. Daniel Pavlov, PhD – PhD student Denitsa Fileva.



The culmination of the series of events in the program of the Scientists' Night at the University of Ruse on September 29th was the traditional initiative Scientists on the Stage, which reveals to the general public the unknown face of the scientist as a poet, musician, artist, photographer, i.e. as a person devoting his/her free time to pursuits outside the purely scientific realm. This year's edition of the initiative was called Scientists and Future Scientists on Stage, as some of the participants presented artistic performances along with their sons and daughters. Such memorable singing performances were by *Duo Nikolaev* – Ivaylo Nikolaev, PhD and his four-year-old son; by the *Guitar Duo* – Assoc. Prof. Daniel Pavlov and his son Daniel Jr. with a song of „Nirvana“; by *Rock Family Grozevi*, including Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Grozev, PhD, Maya Grozeva, PhD and their three daughters, playing different instruments, who conquered the music scene and made the large audience sing along with them.



This year, the traditional format of Scientists on Stage also surprised the audience with the appearance of new faces – Hristo Rayanov, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. Nevena Ruseva, PhD. The name of Hristo Rayanov is popular

in the media space as a young and talented fiction writer and screenwriter with numerous awards, one of which is the Forbes Bulgaria magazine award in the Young and Successful Bulgarians ranking. He won the hearts of his admirers by performing a satirical essay dedicated to the unique way in which we Bulgarians „hate and love“.

Assoc. Prof. Nevena Ruseva, PhD combines the teaching work at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ruse and the professional career of an investigator with the talented performances of an artist, transformed into exciting colour impressions in which the colour black is absent.



To the great joy of the audience, this year's edition of Scientists on the Stage also included long-standing participants – the doyen of this event, Prof. Angel Smrikarov, PhD, with his inherent way of communicating with the audience with witty jokes and „aerobatics“ in the art of presentation; Associate Professor Anelia Manukova, DSc – with an impressive collection of more than 250 key chains from different parts of the world, demonstrating a taste for beauty and respect for world cultural heritage; Assoc. Prof. Emeritus Zivodar Dushkov with poetic revelations translated into many languages, this year performed by Milena Popova; Nikolay Kovachev, PhD – with an amazing photo gallery, combining the excitement of the ecologist and the artist's art, whose lens works wonders; Iskra Ilieva, PhD – with her newly discovered role as a talented woodcarver, senior expert Diana Georgieva (Di-Light) – an artist whose talent knows no bounds and who skilfully handles not only a brush and paints, but also the means of digital art.

As in the previous two editions of the Scientists' Night, this year the University's academic community was greeted virtually with talented musical performances by colleagues from Tarakliya State University „Grigori Tsamblak“, Taraklia, Moldova.

The host of Scientists on the Stage, as well as all other events of the Night's programme, was the vice-rector for internationalization and communication policy of the University of Ruse Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD.

On September 30th, the program of the Scientists' Night was dedicated to the youngest – the children of professors and friends of the University of Ruse. In the Talent Workshop under the leadership of Ekaterina Ivanova, PhD and her students from pedagogical degree programmes, more than 30 children drew, applied and modelled, and each of the children's creations was judged on merit. As a reward, animators from



„Veseliatsi“ offered the young participants fun games and entertainment in an unforgettable show. The fiesta did not lack an educational element offered by the Departments of Industrial Communications and Wireless Technologies and Transportation, namely demonstrations with drones, with a car powered by a hydrogen fuel cell, as well as the attractive orange

car of SIN CARS.

A memorable part of the programme of the European Scientists' Night 2023 was the celebration of the event at the branch of the University of Ruse in Silistra, where all initiatives went under the motto Cultural Memory and Digitalization.

Another European Scientists' Night at the University of Ruse has passed, to leave a moving memory of one of the many beautiful faces of the University as a space of the spirit with an exceptional influence on the social and cultural life of the city of Ruse and the region.

The University of Ruse has been organizing the European Scientists' Night since its first edition in 2006. In the last few years, it has been part of the consortium of universities and research institutes under the K-TRIO project, coordinated by Sofia University and financed by the Horizon Europe Program.

The material was prepared by Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD, and Prof. Juliana Popova, PhD

7th Innovative Youth EXPO 2023

5th June 2023

On June 5, 2023, the Innovative Youth Expo VII was held at the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“, which marked the completion of the Science Fair at the University. The initiative was organized by the academic leadership and the Student Council of the University of Ruse under the auspices of the Minister of Education and Science Prof. Sasho Penov, PhD. The co-organizer was the Eureka Foundation, and the partner was the Association of Industrial Capital in Bulgaria.



The rector, Academician Hristo Beloev, opened the Innovative Youth Expo VII and emphasized the importance of the event, meeting innovators from different generations and professions. Academician Beloev noted that a novelty in this year's Innovative Youth Expo is the participation of Erasmus students.

Official guests of the event were the Mayor of Ruse Municipality Pencho Milkov, Dimitar Nedev – Deputy Mayor Community Activities of the Municipality of Ruse, Deputy Regional Governor of Ruse Region Detelina Acheva, Deputy Chairman of Tarakliya Region in Moldova Alexander Borimechkov, the Head of the Regional Education Administration in Ruse, Rositsa Georgieva, PhD and the representative of the Holy Metropolis of Ruse, Father Stefan.

Mayor P. Milkov gave a high assessment of the University of Ruse – the place where the path to realizing dreams begins for young people with their first timid steps. He wished the young innovators to show courage by walking this path and realize all their dreams, even the biggest ones.

Deputy regional governor D. Acheva expressed her confidence that events like this help the successful development of the city.

The chairman of the Ruse Municipal Council, Ivo Pazardzhiev, also extended his greetings to the guests, organizers and participants of the Innovative Youth Expo. The Deputy Chairman of Tarakliya Region, Moldova, Alexander Borimechkov warmly greeted all those present and thanked the Municipality of Ruse and the University of Ruse for the warm friendly relations they have established over the years. He also thanked for the help that the two institutions and their leaders provide in the campaign to collect funds for the construction of a monument to Vasil Levski in Tarakliya. A. Borimechkov emphasized that the Bulgarian community in Tarakliya protects its historical memory because it is convinced that this is the way to preserve its national identity. And the dances of the Tarakliyan children from the „Talismanche“ folklore group, with which they greeted the guests and organizers of the expo,



proved that this historical memory is truly sacredly preserved and successfully passed on to the next generations.

In 2023, the event was attended by students of the University of Ruse, Erasmus students, high school students, young people, representatives of business and public institutions, teachers and guests of the University. At over 50 stands, innovative products of school and student formations from Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine, France, Georgia, Spain, Malaysia were presented.

The prize-winners of the „Inspire“ public speaking competition held for the third time in English received their awards and the winner of the rector's special award gave her presentation to the participants of the expo.

A parallel scientific event, which was held together with the Innovative Youth Expo, was the Student Scientific Session: Best paper Crystal Prize'23. It was attended by students, doctoral students and young scientists, nominated by the respective scientific bodies of faculties. The best student research papers prepared and presented at the session were awarded. This year, doctoral students from Malaysia and an Erasmus student from Georgia also participated in the session.

The material is provided by the PR office.

Erasmus Students in 2023–2024



In the period 15th–19th May 2023, the Seventh Erasmus Week was held at the University of Ruse, in which more than 20 representatives of partner institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vietnam, Germany, Georgia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia and Thailand participated. The unifying message of all the events of the week's programme was „Education of the Future – Challenges and Innovations“.

innovative academic practices and getting to know unique cultural traditions from different corners of the world.

On the third day of the week, a round table on the topic Advantages and Disadvantages of Hybrid Learning was held in the Educational Space of the Future at the University of Ruse. Moderator and host of the event was Assoc. Prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD – Director of the Centre for Doctoral Students,

by cultural clubs of the University of Ruse.

On the last day of the week, its culmination took place – the presentation of certificates to the participants, which took place on the ship „Ruschuk“ during an emotional sail along the Danube River.

The seventh Erasmus week, organized by the University of Ruse for its international partners, once again proved that the Ruse Alma Mater is a highly respected educational institution with



After the opening of the week by the Rector Academician Hristo Beloev and the presentation of the University of Ruse and its international activities by the Deputy Rector Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD, the presentations of the partners aroused interest. During the presentations, the significant effect of the partner Erasmus week stood out – namely, the mutual penetration of

who presented the university's experience in hybrid education and introduced the participants to the modern technological possibilities of the hall.

A traditionally memorable event in the agenda of the week was the international lunch, where the most typical samples of the Bulgarian, Kyrgyz, Georgian and Malaysian national cuisines were presented. The tasting took place against the background of wonderful performances presented

cutting-edge achievements in its educational, research and international activities.

The University of Ruse is an institution that values and supports partner dialogue as a permanent message for the future of higher education on a national and international scale.

The material is prepared by Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD, and Prof. Juliana Popova, PhD.



Innovative Projects

Project Europe in Bulgaria: Common Future

The University of Ruse participated with its representative in the final conference of the Europe in Bulgaria: Common Future project, implemented by the Bulgarian Telegraph Agency with the support of the European Commission.

The forum was opened by the general director of BTA Kiril Valchev. The participants in the conference discussed the economic, social and territorial cohesion, the cohesion policy for the support and development of the regions and for the improvement of the quality of life of the citizens.



Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD – Deputy Rector for Internationalization and Communication Policy, presented the cooperation of the University of Ruse in European programmes with municipalities, regional and national organizations on main priorities in the field of science and education, social justice and others. The results of the university's work on projects financed by the cohesion funds and other national and international programs were also presented, including the clip made by BTA (<https://www.bta.bg/bg/eu-in-bg/videos/16765>).

The discussions at the conference were divided into several thematic panels: Europe Closer to Citizens by Promoting Sustainable and Integrated Development of Regions, Territorial Cooperation and a Safer and more Secure Europe, A more Social and Inclusive Europe, Green and Low-carbon Transition to a Zero-carbon economy, A more Connected Europe, A more Competitive and Smarter Europe.

The information is provided by the PR office.

High Rating for Erasmus+ Mobility Projects

The University of Ruse received full funding for all its proposals under the Erasmus+ programme for academic mobility of students, doctoral students and lecturers in countries outside the European Union (EU). The project proposals of the Ruse Alma Mater have the highest rating for the quality of the envisaged cooperation, strategy for internationalization and dissemination of the results of exchange of experience and transfer of knowledge in the conditions of open science.

During the next project period 2023–2025, 49 students and 57 lecturers from 17 countries (Azerbaijan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bosnia, Vietnam, Georgia, Egypt, Canada, Kyrgyzstan, China, Kosovo, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Thailand, Uzbekistan) from outside the EU will be able to visit and study under Erasmus+ at the University of Ruse, as well as 61 professors and 5 students and doctoral students from the university will be able to benefit from specializing and sharing ideas, knowledge and experience in partner institutions from countries on three continents.

For the eighth year in a row, the University of Ruse has benefited from the opportunities of the Erasmus+ program, which in 2015 opened for global cooperation with countries from all over the world, and so far 130 students from different countries have chosen to study at the University of Ruse for at least one semester and to take the academic spirit and memories of cooperation back to their countries.

The material is provided by Assoc.prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD.

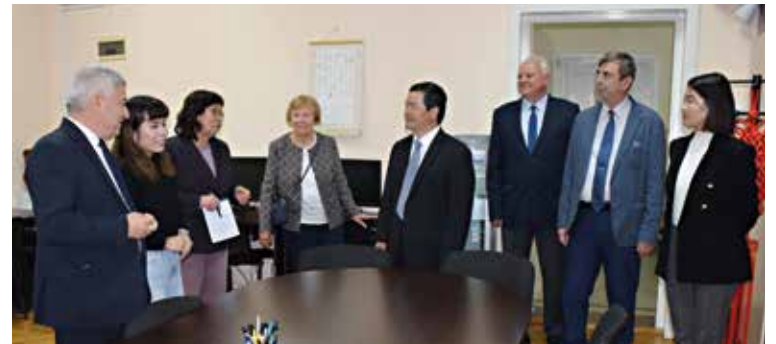
Students and PhD Students Competed in Presentation Skills in English

The Foreign Languages Department with the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Technologies of the University of Ruse has organised a competition on Public Speaking in English for a second year in a row. This

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

The Ambassador of China in Ruse

On October 16th, 2023, the University of Ruse was visited by a delegation led by the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Dong Xiaojun. He was accompanied by Yan Tien, Head of the Education Department, and Ma Qi, Secretary to the Ambassador, Attaché at the Embassy.



The guests were received by the rector of the university, Academician Hristo Beloev. The meeting was attended by the vice-rector for academic work Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD, and the vice-rector for development, coordination and continuing education Prof. Plamen Daskalov, PhD.

Academician Beloev informed H.E. Dong Xiaojun about the cooperation of the higher school with numerous Chinese universities and educational institutions. Special attention was paid to the dual degree training programme of the University of Ruse and Shanghai Polytechnic University, which has already trained 20 Chinese students. There is also an annual exchange of lecturers from the two universities. The guests were also informed about the partnership between the University of Ruse and the Confucius Institute, as well as about the rich activity of the university's Confucius Classroom, contributing to the promotion of the Chinese language and culture.

After the talks, the Chinese guests toured the University of Ruse and expressed their admiration for the high-tech facilities and the excellent conditions for study and rest provided to the students.

At the end of the meeting, the two parties expressed their common will to deepen and expand the cooperation between them.

Representatives of the Jordanian University in Ruse

Prof. Yahia Tashtoush and Prof. Fadi Nesir Sjuul from the Jordan University of Science and Technology in the city of Irbid (the second largest city in Jordan with a population of about 2 million people) visited the Ruse Alma Mater and met with the academic leadership of the University of Ruse.

Academician Beloev expressed his satisfaction with the so far very good partnership under the Erasmus programme between the two universities. He informed the guests that there are currently 6 students from Jordan at the University of Ruse, 4 of them from the Jordan University of Science and Technology, and two from the University of Zarka.

The participants in the meeting discussed issues related to expanding student exchange, deepening cooperation and implementing it in various new forms, including conducting online courses, participating in partner doctoral programs or training Jordanian doctoral students at the University of Ruse, joint scientific projects with common themes, conferences and symposiums.

The University Sport Centre Presents the Achievements in 2023



On December 12th, 2023, a solemn presentation of the successes of the student-athletes from the University of Ruse, who have achieved high results in the field of sports and tourism this year, was held in Kanev Centre. Sports figures and activists from the sports and tourism sections and clubs, as well as the winners of the Autumn University Tournaments, were also honoured.

Among the official guests of the celebration were the regional coordinator from the Ministry of Youth and Sports Eleonora Gurbanova, Lachezar Ivanov – director of Municipal Enterprise „Sports Properties“ Ruse, and Evgeni Nedev – director of the Sports School „Major Atanas Uzunov“ in Ruse.

The solemn ceremony of presenting the results and awarding the students began with a report on the sports and sports-tourism activity and the successful achievements of the academic sports in 2023, which were presented by the Head of the Department Physical Education and Sports, Pr. Assistant Valeri Yordanov, PhD.

He noted that at the largest sports forums in the field of student sports in our country – the National Student Universiade and the National Summer Student Games – student athletes won a total of 19 medals. The achievements have allowed the University of Ruse to defend successfully its reputation as a university where student sports are a priority. In his brief retrospective review, V. Yordanov noted some more significant events in the field of sports and tourism from the rich calendar of the University of Ruse. He mentioned events organized and held in partnership with the schools in the region, with the Municipality of Ruse, the sports clubs in the city and the various institutions at local and state level. Mr. Yordanov thanked the Academic Management for the support of the sports and tourism activities at the university, and for the consistent policy for the development of the sports facilities.

A congratulatory address on behalf of the Mayor of Ruse Municipality Pencho Milkov was presented by Lachezar Ivanov – Director of ME „Sports Properties“.

The rector for the mandate 2019–2023 of the university and current chairperson of the General Assembly of the higher school, Academician Hristo Beloev, congratulated the students on their excellent performance in various competitions at home and abroad and gave a high rating of the activities in the field of mass sports and tourism in the university. He emphasized the consistency in the policy of the academic leadership towards developing the sports facilities at the university and creating suitable conditions for practicing mass sports and achieving high sportsmanship.

After the greeting speech, he started the award ceremony by awarding some of the distinguished students of the University of Ruse and their lecturers and coaches.

The guest of honor at the celebration was the Olympic boxing champion from the last Olympics „Tokyo-2020“ Stoika Krasteva. She was accompanied by her husband, coach and manager Eng. Boril Krastev, who is a graduate of the University of Ruse. Before the event, they met with representatives of the rector's leadership and academic sports of the University of Ruse.

At the ceremony, Stoika Krasteva was awarded a plaque for high results achieved as an athlete and for a significant contribution to the development

and popularization of Bulgarian sports. Students who achieved sporting success in the National Universiade 2023 and the National Summer University Sports Games 2023, in the National Championships and represented the country at international sports forums were awarded as well.

Prof. Antoaneta Momchilova, PhD, and Senior Vice President MS Boris Stefanov, the long-time Heads of the PE&S Department, who have dedicated 50 years to the Ruse Alma Mater, were recognized for their contribution to the development of physical education and academic sports at the University of Ruse and on behalf of their 80th anniversary. Among the awardees was Pr. assistant Elitsa Raeva, PhD – Chair of the Chess Section at the University of Ruse, who in 2023 once again became the national champion in accelerated chess. She has covered two norms for a grandmaster and after a third one, the University of Ruse will be proud to have a grandmaster in its teaching ranks.

Among the awarded students were the table tennis players Adriana Ivanova and Ivelina Ivanova, who have won a total of 14 medals in four years of their studies at the University of Ruse.

The chairperson of the Student Sports Commission at the Student Council, Ivan Banchev, who is a national archery competitor and winner of a number of national and international tournaments, also received an award.

Recorded in the Guinness Book of Records for 71 hours of continuous swimming, Teodor Tsvetkov, whose sports projects are always connected with charitable causes, was also honoured and awarded.

In the second part of the sports event, the champions and medalists of the national universiades and championships were awarded. The table tennis, badminton, kickboxing, judo, athletics, volleyball, beach tennis, swimming and basketball teams of Ruse University, which won medals in both team and individual categories, also received plaques.

The newly elected rector of the university, Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD, presented awards to the lecturers and coaches of the „Academic“ caving club, the „Hiking Tourism / Mountaineering“ club, the „Cabin work and marking“ club and the „Academic“ sports climbing and mountaineering club. These are: Teodor Nedkov Stoychev, Georgi Ivanov Georgiev, MEng, speleoclub „Academic“, Pr. Assistant Pavel Petrov Petrov, PhD, and Senior assistant Yavor Branimirov Neikov, PhD as well as the most active student from the clubs – sophomore Alexander Valkov.

The President of the Student Council, Angel Ivanov, awarded the student winners of the university tournaments of the teams in football, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, chess, badminton, sports orientation, and Canadian wrestling.

The programme of the solemn event included performances by the University's Cheerleading squad led by Janitsa Nikolova, by the Star Dance group led by Antonia Koseva, as well as demonstrations of sports such as judo, kickboxing, wrestling, and canoeing by the athletes of the Sports School.

The material is prepared by Pr. Assistant Valeri Yordanov, PhD, Head of PE&S Dept.



The University Sport Centre Presents the Achievements in 2023



A New Modern Climbing Hall was Opened

On November 28th, 2023, the University of Ruse opened the new, rebuilt and modernized climbing hall, which has already become a bright symbol of donation and volunteerism.

In 2023, thanks to the hard work of coaches, engineers, constructors, as well as the support of the world leader in the production of climbing walls company „Walltopia“ AD (Walltopia), the number of areas and routes for climbing in the university hall has increased fivefold compared to 2016. The new designated areas include three disciplines of difficulty, speed and bouldering.

The opening of the hall was attended by the rector Academician Hristo Beloiev, the chairperson of STES „Academic“ Prof. Rusi Minev, PhD, the coaches Teodor Stoichev and Georgi Georgiev, the head of the Department of Physical Education and Sports Valeri Yordanov, PhD.

The new acquisition for the university sports facilities was presented by the rector, who reminded that there is a similar wall, but the new one is completely different, with more opportunities for those who like to practice sport climbing. He wished the fans of tourism and sports high sports results.

The chairperson of STES „Academic“ Prof. Rusi Minev, PhD emphasized the catchphrase of the first Bulgarian Nobel laureate Elias Canetti:

Ruse – „The city of first things“, pointing out that one of them was precisely the first attempts made in 1910 to do rope climbing in Bulgaria.

„And when we talk about climbing today, we cannot fail to note that in recent years it has been a sport with extremely dynamic and rapid development throughout the world, included in the programme of the Olympic Games.“, said Prof. R. Minev.

The facilities, including changing rooms, service rooms and a terrace for the public, were built with voluntary work, personal funds of the coaches and donations from citizens of Ruse. The sports facility of the university also received support from STES „Academic“.

The climbing hall is open from 16:00 to 21:00 without holidays, attracting a lot of interest from students, schoolchildren, children and even university lecturers and staff. There are still some finishing works going on and the next big challenge is the heating system.

This project is not only the modernization of a sports hall, but also a vivid example of donation and volunteering at the University of Ruse. It also highlights the #GivingTuesday initiative – a global movement that is celebrated in 140 countries and encourages people to donate money, goods or their time to a good cause.

*Assoc. prof. Rusi Minev, PhD,
and the PR OfficeP.*



Academic Selfie

Only good or even better things can be said about the University of Ruse.

The University of Ruse has a long-standing academic tradition and an even longer memory for the people who created this tradition.

The family of the University of Ruse is unique and happy in its own right. It holds its ground firmly, but is hospitably open to foreign guests, cultural aliens, and all diversity.

The family of the University of Ruse is rich with the impressive buildings, rising up in its realm and housing the vanguard of technology. It is no coincidence that owls winter in its park. These birds imbue the spaces with creative insights and academic wisdom.

But the family of the University of Ruse is even richer with its people, languishing in the privacy of offices, building on one article after another and making tremendous efforts to direct the Facebook-captured attention of their students to the sources of knowledge.

The family of the University of Ruse is also artistic. It is a scene of talent and inspiration. Here the generosity of the muses has been boundless, regardless of age, gender or occupation. It is simply deeply hidden in a poem, a painting or a photographic touch to colour the weekday and especially the feast of the spirit.

And also, the family of the University of Ruse is not ordinary and prosaic. It has been nursed and raised with dignity and a powerful voice that resonates in the community of other academic families in Bulgaria and beyond its borders.

I am honoured to be a part of this academic family!

*Prof. Juliana Popova, PhD,
21 November 2023*



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