



THE UNIVERSITY OF RUSE AT 75 – STRENGTH, DIGNITY, AUTHORITY



On 12 November 2020 the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ marked its 75th anniversary.

Despite the situation of global pandemic, when preserving the most precious resource – the health and life of people – is of paramount importance, marking the significant anniversary was an occasion for sharing feelings of satisfaction and well-deserved pride among the entire academic community. Once again the University of Ruse proved that irrespective of the restrictions imposed and the strict compliance with the anti-pandemic measures, it implemented successfully innovative approaches and technological solutions, both in the education process and all other university activities.

The University of Ruse meets its 75th anniversary with Strength, Dignity and Authority, always facing knowledge, youth and the future.

THE STRENGTH of the University of Ruse is, first of all, in its multi-profile nature, in the diverse palette of professional fields and degree programmes that bring together students and PhDs with versatile interests and needs, receiving the best from their lecturers – scientists and professionals – not only in the lecture halls, but also in the interdisciplinary project work, in the transfer of innovations to business, in the development of the regional economy. But the strength of the University of Ruse is, above all, in its ability to adapt to the dynamics of the environment and to find the right solution to all challenges.

THE DIGNITY of the University of Ruse is in its achievements, created by the deeds of the

numerous members of the academic community, who are building the temple of knowledge and science bit by bit and who have bound their present and future with the Ruse Alma Mater.



Behind **THE AUTHORITY** of the University of Ruse stand 75 years of hard work, overcoming the vicissitudes of time, building partnerships, turning bold ideas and visionary dreams into reality. The authority of the University of Ruse is in the quality of education and research, in the modern multifunctional academic environment, in the confident steps towards digitisation of education and study in the halls of the future. This authority is in the Academic Danube Axis,

Dear readers,

Issue 414 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.

Assoc. Prof. Aneliya Manukova, PhD
Editor-in-Chief

built by the University of Ruse, in its leadership position in the cross-border region and the Danube Area, as well as in the recognition it receives in the country and beyond as a trailblazer and leader in the European initiatives, national and international projects. Last but not least, the authority of the University of Ruse is also in its ability to respond to every event from the public and cultural life and to be a centre of spiritual and aesthetic values.

*Rector Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev,
DTSc, DHC mult*

For 75 years the University of Ruse has been facing knowledge, youth and future!



Laying a wreath in front of the monument to the patron of the University of Ruse, Angel Kanchev

The 75th Anniversary of the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ was officially celebrated on 12 November 2020. The anniversary schedule of events for the whole year included numerous initiatives and events, most of which were held under strict compliance with the measures for restricting the spread of COVID-19.

The Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev and the University Body of Rectors complied with the orders of the Minister of Health and the Mayor of Ruse, related to the deteriorated epidemic situation and reduced the number of events, planned for 11, 12 and 13 November to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the University of Ruse. The new technologies utilised by the University made it possible to cover the celebration online and stream the information to different parts of the country and the world.

The official anniversary celebrations started at 10 a.m. on 12 November with laying a wreath in front of the monument to Angel Kanchev, the patron of the University. After that, in the central lobby of the Main Building, the Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc, greeted all the members of the academic community present with the remarkable anniversary and emphasized the fact that during the year, more than 100 events were organised and the high-tech academic environment along with the innovative approaches, implemented in the University facilitated the diverse format, including the virtual one.

During the anniversary year, creative teams from the University worked on materials, reflecting its history and development and carrying messages to the future. On 12 November 2020, the Rector opened a Poster exhibition „75 prosperous years of the University of Ruse“. It consisted of 20 posters, presenting the chronology of events in the University between the 70ieth and the 75th Anniversary in 2015 and 2020, respectively.

Four anniversary publications were also presented by their authors and inspirers, who made the ideas behind each one and the targeted audience known.

The anniversary issue of Studentska iskra newspaper was presented by Assoc. prof. Anelia Manukova, PhD – editor-in-chief. She shared the feeling of covering the 75-year development of the University: „In 1945, the first higher school outside the capital was born in Ruse, owing to the progressive ideas of its citizens and their desire for knowledge and development of the city. 75 years ago, the citizens of Ruse were aware of the fact that education is the foundation of knowledge and they realised

the importance of being a qualified specialist, adequately prepared for the opportunities to practice what you have learned. And to the delight of all of us, they found a way to achieve this by establishing one of the most prestigious universities in Bulgaria. The team of the anniversary issue of Studentska iskra newspaper looked at the University of Ruse through the eyes of the words, written on the pages through the years, tying the thread of continuity and success, of memories and present achievements,



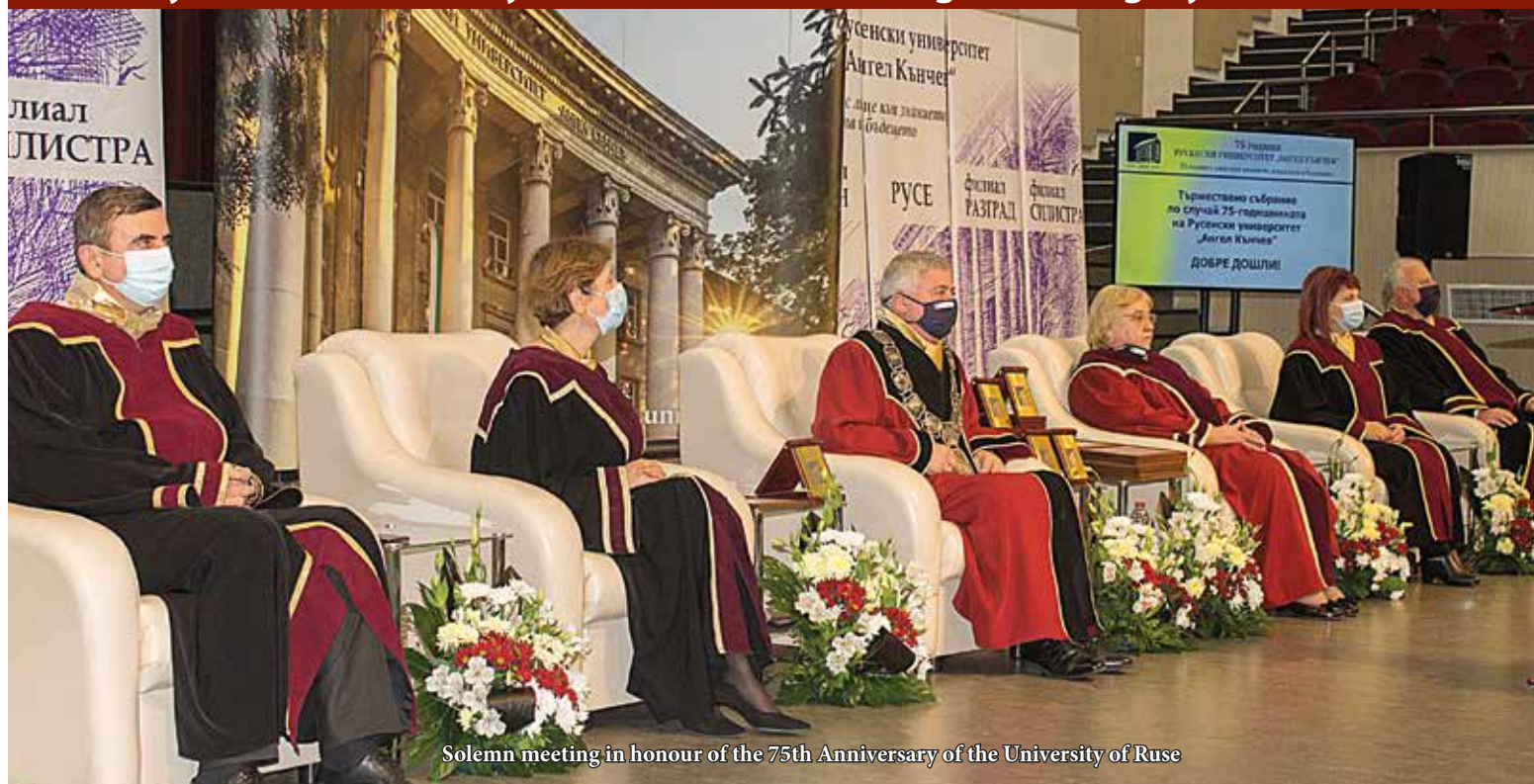
Poster exhibition „75 years University of Ruse“

pointing out the direction of future development of the Ruse Alma Mater“.

The anniversary virtual album „75 prosperous years of the University of Ruse“, was prepared by Assoc. Prof. Georgi Hristov, PhD and Diyana Kinaneva, PhD /the virtual part/, Assoc. Prof. Yordan Doychinov, PhD / design/, Prof. Juliana Popova, PhD /text/. It presents the most significant modern achievements of the University of Ruse in different spheres of its activities – education, science, innovations, regional leadership, international authority, student and PhD student achievements, club activities in the University in text and numerous pictures. On each page of the album there are two QR codes, which, when scanned, open digital images or 3D models.

Modern technologies for aerial photography and 3D scanning were used in the album, allowing the reader to immerse in the virtual world of the University of Ruse. The team of lecturers from the University created virtual 360-degree tours, accessible through the QR codes in the album. Thus, the reader can take a virtual tour of the University campus, of the main building's lobby, go through the Museum exhibition and Kaneff Centre, Study building 2 and a number of others. In addition, these virtual tours also integrate information labels, directing the reader to applications, providing the possibility of virtual and augmented reality. The panoramic

For 75 years the University of Ruse has been facing knowledge, youth and future!



Solemn meeting in honour of the 75th Anniversary of the University of Ruse

images were made by aerial shooting of a drone, and the 3D models by the scanners and printers in the university laboratories.

The third anniversary publication was the book „Strive for Freedom“ written by Vesselina Antonova, PhD and dedicated to the 170th anniversary of Angel Kanchev's birth and the 75th Anniversary of the University of Ruse.

The fourth anniversary publication, which has preserved the historical memory of the University is the book RUMoreski – anecdotes covering academic life at the University of Ruse in the period 1945 – 2020, compiled by assoc. prof. Atanas Kolev, PhD. The caricatures are by Hristo Grozev, PhD (1951–2006), a lecturer from the Department of Machine elements, provided kindly by assoc. prof. Tanya Grozeva, PhD. His messages by paint and word, dated 1951–2004, are topical and still vital today.

The contribution of the university design team – assoc. prof. Tsvetomir Konov, PhD, Velin Todorov and students – was also noted. They created the anniversary brand and all promotional materials, as well as the light panel on the second floor of the Main Building.

On 12 November 2020, at 4 p.m., the solemn meeting, dedicated to the 75th Anniversary of the University of Ruse was opened. It was streamed in the YouTube channel of the University and in the social media. Thus, the long-standing partners of the University and the members of the academic community, who were not present, due to the pandemic restrictions, had the opportunity to share the excitement and the atmosphere of the celebration through this direct streaming.

Distinguished guests of the solemn meeting were: Tanya Mihailova – Vice-minister of the education and culture; Pencho Milkov – Mayer of Ruse Municipality; Svilen Ivanov – acting Governor of Ruse Region; Ivo Pazardzhiev – Chairperson of Ruse Municipal Council; Rositsa Georgieva – Head of Regional Management of Education – Ruse; Momchil Stankov – Governor of Vidin Region; Dencho Boyadzhiev – Mayor of Razgrad Municipality; Ivan Paslar – Chairperson of Taraklia Region, Moldova; Marin Stoyanov – cross bearing manciple on behalf of His Eminence

Naum – Metropolitan of Ruse Metropolis; Stanimir Boyadzhiev – vice-chairperson of the National Representation of Student Councils and Chairperson of the Student Council of the University. They addressed their congratulations and best wishes to the whole academic community of the University of Ruse while the Rector Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc, presented them with anniversary awards.



Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc and Prof. Velizara Pencheva

The solemn meeting started with the Academic Address of the Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc. Then he presented anniversary plaques to the former rectors of the University of Ruse – Prof. Mityu Kanev, PhD, Prof. Atanas Mitkov, PhD, Assoc. prof. Marko Todorov, PhD and Prof. Velizara Pencheva, PhD, as a sign of recognition for their invaluable contribution to the development of our Alma Mater.

The President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Rumen Radev, sent a video address to the academic community of the University of Ruse and honoured the Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc with the Honorary Badge of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

A video address to mark the anniversary was also sent by the Chairperson of the People's Assembly, Tsveta Karayancheva.

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the University of Ruse, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, Boyko Borisov sent a congratulatory address to the academic community.

Prof. Anastas Gerdzhikov, DPhSc, Chairperson of the Council of Rectors in the Republic of Bulgaria, participated online and

expressed his best wishes during the event.

The short promotional film „75 years University of Ruse“, created by „Arena Media“ premiered at the meeting.

A musical compliment to the guests of the solemn meeting was offered by „State Opera Ruse Trio“.

The information in pages 2 to 7 is prepared by Victoria Ivanova, PhD and the PR Department

Interview with the Rector of the University of Ruse

The first four months of 2020 were extremely dynamic in research, educational, charity and human aspects. The University of Ruse proved yet again that it has a leading role in the North Central Region.

The Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc gave an interview for the readers of Studentska iskra.

Prof. Beloev, could you, please analyse briefly the activities of the University of Ruse during the lockdown period in Bulgaria – 13 March – 13 May 2020.

At the University of Ruse we do not compromise the quality of education in any way, so we reset all our systems for working in the conditions of lockdown. Thanks to the platforms developed and functioning before the pandemic, in just a few days after 13 March, we managed to start an online teaching and learning process of high quality and at a growing interest and active participation of the students. The platform BigBlueButton for teaching is based on three servers, and we also used the platforms Microsoft Team, Zoom. etc.

We adopted a procedure for, online end-of-semester exams and online state exams and diploma theses defence, to guarantee the successful completion of the academic year.

For the first time in the organisational life of the University of Ruse were held online meetings of the management bodies: Academic Council (from March to May three meetings were held), Faculty Councils, Department Councils, committees, work meetings by fields of activities, etc. For the first time we organised the Assembly General online with over 220 lecturers, administration and students.

We started working actively on electronic education at the end of the last century, after a seminar in Brussels, where we became aware of EU's intention to make education accessible to all any time and at any place. The then Rector, Prof. Boris Tomov and the Academic Council reacted promptly with setting up a Centre for Innovative Educational Technologies with its first objective – to create preconditions for e-learning.

In 2001, the doctoral student Tsvetan Hristov created the e-Learning Shell platform and the doctoral student Anelia Ivanova, who named the platform and tested it together with ten other lecturers from different faculties of the University. This development won first prize in the national competition at that time.

The number of web-based courses and virtual laboratories started growing fast after 2001. This led to the establishing of the Distance learning Centre in 2005, which organised courses for lectures on how to use the platform.

At the moment of announcing the lockdown, we had nearly 34 000 study resources in 1200 courses, including video lectures and interactive e-books. Today, the courses published online are over 1500, which is over 90% of the support for the study process. The decision of the Body of Rectors is to have lectures and seminar materials published on the platform by 30 May 2020 for all disciplines from the curricula, which will be a mirror image of the university in the virtual education space, i.e. it will meet the requirements for a virtual university.

At the end of April I initiated the establishing of a virtual library of brief video lectures on innovative educational technologies. The idea supports the vision that after the pandemic the world won't be the same and neither will education. Together with the authors, we decided to make the library an open source for all lecturers and teachers in the country. You can visit it at: <http://ciot.uni-ruse.bg/virtualLibrary.html>.

With the publishing of the last „Design of a lesson/lecture for mixed type teaching“ on 14 May, we can say that the virtual library was completed. This last video lecture is particularly important because when we return to the real study halls, the main model of instruction should be of this mixed type – a rational combination of the traditional and the distance learning.

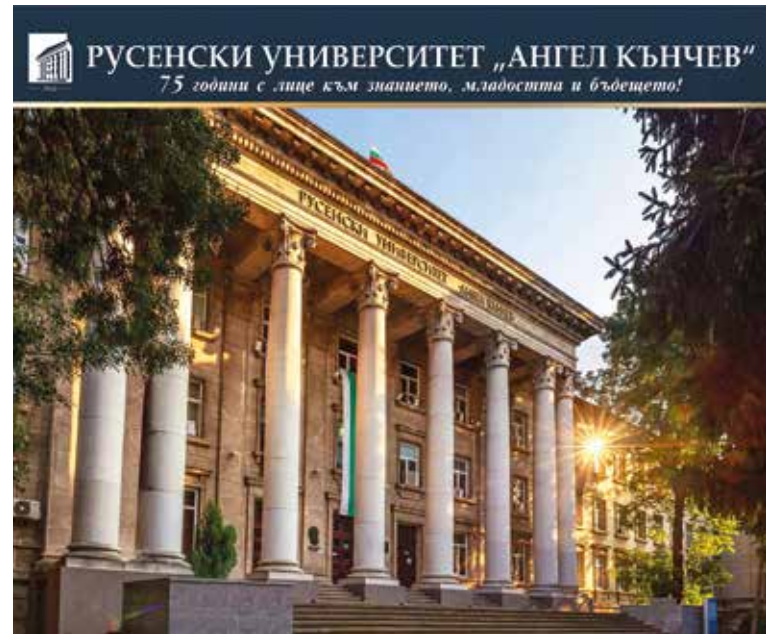
One of the last developments of the University – „A Vision for the University of the Future“ – has presented to teachers and school principals, lecturers and researchers from BAS and was earned their understanding and support.

What are the expectations of the university research community in terms of building research networks with other higher schools in Bulgaria and abroad?

In recent years, the University of Ruse has been working towards integration of the Bulgarian and European virtual education space and establishing European universities networks in this area.

We established our first European Thematic Network back in 2002. Three other networks followed in the same field of computing. In the latest one, entitled „Future Education and Training in Computing: How to support learning at any time anywhere“, participated 67 universities from 35 countries. Brussels awarded the University with a plaque „Partner of Europe“ for the successful implementation of all these projects even before Bulgaria became an EU member. The Pythagoras prize of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria was also conferred for the establishing of these networks.

The experience gained found its realisation in the Eurasian project „Modernization of Higher Education in Central Asia through New Technologies“ for the period 2019–2022, with three partner universities from each of the five countries from central Asia – Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as their Ministries of Education and Science. They adopted the Concept of the University of Ruse for adapting the educational system to the digital generation, translated it into their national languages, as well as into Russian and English and sent it to all 330 universities in these central Asian countries.



In each of the partner universities under the project, centres for innovative educational technologies (IET), modelling the one at the University of Ruse, were established. They are already organising training of lecturers, using the Ruse University curriculum and the cloud-based virtual IET library, created in our University for this purpose. The Manual on Innovative Educational Technologies, translated into Russian and English is also part of this library.

This unique virtual IET library integrates the experience of the University of Ruse and includes syllabi and IET Manuals, presentations and video lectures on the main topics from the curriculum, as well as some useful instructions. This library was mainly designed to be used in the training of trainers and lecturers from the 15 partner universities in Central Asia. However, in view of the lockdown, we decided to make it open source to be used by all schools and universities in our country, as well as the 73 universities from 34 countries in Europe, joined by the 330 universities in the five central Asian countries, participating in the project.

On 12 May 2020, in the capital of Kirgizstan – Bishkek an online conference, entitled „Modern Educational Technologies“ EduTech KG 2020, led by the vice minister of education and science Nurlan Omurov was held. Together with the Head of the IET Centre of the University of

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Ruse, Prof. Angel Smrikarov, PhD, we opened the conference and presented a plenary paper to rectors and vice-rectors on the topic „A Vision on the Development of the Educational System after the pandemic“. This seminar was the latest of five that had already been held.

To sum up, I can say that one of the signposts in the development of the University of Ruse is its motto „Facing knowledge, Youth and the Future“. This aspiration for the digital future and concern about the present, as well as the future students, stimulates us to maintain close contact and cooperation with our partners from the higher and high schools in the country and abroad.

Prof. Beloev, would you, please, share with the readers of the student newspaper the decision of the Council of Ministers of April 2020 to open a Research Institute for Technologies and Innovations with the University of Ruse? What will be the role of the Institute in the University, how will it be managed and who will be part of it? How will this structure be financed and what research production will be expected from it?

With a Decision of the Council of Ministers of 22 April 2020 a new research institute was established at the University of Ruse. The Research Institute for Technologies and Innovations will bring together the research activities of the four engineering faculties, but the remaining faculties could also integrate their research successfully. Projects from national and international programmes will be developed there, and new instruments, devices and technologies in the field of technical sciences will be created as well. The activities of the Institute will be funded by the budget of the University, through participation in national and international programmes and projects and through the realisation of research products and innovation, developed in the Institute itself.

The investment in young people, igniting the flame of research in them, is an investment in the future of Bulgaria. It is no coincidence that the University of Ruse has many successful graduates – leaders of large innovative companies, who have developed as highly qualified professionals precisely through combining science and practice.

Over 350 projects under different programmes have been implemented at the University of Ruse. For the period after 2007, since our accession to the European Union, their number has exceeded 250 in various European programmes – Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus, the Framework Programmes (7th Framework Programme and Horizon 2020), Cost, the Operative Programmes in Bulgaria, the programmes for Cross-border Cooperation. For the two periods of funding we have implemented over 24 projects under the Cross-border cooperation Bulgaria – Romania Programme. We work actively under the national and international projects of the Research Fund.

The experience gained, the international partnerships built and the equipment acquired, bring to the fore the need to restructure the research work in the University of Ruse, with maximum efficiency and excellent results. The new Research Institute with the University of Ruse is a step in that direction. It is our responsibility to create the necessary working conditions for the researchers, and we are convinced that The Research Institute for Technologies and Innovations will prove itself over time as a sustainable university structure, contributing to the development of research.

And how did the research teams of the University of Ruse react to the lockdown in the country and the fight against COVID-19?

The research teams created at the University of Ruse have proved their usefulness during the lockdown.

On 19 March 2020, the University of Ruse joined the national campaign for gratuitous production and provision of 3D printed shields to doctors, dentists and medical workers, as well as to public institutions and citizens. In twenty days of continuous work over 2500 medical shields were produced and provided gratuitously to 4 main groups of users: Hospitals, medical centres, dental clinics, ER centres and other public and private medical institutions; 2) GPs, dentists, medics and pharmacists; 3) National, regional and municipal administrative bodies; 4) Units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, institutions and administrative bodies, as well as citizens in urgent need.

The University of Ruse provided equipment for participation in a joint initiative with the Municipality of Ruse, the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the University of Ruse for tracing illegal

break-ins in the summer house areas around the city, as well as large groups of people gathering in parks and gardens.

Together with the Mayor of Ruse, Mr. Pencho Milkov, the Governor of Ruse region, Mr. Galin Grigorov, we took part in a groundbreaking ceremony on 4 May, 2020 for a Centre of Excellency at the University of Ruse. The complex will be built under the Operative programme „Science and Education for intelligent growth“, Priority axis 1 „Research and technological development“. Innovative technological solutions, supporting the competitive advantages of the local economies in the Danube region will be developed in the Centre.

In the beginning of March, we had a meeting with the Mayor of Ruse and the Vice-mayors, discussing the opportunities for expanding our cooperation in different areas. In mid-May a joint initiative with the Municipality of Ruse was started with the goal of improving the city's infrastructure. Analysis of the passenger flow and the routes of movement of the citizens of Ruse, as well as an inspection of the flow of cars in different parts of the city and analysis of the state of underpasses and overpasses on the territory of Ruse will be made.

Other successful initiatives, realised during the lockdown were telephone consultations for people in need, sets of exercises to deal with immobilisation during the social isolation, and the international discussion on the topic of „Social work in the times of Corona virus“ held on 12 May.

I can summarise that the whole academic staff of the University of Ruse put maximum effort during the lockdown in our country into contributing with its scientific and educational capacity to dealing with COVID-19.

In the beginning of April 2020, the University of Ruse received high evaluation for the project „Digital Technological Systems for Clean and Secure Environment – 5D ALLIANCE 2019–2028“, uniting competitive universities and institutes and thus strengthening its leading position. The teams of 12 Bulgarian research units: the Agrarian University – Plovdiv; the Military Academy G. S. Rakovski – Sofia; University of Economics – Varna; Institute of Electrochemistry and Energy Systems „Acad. Evgeni Budevski“ (IEES), BAS; Institute of Information and Communication Technologies of BAS; Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnologies and Plant Protection „Nikola Pushkarov“ with the Agricultrual Academy – Sofia; HIGH TECH EM Ltd. of the Institute of Metal Science, Facilities and Technologies of BAS; Technical University – Varna; Technical University – Gabrovo; Technical University – Sofia; Thracian University – Stara Zagora; 4 associated partners of national business organisations (Cluster Electromobiles; the Automotive Cluster Bulgaria (ACB 3) Cluster „Srednogorie“; (4) NPS Kozlodui) and 11 other international partners, among which JRC – Brussel, Belgium; Steinbeis Europe Centre – Karlsruhe, Germany, as well as centres network, confirmed their participation and support of collaboration in solving complex tasks.

Prof. Beloev, would you introduce the project concept for building the 5D ALLIANCE and the main thematic fields?

5D ALLIANCE is one of the large-scale new projects of the University of Ruse – „Digital Technological Systems for Clean and Secure Environment – 5D ALLIANCE 2019–2028“. We received the news for its approval on 9th April, with a letter from Vice-minister Karina Angelieva.

We aimed at achieving a complex effect in the field of smart, secure and environmentally-friendly management of interrelated systems and their business applications thus ensuring clean and secure environment. That is why we decided the project concept to be based on sharing resources, computer capacity, know-how and expertise of high level, which would lead to the implementation of cutting-edge interdisciplinary research. We anticipate that the quality of the research will have a potential to influence the whole Danube area on a macroeconomic level.

Our strategy for cooperation and building of a unique digital infrastructure turned out to be the right move for uniting otherwise competitive higher schools and institutes. The successful implementation of this project will determine the leading position of the University of Ruse and its partners in 4 main thematic fields: Precise technologies for sustainable agriculture

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and clean and secure environment; Low carbon mobility and intelligent transport systems; Multi-modal human-machine interface and 3D kinematics in technological systems for clean and secure environment and Digital energy systems for clean and secure environment.

Through the Alliance will be developed three more horizontal interdisciplinary fields related to research on: digital, additive, energy-assisted innovative technologies; development of innovative business and educational models for sustainable development, clean and secure environment, as well as integrated intelligent security management systems for the developments in the four main fields, including innovative and efficient system solutions for energy and information security.

The development of this unique project is a success in itself. Would you tell us something about the team that created and developed the approved project solution?

The Ministry of Education and Science issued a Call for projects for the needs of updating the National Roadmap for Scientific Infrastructure (NRSI). In the summer of 2019, we formed a team to develop the project proposal and submit it to the Call. We included leading researchers from 7 research fields and representatives of the Centre for Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property with the Scientific Research Sector of the University of Ruse.

I want to note that the University of Ruse has a remarkable scientific capacity. To a large extent, this is due to the variety of research and professional fields and the opportunity for forming interdisciplinary teams, possessing the expertise to solve complex tasks from the public, social and economic spheres of life. This makes our Alma Mater a reliable and irreplaceable partner, well sought after.

The project has no analogue in Bulgaria and in the Danube area since it provides for the establishment of a research infrastructure complex, combining 3 different forms of scientific infrastructure – unique, digital and shared. In this complex 7 interdisciplinary laboratories will be built at the University of Ruse:

- Precise technologies for sustainable agriculture and clean and secure environment;
- Low carbon mobility and intelligent transport systems;
- Multi-modal human-machine interface and 3D kinematics in technological systems for clean and secure environment;
- Digital energy systems;
- Digital, additive, energy-assisted innovative technologies;
- Development of innovative business and educational models for sustainable development, clean and secure environment;
- Integrated intelligent security management systems, incl. energy and information security.

Remote laboratory in the Military Academy G. S. Rakovski – Sofia and Remote access points with the remaining partners of the Research Consortium are also to be built.

Last but not least, there is an initiative for creating an association under the Law on Non-profit Legal Entities – „Danube Digital Innovative Hub“. Prof. Beloiev, could you tell us more about this initiative and who will be the partners of the University of Ruse in this association?

The University of Ruse really utilizes the advantages of its geographic location in the Cross-border region and the Danube space. We have managed to develop a strong project potential and to win leadership positions in cross-border projects with European funding – more than 200 such projects in the last five years. It is even more important that we have made the cross-border partnership with colleagues from Romania, Serbia and all the Danube region our strategic priority and a direction for development in the field of science, research and innovations. There is ample evidence of scientific and innovative contributions of the University of Ruse to the development of the Danube Region – our participation in a Danube Transfer Centre, in the creation of a White Book of the Danube Region under a project within the framework of the Danube Strategy, the organisation of numerous international scientific conferences on Danube topics, including the large-scale conference on the Danube – Mekong initiative in 2016 and the conference Sustainable development of the Danube Region with the participation of the Presidents of Austria, Bulgaria and Romania in 2018,

within the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Council. The University of Ruse has been a co-organiser and host of cross-border summit forums, the last of which was in January 2020, in relation to the new European programme for research and innovations „Horizon – Europe“.

„The European Commission aims at stimulating the creation and development of digital hubs at a regional level within the Programme in the field of digital technologies for Europe, in order to meet the ever increasing digital challenges.

Our idea is that the association „Danube Digital Innovative Hub“ will work for improving the conditions of access and use of information and communication technologies on the territory of the region, with Ruse as an administrative centre. The association will carry out initiatives to expand the implementation of projects, related to the promotion and realisation of the benefits from information and communication technologies in small and medium-sized enterprises from other sectors of the economy. Besides, it will also strive to increase the interest of adolescents towards information technologies.

The members of the association will be the municipalities of Ruse, Vidin, Silistra and Razgrad, the Association of the Danube municipalities, the software companies Sirma and Musala Soft.



The University of Ruse is constantly setting new and increasingly ambitious aims. What would you say in summary?

Recently, the 2020 rating of Bulgarian universities was published by the web-based ranking system UniRank. The rating has been conducted on the basis of independent sources in the Internet and does not include data, submitted by the universities themselves. In this rating, the University of Ruse occupies the prestigious third position among the state higher schools after Sofia University and the Technical University in Sofia. In the entire list of 48 participating universities it occupies the fourth position, after the New Bulgarian University. Of over 6000 universities, participating in the ranking analysis, the University of Ruse occupies the 1500th position,

The year 2020 will remain marked in the world history by the unprecedented crisis, caused by COVID-19. For the University of Ruse, however, this is the year when it celebrated its 75th anniversary – 75 years since the establishment of the first higher school in the country outside the capital city.

On the academic map of Bulgaria, this anniversary is a sign of longevity and tradition, continuous upward development and a lasting mark in education, science and public life. I believe that the entire academic community, all students, alumni and administration, feel proud and satisfied with the past 75 years. I also believe that it will continue to be so because ***together we can do more!***

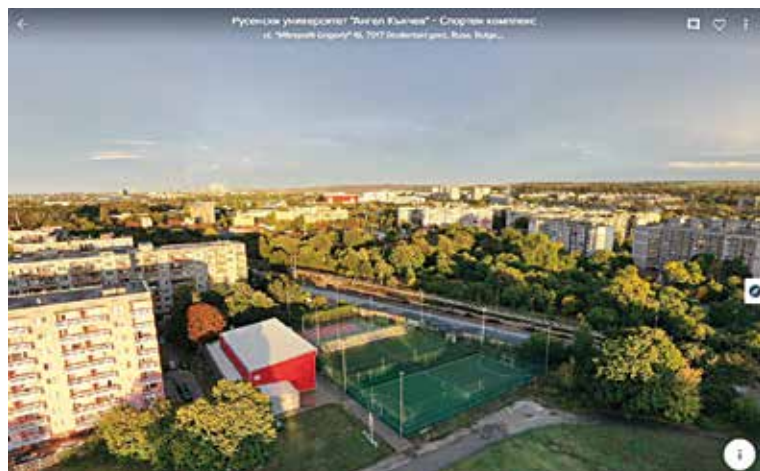
With the Organising Committee for the 75th anniversary of the University we are looking forward to November with optimism and we believe that we will be able to celebrate duly the remarkable anniversary of our Ruse Alma Mater.

The interview with Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloiev, DTSc was taken by the team of Studentska iskra newspaper.

For 75 years the University of Ruse has been facing knowledge, youth and future!

Virtual album with a 360 degree view through QR codes

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the University of Ruse a virtual album was created with places, facts and events, notable for the University and the city. For its creation were used advanced technologies for aerial photography and 3D scanning, which will allow the reader to immerse him/herself in the virtual, world of the University. The virtual part of the album was created by Assoc. prof. Georgi Hristov and Diana Kinaneva, PhD, from the Department of Telecommunications. The album's design was made by Assoc. prof. Yordan Doychinov, PhD, from the Department of Industrial Design. The text was prepared by Prof. Juliana Popova, PhD, Vice-rector of Internationalisation and Communication Policy in the period 2012–2020.

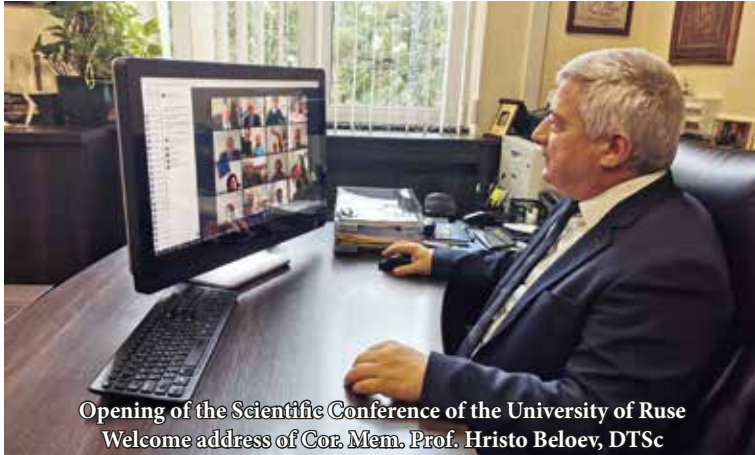


Conference at the University of Ruse, 2020

International Scientific Conference of the University of Ruse

12–13 November, 2020

In the days when the University of Ruse marked its 75th Anniversary, on 12 and 13th November, 2020, in Ruse, the 59th Annual International Scientific Conference, organised jointly by the Union of Scientists – Ruse and the University of Ruse took place. The theme of the conference has been sustainable for the last three years: „New industries, digital economy, society – Forecasts for the future“ III.




Opening of the Scientific Conference of the University of Ruse
Welcome address of Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc

The programme of the scientific forum, which was also held in the Branches of the University in Silistra (16.10.2020) and Razgrad (6–7.11.2020) attracted scientists from 76 universities and scientific organisations from 15 countries (Belarus, Bulgaria, Italy, Spain, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Moldova, Poland, Romania, NR Macedonia, R of Croatia, Turkey, Ukraine, and France), who participated with 390 reports, abstracts and research results.

For the first time, the plenary papers of the 59th Annual International Scientific Conference of the University of Ruse were presented in parallel with the plenary session of the other parallel scientific event – the 7th International Conference on Energy Efficiency and Agricultural Engineering (EE&AE). Renowned scientists from France, Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria presented the papers: Gilles Notton, PhD – University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli, France, Senior researcher Tilos; Gabriela Cîrciumaru, PhD – National Institute for Research and Development in Electrical Engineering ICPE-CA Bucharest, Romania, Senior researcher, Head of the Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency; Assoc. Prof. Radosveta Sokullu, PhD – Ege University, Turkey Head of the Telecommunications Branch IoT in Agriculture and Assoc. Prof. Ludmil Stoyanov, PhD Technical University of Sofia, Bulgaria, Vice-dean of R&D and International Cooperation, The panellists shared their experience as leading researchers and gave a good start of the two conferences

**2020 7th International Conference on Energy Efficiency and Agricultural Engineering
EE&AE 2020**


12th-13th November 2020, Ruse, Bulgaria



Plenary speaker: Gilles Notton, Ph.D.
Affiliation: University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli, France
Position: Senior researcher
E-mail: notton_g@univ-corse.fr
Presentation: Tilos, an autonomous Greek island thanks to a PV/Wind/Zebra battery plant and a smart Energy Management System

Gilles Notton is a senior researcher in renewable energy systems with more than 30 years of experience. He received his PhD Degree in Energy Engineering.

His main research interests concern renewable energy potential estimation and prediction, hybrid renewable systems, energy management in smart electrical grid and integration of thermal solar collectors into building sector.



In 31 sessions of 24 sections in Ruse (320 research papers), the authors discussed their views in all scientific areas and professional fields in which the University provides education and research. The research papers and discussions will certainly contribute to deepening the understanding, related to different aspects of the regional economic transformation, based on implementing innovative strategies and approaches to new industries, digital economy, society and its



relations to the business environment and quality of life.

Following a double anonymous review, works with a significant contribution will be offered for publication in journals with impact factor and thematic journals distributed in many libraries in Bulgaria and abroad and registered in NACID and COBIS. All the remaining papers, which have successfully passed international double reviewing will be published in the respective volume of Proceedings of the University of Ruse, included in the international database ISSN..

*The material was prepared by Prof. Diana Antonova, PhD,
Vice-rector of Research.*

7th International Conference on Energy Efficiency and Agricultural Engineering (EE&AE)

12–14 November, 2020

In the period 12–14 November 2020 the 7th International Conference on Energy Efficiency and Agricultural Engineering (EE&AE) was held, with IEEE as the technical sponsor of the event for the first time. The Conference was dedicated to the 75th Anniversary of the University of Ruse, and due to the complicated epidemiologic situation, it was conducted in a hybrid form – in attendance and virtually, via a video conferencing in Zoom.

The Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc and the Chairperson of the Bulgarian section of IEEE – Assoc. prof. Kiril Aleksiev, PhD greeted the participants.



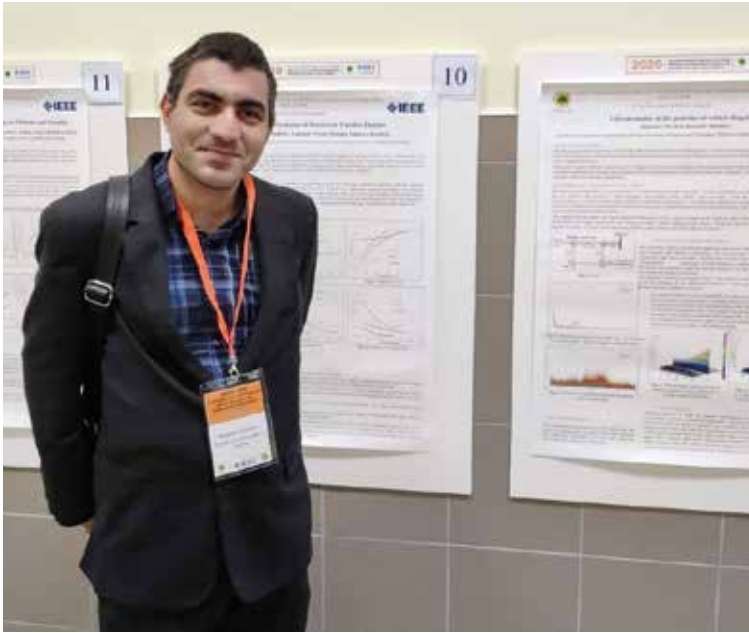
During the Plenary session, with Assoc. prof. Irena Valova, PhD as a moderator, the results from research in the field of renewable energy sources and precision agriculture were presented. The plenary speakers: Gilles Notton, PhD – University of Corsica, France, Gabriela Cîrciumaru, PhD – National Institute for Research and Development in Electrical Engineering ICPE-CA Bucharest, Romania, Assoc. Prof. Radosveta Sokullu, PhD – Ege University, Turkey and Assoc. Prof. Ludmil Stoyanov, PhD Technical University of Sofia, Bulgaria, shared their experience of leading researchers.

The conference participants had the chance to determine the type of presenting their papers, in compliance with the epidemic restrictions:

- During three hybrid sessions the results from 21 studies were presented. Some of the participants were in attendance in the lecture hall, while others participated via Zoom;

Conference at the University of Ruse, 2020

- 52 papers were presented as posters during two poster sessions in attendance;
- 71 papers were presented online during 6 virtual poster sessions, via separate Zoom channels for each presenter.



The total number of papers presented at EE&AE 2020 was 147, whose authors came from 12 countries – Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, France, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Slovakia, Ukraine, Pakistan, Finland, Cyprus and Lithuania. Participants from all technical and agrarian universities in Bulgaria – the University of Ruse, Technical Universities in Sofia, Varna and Gabrovo, representatives of BAS, the Medical University – Varna, the Higher Marine School in Varna, the University of Food Industries – Plovdiv, the Thracian University – Stara Zagora, the Agrarian University – Plovdiv, The Institute of Soil Science „Nikola Pushkarov“, Prof. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, South Western University “Neofit Rilski“, University of National and World Economy – Sofia, Higher school of Communications and Postal Services – Sofia, Mining and Geology University – Sofia, etc.

The conference Energy Efficiency & Agricultural Engineering 2020 was realised with the help and active participation of lecturers from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation and its Departments of Electronics; Power Supply and Electrical Equipment; Computer Systems and Technologies; Automation and Mechatronics.



The Organisational Committee expresses their sincere gratitude for the dedicated work of all participants in the preparation and conducting of the event. The letters of gratitude received from colleagues from all over Bulgaria are indicative of the success of this year's edition of the conference.

The material was prepared by Assoc. prof. Boris Evstatiev, Head of SRS.

Scientific session for Students, PhD Students and Young Scientists

11 November, 2020

On 11th November 2020 a Scientific session for Students, PhD Students and Young Scientists – BEST PAPER „Crystal Prize“, was held.

In the period May – October scientific sessions were held in all Faculties and Branches of the University of Ruse, and the best 14 papers were selected. The nominated research papers were presented at the virtual session in English by participants from Bulgaria, Ukraine, Great Britain and Australia.

The event was part of the annual Scientific Conference of the University of Ruse and the Union of Scientists – Ruse, „New Industries, Digital Economy, Society – Projections of the Future III“.

The research papers were prepared jointly by students and their academic advisors and will be published in the Anniversary proceedings of the conference Best paper „Crystal prize“.

The material was prepared by Assoc. prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD.

XXI international conference on Computer Systems and Technologies CompSysTech

19–20 June, 2020

On 19th and 20th June 2020 the 21st edition of the international conference on Computer Systems and Technologies CompSysTech was held. For the first time the forum was held online in the virtual rooms of the University of Ruse. Prof. Tsvetomir Vassilev, PhD, Head of the Distance Learning Centre, was the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and Assoc. prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD, Director of the PhD Student Centre, was the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee.

The forum was officially opened by the Rector of the University of Ruse, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc. He welcomed the guests, participants and organisers, with a particular address to the Computing community, which is the leader of digital transformation of education in the country. „We highly

appreciate the efforts of your academic community to be active in research and we will support your scientific performance“ added Prof. Beloev.

The following papers were presented at the plenary session by leading specialists in the field of computing: Dr. Veselin Raychev ETH Zurich, – Keynote on: Beyond Neural Networks for Programming: How to Learn from Programs; Prof. Valeri Mladenov, Technical University of Sofia, Bulgaria, Keynote on: Control of various robots through signals from the brain activity; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Vatchkov, National Center for Supercomputer Applications, Sofia, Bulgaria (NCSA) Keynote on: European and Bulgarian Supercomputers. The online format of the conference was not an obstacle for the discussions and the questions to the specialists.

During the sessions on 20 June, 56 papers were presented. Six of them were presented in a separate high school students' session. Acad. Vasil Sgurev from the Institute in Information Technologies with BAS, Head of Smart systems section, and Acad. Petar Kenderov from the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics with BAS announced the prizes for Best paper.

CompSysTech is a conference with a name of its own and is constantly gaining popularity in Bulgaria and in Europe. For more than 10 years now, the papers, presented at the conference have been published in the virtual library of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) – the most authoritative international organisation in the field of computing and are indexed by SCOPUS. The profile of the conference in Google Scholar is impressive and so is the fact that it has impact ranking.

The material was prepared by prof. Angel Smrikarov, PhD.

European Scientists Night 2020 at the University of Ruse

27–28 November, 2020

Although under more unusual conditions, the Programme European Researcher's Night 2020 at the University of Ruse was held on 27–28th November under the slogan „Science transforms life“. It enjoyed an increased interest from the academic community and the citizens of Ruse. The reason for the wide public response is rooted both in the events selection and their predominantly virtual format, providing the opportunity for remote access in real time.

After the Rector, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc declared the start of the series of events dedicated to the Scientists' Night, in the central lobby of the main Building were awarded the prize winners in the competition „Science transforms life“. The winners are – for category Essay: First place for Dana Petrova Bachvarova, 10th grade, PMG „Atanas Radev“ – Yambol; Second place – Alexandra Alexandrova Umlenska, 10th grade, PMG „Prof. Emanuil Ivanov“ – Kyustendil; Third place – Kristiyan Ganchev, 8th grade, SU „Yordan Yovkov“ – Ruse; for Category Photography: First place for Maria Alexandrova Kirilova, MG „Baba Tonka“ – Ruse, 10th grade; Second place – Ralica Dimitrova Dimitrova, MG „Baba Tonka“ – Ruse, 12th grade; Third place – students from SU „Lyuben Karavelov“ – Nessebar, and their teacher Silvia Zhekova; Third place – Maria Vladimirova Ilieva, SU „Peyo Yavorov“ – Varna, and their teacher Sonya Ilieva.

After the award ceremony the exhibition „75 years of science in the University of Ruse“, was opened, but all the remaining events in the programme were held online.



Exhibition „75 years of science at University of Ruse“



Exhibition „75 years of science at University of Ruse“

The Library Director, Ms. Nedeva, presented the exhibition with the words „The University library is a satellite of the university, which also celebrates 75 years and was founded in 1945 with the first personal donations of the Sofia lecturers to the first higher school outside the capital. Today, the library has about 460 000 volumes, some of which as old as the University itself. It stores and preserves the memory of all those before us, who contributed and are still contributing to the development of science and the prosperity of the University. For the first time we offer to the academic community part of the rich collection of scientific works of the University, tracing its development.

In the Discussion club on the topic Science – getting closer to life and society over 40 participants got involved, with the leading panellists Prof. Nikolay Vitanov, DMSc from the Institute of Mechanics with BAS and Prof. Ivanka Mavrodieva, DFSc from Sofia University. Prof. Vitanov is a member of the National Operative Task Force for COVID 19 pandemic and

is engaged in making prognostic mathematical models for its development. Prof. Mavrodieva is an Editor-in-Chief of Rethorics and Communication journal and has developed a serious expertise in studying the media behaviour of celebrities from public life.

The discussion was moderated by the current and the former vice-rectors in Internationalisation and communication policy, Assoc. prof. Desislava Atanasova and Prof. Juliana Popova. The two renowned guests developed



Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD and Prof. Juliana Popova, PhD

the thesis that researchers have always been among those on the front line and this is particularly well-justified in times of global pandemic, when all the world is looking at them with hope that they will find solutions to the global problems.



The two famous researchers were unanimous in their opinion that the scientists should promote their work to society more often. They should get rid of the excessive modesty, so inherent to men of science and communicate their achievements to the public in a plain and accessible language. All participants in the discussion agreed that Bulgarian science

badly needs additional funding for facilities and lab research, in order for the potential of Bulgarian researchers to be realised on a par with global research developments.

The next event in the programme of the European Scientists' Night at the University of Ruse was „A Studio of young talents – researcher for a day, addressing the high school students from Ruse and the region. The initiative attracted more than 110 participants in the virtual space of the University of Ruse. Assoc. prof. Anelia Manukova, PhD – Vice Chairperson of the Assembly General, took the students from „BabaTonka“ High School of Mathematics, Ruse, The High School of European Languages, Ruse, Professional High School of Electrical Equipment and Electronics, Ruse, as well as students and guests to the city along the steps of a successful research career and the opportunities for realization of scientists in real practice. Guests of the Studio of Young Talents were two extremely successful alumni of the University of Ruse: Georgi Gospodinov MEng and Kamen Krastev, PhD Eng, who have walked the path of academic



European Scientists Night 2020 at the University of Ruse

development from Bachelor to PhD level and have found a promising professional realization in companies from the sector of electronics and information technologies, recognized internationally – BHTC BULGARIA LTD and SIVIKO LTD. The two young researchers presented to the students online their professional career and noted that now, more than ever, real practice needs to be connected to science and innovations, generated in the universities and research institutes.

The European Researchers' Night schedule continued with Popular science documentaries afternoon. Four films were shown, demonstrating the role of research for unveiling the secrets of Nature and human genius: the film „Cosmos“ of the director Carl Sagan and three films of the series of National Geographic: Latest secrets from Nasca, Planet of Disasters and Time Machine: Pyramids. More than 30 visitors attended the virtual cinema of the University of Ruse.

The events in the Programme of the European Researchers' Night culminated in this year's edition of the Academy of hidden talents at the University of Ruse „Researchers on the virtual stage“. The event aroused great interest with more than 50 participants and attendants. The virtual start was given by the Vice-rector in Internationalisation and communication policy, Assoc. prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD, and the Assembly General's Chairperson, Prof. Velizara Pencheva, PhD wished the participants success in their performance and the audience – positive emotions. The moderator of the event, Assoc. prof. Mira Dushkova contributed to the high emotional impact of the event with her comments and the quotations of world-famous researchers before each performance. She has also prepared the scenario, which alternated impressive presentations, music

touched the hearts of the audience with their intimate poetic insights, and Miglena Tsvetkova inspired all with two of her poems, one dedicated to the 70th Anniversary of the University of Ruse and the other – to the 75th Anniversary.

The musical part of the Academy created high emotions among the spectators. Ivaylo Nikolaev, PhD shone with the unusual combination of classical and rock piano performance. Petya Stefanova, Ph presented a moving concert performance on the flute and the Tabula Raza rock group of the University of Ruse with Dimitar Grozev, PhD, Maya Grozeva, PhD, Sergey Kalinkov, PhD and Nina Tagarova, PhD. It must be noted that the creation of the group was inspired by the Researchers' Night at the University of Ruse and for the time of its existence since 2017, it has managed to win



„The Seven Wonders of Bulgaria“, Milena Velikova, PhD



video shots and original poetic performances, prepared especially for the Researchers' Night.

Veterans in the Researchers' Night at the University of Ruse gave a start: Prof. Stepan Terziyan, DMSc presented his own photographs on the topic Clocks and Astronomy, while Prof. Angel Smrikarov, PhD made an original poetic retrospection of the Researchers' Night at the University of Ruse. He demonstrated that the researcher can be excited not only by his research quests, but also by capturing the beauty of Nature and expressing it in photographs and poems.

Two more presentations impressed the audience: that of Diana Georgieva, presenting her paintings, integrated in a colourful extravaganza of digital forms with musical background, and that of Nikolay Kovachev, PhD – with stunning photographs he has taken of known and not so popular nooks of the unique Bulgarian Nature. The presentation of Assoc. prof. Aneliya Manukova, PhD of more than 200 key holders History and memories in one hand, collected by her family in the course of more than 15 years showed that the researchers at the University of Ruse can turn a hobby into art.

The poetic part of the Academy of hidden talents 2020 at the University of Ruse included the recitals of Miglena Tsvetkova, a student in the Master degree course in Bulgarian studies and modern education, honorary assoc. prof. Zhivodar Dushkov and Assoc. prof. Mira Dushkova. The three poets

the hearts of all representatives of the academic community at the University and beyond.

An interesting detail was that the applause in the Academy of hidden talents was expressed in the Public chat of the virtual hall, where a lot of praise and delight were shared.

The culmination and finale of the Academy was the video presented by Miglena Velikova, PhD dubbed The Seven Wonders of Bulgaria, presenting the seven Bulgarian folk regions and filmed in front of the Municipality building in the centre of Ruse with the participation of the folk dancing group Harmonia with the University of Ruse. The video was also meant to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the dancing group, since the concert and celebrations of this event were postponed due to the pandemic.

Although virtual, the Academy of hidden talents at the University of Ruse showed that researchers create not only science but are also inspired by every particle of beauty, which

makes our life fuller and more charming in its various incarnations.

On 28 November, the European Researchers' Night at the University of Ruse was finalised with the event „Science is magical and exciting“, where three professional clubs with the University of Ruse made demonstrations of their work – „Four Wheels“ Club, led by Dimitar Grozev, PhD, HydRU Club led by Assoc. prof. Ivan Beloev, PhD and the Club with the Telecommunications department led by the creative team of Assoc. prof. Georgi Hristov, PhD, Assoc. prof. Plamen Zahariev, PhD and Diana Kinaneva, PhD. The audience saw the impressive achievements of the professional clubs of the University in videos. These clubs demonstrate the connection between science and practice and function as creative labs, where students and PhD students prepare for their successful realisation.

All events in the programme of the European Researchers' Night 2020 at the University of Ruse went under the motto „Science Transforms Life“. They proved yet again that during its 74 years, the University of Ruse has been developing as a strong, innovative university, whose scientific achievements measure the pulse of time and meet the requirements of practice on a national and international scale.

*The material was prepared by Prof. Juliana Popova, PhD,
Vice-rector of ICPolicy in the period 2012–2020.*

Visits in the University of Ruse, 2020



The new Horizon Europe Programme

22 January, 2020



Peter Härtwich

On 22nd January 2020, a regional Bulgarian – Romanian workshop was held at the University of Ruse on the implementation of Horizon Europe – the future framework programme of the European Union for research and innovations in the period 2021–2027. The event was organised by the European Commission, the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science and the Romanian Ministry for Education and Research.

The forum was opened by the Rector of the University of Ruse, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSC with the words that it is an honour and a privilege for the University of Ruse to be a host and co-organiser of this



Video address of Maria Gabriel

event. He pointed out that the interest and the presence of more than 250 people in the hall are indisputable proof that experts from various institutions are willing to participate in the process of joint project writing for overcoming the key challenges of our time. Prof. Beloev appealed for mobilizing the scientific potential of the countries for developing project ideas because the proposed budget of €100 bln for the next programme period is evidence for the importance of Europe's future development.

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, addressed the workshop participants with a video. She emphasized the fact that the new Horizon Europe 2021–2027 will focus on climate change as part of the „Green Deal“ and will contribute to the transformation of Europe to the digital generation. Ms. Gabriel outlined the goal to increase the opportunities for smaller and more remote participants. For example, for the widening countries like Bulgaria and Romania, national contact points will be set up, providing



Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev and Karina Angelieva

consultations and conducting pre-check of project proposals on the spot.

Representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Bulgaria at the meeting in the University of Ruse were Ms. Karina Angelieva, Deputy Minister, and the advisors to the Minister prof. Ivan Dimov and Prof. Kostadin Kostadinov.

The Director of the office for European and International Cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Research and Innovation, Mr. Vultarescu, also addressed the participants. He called for establishing closer relations with universities, research institutions, NGOs and business structures for creating more successful economies and better life of the EU citizens.

At the start of the seminar, Mr. Peter Härtwich, Head of Unit, Common Service for Business Processes, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission presented the main structure of the programme and its key elements. The first one, with 35% of the total budget, will be related to climate change activities. The second one is achieving sustainable development and the third – accelerating growth and competitiveness.

In the subsequent sessions, a model Grant Agreement under the Programme was discussed, as well as the application, evaluation and selection procedures. Financial issues like the simplified forms of costs, as well as accounting and audit practices were clarified and some ideas about dissemination, exploitation and communication of successful projects were exchanged.

The material was prepared by the PR team.

Visits in the University of Ruse, 2020

Alliance for cooperation and partnership of the universities in Northern Bulgaria



The Rectors of 14 higher schools from Northern Bulgaria at the University of Ruse

15 July, 2020

On 15th July 2020, in Ruse, on the initiative of the University of Ruse, the rectors of 14 higher schools from Northern Bulgaria united for the establishment of the Alliance for Cooperation and Partnership of the Universities in Northern Bulgaria (ACPUNB). This Alliance will carry out its activities with the support of the Ministry of Science and Education and the Council of Rectors of the universities in Bulgaria.

The Minister of education and science, Krasimir Valchev participated in the meeting by a video conference connection. He congratulated the University of Ruse with the initiation of the Alliance and commented that this was a prerequisite for the development of higher schools. Minister Valchev added that the establishment of alliances and networks is a condition for more effective implementation of the goals set in the new programming documents. The election of a new leadership of the Council of Rectors in Bulgaria is a prerequisite for a more intensive discussion of the future development of higher education.

The director of Higher Education Directorate at the Ministry of Education and Science, Galina Drenovska also expressed her support for the initiative, saying „The creation of the Alliance is a public responsibility of the higher schools, where people with progressive and far-sighted thinking are united“.

The Rector of the University of Ruse, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc introduced the rectors and members of Rector's Councils attending and presented the Memorandum for Establishing the Alliance, which had already been discussed.

Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev went on to acquaint the guests with the grounds for the establishment, the purpose and the guiding principles, the responsibilities of the participants, as well as the Statutes of the Alliance. The University of Ruse will chair the Alliance until the next meeting. The rectors attending the meeting offered comments and opinions.

Prof. Evgeni Stanimirov, PhD, rector of the Economic University – Varna, expressed the willingness of his university to host the next meeting of the alliance members in autumn and accept the next chairmanship, which will be held on the principle of rotation.

The founding agreement of the Alliance for Cooperation and Partnership of the Universities in Northern Bulgaria, initiated by Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, was signed by the following 14 universities:

- University of Ruse Angel Kanchev;
- University of Veliko Tarnovo St. St. Cyril and Methodius;
- Higher air Force School Georgi Benkovski – Pleven;
- Higher Naval School N. Vaptsarov – Varna;
- Economic University – Varna;
- Medical University – Pleven;
- Medical University Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov – Varna;
- national Military University Vasil Levski – Velliko Tarnovo;
- Business Academy Dimitar Tsenov – Svishtov;
- Technical University – Varna;

- Technical University – Gabrovo;
- University of Shumen Diocesan Konstantin Preslavski;
- Varna Free University Chernorizec Hrabry;
- Higher School if Management – Varna.

The Alliance is a unification of autonomous academic institutions of different profiles from Northern Bulgaria, in which they are represented by their rectors. It is established as a collective platform for sharing common strategic goals and initiating joint activities for their achievement, in view of developing and increasing the competitiveness both of the Northern Bulgaria higher schools – members of the Alliance and the system of higher education in Bulgaria and Europe. Some joint activities in the field of education, science, research and innovations, as well as other areas of mutual interest have been specified in the Memorandum.



Meeting of the Rectors of 14 higher schools from Northern Bulgaria

Initiating joint activities and uniting the efforts for consolidation of the university academic communities around common priorities and socially responsible solutions is dictated by the dynamically changing environment for the development of higher education in Bulgaria, as well as by the necessity to meet the high European and world standards of the competitive market of educational services. At the same time, new state policies have been created for the development of universities and a Strategy for the development of higher education in Bulgaria by 2030, where long-term goals for inter-university integration and joint academic activities have been set.

The chairmanship of ACPUNB, is on the principle of rotation. The chairing university will propose a plan of activities of ACPUNB and organise periodic meetings of the members, held at least once a year.

The material was prepared by Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc.

Awards, 2020



From left to right: Kaloyan Todorov, Prof. Vladimir Chukov, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, Alexandra Klimentova, Assoc. prof. Georgi Hristov

24 May, 2020

The solemn ceremony-concert for conferring the annual Ruse awards was held on 24 May 2020 in the Theatre building. Eighteen of the most worthy individuals and organisations from Ruse were nominated in two categories „Art and Culture“ and „Education and Science“.

The University of Ruse has three Ruse 2020 awards in „Education and Science“ and two in „Student of the Year“.

The University of Ruse Angel Kanchev with Rector Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc in the section „For teaching and research team“.

The University of Ruse is a driving force for the development of Ruse and the region, with the highly qualified specialists it prepares for the local companies and the public sector, with the transfer of innovations to the industry, with the fruitful cooperation with all employer organisations, and with the financial contribution to the economy of the city and the region.

Prof. Vladimir Stefanov Chukov, DSc, in the section „For overall contribution and long-term activity in the field of higher education and science“.

Assoc. Prof. Georgi Hristov, PhD, in the section „Higher Education and Science“.

„Student of the Year“ award was conferred to the following students from the University of Ruse:

Kaloyan Todorov Todorov, 4th year student in Agrarian Engineering, and **Alexandra Emilova Klimentova**, 3rd year student in Financial Mathematics“.

A third award for the Erasmus+ Programme

18 December, 2020

For the third time the University of Ruse has received an excellent evaluation for its work in the Erasmus+ programme. The National Erasmus+ Agency informed the management of the University by a formal letter that the project for mobility of students and lecturers in countries outside the EU for the academic year 2018–2019 has been awarded a quality certificate in the sector International dimension in higher education.

The awarded project of the University of Ruse this year is focused on mobilities with 11 universities from 5 countries outside the EU – Azerbaijan, Armenia, Vietnam, Georgia and China. In the framework of its implementation, a total of 73 mobilities of students and lecturers in both directions were realized. The total satisfaction of the participants – both students and lecturers, can be seen in the surveys and reaches exactly 100%, and the evaluation of the final report by the Erasmus Agency is 97 out of 100 points.

The award was officially conferred to representatives of the University of Ruse management on 18th December 2020, during the Annual Valorisation Conference, which is the most formal event of the Centre for Human Resources Development (CHRD) in its capacity as a National Agency of the Erasmus+ Programme. The event was held online. The awarding ceremony for successful projects, finalised in 2020 under the Erasmus+ Programme and the European Solidarity Corps Programme marked the end of the programme period for Erasmus+ 2014–2020.

The material was prepared by Assoc. prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD, Vice –rector of Internationalization and Communications Policy.

High International Rating

12 May, 2020

In May 2020 was published the 2020 Rating of Bulgarian universities, according to UniRank web-based system data. Only accredited higher schools, which provide training at the three levels of tertiary education – Bachelor, Master and PhD are included in the survey. The ranking is based on independent Internet sources and does not include data provided by the universities themselves.

The University of Ruse occupies the prestigious third position among the state higher schools, and in the long list of 48 participating universities, it is fourth, following the New Bulgarian University. The high international rating of the higher school in Ruse is a result of the continuous striving of the academic community to be a source of good news for achievements in the field of education and research, for initiation of national and international events, for innovative practices in cooperation with the regional eco-system.

The University of Ruse has a lot to be proud of, and this fact was cited by the former minister of education and science, Mr. Sergey Ignatov during his participation in the information block of Europe TV on 9th May, 2020. Mr. Ignatov, who is the Rector of the European University of Humanities in Vilnius, Lithuania, pointed out the University of Ruse as the only higher school from Eastern Europe, selected to participate with good practices in a survey for universities of the third generation, conducted by western scientists.

As it is known, the most important characteristics of the third generation university profile are the transfer of innovations to business and society, entrepreneurship and global dimension in the activities of this university. The University of Ruse has been working in these three areas for a long time now and it is not accidental that at the moment, it is the only university from Eastern Europe that is participating in the pan-European project Beyond Scale for enhancing the organisational capacity for management in an entrepreneurial environment through the HEInnovate tool.

The material is prepared by the PR office.

The University Sport Centre presents the achievements in 2020

National autumn university championships 2020

In the emergency pandemic situation and in compliance with the anti-epidemic measures, the Association for university sport Academic managed to organise and hold the autumn national championships in individual disciplines in autumn 2020. Sports team games in volleyball and football, where Ruse teams participate regularly, were cancelled for the spring half-season.

The University of Ruse had representatives in four sports – table tennis, track-and-field, swimming and sport climbing.

Swimming: Our swimmers did very well again – Berna Velinova, a student in Kinezitherapy added three more medals to her collection of six medals from the Summer university games: 1 silver and 2 bronze medals in the disciplines 50 m back stroke, 100 m back stroke and 200 m combined. Our other swimmer, Georgi Krastev, a Law student, earned 6th place in 50 meters butterfly.

Table tennis: The two successful tennis players



from Ruse – the sisters Ivelina and Adriana Ivanova, students in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Education, won second place in the Autumn Championship, held in Shumen,

beaten only by the strong team of the National Sports Academy (NSA).

Sport climbing: In the Sport Climbing Championship, held in the climbing hall of NSA – Sofia, the representative of our University – the PhD student Georgi Georgiev, performed very well in the „Difficulty“ category, succeeding in the qualifications and then making it into the first 8.

Track-and-field: This Championship too was held on the territory of the National Sport Academy – Sofia. The Ruse participants Tanya Kadieva, Ventsislav Genov and Genadi Marinov performed very well in the disciplines cannonball and discus and won third place in the team competition.

We thank the competitors of the University of Ruse for the responsibility and sports spirit, which they have manifested during these months of pandemic.

The material was prepared by Valentin Kamenarov.

University sports and tourism march „75 years forward to the peaks of knowledge, science and progress“

During the Anniversary year 2020, led by the feeling of pride and the unwavering desire to promote and raise the image of the University of Ruse, the Sport, Tourism and Environmental Society Academic initiated various events and activities.

Most of the events were held in partnership with the University Sport Centre and the Students Council, as part of the complete calendar of anniversary events, university and faculty initiatives, student and sports events to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the University of Ruse, the 65th anniversary of university sport and the 60th anniversary of Academic society.

At the end of October, ended the largest and most significant event – The university sports and tourism march, held under the patronage of the rector of the University of Ruse, Cor. Mem. Prof. Hristo Beloev, DTSc.



Under the motto „75 years forward to the peaks of knowledge, science and progress“ 75 students, lecturers and other members of the academic community made a unique five-beam crossing of Bulgaria.

The routes included the Northern (the mouth of the Timok River), Eastern (Cape Shabla), Western (peak Vrushla Chuka) and Southern

(peak Veikata) geographical endpoints, the geographical centre of the country and the towns where Branches of the University of Ruse were founded – Razgrad, Silistra and Vidin.

The routes were crossed on foot, by bicycle, by electric bikes, by boat (down the Arda River), by climbing rock plumbs and edges.

The name of the University of Ruse and the messages of the march were presented on banners with the names of the University during the different periods of its existence and development, with national flags and flags with the slogan Protect Nature – Preserve Ourselves, with team tee-shirts and caps.

I beam: 1945 – State Higher School

Route: Col to Vrushka Chuka – Vidin – Ruse.

Participants: Hiking club, led by Pr. Assistant Pavel Petrov, PhD



II beam: 1954 – Higher Institute in Machine-building, Mechanisation and Electrification of Agriculture

Route: Cape Shabla – Silistra – Ruse

Participants: Speleoclub Academic, led by Tihomir Enchev

The University Sport Centre presents the achievements in 2020

University sports and tourism march „75 years forward to the peaks of knowledge, science and progress“



III beam: 1964–65 – Higher Agricultural Institute
Route: Geographical centre of Bulgaria – Ruse
Participants: Club „Wednesday evening“ led by Anita Dimitrova



events calendar with the successful VIIth Cross-march „Ruse Polomie“; partner participation in the organisation of the Open Competition of Sports climbing; finalizing the activities under the „Balkan Directions 2019–2020“



IV beam: 1981 – Higher Technical School (VTU) „Angel Kanchev“
Route: Veikata peak – Razgrad – Ruse.
Participants: Group „Tourists“ led by Assoc. Prof. Plamenka Hristova PhD

V beam: 1995 – University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“
Route: Mouth of the Timok River – Vidin – Vratsa – Ruse

Participants: Sportsclimbing and mountaineering club Academic, led by Georgi Georgiev, MEng

On the eve of 12th November – the Day of the University of Ruse, the Sport, Tourism and Environmental Society Academic finalized its sports



Programme and marking routes in the surroundings of Ruse.

Thanks to the support of the University of Ruse, Ruse Municipality, Directorate of Nature Park Rusenski Lom, and Nature Park Central Balkan, „GROHE AG“ Bulgaria, Sports shops „Yako“, sponsors from the University and the country, over 300 participants got involved in these events and activities – students, university students, lecturers and other members of the academic community.

The materials on p. 19 and 20 were prepared by Assoc. Prof. Rusi Minev, PhD and Stefan Georgiev, STES Academic

Dance group Harmony turns 50

Dance group Harmony was established on 12 March 1970, by Dimitar Gaydarov and it celebrated its 50ieth birthday in 2020. Some of the first data about it can be found on the pages of the student newspaper Iskra in issue 91 of 20 June 1970, in the article „VIMMESS and its cultural life“.

Some of the successful performances of the group in recent years are at the international folklore festivals in: Poland, 2010; Rize, Turkey, 2011; Antalia, 2012; Zonguldag, Turkey, 2013; Timisoara, Romania, 2014; First place at the Folklore festival „Living Water“, Bulgaria; Awarding the title „Representative Ensemble“, CIOFF, official partner of UNESCO, 2015; Serbia, 2016; Montenegro, 2017; France, 2018; Greece, 2019.



STUDENSKA ISKRA

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

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