



The University of Ruse Elected its First Honorary Rector

On 27th February 2024, Academician Hristo Beloev, Rector for the period 2007–2016 and 2018–2023 was awarded the title Honorary Rector of the University of Ruse with a Decision of the Academic Council. This honorary title recognizes Academician Beloev’s outstanding contribution for

goals and objectives.

An initiating committee has submitted a proposal to the Academic Council of the University of Ruse to award Academician Hristo Beloev the title of Honorary Rector of the University of Ruse.

This act comes as evidence of the respect the academic community of the University of Ruse bestows to Academician Hristo Beloev as a scientist, lecturer, public figure and a person. This respect is justified by his scientific and creative achievements, which have gained national and international fame, determined by the citation index, as well as by the prestigious awards received by him.

In his turn, Academician Beloev expressed his cordial gratitude:

„I have received many awards, but this act has really moved me deeply. I accept it as a strong sign of respect and appreciation. When I first came and became an assistant professor after graduating the University, I had never imagined that I could become its rector. Through the years, I was developing my potential step by step until I earned the right to be elected to this position. I linked my fate with many people, and even in the first years after I have become rector, we were saying that the University of Ruse was a cause for us.

The time spent with you has taught me a lot of things. I hope that all of us, together, have managed to transform the University of Ruse into an institution that is recognized and respected not only in Bulgaria but also abroad. The University of Ruse guarantees the development of the economic, social, cultural and technological prosperity in the region. I am happy that the University of Ruse has become an integral part of the functioning of all regional structures. We will continue to work together because for us the University must be a cause!“, said Academician Beloev in his appeal to the Academic Council and the members of the initiating group.



Academician Hristo Beloev, First Honorary Rector

the academic development and prosperity of the Ruse Alma Mater and was presented to him by the Ruse University Rector, Prof. Plamen Kangelov, PhDEng, at a formal session of the Academic Council.

Academician Hristo Beloev is the longest-serving rector in the history of the University of Ruse with exceptional merits in the field of management and improvement of the university facilities. He has also contributed immensely to the popularity of the University of Ruse in Bulgaria and abroad by working hard for the implementation of its mission, strategic

Dear readers,

Issue 435 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



Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD –
new Rector

Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova is the new Rector of the University of Ruse

On 4th February, 2025 the Assembly General of the University of Ruse conducted a procedure for partial elections and elected its Rector for the mandate 2024–2027. Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhDEng, received majority vote of trust and is the new Rector of the University of Ruse.

In her address to the Assembly General, Assoc. Prof. Atanasova declared that she will do her best to ensure that the University of Ruse is modern, innovative and prosperous. She vowed to govern the prestigious institution with the same dedication as that of the previous rectors. Assoc. Prof. Atanasova emphasized the fact that the University of Ruse is a valuable and desired institutional partner. „Our mission remains unchanged – to provide knowledge, to inspire and enrich the students and PhD students,

preparing them for the challenges with quality, innovations and sustainable academic environment“, added Assoc. Prof. Atanasova.

Academician Hristo Beloev – Honorary rector and Chairperson of the Assembly General, congratulated Assoc. Prof. Atanasova and wished her health and success. She was cordially greeted by the immediate past rector Prof. Gencho Popov, PhDEng.

„Thank you for your trust! I hope that it means we are going to work together with dedication and vision in such a way that will ensure the leading position of the University of Ruse in Bulgaria and strengthen its positions in the international space“, said Assoc. Prof. Atanasova after the vote was announced.

The official inauguration of Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhDEng, will be held after signing the Governance Contract between the Minister of Education and Science and the elected Rector for the mandate 2024–2027.

Scientific Conference of the University of Ruse, 2024

The University of Ruse and the Union of Scientists, Ruse Branch organised the 63rd Annual International Research Conference with scientific and plenary session in three locations, respectively: in Silistra on 18th October, in Ruse on 25th–26th October and in Razgrad on 8th–9th November 2024. Traditionally, there were 30 thematic fields covered in the three cities, where the forum was held.

In his address to the participants and guests of the conference, the rector, Prof. Gencho Popov noted that the University of Ruse has always been a place where knowledge and innovative ideas meet and develop while in times of dynamic changes and global challenges, science and innovations play a key role in the creation of a better future. Expressing his gratitude to the Union of Sciences and the plenary speakers, he emphasized the fact that the International Scientific Conference of the University of Ruse is not only a compilation of research papers and discussions, but also a place for cooperation, generating new partnerships and ideas.

The following plenary speakers presented their papers at the opening of the Conference:

- **Yordanka Chobanova**, Head of the European Commission Representation in Bulgaria, on the topic of „The European Commission’s Strategic Agenda 2024–2029 – Research, Innovation and Education“. The paper emphasized on the Commission’s plans for future funding of research, focused on strategic priorities, advanced fundamental research and breakthrough innovations. Yordanka Chobanova has been the Head of the European Commission Representation in Bulgaria since March, 2024 and functions as the official representative of the Commission in our country, reporting to the Chairperson Ursula von der Leyen.

- **Prof. Antonios Gasteratos**, Dean of the Engineering Faculty and the Director of the Robotics and Automation Laboratory at Democritus University of



Thrace, Greece, on the topic of „Unmanned Aerial Vehicles: Applications with Embedded Visualization Systems“. The author

comments on the growing role of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) in various areas of application, emphasizing their transformative influence on the industries. Antonios Gasteratos is a professor in robotics, mechatronics and computer vision at Democritus University of Thrace. He is a topic editor-in-chief of Electronics Letters and associate editor of Expert Systems with Applications, International Journal of Optomechatronics, International Journal of Advanced Robotics Systems.

- **Kristina Eskenazi**, Chairperson of Health&Life Sciences Cluster, Sofia, Bulgaria, on the topic of „(im)Possible AI: Support of spinoff companies“. In her paper, she offers an interesting approach to contemporary challenges and opportunities in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and innovations and comments on the ethical aspects of AI, the environmental responsibility of technological innovation and the importance of innovation ecosystems for the success of emerging technologies. Kristina Eskenazi is a member of the Board of Directors of Artificial Intelligence Cluster, Bulgaria and the Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria. She is also the founder of the International Association for Women’s Entrepreneurship in Biotechnology „Global Digital Technologies in Health“.

- **Rumen Stoimenov**, Head of the European Innovation Centre for Building



Technologies of Siemens Bulgaria, on the topic of „The Industrial MetaUniverse: Opportunities and Challenges“. The paper presented the opportunities and challenges of the industrial MetaUniverse in the context of a concept for a comprehensive digital world.

The conference participants discussed their views in the following research



fields and topics, in compliance with the Conference topic: Agricultural Machinery and Technologies; Repair and Reliability; Heating, Hydraulic and Pneumatic Engineering; Ecology and Environmental Protection; Industrial Design; Chemical Technologies; Biotechnologies and Food Technologies; Machine-building and Engineering Technologies; Electrical Engineering, Electronica and Automation; Communication Systems and Networks; Transportation 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 History; Health Promotion; Medical and Clinical Diagnostics; Healthcare; Law; National Security; Quality of Higher Education.

The research papers contributed to deeper comprehension, connected to various aspects of regional economic transformation, based on the application of innovative strategies and approaches to the new industries, digital economy, society and its relations with the business environment and the quality of life. Implementing systems thinking is the foundation for creating effective applications and best practices in many areas of science and it influences the development and growth of business. The future is generated in three aspects, which find lasting trends and evidence in the present.

All papers, approved successfully by international double reviewing, are to be published in the respective „Proceedings of the University of Ruse“, ser. 63, 2024 and online on the conference website: ISSN 1311-3321 (printed); ISSN 2535-1028 (CD-ROM); ISSN 2603-4123 (online). The publication „Proceedings of the University of Ruse“ is included in the international database ISSN. The electronic edition of „Proceedings of the University of Ruse“ has been registered in the online research resources portal ROAD with open access and in NACID.

Chairpersons of the conference are Prof Gencho Popov, PhD – Rector of the University of Ruse and Academician Hristo Beloev, DTSc – Chairperson of the Union of Scientists, Ruse Branch, and an Honorary Rector of the University of Ruse, and the scientific secretary is Assoc. prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD, Vice-rector Science and Research.

Conferences at the University of Ruse, 2024

International Scientific Conference CompSysTech 2024

On 14th June 2024 the 25th International Scientific Conference CompSysTech'24 was opened at the University of Ruse. The sessions continued on 15th June 2024. Altogether, 42 papers of researchers from 19 countries were presented, namely from Jordan, Canada, Kirgizstan, Türkiye, Finland, Mozambique, Portugal, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Vietnam, Greece, Romania, Albania, Great Britain, Slovakia, Spain and Bulgaria.



The organisers of the conference were the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria, The Union of Automation and Informatics „John Atanasov“ and the University of Ruse.

The participants were greeted by the rector of the University, Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD, who noted the importance of the forum, its popularity and its prestigious level – We are glad that CompSysTech has established its popularity in Bulgaria and abroad. The fact that today we have researchers from 19 countries participating face-to-face and online is an obvious evidence for that. Another proof of the attractiveness and the high level of the conference is the fact that more than 17 years the papers, presented at CompSysTech, are published in the virtual library of the Association in computers – the most authoritative international organisation in the field of computing. Moreover, they are also indexed by Scopus. The profile of the conference Google Scholar is also extremely impressive. The fact that the conference has an impact rank should also be specifically noted“.

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

The conference was opened with a musical flute performance by Senior Assistant Professor Petya Stefanova, PhD, who was joined by the robot Sana with her dance.



The plenary session was attended by Assoc. Prof. Candelaria Goya from the University of La Laguna, Spain; Assoc. Prof. Antonio Mendes from the University of Coimbra, Portugal; and Prof. Maya Dimitrova, PhD from the Institute of Robotics – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The prizes and certificates were awarded by the Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, Assoc. Prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD and Prof. Tsvetomir Vassilev, PhD – Chairperson of the Conference Programme Committee.

At the initiative of Academician Petar Kenderov, students who have already made a name for themselves and have boasted certain achievements in the field of computing participate in the conference every year with their reports. Two of the reports by students from the Baba Tonka Mathematical High School were awarded the Best Paper Crystal Prize. The students' supervisor is their Informatics teacher, Susan Feimova.

The material was prepared by Prof. Angel Smrikarov, PhD and the PR Department.

International Scientific Conference EE&AE 2024

In the period 27th–29th June, 2024 the IX International Scientific Conference on Energy Efficiency and Agrarian Engineering (EE&AE 2024) was held at the University of Ruse, with the participation of over 150 scientists from Bulgaria, Romania, Türkiye, India, Mexico, Russia, Ukraine, the Philippines, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and others. The event included an industrial session with meetings between representatives of the students, the academia and the business. Leading companies such as Huawei, Photomate, FOT, MIK-GREEN, PM Electrical, Solar MD and others demonstrated their latest innovations in the field of renewable energy and industry.

The conference was opened by Assoc. prof. Boris Evstatiev, DSc and the guests were greeted by the Vice-rector Prof. Gencho Popov, PhDEng.

In his welcoming address, Prof. Popov shared the following – „in the vision of the University of Ruse, spreading knowledge, organizing and carrying out fundamental and applied research, as well as implementing innovations in agriculture, industry and transport occupy leading positions. The impressive number of papers, the encouragement of young researchers, students and PhD students to participate in this scientific event is part of the united efforts for achieving this goal. I am convinced that during the conference you will discuss ideas for joint research, preparation of proposals for participation in various European scientific programmes, which will stimulate young people's interest in engineering sciences. I have no doubt that you will also be interested in our latest project, Ruse Research University, which presents another great opportunity for a successful partnership“.

In the period 25th –29th June, 2024, the University of Ruse hosted the initiative Innovative Week of Technologies. It included several events of Bulgarian and international students. The week started with the International Student Competition Electroniade 2024, with the participation of the student Branches of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), as well as professional student Branches of Electronics Packaging Society (EPS) from Bulgaria and Romania. In this competition, the young people demonstrated their knowledge and skills in the field of electronics and the best ones were awarded prizes.



On 26th June the First Balkan Meeting of IEEE Student Branches and EPS Professional Branches was opened. During the event, leading lecturers from Photomate (Bulgaria), Microchip Technology (Romania) and Endava (Bulgaria) presented innovative products, solutions and vision for the future in the field of contemporary technologies.

The material was prepared by Prof. Nicolay Mihaylov, PhD and the PR Department

The University of Ruse Celebrates its 79th Anniversary

On 12th November, 2024, the 79th anniversary of the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ was commemorated. This remarkable anniversary is a sign of preserved tradition and a prominent presence in national and international academic practice.



The solemn day started with **laying wreaths of flowers at the monument of the patron of the University, Angel Kanchev.**

This ceremony was closely followed by the **opening of the traditional annual exhibition of Printed and Electronic Works of the lecturers from the University of Ruse** in the lobby of the University's Main Building. The rector of the University, Prof. Gencho Popov, PhD commented in his opening speech, „The traditional annual exhibition of Printed and Electronic Works of the lecturers from the University of Ruse is an exceptional event for the Ruse academic community as it presents the intellectual output of the scientists from Ruse – their research quests and their achievements in the field of educational technologies, used in teaching“.

The best student works from the **competition on the topic „The University of Ruse through my Eyes“** was held on the same day. The competition topic challenged the students to present the university life through their unique perspective, making short videos and collages. The student works, combining emotions, style, creativity, reveal that the University of Ruse is not just a place for education, but also inspiration and community.

The **opening of the renovated lecture hall „Prof. Dimitar Panteleev“** was part of the celebrations at the University of Ruse. The Decision for this act was voted by the Academic Council after the proposal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Education. The rector of the University, Prof. Gencho Popov, PhD and Academician Hristo Beloev – Honorary Rector and Chairperson of the Assembly General, cut the ribbon on the renovated hall.

The celebration continued with the **Solemn meeting on the occasion of the 79th Anniversary of the University in Kanev Hall.** It was opened by the Rector of the University of Ruse, Prof. Gencho Popov, PhD, who greeted all present – „Today we commemorate the 79th Anniversary of our University – a time of achievements, efforts and successes, which deservedly established the University of Ruse as a significant institution in the educational and scientific space. Our Alma Mater

possesses Power, Dignity and Authority, which confirmed its respected name through the years. Let us combine our efforts in continuously developing the University of Ruse and creating a future rich in knowledge, wisdom and spirit“.

The Academic speech was given by Assoc. Prof. Rumyana Lebedova, PhD – Director of Silistra Branch of the University of Ruse.

All official guests of the ceremony extended their greetings through speeches. The numerous congratulatory addresses received by state and local authorities, educational and research institutions, non-governmental organisations and partners were evidence of the reputation of our Alma Mater and the respect it commands with its achievements.

Long-time professors and employees of the University of Ruse, who are celebrating anniversaries this year, were awarded a Diploma and a Plaque for their contribution to the development of the higher education institution.

In 2024, several units of the University celebrate their anniversaries with special events and they received awards from the Rectors' Management. These are the **Agrarian and Industrial Faculty, the Faculties of Mechanical Engineering and Technologies; Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation; Business and Management; Natural Sciences and Education.**

An important unit of the university of Ruse is **the University Library**, which marked its 70th Anniversary in 2024. On the occasion of the anniversary, the Director of the University Library, Victoria Ivanova, PhD delivered a speech, emphasizing that over the years the University Library has consistently fulfilled its mission, vision and goals, supporting the development of the Ruse Alma Mater and affirming its authority as a leading educational institution with recognition both in Bulgaria and on the international stage.

The next part of the celebration was dedicated to the official ceremony of conferring the honorary title **Doctor Honoris Causa** of the University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ to two scientists from Ukraine – Academician Volodimir Mihaylovich Bulgakov, DTScEng and Academician Valery Vasiliovich Adamchuk, DTScEng.

The ceremony of conferring diplomas to the bearers of academic degrees and positions during the past year was led by the Vice-rector of Science and Research, Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD. Diplomas were conferred to 27 PhD bearers, 15 associate professors and 7 professors. The Rector of the University of Ruse, Prof. Gencho Popov, PhD presented the diplomas and expressed his best wishes to everyone for the success achieved.

The celebration ended with **the Hymn of the University of Ruse**, performed by the student choir with the Musical Club „Affect“, led by Principal assistant Petya Stefanova, PhD.



Graduation of the Class of 2024 of the University of Ruse



Top of Ruse University Class of 2024

On 20th September, 2024 the official Promotion ceremony of the Class of 2024 was held at Kaneff Centre of the University of Ruse. Seventy five toppers of the Class, of whom 13 graduates with Honours, received their diplomas from the Rector of the University, Prof. Gencho Popov, PhDEng.

In his speech to the graduates, the rector expressed his wishes – „Dear Alumni, you know, you can and we believe in you unconditionally! Your achievements and successes fill us with pride and satisfaction. They are the most precious gift for your lecturers – a gift, which is the result of years of hard work, efforts, shared trust and common goals. We also believe that each new class contributes to the rise of the reputation of the University of Ruse, by pouring its intellectual energy in it, making it more resilient and stronger. Thus, we never stop, but continue to create jointly our better tomorrow. You too should believe in yourselves and follow your dreams bravely because

you have everything you need to fulfil them! Never forget the road to your Alma Mater“.

On behalf of the toppers with Master degrees a congratulatory speech to the graduates was delivered by Ralitsa Gospodinova, majoring in „Pedagogical Crime Prevention and Probation Practices“– „This day is special for all of us – a day which embodies the efforts, perseverance and ambition we have put into our years of training. Today we celebrate not just our work, but also the support we have received from the people around us. During these years we were fortunate to learn from outstanding lecturers, who not only educated us academically, but also inspired us to think critically, to ask questions and search for solutions. They offered us not just academic material but also their experience, wisdom and passion for the profession“.



Class of 2024 – Tarakliya State University
12th September 2024



Class of 2024 – Vidin Branch
9th October 2024



Class of 2024 – Razgrad Branch
16th September 2024



Class of 2024 – Silistra Branch
19th September 2024

Innovative Events and Projects

European University ACROSS

In the period 23rd – 25th September, 2024 at the University of Girona, Spain a meeting of the Executive Board of the European University ACROSS – European University for Cross-border Knowledge Sharing. The University of Ruse is full member of the consortium after its successful participation in the last call of the European Commission under the initiative *European Universities* in June 2024.



On behalf of the University of Ruse, the participants in the meeting were Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD – Vice-rector on Science and Research and Assoc. Prof. Tsvetelina Harakchiyska – Vice-dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Education.

The consortium ACROSS consists of 9 universities, located in European trans-border: The University of Ruse; Technological University Chemnitz, Germany – leader of the consortium; Technical University, Bialystok, Poland; University of Banya Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina; University of Girona, Spain; University of Craiova, Romania; University Nova Goritsa, Slovenia; University Perpignan, France; University Udine, Italy.

The main purpose of the meeting in Girona was the preparation of the text of the Partnership Agreement, which will be signed by the participating universities in short terms. By the end of September, the agreement between the partners and the European Commission, and the project itself will start on 1st January, 2025 and will continue for four years.

After signing the agreement for funding, the partners will start serious work for the building of a true European University, including common curricula in particular professional fields, common modules in syllabi and intensive student mobility of students and lecturers, as well as developing a common digital platform.

The participation of the University of Ruse in a European University with more than 100 000 students and over 10 000 lecturers and administrative staff will open new perspectives for development of the Ruse Alma Mater. This strengthens the University's position not only as a research university in Bulgaria, but also as an influential centre for education, science and innovation in the European educational and research space.

The University of Ruse in the Top Ten universities in a World Ranking

The University of Ruse „Angel Kanchev“ occupies the prestigious sixth position among the Bulgarian universities according to the latest data, presented in 2024 by the independent institution EduRank, which evaluates universities all over the world using scientometric indicators. The Bulgarian universities included in the world ranking are 47. The Ruse Alma Mater is preceded by Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, Technical University Sofia, Plovdiv University „Paisij Hilendarski“, New Bulgarian University and the Medical University – Sofia.

According to EduRank, the most popular publications are those of scientists from the University of Ruse in the fields of engineering, physics, social sciences, computer science, environmental sciences, business and political science. The research profile of the University is made on the basis of 2062 scientific publications with 6082 citations in the international scientometric databases.

The University of Ruse is one of the ten Bulgarian universities with a research status.

The Ambassador of Ukraine on a Visit to the University of Ruse

On 22nd March 2024, Her Excellency Olesya Ilashchuk, Ambassador of Ukraine to Bulgaria, accompanied by Deputy Head of the Embassy of Ukraine Anna Tertichna and Plamen Bobokov – Honorary Consul on Ukraine in Ruse, visited the University of Ruse. They met and talked to the Chairperson of the Assembly General of the University Academician Hristo Beloev – Honorary rector of the University of Ruse. Other participants in the meeting were the Regional Governor, Danail Kovachev, the Vice- rector of International Cooperation Assoc. prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD, the Director of Foreign Students Directorate, Prof. Teodor Iliev, PhD and the Director of the University Library, Victoria Ivanova, PhD. Students from Ukraine, who study at the University of Ruse were also present.

Academician Beloev presented the modern facilities and resources for teaching and research, the long-standing educational traditions and the authoritative leadership position of the university. The wide network of partners in the field of education and research with prestigious universities from all over the world was also presented. The cooperation and connections of the University of Ruse with



higher education institutions in Ukraine and the creation of new partnerships with universities and institutions were discussed in more depth.

Her Excellency Olesya Ilashchuk expressed her gratitude for the hospitality, pointing out that it is an honour for her to visit the University as it is a unique place with great responsibility for the formation of the future.

An Erasmus Delegation in Ruse

The University of Ruse was visited by university lecturers from six countries under the Erasmus+ Programme: Albania, Vietnam, Georgia, Albania, Vietnam, Jordan, China and Uzbekistan.

On 11th June, 2024 the guests were greeted by Assoc. prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD – Vice-rector of International Cooperation. She presented information about the University of Ruse and the concept for Future Education Space. In their turn, all guests presented their universities and the research and educational activities of their institutions.

The visit of the foreign guests continued with viewing the University Museum and the campus. In the Research Complex of the University of Ruse they had the possibility to visit the laboratory on „Intelligent Cyberphysics systems and Technologies for Generating and Visualization of Space Objects and Processes“, where they explored various robotic systems and unmanned aerial vehicles.

The foreign lecturers' visit was under bilateral agreements for exchange of students and lecturers with these universities, coordinated by the Departments of „Computer Systems and Technologies“ and „Telecommunications“ of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, electronics and Automation.

Innovative Events and Projects

The Ambassador of Bangladesh in Ruse

On 5th September, 2024, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bangladesh in Romania, His Excellency Daud Ali, accompanied by Sheik Kaushik Iqbal – Second Secretary (political) and Head of Office, visited the University of Ruse.



The guests were welcomed by the Honorary Rector of the University of Ruse and Chairperson of the Assembly General, Hristo Beloev, DSc, the Vice-rector of International Cooperation, Assoc. Prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD and the Director of Foreign Students Directorate, Prof. Teodor Iliev, PhD.

The Honorary Rector of the University of Ruse, Hristo Beloev presented the modern facilities, the advanced teaching and research resources, the long-standing educational traditions and the authoritative leadership position of the university. The focus was on the wide network of partnerships in the field of education and research with prestigious universities from all over the world and the project activities. Academician Beloev noted that the University of Ruse is one of the ten research higher education institutions in Bulgaria. He pointed out the fact that the University has earned the highest funding among the higher education institutions under the Erasmus+ Programme.

Assoc. prof, Glina Ivanova, PhD acquainted the guests with the international activities of the University, emphasizing the Erasmus+ bilateral agreements with various universities.

Prof. Teodor Iliev, PhD informed His Excellency Daud Ali with the education of international students at the University of Ruse. He pointed out that for the academic 2023-2024 year over 220 international students studied in the three levels of higher education – Bachelor, Master and PhD from Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, Germany, China, Moldova, Ukraine, Algiers, Morocco, Russia, Greece, Cyprus, Kuwait, R Northern Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Türkiye, UAE and others.

H.E. Daud Ali thanked the hosts for their hospitality and noted that it was an honour for him to visit the University of Ruse. The Rector's Management expressed willingness for new contacts and partnerships with Bangladesh.

H. E. Daud Ali had a discussion with students from Bangladesh, studying at the University of Ruse.

Canadian Scientists from McMaster University at the University of Ruse

Visiting professors from the Department Electrical and Computer Engineering of McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada visited the University of Ruse and the Department of Electronics in the period from 7th to 11th May, 2024. The working visit was in the framework of the bilateral agreement under the Erasmus+ Programme, activity KA 171. Prof. Michael Noseworthy presented a lecture on the topic „Development of Technologies for Magnetic Resonance Imaging for Non-invasive Evaluation of Human Physiology“, and Prof. Babak Nahid – „Management of Energy Systems for Electrified Transportation and Control of Electric Engines“.

The McMaster delegation had a work meeting with Assoc. Prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD – Vice-rector of International Cooperation for discussing opportunities for expanding the cooperation between the University of Ruse and McMaster – joint research, exchange of research potential, establishing sustainable partnership and mutual support.

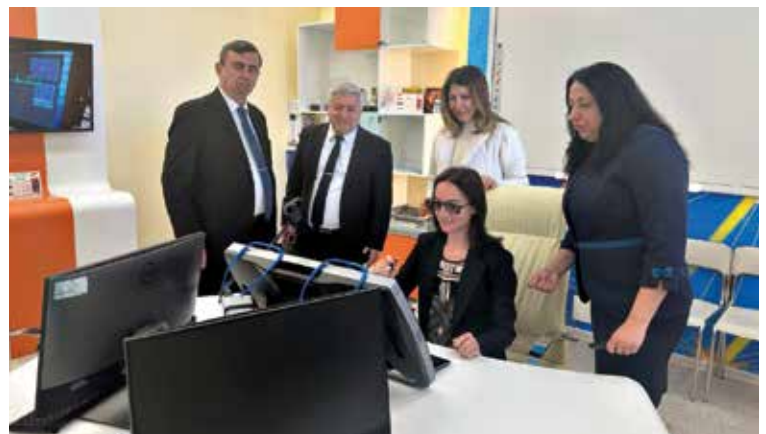


The visitors from McMaster University met the Management Board of the Faculty – Assoc. Prof. Vyara Ruseva, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Jordan Kalmukov, PhD, as well as the members of the Department of Electronics. During the talks, the parties looked for points of contact for joint research and teaching activities in areas where McMaster University is in a world leading position.

The guests visited the University Library of the University of Ruse. They were highly impressed by the volumes from the engineering collection and more specifically the German language edition of Albert Einstein's „On the General and Specific Relativity Theory“, a 1920 edition.

A Delegation from Slovenia in Ruse

On 28th April, 2024, Her Excellency Natasha Bergel, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Slovenia in R Bulgaria, accompanied by Alizan Yahova – MP and Chairperson of the Bulgaria-Slovenia Friendship Society, visited the University of Ruse.



The guests were welcomed by the Rector's Management of the University. The Rector, Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD Eng, presented the modern facilities, the advanced teaching and research resources, the long-standing educational traditions and the authoritative leadership position of the university. The wide network of partnerships in the field of education and research with prestigious universities from all over the world and the project activities were emphasised. It was highlighted that the University of Ruse is one of the ten research higher education institutions in Bulgaria.

H. E. Natasha Bergel assured the Management that she will work for creating a Friendship Group in the Slovenian Parliament, as well as for expanding the exchange of students and lecturers. She thanked the hosts for the honour of receiving her and promised to come back again.

Information presented by the PR Department.

Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Ruse 12th November, 2024

12th November, 2024

On 12th November 2024, a ceremony for awarding the honorary title Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Ruse was held at Kaneff Centre. Academician Volodimir Mihaylovich Bulgakov, DTScEng and Academician Valery Vasiliovich Adamchuk, DTScEng became bearers of the title after the Decision of the Academic Council of the University of Ruse from 22 October, 2024.

Academician Volodimir Mihaylovich Bulgakov, DTScEng is the Head of Department of Mechanics of the National University of Life Sciences, Ukraine. Academician Valery Vasiliovich Adamchuk, DTScEng, is the Director of the Institute of Mechanics and Automation of Agrarian Industrial Manufacturing, Ukraine.

In the motivation for conferring the honorary titles to the two Ukrainian scientists provided by the Management of the Agrarian and Industrial Faculty it is read that this is a recognition of their overall contribution to establishing the University of Ruse as a leader in the field of research and design of agricultural machinery in Bulgaria and abroad.

The new honorary Doctors Honoris Causa expressed their gratitude for the honour and gave short academic speeches.

On 16th June 2024, a ceremony for awarding the honorary title Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Ruse to Prof. Jinghui Yang, PhD was held at the University of Ruse. The Decision for conferring the title was made by the Academic Council on 26th May, 2024.

In the motivation for conferring the honorary title to the renowned Chinese scientist the Management of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation and the Dean, Assoc. Prof. Vyara Ruseva, PhD, pointed out that this comes as recognition of Prof. Jinghui Yang's contribution to the development and strengthening the cooperation between Shanghai Polytechnical University and the University of Ruse, mostly for the signing and implementation of the Agreement for exchange of students, counselling of PhD students from the Faculty, and participation in the preparation of documentation for acknowledgement of the diplomas, issued by the two universities.



Shell Eco Marathon 2024

For the eighth year in a row, the student team HyDRU Racing Team of the University of Ruse participated in the annual competition Shell Eco Marathon Europe and Africa 2024. The event was held from 19th to 24th May, 2024 on the Paul Armagnac racetrack in Nogaro, France. University and high school teams from Europe and Africa convened to design, build and test their concepts for energy efficient vehicles.

In this year's concept, HyDRU Racing Team opted for a complete modification of the car's mechanics with the introduction of a suspension with gas shock absorbers to more effectively dampened vibrations of the supporting system resulting from the action on the road. The car's suspension itself is designed for specific needs and is manufactured on precision CNC machines, which ensure the perfect balance between the highest precision and impeccable surface quality of the parts without the need for additional processing. In terms of increasing the safety of the car, a new braking system was designed, which integrates products from the Wilwood company, a leading manufacturer of braking system components for all types of racing motorsport. For the first time, the team uses a concept for transmitting torque from the electric motor to the chassis using a specially designed gearbox. To increase the efficiency of the



entire system, the team relied on a new generation hydrogen fuel cell from the company Spectronik.

During the tests, it turned out that under high loads, the fuel cell had a problem with the proton exchange membrane, which led to serious degradation of the cell's functions.

The future engineers from the renewed team of the HyDRU Racing Team of the University of Ruse (with a single veteran, the main pilot, the student in the degree programme „Technology and Transport Management“ Ivan Banchev) demonstrated adaptability and creative thinking and managed to respond to

all challenges in an extremely short time, pass the technical inspection and obtain the right to go out on the track and conduct the test and racing sessions.

The team completed all of its test and racing sessions without any technical problems and left the race with many new friendships, gaining experience and emotions, feeling satisfied and motivated to develop the car's capabilities to its maximum limits in order to achieve even greater success in future editions of the race!

The material was prepared by the PR Department and the Faculty of Transport.

Visits and Achievements

International Francophonie Day

On 20th March, 2024, for the eighth year in a row, the University of Ruse marked the International Francophonie Day as one of over 1000 universities all over the world, members of the Francophonie University Agency (AUF). The active membership of the University of Ruse in this prestigious world organisation dates back to 2017, when our application for membership was approved due to the contribution of our Alma Mater to learning French language and culture, as well as the traditions of the city of Ruse as one of the oldest Francophonie centres in Bulgaria.

Since then, every year the University of Ruse marks the International Francophonie Day with significant initiatives and celebrations. On this day under the hospitable roof of the university, admirers of the French language and culture meet with their creative expressions in literature and art.

The event was attended by the Management of the University. The participants were greeted by the rector, Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD Eng: „We can proudly claim that the University of Ruse is the initiator and host of the first Conference



of the Francophonie universities in Bulgaria, which are only 9. This year the University will initiate a similar event, dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of the Eastern European headquarters of the Francophonie University Agency, based in Bucharest. With great satisfaction and joy, I congratulate all participants and prize winners in the competitions announced by the University of Ruse on the occasion of the International Day of Francophonie, and to all guests of our celebration, I wish pleasant and exciting moments with the performances from our programme“ – said the Rector of the University at the opening of the festivities.

Mohammed Ketata, Regional Director of the Francophonie University Agency for Central and Eastern Europe – Bucharest, and Petar Toparev, Head of the Directorate General of UAF for Central and Eastern Europe – Sofia, sent their Congratulatory Addresses.

The program of the celebration included the exciting performances of the student Andrea Petkova from the National School of Arts „Prof. Veselin Stoyanov“ – Ruse, representative of the „Polyphonia“ Association. Twenty French students from ECE – Paris, who chose the University of Ruse this semester for their Erasmus mobility, also participated with their performance. They greeted those present with the national anthem of the Republic of France *La Marseillaise*.

A tradition since the first year of the University of Ruse's membership in the Francophonie University Agency, this year's competition for an essay in French had the topic „If only the young knew, if only the old could“. The competition also included a presentation in French, a poem, and a translation of a poem from French into Bulgarian. The competition attracted students from Ruse and other cities in the country from schools offering French language studies, as well as students from Bulgaria and abroad.

PhD Research Seminar

On 16th April, 2024, a joint Research Seminar was held for PhD students from Istanbul Cerrahpasa University and the University of Ruse. It was organised by two Faculties – Faculty of Engineering (IUC) and Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation, respectively.

The Agenda was full of workshops and presentations of the scientific achievements of doctoral students.

Meetings were held with the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Dr. İsmail İnci, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Sertbaş – Head of Department of Computer Engineering, lecturers and Erasmus coordinators of the Faculty and Departments.

Good practices in working with doctoral students, topics for joint activities, future Erasmus exchange of students and lecturers from both universities were discussed. Fruitful conversations were held between the doctoral students.



AI Camp 2024

On 4th June, 2024, the International Camp for Artificial Intelligence „AI Camp 2024“ was opened. This is the second international camp organised in the framework of the Project MAI4CAREU. In 2023, „AI Camp 2023“ was held on the campus of the University of Cyprus.



Guests of the event were the Rector of the University of Ruse Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD Eng, the Vice-rectors in Science and Research, Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD and International Cooperation, Assoc. prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD.

The Rector of the University of Ruse Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD Eng, greeted the participants with the words „I am happy that the University of Ruse is the host of the International Camp for Artificial Intelligence “AI Camp 2024. During the event, you will share innovative ideas that you have been working on over a period of time, and I am confident that new proposals will emerge and new projects will be developed“.



Twenty-two students and mentors from the University of Ruse, Alma Mater Studiorum Universita di Bologna (UNIBO) – Italy and the University of Cyprus took part in „AI Camp 2024“. The main goal of the international artificial intelligence camp is to offer students experience gathered from the project network. The added value of the international camp in the field of artificial intelligence is multilayered, as it encompasses transnational cooperation and is associated with the parallel acquisition of knowledge and skills through the study of contemporary topics in artificial intelligence, as well as the opportunity to become familiar with career prospects in industry and research organizations.

The camp involves five teams formed by students from different universities who have been working on projects in the field of artificial intelligence in the months leading up to the event. Each team works with a mentor from the participating universities and presents a scientific report on the chosen topic.

Erasmus Students in 2024



During the winter semester of the academic 2023–2024, the University of Ruse welcomed 62 Erasmus students from 8 countries and during the summer semester – 102 students from 34 universities and 17 countries. A total of 164 international students studied in Ruse for one or two semesters under the Erasmus+ Programme during the academic 2023–2024, which is a record number, compared to previous years.

With Bulgarian folk music, bread and banitsa, Bulgarian students, dressed in traditional costumes, welcomed their new colleagues at the beginning of March 2024. All international students received as Martenitsa and their hosts told them the legend behind this tradition. More than half the Erasmus students – 61, studied at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation, and the rest selected other Faculties and the Branch of the University of Ruse in Silistra. Twelve of those students studied here for the whole year. It is an interesting fact that Erasmus students from previous years choose to return again – 8 students from Romania, Türkiye and Moldova. The largest group of students coming from a single university is the one from ECE University in Paris, France – 12 students in the winter semester and 20 in the summer semester. The largest group of students from one country is that of Spain – during the winter semester they were 25, coming from 7 universities and during the summer semester, they were 19 from 6 educational institutions.

During the winter semester of the academic 2024–2025, the University of Ruse welcomed 70 students from 22 universities from 10 countries – Georgia, Italy, Spain, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Romania, Serbia, Türkiye and France. They will study at the University of Ruse for one or two semesters. This is the largest number of students, incoming for the winter semester, the University has ever had under the Erasmus+ Programme.

On 25th September, 2024, a welcoming ceremony was held at the University of Ruse for the international students coming under the Erasmus+ Programme. They were traditionally welcomed by Bulgarian students dressed in folk costumes, with ritual bread and salt and a bunch of geranium – a symbol of health.

During the winter semester of the academic 2024–2025, the University of Ruse welcomed several large groups of international students. The largest group is from Spain – 29 students from 10 universities. The largest group coming from a single university is again that from ECE, Paris, France – 13 students. The group from Romania is also quite impressive – 20 students of which 12 come from the National University for Science and Technologies –



the Polytechnics of Bucharest and University Centre, Pitesti and 8 from the Naval Academy „Mircea cel Batran“, Constanta, Romania.

The number of students coming for a whole year has grown – they are 19, compared to 12 during the previous academic year. For a third year in a row, students, who have planned to stay for a semester, apply for extending their period after finding excellent conditions of study here.

It is good news that the University of Ruse is expanding its partnerships and welcoming students from five new universities from: Mexico, Italy, Spain, Serbia and Türkiye.

The material was prepared by the International Cooperation Department.



Eighth Erasmus Week 2024 at the University of Ruse



On 13th May 2024, the Eighth Erasmus+ Week 2024 was opened at Kaneff Centre of the University of Ruse. In the period 13th – 17th May 2024 international partners under the Erasmus+ Programme from 11 universities in 8 countries: Albania, Algiers, Jordan, Kosovo, Mexico, Moldova, Romania and Slovakia visited the University. The week passed under the motto „Digitalisation of Higher Education – Good International Practices“.

Georgieva – Senior expert in subdivision „International Cooperation“ and Milena Bogdanova – Principal expert in the University Erasmus+ office, presented the challenges in their work under the Erasmus+ Programme.

The guests were shown around the campus and visited the Museum exhibition of the University.

On 14th May, the participants took a trip to the Medieval capital of Bulgaria and the village of Arbanassi.

On 16th May, 2024, during the intercultural lunch, the national cuisines of the different countries of the participants in the Erasmus+ Week were presented. On the last day of the week all participants received certificates on board a ship that took them on a sail along the Danube.

The University of Ruse is one of the first universities in Bulgaria, which have organised such Erasmus weeks for their partners since 2014. The event



The Erasmus Week was officially opened by the Rector's Management – Prof. Gencho Popov, PhD, Rector, Assoc. Prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD. The opening ceremony was attended by Erasmus+ coordinators from all Faculties of the University of Ruse.

The University and its international activities were presented by Assoc. Prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD, Vice-rector in International Cooperation. Diana

During the next days the forum continued with presentations of the participants of their universities and lectures for students and lecturers from the University of Ruse.

On 15th May 2024, a round table was held in the lecture hall “Educational Space of the Future”. Modern practices of digitalisation of higher education on an international scope were shared. The guests visited the Centre of Excellence with the University of Ruse.

attracts the interest of numerous participants from partner institutions from and outside the European Union, thus strengthening the cooperation and creating long-term friendships. A solid evidence of this is the solid growth of Erasmus mobilities to the University of Ruse.

The material was prepared by Victoria P. Ivanova – senior PR expert.



8th Innovative Youth EXPO 2024

On 4th June, 2024, the Eighth International Innovative Youth EXPO'24 was opened in front of Kaneff Centre of the University of Ruse. It was the closing event of the 24th Spring Holidays of Science at the University of Ruse. The initiators of the event were the Academic Management and the Student Council of the University of Ruse, under the patronage of the Minister of Education and

addresses were sent by organisations, institutions and representatives of business.

The Rector of the University of Ruse, Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD Eng, wished success to the participants with the words „I am happy to welcome you in Kaneff Centre of the University of Ruse at the opening of the Eighth International Innovative Youth EXPO'24. Students, high school

The variety of projects, prototypes, experimental models, samples and demonstrations was impressive. Part of the attractions of the EXPO'24 were 3D mockups and 3D models of various objects and many other interesting developments of the participants.

The innovative youth EXPO was generated as an idea in 2014, as a result of the joint initiative of the European Commission, the General Directorate of Education and Culture and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with its Programme for development of economy and employment, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science. OECD was making a survey on the topic of „Supporting the Entrepreneurial University in Europe: project HEInnovate – National Survey: Bulgaria“. The findings in the report of the University of Ruse read that entrepreneurship occupies a significant place in the university strategy and the higher school is the driving force for the development of entrepreneurship in a wide regional, social and public sphere. That is why it is logical for a forum like the Innovative Youth EXPO to be born and to grow up at no other place but the University of Ruse.

Parallel to the EXPO, another event, important to the University was taking place – the Final session of the student scientific conference Best



Culture and with the participation of the National Representation of the Student Councils in Bulgaria.

The Vice-rector of Science and Research, Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD opened EXPO'24.

students, youth, representatives of businesses and public institutions, lecturers and guests of the University take part in this innovative event. The exhibitors will exchange new ideas and experience



Her speech was followed by those of the Rector of the University of Ruse, Prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD Eng, the Regional Governor Dragomir Draganov, the Vice-mayor of Ruse Municipality Dimitar Nedev, Lidiya Daskalova, an expert with the Directorate of Higher Education with the Ministry of Education and Science (MON) and Father Marin – representative of the Holy Metropolis of Ruse. Congratulatory



and I am convinced that they will develop new interesting solutions, which will be presented at the next EXPO“.

In the Eighth International Innovative Youth EXPO'24 there were over 200 and on 37 stands innovative products of student and high school student participating teams from Bulgaria and Romania.



Paper'24, in which research papers of students, PhD students and young researchers, awarded the Crystal Prize by the scientific juries at the Spring Holidays of Science and student research sessions in May in all Faculties and Branches of the University of Ruse were presented.

The material was provided by the PR expert V. P. Ivanova.

Visits and Achievements

Work Meetings in the R Moldova

In the period 11th–13th September, 2024, a number of work meetings were held in the R Moldova for clarifying all questions, related to the accession of Tarakliya State University to the structure of the University of Ruse.

The work group on behalf of the University of Ruse and the town of Ruse included: Academician Hristo Beloev, DSc – Honorary rector of the University of Ruse and a Chairperson of the Municipal Council of Ruse, Prof. Gencho Popov, PhD – Rector of the University of Ruse and Prof. Theodor Iliev, PhD – Director of the Foreign Students Directorate.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Science of R Bulgaria the participants were: Rositsa Koleva Director of Higher Education Directorate, Yana Yotova – Head of Department Implementing the Regulations in the Higher Education Directorate, Milen Botev – Head of Department Funding of Higher Education in the Finance Directorate, Georgi Kirkov – State Expert in State Property and Public Procurement Directorate, Veselina Paunova – Chief Expert in International Cooperation Directorate.

On behalf of the Embassy in Moldova there were two participants: Kiril Dimitrov – First Secretary and Martin Vladimirov – Second Secretary.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Research of R Moldova participated: Svetlana Mironov – Chief specialist in Higher Education Directorate and on behalf of the Tarakliya State University – Assoc. Prof. Maria Paslar – Rector of the University, Vice-rectors, Heads of Departments and Directorates.

On 11th September, 2024, the facilities, buildings, student Hall of Residence and others were reviewed and a full analysis was made. Meetings with students, lecturers and administration were held.



On 12th September, 2024, a work meeting was held at the Tarakliya State University and the following issues were discussed: the degree programmes at the Division of the University of Ruse in Tarakliya; the method of training of the students; the contacts with the local and national structures and the business; the buildings and the procedures of transfer of ownership; legal labour relations with currently active teachers and employees; state of finances of the Tarakliya State University; the renovation activities necessary and others.

On 13th September, 2024, a work meeting was held at the Ministry of Education and Research of R Moldova for clarifying all questions, related to actions needed for the accession of Tarakliya State University to the structure of the University of Ruse.

The participants on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Research of R Moldova were: Adriana Kazaku – Secretary of State, Lyudmila Pavlov – Vice-secretary General, Liliya Parnomenko Director of Policy and European Integration Directorate, Doyna Usach – Head of Higher Education Department, as well as representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs of R Moldova, experts, counsellors.

Rositsa Koleva and Acad. Hristo Beloev acquainted the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of External Affairs of R Moldova with the results of the meetings held in the last couple of days at the Tarakliya State University. They presented the information about the meetings with the University Management and the lecturers, administrative staff and students, as well as with the Chairperson of Tarakliya Region Lazar Dermendji. They also mentioned the problems raised and shared their impressions from the meetings and the university facilities.

Solutions of the problems raised in the previous days were discussed.

Association for Development of the Bulgarian Community in Moldova

On 13th September, 2024, a work meeting was held at the Association for development of the Bulgarian community in Moldova (ARBOM).

Plamen Milanov – Chairperson of the Board of ARBOM and Alexander Borimechkov – Director of ARBOM, expressed their full support and empathy for building a Branch of the University of Ruse through accession of Tarakliya State University to the structure of the University of Ruse.



ARBOM supports and organises a number of events with the Bulgarian communities in R Moldova. This is a team of patriots and descendants of Bulgarian migrants, who have preserved the Bulgarian traditions, culture and history for more than 200 years. Vulnerable social groups, large families and pensioners are supported, as well as the development of sports, a healthy lifestyle and a clean environment. Medical centres, libraries, schools also receive support from the Association. The Bulgarian culture is preserved and bridges of cooperation are built between R Bulgaria and R Moldova.

Rositsa Koleva and Acad. Hristo Beloev presented to the participants in the meeting the results from the two-day discussions in the Tarakliya State University. They gave information about the meetings with the University management, lecturers, administrative staff, students, as well as with the Regional Chairperson of Tarakliya Lazar Dermendji. Besides, they also shared their impressions of the state of university facilities.

Academician Hristo Beloev presented the vision for organizing and implementing the reconstruction activities in the branch of the University of Ruse in Tarakliya. In a discussion with all participants a number of joint activities were coordinated, as well as the possible support of ARBOM.

Both sides declared their conviction that the accession of the Tarakliya State University to the structure of the University of Ruse will contribute to raising the level and quality of education of the students in Tarakliya, to the European integration, to improving the cooperation between the two countries for creating better conditions for the Bulgarian community in R Moldova and preservation of the traditions.

Information presented by the PR Department.

Innovative Projects

Project Europe in Bulgaria: Common Future China Education Tour 2024

In the period 19th–28th May, 2024, in Beijing and Ningbo, China the forum China Education Tour 2024 was held with 18 representatives from 9 countries from Central and Eastern Europe. The representative of the University of Ruse was Prof. Theodor Iliev, PhD – Director of Foreign Students Directorate. The main purpose of this event is the expansion and cooperation between the educational institutions of China and the countries from Central and Eastern Europe for the development of higher education, training of talented students and involving business in the educational process. The Agenda included a number of meetings at the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, the University for Foreign Languages Training, the Beijing Institute of Technologies, Nottingham University in Ningbo, China, the University of Ningbo and others.



On 24th May, 2024, Prof. Iliev took part in the Ninth Conference of the Association of Universities from China and Central and Eastern Europe, hosted by the Chinese Association of International Exchange in Education. Nearly 260 Heads and representatives of universities, of government agencies, experts and scientists from China and more than 10 countries from Central and Eastern Europe attended this meeting.

The topic of the Conference was „Quality Education Provides Opportunities for Sustainable Development“ and its goal is joint research of new trends and opportunities for cooperation in higher education between China and the countries from Central and Eastern Europe in the light of digitalisation. Prof. Theodor Iliev, PhD represented the University of Ruse in the Panel „Integration between Business and Education“. The Conference created three sub-topics: (1) New ways for diversification of student and lecturer mobilities, (2) Digital transformation in support of research and innovations and (3) Integration between business and education and the green development. Leaders and representatives of educational institutions from China, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and other countries shared their experience and practical advancement and proposed plans for supporting educational cooperation between China and the countries from Central and Eastern Europe for achieving mutual benefits and winning outcomes.

Erasmus+ Days

On 16th October, 2024, in the central lobby of the University of Ruse an Information Day on the Erasmus+ Programme was held as part of the international initiative #ErasmusDays. Students and PhD students had the chance to meet university representatives, to ask questions about the opportunities for mobilities under the Erasmus+ Programme and to receive some counselling and tips on the application process.

Participants in the Information Day were the Rector of the University of Ruse, Prof. Gencho Popov, PhD, Academician Hristo Beloev DTSc – honorary rector of the University of Ruse and a Chairperson of the Assembly General of the University, the Vice-rector in International Relations, Assoc. prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD, as well as the Vice-rector in Science and Research, Assoc. prof. Desislava Atanasova.

As a long-term beneficiary of the Erasmus+ Programme, the University of Ruse gets involved in the international initiative Erasmus Days, whose purpose is to note the enormous positive impact of the programme in all eligible countries.

The procedure for recruitment of students and PhD students who are interested in Erasmus+ mobilities for training or practice is opened. The University offers possible mobilities with over 300 universities and businesses abroad, providing excellent opportunities for academic and professional development of the students and PhD students in all Faculties and Branches.



Eighth Festival of the Chinese Culture

On 30th November, 2024, the Eighth Festival of Chinese Culture was held in Kaneff Centre of the University of Ruse, as a traditional event in the annual programme of the Confucius Classroom at the University. This year's edition of the festival was special and much more solemn because it was on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Bulgaria. The Anniversary celebrations started on 29th November with the opening of an exhibition and an exciting concert in the central lobby of the University.

The first part of the Eighth Chinese Culture Festival attracted the attention of many visitors with a touch of the wonderful world of Chinese culture - calligraphy, tea ceremony, Beijing Opera masks, fun games and treats. At the stand with attractive Chinese souvenirs, visitors had the opportunity to express sympathy for a charitable cause and support the Charity Centre of Caritas – Ruse.



Traditionally, the Festival of Chinese Culture, in its second part, offered a concert that exceeded all expectations this year. The Vice-rectors of the University of Ruse – Assoc. Prof. Desislava Atanasova, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD, opened the event. On behalf of the Confucius Institute – Sofia, under whose auspices the Confucius Classroom at the University of Ruse develops its activities, the Bulgarian and Chinese Directors of the Institute, Assoc. Prof. Aksinia Koleva, PhD and Prof. Chen Chen, PhD expressed their satisfaction with the work of the Confucius Classroom in Ruse.

The programme of the concert, prepared by the Chinese teacher at the University of Ruse, Liu Xiaomin included performance of Sports Club Kalagia at the MYC – Ruse, led by Maria Nedelcheva, the talented Chinese teachers from Confucius Classrooms in Sofia and Burgas, the cheerleading team of the University of Ruse, as well as the students of the University of Ruse, Nuray Salim and Dominique Joffre, who in just 6 months of training in Chinese language and culture demonstrated impressive performances of Chinese dance and Chinese songs.

Testimony to the talent of the performers and the high aesthetic value of the concert performances were the non-stop applause of the audience, the warm atmosphere of friendship in the hall to the very end, when the audience joined spontaneously the final dance, carrying the elements of a favourite Bulgarian dance.

Once again, the Festival of Chinese Culture at the University of Ruse turned into an exciting celebration, leaving a mark with the spirit of creative drive that knows no borders and brings cultures together.

The information is provided by the PR Department.

The University Sport Centre Presents the Achievements in 2024



On 3rd December, 2024, at Kaneff Centre of the University of Ruse a solemn event was held for presenting the successful participation and awarding the best sportsmen of the Ruse Alma Mater, who achieved excellent results in the field of sport and tourism during 2024. Sportsmen and activists from sports and tourism sections and clubs were honored, as well as the winners from the Autumn Student Tournaments.

Among the official guests of the event were the Vice-rector of the University of Ruse Assoc. Prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD, the regional coordinator from the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Eleonora Gurbanova, the Vice-mayors of Ruse Municipality Encho Enchev and Dimitar Nedev, the Director of the High school students sports training centre Maya Petrova and the Director of Sports School "Major Atanas Uzunov" – Ruse, Evgeni Nedev.

The solemn ceremony started with a report on the sport and tourist activities and the achievements of the academic sport in 2024 by the Head of the Department of Physical Education and Sport, Principal assistant Valeri Yordanov. He noted that the students from the University of Ruse had won numerous medals at the most significant sport forums in Bulgaria – the National Student University Games and the National Summer Student Games. Their achievements have made it possible for the University of Ruse to defend successfully its image of a university, which has accepted sport as one of its priorities. In his short retrospection, Principal assistant Valeri Yordanov mentioned other landmark events in the field of sport and tourism from the rich calendar of the University of Ruse, as well as events, organised and held in partnership with high schools in the region, the Municipality of Ruse, the city sports clubs and the different local and national authorities. He expressed

his gratitude to the Academic management for their support for the sport and tourist activities at the University and for the consistent policy for developing the sports facilities.

The Vice-rector of the University of Ruse Assoc. prof. Galina Ivanova, PhD, congratulated the students for their excellent achievements at



the various competitions in Bulgaria and abroad and estimated highly the activity in the field of mass sports and tourism at the University. She emphasized the consistent policy of the Academic management towards developing the sports facilities at the University, which would provide suitable conditions both for practising mass sport and

achieving high sportsmanship.

After the congratulatory speech, Assoc. prof. Ivanova opened the ceremony of awarding the University of Ruse students that had excelled and their lecturers and trainers with the award for the current European Karate Champion Daniel Varbanov, who won a Bronze Medal at the World Men's Championship in 2024. He is a second-year student in Countering Crime and Public Order Protection degree programme at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ruse and is a State Champion of Bulgaria. At the National University Games, he competed in judo and won a Bronze Medal. Assoc. prof. Ivanova awarded him and his trainer Todor Sabev, also an alumnus of the University in Law degree programme. The latter is a multiple champion from world, European and national championships, Number 1 Sportsman of the 6th decade of the University of Ruse and Student of the Year of Ruse.

Another national competitor was awarded as well – Ognyan Todorov, fourth-year student, Kinesitherapy, in table tennis – a participant in the European University Games with the Bulgarian team. At the National University Games Ognyan won 3 Silver and 1 Bronze Medals.

Students who achieved sporting success in the National University Games 2024 and the National Summer University Sports Games 2024, in the National Championships were awarded.

Student athletes who are champions and medallists from national university competitions and championships were also honored.

The chairperson of the Volleyball section, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Mladen Petrov, as well as Ivelin Ginev, a long-time employee of the university, were honored for their contribution to the development of physical education and academic sports at the University of Ruse during their many years of teaching activity.

The University sports community expressed gratitude to the Management of the university for the extremely positive attitude and continuous support for the development of academic sports and tourism, by honouring the Rector of the University of Ruse, Prof. Gencho Popov, PhDEng, and Acad. Hristo Beloev – Honorary Rector and Chairperson of the University's Assembly General, with Plaques.

The Rector awarded the students from the Speleoclub Academic and the club Hiking Tourism/ Mountaineering for improving the development of sports and tourism disciplines at the University of Ruse.

The information is provided by the PR Department.



Dance Ensemble Harmony



From 18th to 23rd August, 2024, dancers from Dance Ensemble Harmony of the University of Ruse participated in the International Folk Festival Acasa La Brancusi (At Brancusi's Home) in Targu Jiu, Romania.

Ensembles from Italy, Slovakia, Türkiye, Serbia, Northern Macedonia and Poland participated as well and the hosts were represented by Armonia orchestra and Professional Artistic Ensemble Doina Gorjului from Targu Jiu, Ensemble Nedeia from Novaci and Ensemble Liliac de la Ponoare from Ponoarele, Mehedici Municipality.

The festival was an extravaganza of the colours of costumes and folk costumes, of the rhythms of songs and dances, of the temperament of different peoples, a whirlpool of ages and emotions on stage.

Some have worked professionally for many years, others – mere beginners, and

still others – with the self-confidence of winners, but all were united by the roots of folklore, no matter how different it may be.

It turned out that our Ensemble Harmony is of the most respectable age, 55 years old, and everyone „looked“ at it with reverence and respect.

The University of Ruse is proud of its dancers, some of whom have been on stage for 30 years – with routine, self-confidence, excellent stage behavior, proudly carrying the fire of Bulgarian folklore traditions.

The festival inspired new friendships, new ideas for work and contacts, enriched the culture of communication. Being part of the team of the Dance ensemble Harmony makes you proud to be from Bulgaria, from Ruse, from a university with traditions that preserves and develops the ideas of folklore.

The material was prepared by Assoc. prof. Tanya Grozeva.

Guinness certificate donation

On 19th March, 2024, Theodor Tsvetkov, a Master degree student in the degree programme Clinical Social Work with the Faculty of Business and Management of the University of Ruse donated his Official Certificate for a World Record, entered in the Guinness Book of Records, to the Ruse Alma Mater.



The renowned swimmer who organised a number of significant charity events and is a champion and medalist from World Championships, conferred the Official Certificate to the Rector of the University, prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD Eng. Theodor wishes to donate his certificates to institutions and sponsors that have supported

him in his endeavours, the University of Ruse being one of them.

„Sports should go hand in hand with studies. We thank Theodor Tsvetkov for his efforts during his studies and wish him to continue studying in the same spirit“ – said the Rector of the University prof. Plamen Kangalov, PhD Eng, presenting the student the book „Bulgarian Sports Fame“ wishing that his records would find a place in its future edition.

„Education is one of the most important values and it really should go hand in hand with sports. I dedicate this record to you because you also have a part in it“ – Theodor Tsvetkov said, addressing the members of the Academic Council, adding that his next goal is to swim across the Sea of Marmara.

Theodor Tsvetkov has two records entered in the Guinness Book of Records. One is a one-armed 10-kilometer swim in 4 hours 18 minutes 57 seconds, which was performed in front of a Committee of Guinness Book of Records representatives. He has received the official certificate for that world record as well. So far, only 50 Bulgarians have been entered in the Guinness Book of World Records in various activities, with Ruse student Theodor Tsvetkov being the 51st.

In recent years, Theodor has been competing in marathon swimming distances, which he dedicates to causes related to raising funds for children, youth and adults in need. He is a role model for the younger generation and for all of us. His goal is to inspire people and spread the desire to help.



A Touch, Assoc. Prof. Romyana Lebedova, PhD



STUDENTSKA ISKRA

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

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

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

Editor-in-Chief: Prof. Aneliya Manukova, DSc
Translation from Bulgarian: Milena Popova
Reporters: M. Popova, V. Grozeva, V. P. Ivanova
Photo reporters: Juliana Andonova

The newspaper is published in electronic format and in paper form and is distributed free of charge. Issued on 04.02.2025