



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

International Faculty  
**CITY College.**

**30**  
YEARS  
**CITY College**

**SEERC**

Building knowledge capacity  
in South East Europe



**15**  
YEARS  
**SEERC**  
SOUTH-EAST  
EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH  
CENTRE

Celebrating fifteen years of progress & challenges

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# A Few Words

The South-East European Research Centre (SEERC) was founded in 2004 by the University of Sheffield through its International Faculty, CITY College in Thessaloniki, Greece. SEERC is an overseas research centre established as a non-profit legal entity, conducting interdisciplinary research in South East Europe.

Mr.  
**Yannis Ververidis**

**Principal**  
CITY College, International Faculty  
of the University of Sheffield



The establishment of the South East European Research Centre has been a defining moment for the International Faculty of the University. In 2004 we aspired to cement the Faculty's research efforts and at the same time we set the goal of bringing the research capacity of our University, a high quality British academic institution, closer to our region. Dedicating our research centre to conduct basic, applied and policy relevant research for the benefit of the peoples of South East Europe, was our own way of giving back to the people that have helped to establish the International Faculty as a top quality education institution in the region. Now, 15 years later, I am proud to say that SEERC is a leading research centre in the

region, building capacity and contributing significantly to the development of people, societies and economies in this important part of Europe. I congratulate SEERC for its achievements and reflect upon the knowledge and intellectual output that the Centre has brought to us. From the opportunity to supervise an excellent array of PhD students to the engagement in highly competitive, excellence-based, collaborative research at the European level, SEERC has created a fine environment for enquiry and discovery for the International Faculty and the University as a whole. I and my colleagues at the International Faculty CITY College are looking forward to the next 15 years with enthusiasm and high expectations.

## Our founding institutions

The South-East European Research Centre was founded in 2004 by the University of Sheffield through its International Faculty, CITY College in Thessaloniki, Greece.

# The South-East European Research Centre (SEERC)



## SEERC in brief

The University of Sheffield, UK and its International Faculty, CITY College in Thessaloniki, Greece, established the South East European Research Centre (SEERC) in 2004 through the International Faculty. Based in Thessaloniki, Greece, SEERC is able to address critical scientific, technological, and innovation-related challenges and issues in South East Europe and beyond. The non-profit research centre aims to enhance teaching and learning, and act as a think tank in South East Europe by conducting pure, applied and policy relevant research.



## Our Objectives

- To promote independent, objective analysis and public discussion on issues related to the development of South East Europe.
- To provide a research base and an academic forum for researchers in the SEE Region.
- To engage the University of Sheffield academic staff capacity on research activity that contributes to addressing major societal problems in South East Europe.
- To disseminate findings to academics, professionals, NGOs, policy-makers and the general public through conferences, advising, published research papers, monographs, and working papers.
- To build capacity and fight brain drain effectively in South East Europe by establishing and sustaining a comprehensive quality Doctoral Programme that will provide PhD candidates with a rich and rewarding research environment.
- To assist in the integration of SEE researchers into networks of excellence.

## Our vision

Our vision is for SEERC to:

- be a leading research centre in all our fields of research for SEE and in SEE, addressing the problems of the region as a whole.
- contribute to region building by undertaking research that will develop knowledge capacity and policy analysis, thus enabling the countries of the region to play their full part in Europe.

## Our mission

To make a difference to people's lives in South East Europe. To perform research not only about the region but for the region.

# Celebrating a Decade of Progress and Challenges



## Professor Panayiotis Ketikidis

**Chairman, SEERC**  
Vice Principal: Research & Innovation at CITY College, International Faculty of The University of Sheffield



## Professor Tony Payne

**Strategic Advisor, SEERC**  
Co-director of the Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute (SPERI)



## Lord Richard Best

**Chairman of the International Advisory Board, SEERC**  
Life Peer and Member of the House of Lords, UK Parliament



It all started with "Now is the right time to launch the South East European Research Centre" to undertake research and policy analysis throughout SEE. The timing which coincided with the Greek EU Presidency (2003) and the Thessaloniki EU summit was not at all accidental! SEERC has constituted a "Do Tank" and resource center for the business and policy community for the whole of the South East European Region, as it is slowly becoming an integral part of the European Union. It is a centre which is used by these communities in the region to shape their business and policy strategy. It does not impose ideas from afar on the region, but instead facilitates home grown analysis.

SEERC has grown in stature over the last decade and made itself a significant player in pursuit of social and economic development in South Eastern Europe. This is a part of Europe that needs to be researched more fully and to be better understood both by those living and working in the region and those outside it. The University of Sheffield is delighted to support the work of SEERC and, in so doing, recognizes and accepts a special responsibility to try to make a difference for the better to the lives of the peoples of this part of our European continent.

SEERC is not just a base for significant social policy research: it is a valuable networking opportunity in SEE for key leaders to meet together informally. The meetings I have held with senior figures in Albania and North Macedonia demonstrated to me that there is considerable respect in the countries neighbouring Greece for the University of Sheffield and its International Faculty. This collaboration is clearly working well not just in relation to SEERC's research function but in providing a powerful educational opportunity for students from across the region.

**Building knowledge capacity in SEE**

# South East Europe: A Region on the Rise

- **16 countries, eight of them EU Member States**
- **More than 200 million people**
- **Sharing a rich history dating back more than 3000 years**
- **Diverse ethnic groups and religions**
- **Varied political, economic and social backgrounds**
- **A rich and diverse man-made and natural environment**

Now is an interesting and challenging time for South East Europe. There are many challenges that need to be addressed and the region is still dealing with a confrontational and volatile past. At the same time, a number of South East European countries are seeking closer relations with Europe and the European Union. They are either EU candidates or have recently become members of the Union. This further calls for reform and growth.

At SEERC, we want to be involved in making this possible. By spreading our knowledge and analyses, we believe we can contribute to making South East Europe move forward and develop in a successful and sustainable way.



Mr.  
**Nikos Zaharis**  
Director, SEERC

South East Europe is a unique and fascinating region. Rich in history and culture, with a strikingly elegant and varied landscape, diverse and yet with so many shared elements among its people, the region is facing new challenges in the 21st century: how to become integrated in Europe and its institutional framework; how to define its identities and leave behind a history of conflict and sorrow; how to overcome the current financial crisis without compromising the future of its people and the cultural and historical legacies associated with them, and how to avoid stagnation and fight brain drain that deprives SEE peoples of their most valuable assets. These and other questions set the basis for the University of Sheffield researchers to observe, analyze,

define and tackle major societal challenges in the region through the infrastructure provided by SEERC in Thessaloniki. SEERC is dedicated to contributing to the development and well being of the peoples of SEE by raising institutional capacity, providing high - quality research training to its people and conducting research with high impact for society. In the past 15 years we have been engaged in capacity building, intellectual discourse and the creation of a new generation of scholars thorough our Doctoral Programme. We will continue to confront these challenges in the coming years with increased dedication to quality and commitment to the peoples of SEE.

# The Crossroads of South East Europe

## Thessaloniki

Functioning as the bridge between South East and both Western and Eastern Europe, Thessaloniki is an important centre of the South East European region in terms of culture, politics and commerce. In addition to Thessaloniki's historical and contemporary significance, its central location is one of the advantages of SEERC.

The aspiration is to continue to make an impact on this progressive region and remain active in entrepreneurial and innovative research at a local, regional, and international level.

Thessaloniki is the perfect place for academics from across South East Europe to consider topical concerns and build links to governments and practitioners.

**Lord Richard Best**

Chairman of the International Advisory Board, SEERC



**Creating a better understanding of SEE**

## Thessaloniki: 2300 years of history

Founded in 315 BC by Cassander of Macedon, Thessaloniki's history spans some 2,300 years. Thessaloniki is the capital of the Greek Macedonian region. An important metropolis since the Roman period, Thessaloniki was the second largest and wealthiest city of both the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. Thessaloniki is the home to numerous notable monuments, including ancient Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and Sephardic Jewish structures.

Thessaloniki is the second major economic, industrial, commercial and political centre of Greece, as well as a major transportation hub for the rest of Southeastern Europe. In 2011 it reached over 1.1 million inhabitants. The city is renowned for its festivals, events and vibrant cultural life and is considered to be the cultural capital of Greece. In 2014 the Financial Times FDI magazine declared Thessaloniki as the best mid-sized European city of the future for human capital and lifestyle.

## The CITY College International Faculty's role in the region

Being part of the International Faculty, SEERC can draw knowledge from its vast network of contacts. Connections to South East Europe and the rest of Europe are getting even stronger. The International Faculty is the only British academic faculty located outside the UK.

Also, in addition to the main campus in Thessaloniki, the International Faculty has educational bases in Sofia (Bulgaria), Bucharest (Romania), Belgrade (Serbia), Kyiv (Ukraine), Yerevan (Armenia), Tbilisi (Georgia), Athens (Greece), Baku (Azerbaijan).

# It started out with a question

## How can we make a difference to people's lives in South East Europe?



### The 4 Pillars of SEERC

#### Research Tracks

We undertake a broad range of research projects, often multidisciplinary, of great importance to South East Europe.

#### Doctoral Programme

Students are offered the opportunity to study towards a PhD degree under joint supervision from the University of Sheffield and the International Faculty.



2005

November 2005

Establishment of the International Advisory Board – first IAB Meeting

2006

January 2006

First FP6 research projects start (FUSION and MIRIAD)

2007

July 2006

1st Doctoral Student Conference (DSC)

June 2007

Graduation of the first Doctoral student

2016

September 2016

SEERC coordinates the MIGRATE: CTRL+Enter Europe: Jean Monnet Migrant Crisis Network

2018

November 2018

SEERC participates at the Marie Curie European Training Network on Circular Economy (ReTraCE project)

**SEERC celebrates its 15th anniversary having established itself as a self-sustainable, academically rigorous and policy-relevant research centre in South East Europe**



## Networking

SEERC functions as a research hub for the region by organising international conferences and workshops both in Greece and abroad in order to bring together experts related to SEERC's research topics.

## Publications

The outcome of our research is disseminated to stakeholders, policy makers, NGOs, and the general public.

# Our Research Tracks

**Research at SEERC addresses a wide range of economic, technological, social, and cultural challenges facing an enlarged and developing Europe. It is organised into three Research Tracks. Each track promotes interdisciplinary research cooperation between the International Faculty and the University of Sheffield. SEERC encourages research clusters which focus on specific sets of research objectives.**



## Research Track 1: Enterprise, Innovation & Development

Research within this track is focused on Innovation Policy & Support, Strategic People Management, Applied Economics & Finance, and Logistics & Supply Chain Management.

### Indicative Projects

- ICT2B: Bridging the Entrepreneurial Gap: Transforming European ICT Research into Investment Opportunities  
Funding: FP7/ICT  
Coordinator: Fraunhofer Institute of Optronics, System Technologies and Image Exploitation, Germany
- TeRRitoria: Territorial Responsible Research and Innovation Through the involvement of local R&D Actors  
Funding: FP7/ICT  
Coordinator: European Science Foundation, France

## Research Track 2: Information & Communication Technologies

There are several active research clusters within the second track: the Intelligent Systems Research Cluster, the Software Engineering & Service-Oriented Technologies Research Cluster, and the Information & Knowledge Management Research Cluster.

### Indicative Projects

- Business Process FUSION based on Semantically-enabled Service- Oriented Business Applications  
Funding: FP6 - Information Society Technologies  
Coordinator: SAP, Germany
- PaaSword: A holistic data privacy and security by design platform-as-a-service framework introducing distributed encrypted persistence in cloud-based application.  
Funding: H2020/LEIT/ICT  
Coordinator: CAS GMBH, Germany

## Research Track 3: From Synapses to Society: Psychology in a Multi-cultural World

The Track 3 aims at maintaining excellence in conducting, publishing and communicating research in a number of research fields, ranging from Computational Neuroscience to Social Psychology.

### Indicative Projects

- YOU RESPOND: Developing a good practice guide and training manual for young people's participation in research, policy and practice developments to prevent and combat violence  
Funding: DAPHNE III  
Coordinator: The University of Sheffield, UK
- HELPcare: Health and social care workers: Employability Learning and Professionalisation. Coordinated by the  
Funding: Erasmus+  
Coordinator: University of Lancaster, UK

## Research Track 4: Language and Society: Linguistics, Education, Literature and Translation

The Track engages in research activities examining theoretical linguistic frameworks and their application.

### Indicative Projects

- LRE: Language Rich Europe  
Funding: Life Long Learning Program  
Coordinator: The British Council, UK
- English in Europe. Opportunity or Threat?  
Funding: The Leverhulme Trust  
Coordinator: The University of Sheffield, UK

# Funded Research

SEERC initiates activities that lead to funded research projects tackling issues of importance at a regional, European and international level, with a particular focus on South East Europe. Since its establishment in 2004, SEERC has received funding for a significant number of research projects by various funding agencies and funding programmes.

These include programmes of the European Commission (H2020, FP7, FP6, DAPHNE, Erasmus+) programmes from the UK Economics and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, programmes of the Greek General Secretariat for Research and Technology, as well as the International Labour Organization (ILO) of the United Nations.

## Research Projects' Reviews



**The Final project review report for the “Business process FUSION based on Semantically-enabled Service-Oriented Business Applications” project**  
**(September 4, 2008)**

“....(FUSION) has successfully... achieved its main objectives. FUSION has effectively delivered the expected result.... The consortium has been motivated and dedicated. It has impressive technical expertise in EAI and semantic technologies, as clearly demonstrated in its state of the art deliverables...”



**The Final project review report for “Organik: An Organic Knowledge Management System for Small European Knowledge-intensive Companies” project**  
**(October 1, 2010)**

“The consortium as a whole without any exception has worked to meet the project’s objectives and deliverables.... The Organik Knowledge Management System definitely contributes to the State of the Art...”



**The Final project review report for “ICT-WEB-PROMS: Promoting ICT cooperation opportunities and policy dialogue with the Western Balkan Countries” project**  
**(March 18, 2011)**

“... All project partners have shown high commitment and produced high quality output.... SEERC delivered a high quality and insightful policy review document with policy recommendations...”

**Enhancing interdisciplinary research in SEE**



# Case Study ICT Research in SEE: Planning for the Next 20 Years



SEERC pursuing its mission, to assist the development of the SEE regions, has looked at its ICT research with a vision for the next 20 years. With this in mind, SEERC's Information and Knowledge Management Research Cluster (IKM), has been driving research in the area of Cloud Computing. This was done through the CAST research project that looked at how PaaS (Platform as a Service) could be structured in such a way as to allow customisation of SaaS (Software as a Service) by third parties. That is, the research challenge was to decide on the architectural design of platform as a service, that will allow the development of software

with the use of third party software. From the platform's architecture this represents a challenge since you develop and deliver a solution based on a third entity software where you have no control over its availability, reliability, change or even withdrawal. The findings of CAST project gave rise to a number of research questions (software development, software co-development, governance of software within a platform to ensure stability of platform) that proved instrumental in pursuing subsequent projects, namely RELATE and Broker@Cloud.



At Broker@Cloud, we are pursuing the establishment of an infrastructure, that will enable a number of actors to be assisted in the pursuit of their goals. The actors could be the customer, who is looking for a calendar to keep diaries, appointments meetings etc, the software developer who wants to find the best marketplace for their application, and so on. In this context SEERC is pursuing research in the area of governance where the emphasis is to develop a framework where the rules and regulations are defined and operated upon with the notion of "separation of concerns".



In RELATE, a Marie Curie ITN, the main question is to educate and set the foundations for the development of software engineers of tomorrow. Within this context SEERC, has been investigating how to assist software engineers in developing applications in terms of more available and interchangeable basic building blocks in a transparent and agnostic manner. Furthermore, in RELATE we explore the infrastructure that needs to be deployed to ensure that software is behaving in an autonomic manner that allows software to configure and reconfigure itself in accordance with the situation at hand. Within this context we are pursuing research in the areas of Autonomic Computing, Autonomic Platform as a Service, cross cloud development, vendor lock in issues etc.

## Key People

Dr Iraklis Paraskakis

Dr Symeon Veloudis

Mr. Chris Petsos

Dr Rustem Dautov

Dr Fotis Gondidis

Mr. Isaak Kavasidis

Mr. Ioannis Arampatzis

Dr Anthony Simons

Dr Mike Stannett

Dr Dimitrios Kourtesis

Mr. Konstantinos Bratanis



**Dr  
Iraklis Paraskakis**

**Senior Research Officer,  
SEERC**

All this knowledge and experience from our research has proved unique in shaping our minds but, more importantly, the curriculum of our undergraduate and postgraduate studies to ensure that the knowledge and skills obtained in our degrees are current, topical and mainly setting the foundations of tomorrow's computing. Thus, in this way SEERC is reaching its goal of building capacity for the area of SEE.



**Dr  
Andreas Friesen**

**Senior Researcher, SAP AG,  
Germany**

The collaboration with SEERC, dating back to 2006, has proved instrumental, in forming and shaping, interesting research ideas that promote our knowledge and understanding of enterprise computing and how this can be transformed with the use of various technologies. We currently explore how Cloud Computing could affect the way tomorrow enterprise systems could be transformed, and the role of SEERC in this research is vital in the pursue of this research results.

**Research  
excellence**

# Case Study

## Supporting Western Balkan Countries to Participate in the European Research Area



Participation on an equal footing in the European Research Area and the Framework Programmes that support collaborative research across Europe is one of the main challenges for the Western Balkan Countries (WBC). Research excellence, extroversion, high - quality networking and innovation are indispensable for the competitiveness of economies and for societies that aspire to fulfill the targets of "Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive growth" as described in the EUROPE 2020 strategy. WBC who are candidates for EU accession and associated to FP7 and HORIZON 2020 need to strengthen their research and innovation communities in order to enhance

collaboration, mobility and quality research outputs. Through a series of projects, SEERC has, since 2008, been actively engaged in supporting and facilitating the WBC researchers' access to the European Research Area and participation in FP7 and subsequently the HORIZON 2020 programmes. This has been achieved through the organization of specialized training, brokerage events and conferences; the facilitation of dialogue at the policy level (i.e. between the EC and the relevant WBC ministries of Science and Technology) and the production of specialized reports on R&D and Innovation potential, challenges and strategies.

### Key People

Mr. Nikos Zaharis

Mr. Dimitris Bibikas

Ms Athanasia Halatzouka

Ms Christina Miariti

Dr Dialecti Fotopoulou

Mr. Athanasios Papakonstantinou

Dr Yannis Tolias

Dr Bratislav Stankovic

Ms Stavroula Maglavera

## Research Projects

WBC-INCO.NET: Western Balkan Countries International Cooperation Network 2008 – 2014 (funded by FP7/INCO).

ICT-WEB-PROMS: Promoting ICT cooperation opportunities and policy dialogue with the Western Balkan Countries 2009 - 2010 (funded by FP7/ICT).

ICT-KOSEU: Supporting Dialogue and Cooperation between Europe and Kosovo (UNSCR 1244) in Collaborative ICT R&D 2012 – 2014 (funded by FP7/ICT).

## Research highlights

Initial Regional Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) assessment of the North Macedonia

Review of the prospects, challenges and recommendations for continuous improvement of ICT R&D in the Western Balkan Countries

### Ms **Atanasovska Violeta**

Senior Adviser, FP 7 Coordinator, Ministry of Education and Science, North Macedonia



Working with SEERC was an exceptional experience for me. It was as a team working on a special task within the WBC-INCO.Net project, SEERC being the leader. Highest professionalism, outstanding consultancy, efficiency and quality were among the best elements of the SEERC performance. It was a very successful collaboration resulting in an important document for us, the Initial Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategy assessment.

### Mr. **Nikos Zaharis**

Director, SEERC



Working with Western Balkan researcher communities since 2008 has been a privilege for SEERC. During these years we engaged in training and networking activities, we exchanged ideas and experiences and most importantly we learned; that the Western Balkans as a region has able but latent capacity; that the researchers and innovators are resourceful and most importantly that challenges are similar to those that research and innovation communities are facing all around Europe: how to engage in meaningful collaborative research; how to overcome isolation; how to better coordinate policies and how to create value out of research results for the economy and local societies.

**Influencing policy and building capacity**



### Ms **Elke Dall**

Coordinator  
WBC-INCO.NET  
project,  
ZSI, Austria

Working with South East Europe and the Western Balkans without SEERC - impossible! The Centre for Social Innovation has been active in the region for more than 10 years, coordinating projects such as the WBC-INCO.NET, SEE-ERA.NET (PLUS) and the Information Office of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries. Between 2008 and 2014, WBC-INCO.NET was implemented together with SEERC and 28 partners.

# Case Study

# Contributing to the sustainable development of South East Europe and beyond



Over the past 5 years SEERC is actively pursuing hands-on research with practical impact aiming to provide environmental sustainability and social justice in South East Europe by developing region-tailored solutions and by curating global strategies for the needs of the region. To support this mission, SEERC has established the European branch of the Advanced Resource Efficiency Centre and therefore, acts as a regional research engine & knowledge transfer actor focused on environmental sustainability solutions. The specific research solutions provided to the region consist of: mitigation of energy poverty & contributing to energy security; development of sustainable urban and freight transportation solutions; provision of comparative analyses on CO<sub>2</sub> neutralization technologies; and environmental technology training provision & social acceptance.

Some of the most prominent projects in this field consist of:

- RETRACE (H2020/MSCA ETN, 2018-2022, with the specific challenge of assessing circular economy implementation and its regional development potential as well as of understanding the social acceptance of circular economy).
- PROSFET (H2020/MSCA RISE, 2017-2019, which focuses on the challenge of improving social wellbeing by making urban transportation more environmentally sustainable)
- PROCEEDS (H2020/MSCA RISE, 2019-2022, aiming to upgrade the potential of implementing circular economy in the agrifood sector)
- REINVEST (EUROPEAID, 2014-2018), PrESS (LLL, 2013-2016) and TrainERGY (Erasmus+, 2015-2018), aiming to upgrade the quality of higher education and training provider's capacity of delivering more market-oriented environmental sustainability solutions.

## Key staff

Prof. Panayiotis Ketikidis

Prof. Lenny Koh

Dr. Adrian Solomon

Dr. Efi Vasileiou

**SEERC's environmental sustainability research (through AREC Europe) has created substantial impact to local, national and regional public authorities, industries, innovators and society.**  
**Two prominent testimonials are provided below:**

**Mr.  
Dimitrios Lakasas**

**CEO,  
Olympia Electronics**

"Our collaboration with AREC has contributed at Olympia Electronics S.A. environmental sustainability strategy [...], increased our company's supply chain performance and as a world class manufacturing company that exports to 72 countries we gained more acknowledgment from our customers and suppliers."

**Mr.  
George Dimarelos**

**Deputy Mayor for Urban  
Resilience,  
Municipality of Thessaloniki**

"We would like to hereby confirm the contribution of AREC Europe hosted by the South East European Research Centre from Thessaloniki, Greece to the Resilience Strategy (RS) of Thessaloniki in 2016. AREC Europe has provided the following policy impact: Operationalization of the following UN sustainable development goals in practice: 9, 13, 17. It is expected that the pollution targets for Thessaloniki could be decreased by 15%. It has been noticed that over the past year, local institutions have managed to attract more than 5 million EUR in funding to support responsible & sustainable growth. This will help Thessaloniki to align with the EU goals: reducing pollution, reducing urban accidents, innovating the sustainability market and fostering sustainable startups."

**Providing  
environmental  
sustainability &  
social justice in  
South East  
Europe**

# Case Study Responsible Research and Innovation



Researchers work hard to find answers to essential questions and support scientific progress and innovation in our society. They seek to carry out research in an open and responsible way, but are facing increasingly higher demands to produce more and faster outcomes (hyper competition, acceleration of research process, pressure to publish), with a greater economic and social impact. (quantitative measures of research output, science & technology risks, ethical dilemmas and social demands) while they have to phase a challenge towards the very essence of science (mistrust of science, fake news).

Responsible Research & Innovation provides a model to achieve a research environment that allows science to meet the needs of society.

RRI considers various key elements in research and innovation processes:

1. diversity & inclusion
2. anticipation & reflectivity
3. openness & transparency
4. responsiveness & adaptation

At every step of the research cycle, it is important to be mindful of ethics, diversity and gender equality and consider the possible consequences of our research and innovation outcomes.

## The RRI way

Use social media and organize inclusive workshops to involve a wide range of social actors as early as possible and ensure the relevance of your research question. Engage citizen scientists to collect data and present preliminary results to various individuals and interest groups, enabling co-creation & discussion. Publish open access and choose open peer review to guarantee transparency and allow fair access to your methods, data, workflows and outputs. Participate in science slams, write a lay summary or use social media to share your findings. By involving citizens and spreading knowledge, you can build a bridge between science and society.

SEERC is currently working on fostering RRI for Research Funding and Performing organisations as well as for territorial R&I eco-systems through the following projects funded by H2020/SwafS programme:

- FIT4RRI: Fostering Improved Training Tools for Responsible Research and Innovation, led by Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
- TeRRItoria: Territorial Responsible Research and Innovation Through the Involvement of Local R&I Actors, led by the European Science Foundation, France
- GRACE: Grounding RRI Actions to Achieve Institutional Changes in European Research Funding and Performing Organisations, led by the European Science Foundation, France

## Key staff

Prof. Panayiotis Ketikidis  
Mr. Nikos Zaharis

Dr. Symeon Veloudis  
Dr. George Eleftherakis

Dr. Adrian Solomon

# Case Study Research on Migration and the Refugee Crisis



**MIGRATE**  
Jean Monnet Network



The refugee crisis in Europe has recently assumed massive proportions creating a series of reflex reactions by various European states, including closing borders and reconsidering the viability of the EU integration project.

SEERC is currently working on effect that the migrant crisis has on the socio-political and economic environment of the entry/transit countries and the way that this affects the process of and is being affected by the degree of EU enlargement and integration. The “MIGRATE: CTRL+Enter Europe: Jean Monnet Migrant Crisis Network”, that SEERC coordinates, addresses the question ‘To what extent can further EU integration and enlargement offer a viable solution to the migrant crisis?’ The countries under examination are a mixture of both EU and non-EU states forming one of the main

corridors formerly used by economic migrants and refugees to reach Northern Europe (the so-called Balkan route).

In parallel and in cooperation with the University of Sheffield Migration Research Group and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) works towards building internationally-leading scientific research capacity in Migration Studies at the Faculty of Political Science (FPM) of University of Belgrade (UoB), through the “MIGREC: Migration, Integration and Governance Research Centre” project (funded by H2020 Widening participation program)

Our research is also combined and provides input to an annual Summer School on Migration and the Integration Challenges (2019 is the 4th edition of the Summer School)

## Key staff

Dr. Alexandra Prodromidou  
Dr. Pavlos Gkasis

Mr. Nikos Zaharis

# Our Doctoral Programme



Students enrolled on the SEERC Doctoral programme are skilled individuals who are able to tackle the major challenges of the South East European region. The Doctoral programme offers candidates a unique opportunity to undertake doctoral studies in Thessaloniki, Greece, and to enjoy the benefits of an international community and a top-level academic environment. SEERC supports

multidisciplinary research and connects doctoral topics to a range of issues of importance to the South East European region. All PhD students are jointly supervised by one supervisor from the University of Sheffield and one from the International Faculty CITY College. This is a way to ensure that students are exposed to a wide range of perspectives and that innovation is encouraged.

32

Current PhD students

36

PhDs Awarded



This experience has, up to now, definitely shaped both my personal and professional skills by enabling me to develop multilaterally under close guidance at a global level through high quality supervision, conferences and state of the art networking events with academics and practitioners from my field.



Doing a PhD at SEERC under the joint supervision scheme is a unique opportunity to get the most out of the two countries. On one hand, you get a world-class degree from an established and recognisable British university, and expose yourself to the British research community and highly competitive job market. On the other hand, you spend most of your time in the rapidly developing Mediterranean region, which is highly interested in new blood and opens new horizons for young specialists.



The fact that all SEERC PhD students are situated in the same building, offered me the wonderful opportunity to enjoy an everyday interaction with my colleagues; the exchange of experiences, knowledge and the long discussions with them when I got "stuck" while writing my doctoral thesis were definitely factors that largely contributed to the completion of my PhD and I thank them for this!



My studies deal with the social factors that influence cognitive decline with aging. This is an issue that nowadays is drawing increased attention in politics and science. My PhD studies have given me the opportunity to familiarize myself with the issue, as well as to be in the frontier of this field's development.

**Dr  
Adrian Solomon**  
PhD Alumni

**Dr  
Rustum Dautov**  
PhD Alumni  
Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher

**Dr  
Aristea Ladas**  
PhD Alumni

**Dr  
George Pavlidis**  
PhD Alumni

# The Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference (DSC/Young Researchers' week)

The South East European Doctoral Student Conference is an event that has been hosted by SEERC annually since 2006. Until today, a total of 14 conferences have taken place. The aim is to encourage exchange of knowledge between young researchers and to consolidate the established network of scholars currently undertaking research in South East

Europe. Attracting papers related to SEERC's research tracks from all over the South East European region, the conference provides early-career researchers with the opportunity to present their work in an academic and friendly environment which promotes active dialogue and assists in building a greater understanding of research at all levels.

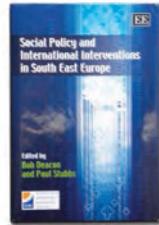


**Empowering the next generation of academia and research in SEE**

# Our Publications

## Proceedings of the Annual Doctoral Student Conference (DSC)

For the past 14 years, SEERC has published the proceedings of the DSC, giving the opportunity to PhD students from over 30 countries to have their work peer-reviewed, discussed and published.



### Social Policy and International Interventions in South East Europe

Dealing with the subject of the influence of international actors on social policy in South East Europe, SEERC published this book edited by Bob Deacon and Paul Stubbs in 2007. The book consists of an introductory chapter about transnationalism and Europeanisation, which is followed by nine linked case studies about social policy in the South East European region.



### YOU RESPOND - Promoting effective project participation by young people who have experienced violence

This book was published in 2011 and compiled by a number of authors associated with SEERC. It investigates how to design and plan group training courses for people who want to or are already involved in participatory practices with vulnerable children and young people.



### WBC-INCO.Net

SEERC is one of the organisations contributing to WBC-INCO.Net, which is a platform for high quality research on the Western Balkan countries. It is funded by the European FP7 Community's Programme for International Cooperation. The goal is to promote WBC researchers' participation to the ERA.

512

Conference papers

119

Journal papers

340

Books & book chapters



### Democratisation in Southeast Europe

This book builds on the assumption that the election process is an integral part of a stable democratic system. It investigates issues related to the electoral process in South East Europe and how different alterations of it can affect the democratisation process of this region. It was published in 2005 by SEERC and written by authors Dusan Pavlovic, Goran Petrov, Despina Syrri, and



### European Migrant Crisis Symposium: Challenges of a fragmented corridor

The symposium discussed the challenges that the refugee crisis presented to the countries of the so-called "Balkan corridor" used by mainly Middle East refugees to reach central Europe.



### The Science of Success: Investigating an innovative methodology charting the steps of Start-Up success.

The publication offers a different approach to the issue of start-up success/failure by presenting and discussing the Start-up Compass Theory (SCT)



# Our Events

## International Annual Conference on Technology Innovation (TII)

The TII is an annual conference which brings together technology professionals, scholars, and other stakeholders to share experiences, facilitate business, and to network. In 2009, the conference took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, and was co-hosted by SEERC and Technology Innovation International, Luxembourg. The theme was "Regional Excellence in Innovation: Case Studies from around the World" and attracted over 120 participants from 30 different countries.

## International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development (ICEIRD)

The ICEIRD conference is held every year by SEERC in collaboration with other universities and affiliated parties. The purpose is to provide an opportunity to discuss and present issues and trends within entrepreneurship and innovation. In 2018 ICEIRD was held in Doha, Qatar, and in 2019 it is scheduled to be held in Montreal, Canada.

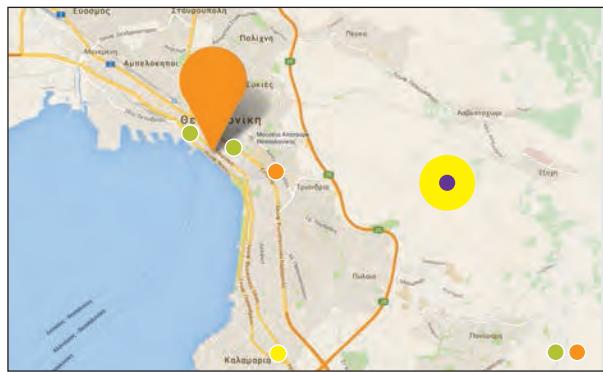
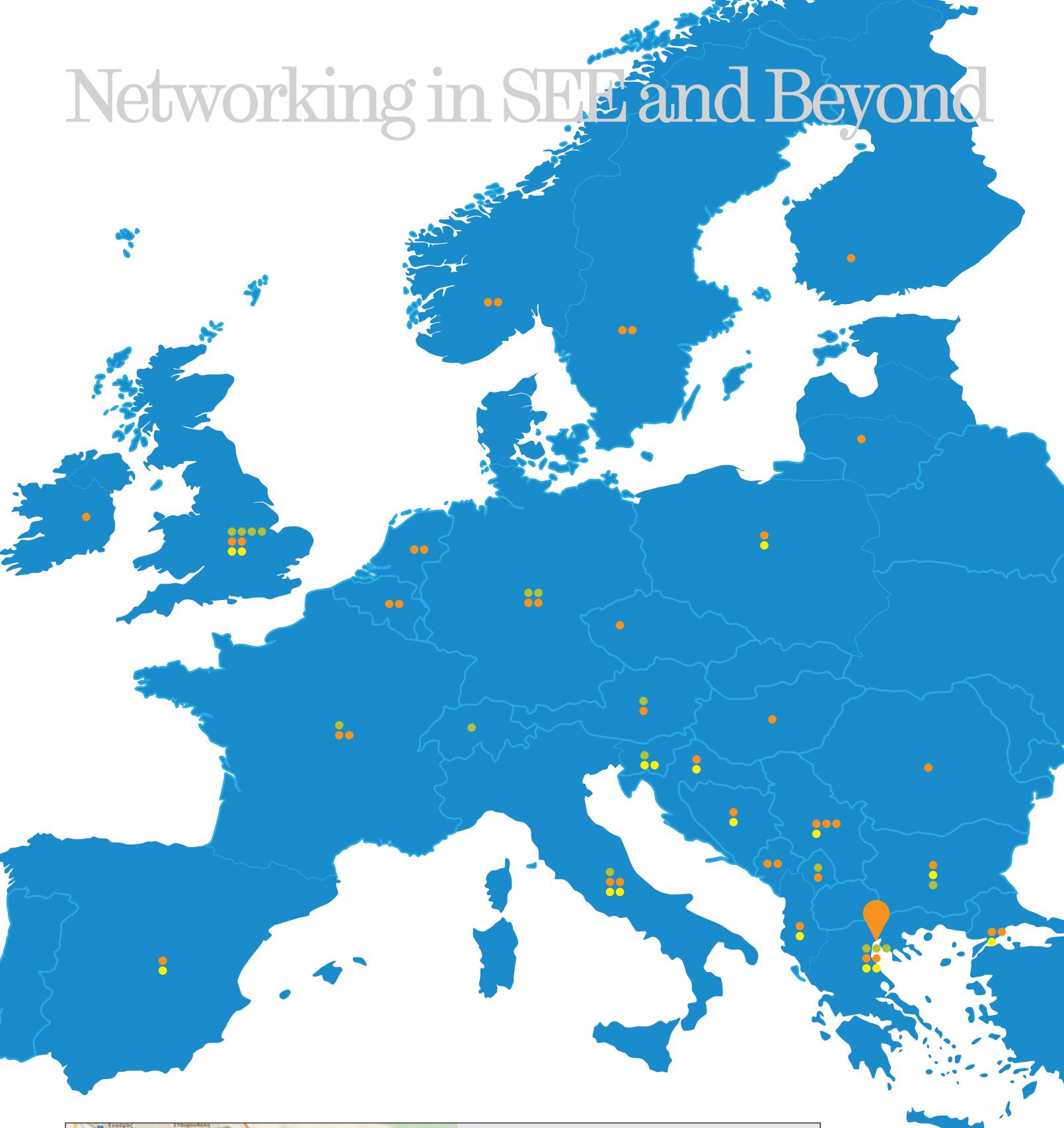
## IFIP Working Conference on Virtual Enterprises (PRO-VE)

In 2009, SEERC hosted the 10th IFIP Working Conference on Virtual Enterprises that took place in Thessaloniki. The conference was about leveraging knowledge for innovation in Collaborative Networks and attracted 120 people from all over the world.

**Transmitting knowledge and knowledge exchange**



# Networking in SEE and Beyond



## Thessaloniki area

- Centre for Research and Technology Hellas  
Greece, Academia
  - Association of IT Companies of Northern Greece  
Greece, Industry
  - Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Greece, Industry
  - URENIQ Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
Greece, Academia
  - Greek Exporters Association  
Greece, Industry
  - Regional Authority of Central Macedonia  
Greece, Government
  - Alexandrian Innovation Zone  
Greece, Government
- Industry** ●
- Academia** ●
- Government** ●



## Indicative Partners List

### South East Europe

- Polytechnic University of Tirana  
Albania, Academia
- Ministry of Education and Science of Albania  
Albania, Government
- University of Banja Luka  
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Academia
- Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH  
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Government
- University of National and World Economy  
Bulgaria, Academia
- ARC FUND  
Bulgaria, Industry
- Ministry of Education and Science of Bulgaria  
Bulgaria, Government
- Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of Croatia  
Croatia (Hrvatska), Government
- Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences  
Croatia (Hrvatska), Academia
- Theodore Puskas Foundation  
Hungary, Academia
- Kosovo Association of Information and Communication Technology, STIKK  
Kosovo, Industry
- University of Prishtina  
Kosovo, Academia
- University of Montenegro  
Montenegro, Academia
- Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro  
Montenegro, Academia
- University of Craiova  
Romania, Academia
- University of Belgrade  
Serbia, Academia
- Mihailo Pupin Institute  
Serbia, Academia
- Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Serbia  
Serbia, Government
- University of Belgrade  
Serbia, Academia
- SPIRIT  
Slovenia, Government
- University Incubator Primorska  
Slovenia, Industry

- Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology of Slovenia  
Slovenia, Government

- Istanbul Commerce University  
Turkey, Academia

- Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey  
Turkey, Government

- Sehir University  
Turkey, Academia

### Rest of Europe

- ZSI – Centre for Social Innovation  
Austria, Industry

- Vienna University of Technology  
Austria, Academia

- Universiteit Gent  
Belgium, Academia

- European Commission  
Joint Research Centre  
Spain, Government

- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven  
Belgium, Academia

- Charles University in Prague  
Czech Republic, Academia

- Aalto University Foundation  
Finland, Academia

- Université de Rennes 1  
France, Academia

- Sophia Antipolis Foundation  
France, Industry

- CAS Software  
Germany, Industry

- Fraunhofer IOSB  
Germany, Academia

- SAP  
Germany, Industry

- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  
Germany, Academia

- Queens University of Belfast (QUB)  
Ireland, Academia

- Technion Israel Institute of Technology  
Israel, Academia

- Trento Rise  
Italy, Industry

- University of Udine  
Italy, Academia

- Region of Piemonte  
Italy, Government

- Kaunas University of Technology (KTU)  
Lithuania, Academia

- University of Twente  
Netherlands, Academia

- SINTEF  
Norway, Academia

- University of Lodz  
Poland, Academia

- Region of Lodz  
Poland, Government

- Universidad Politécnica de Madrid  
Spain, Academia

- Umea University  
Sweden, Academia

- Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)  
Sweden, Academia

- SwissMedia - Swiss Association of Information Technology & Multimedia  
Switzerland, Industry

- PNSI - Police Service of Northern Ireland  
United Kingdom, Government

- University of Salford  
United Kingdom, Academia

- Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
United Kingdom, Industry

- King's College London  
United Kingdom, Academia

- Language Technology Centre  
United Kingdom, Industry

- Manchester Knowledge Capital  
United Kingdom, Industry

- European Science Foundation  
France, Academia

- University of Maastricht  
Netherlands, Academia

- Tata Steel  
UK, Industry

- Aster  
Italy, Government

- Sheffield City Council  
UK, Government

- NTNU  
Norway, Academia

- Sapienza University of Rome  
Italy, Academia

**Connecting SEE with the world**

 **Industry**

 **Academia**

 **Government**

# Our People



*To invest in people, to encourage academic curiosity, and to engage The University of Sheffield International Faculty CITY College resources for the advancement of science and society in the SEE region.*

## Our Governance

### **The International Advisory Board (IAB):**

The board consists of key persons with high-level positions in South East Europe. They are invited by SEERC to provide strategic guidance focusing on the needs of the region.

### **The Steering Committee:**

The members are key persons from the University of Sheffield and the International Faculty who are responsible for providing academic guidance at SEERC and participate in decision making.

### **The Managing Committee:**

Composed of members from the International Faculty, the Managing Committee is responsible for day-to-day operations.

# Our Future

During the past ten years, SEERC has grown and achieved a high level of maturity. This growth is evident in all aspects of its activities from the coming of age of the Doctoral Programme, to the growing number of funded research projects, to the quality of publications in conferences and journals resulting directly from its activities. SEERC has established itself as a reliable and preferred partner in the region of South East Europe, whether one is looking for a research project partner or an entity that can contribute to the successful organization of a scientific conference in the region. Overall SEERC has managed to become an established, self-sustainable and active research centre in the SEE region, contributing to the development of the University's International Faculty and the University as a whole.

As we look towards the future, we aim to contribute to the University of Sheffield 2020 goal, namely "...to be one of the top five UK research Universities...", by engaging in excellent interdisciplinary research, while in parallel support the social and economic development of the South East European region with research and innovation activities that focus on topical and important societal challenges.

We will strive to make an outstanding contribution to the research base and knowledge creation in the region and increase our academic impact as measured by publications in high impact journals and international conferences. Simultaneously we will emphasize the societal impact of our research both to the peoples of SEE and society at large, by engaging in research that is relevant to the needs of the industry, society and the policy makers of the region.

**Our people  
shape the  
future**

## Doctoral programme

Our doctoral programme will be the choice of quality for the prospective doctoral students of the region and beyond.

## Research tracks

Our funded research will take advantage of the opportunities created by INNOVATION UNION, HORIZON 2020, and HORIZON EUROPE to engage with research questions that are relevant to the economy and the society while in parallel advance research led-teaching at the International Faculty CITY College of the University of Sheffield.

## Networking

Our networking activities both within and outside the SEE region will grow with quality, facilitating anyone who is interested in working with the regional research and innovation ecosystem.



## Publications

Our published work will focus on research excellence, and high-impact publications.



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