

South-East  
European Research  
Centre.



# Bi-Annual Report 2019-2020

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	Chairperson of SEERC
THE SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN RESEARCH CENTRE (SEERC)	Our Vision, Mission and Objectives
RESEARCH AT SEERC	<a href="#">Externally funded research projects</a> New Awards Completed Research Projects (2019 – 2020) <a href="#">Other Activities</a> Research Submissions Publications Summer Schools
THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM	Viva Examinations Confirmation Review Process Call for Doctoral Applications 2019 -2020 Young Researchers' Skills Development Week Other Academic Activities Events Organised by SEERC
OUR PEOPLE	Our New Staff at SEERC Our Growth (2016 – 2020)
OUR FUTURE	Director of SEERC
APPENDIX	Publications Open Seminar Series Research Student Seminars



Professor Panayiotis H. Ketikidis

Chairperson, SEERC

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Wow! What a couple of years we have had. In this very difficult time of the pandemic, the social distancing measures, and the travel ban, we have remained resilient. During these last two years our efforts and activities continued to expand as we have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by undertaking many initiatives to adapt to the new reality and to continue to offer top quality services. It is my pleasure to introduce the bi-Annual report for 2019-2020. Research represents the backbone of our philosophy - the main aim is to achieve high quality research, while cultivating a research culture throughout the organisation that aims towards research excellence in a responsible and ethical manner. The results gained through research activities should be fed back into the development of the industry and the well-being of the society.

The cornerstone of the effort for building up this culture is our PhD Programme. Four PhD candidates underwent their Viva examination in 2019. In addition, we attained 18 new externally funded projects while nine (9) research projects have been successfully completed.

During this crisis, the challenges associated with responsible research and innovation, environmental sustainability, artificial intelligence (data science and data modelling), circular economy, ethics and privacy have been apparent. Over the past 5 years, SEERC has been actively pursuing hands-on research with a practical impact aiming to promote environmental sustainability and social justice in South East Europe by developing region-tailored solutions and by adopting 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.

Responsible research and innovation (RRI) – societal actors working together to better align the research and innovation process and outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society (ethical sustainable and socially beneficial). Indicative major SEERC projects on RRI include: FIT4RRI, which is the first responsible research and innovation (RRI) project that managed to introduce RRI into companies by building upon an RRI embedment methodology developed by SEERC. FIT4RRI' outputs have been adopted and extended by other 4 H2020/SWAFS (GRACE, TeRRItoria, RRlstart, WBC-RRI.NET) and two Erasmus+ (DIGI-GRENT, TraCCE) funded projects (as spin-offs from FIT4RRI); RRlstart - the overall concept of RRlstart consists of the development of a conceptualization and focus-setting approach upon the relationship among startups-

investment-society by adapting an RRI model that will help STEM startups to develop their innovations within the RRI principles.

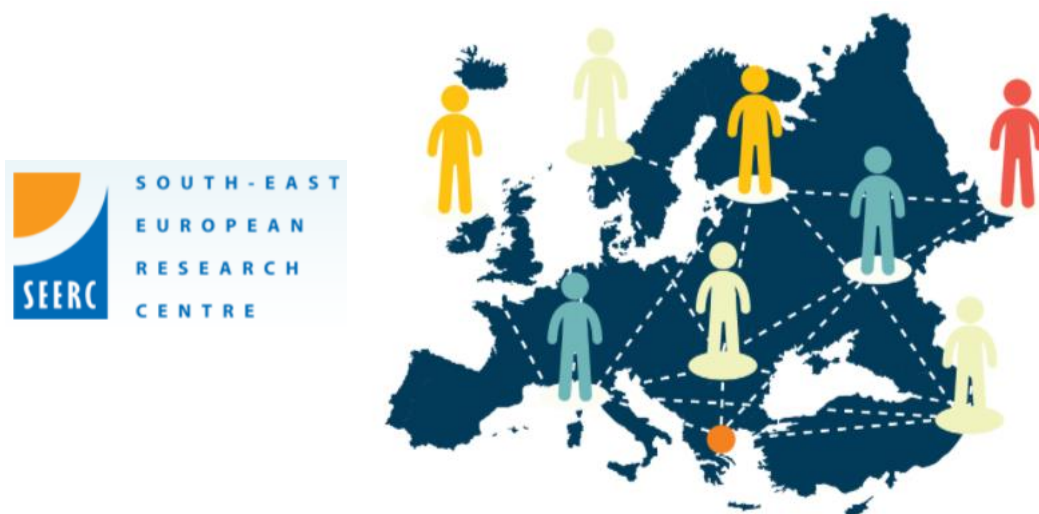
Another major project in which we are participating is the ReTraCE project “Realizing the Transition to the Circular Economy” - this network brings together an exceptionally strong team of world-leading experts from a wide set of beneficiaries and partners in order to achieve breakthroughs in understanding the transition towards a Circular Economy (CE). ReTraCE is specifically designed to train a cohort of new thought leaders (15 early-stage researchers) capable of driving the transition towards a more sustainable mode of production and consumption in Europe in the next decades.

SEERC is moving forward to nurture and grow new innovative projects collaborating with other research centers/universities, industry and third sector organisations. The main aim is for our research to be relevant and meaningful to different communities and policy groups locally, regionally, and globally.

We cultivated personal and professional relationships and maintained a healthy research workforce. We are especially grateful to our colleagues and PhD students for everything they have achieved and in particular to the Director of SEERC and the Director of our PhD programme for the guidance and leadership that they have provided.

## THE SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN RESEARCH CENTRE(SEERC)

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### SEERC IN BRIEF

The South-East European Research Centre (SEERC) is the research centre of CITY College, University of York Europe Campus, established as a non-profit, legal entity in Thessaloniki, Greece. It is conducting multidisciplinary research in the fields of Enterprise, Innovation & Development, Information & Communication Technologies, and Society & Human Development.

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 VISION

- 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.
- To 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.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- To promote independent, objective analysis and public discussion on issues related to the development of South-East Europe.
- To provide a forum for researchers in the SEE region.
- To initiate common research activities among the University of York, CITY College and other academic institutions throughout the SEE region.
- To disseminate findings to academics, professionals, NGOs, and policy-makers through conferences, advising, published research papers, monographs, and working papers.
- To disseminate important data and findings to interested members of the general public through open forums, web and other media-based means.
- To promote cutting-edge methodologies both within existing disciplines and for the development of multi-disciplinary perspectives through workshops and seminars.
- To assist in the integration of researchers from universities and research centres of the SEE region in networks of excellence.

## RESEARCH AT SEERC

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SEERC engages its staff, PhD students and the staff and students at CITY College, University of York Europe Campus in high quality research aiming at high impact. The Research Centre is involved in a large number of European networks performing research and receiving funding from competitive EU Programs as well as from the industry and other funding agencies.



## Externally funded research projects

**18****new externally  
funded projects****9****Projects successfully  
completed.**

## New Awards

	PROGRAMME	ACRONYM / FULL TITLE	COORDINATOR
1	H2020	MIGREG – Migration, Integration and Governance Research Centre	UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE
2	Erasmus+, Knowledge Alliances	AgTech7 – A Knowledge Alliance of Agribusinesses Academia and Business Angels for Disruptive Farm-to-Fork Agri-Tech Training	UNIVERSITY OF NOVISAD
3	Jean Monnet Networks	BordEUr – Jean Monnet New European Borderlands' Network	CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
4	Erasmus+	REACT – A digital approach to qualifying technicians in Energy Efficiency in Buildings	OESTE REGIONAL ENERGY AGRNCY
5	Erasmus+ Capacity Building for HE	MechaUz – Modernization of Mechatronics and Robotics for Bachelor Degree in Uzbekistan though innovative ideas and Digital Technology	IHU – International Hellenic University
6	Erasmus+, Capacity Building for HE	SuReMap- Sustainable Resource Management Programme to Solve Deserted Challenges	RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY
7	Erasmus+, Capacity Building for HE	PhDICTKES – The development and implementation of PHD Curricula in ICT for Kosovo Education System	LINNAEUS UNIVERSITY
8	Erasmus+, Capacity Building for HE	ALLVET – HE and VET alliance establishment according to Bologna Principals implementation via VET teachers' capacity building	UNIVERSITY OF KRAGUJEVAC

	PROGRAMME	ACRONYM / FULL TITLE	COORDINATOR
9	Erasmus+	Ellie 2.0 - Eliemental	LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
10	Justice Program	eProtect II – Enhancing PROfessionals’ capaciTY to dEal with Child vicTims	LAW & INTERNET FOUNDATION
11	Erasmus+	NEXTLOG – Building Next Generation Competencies for Logisticians and Supply Chain Managers	UNIVERSITY OF LODZ
12	World Bank	INTERGRATE - Integration of refugees and asylum seekers	SEERC
13	JOHNSON MATTHEY (private funding)	Hybrid Life Cycle Assessment of Functional Materials and Devices	SEERC
14	H2020-SwafS	WBC-RRI.NET – Embedding RRI in Western Balkan Countries: Enhancement of Self-Sustaining R&I Ecosystems	UNIVERSITY OF NOVI SAD
15	H2020-SwafS	RRIstart – A Responsible Research & Innovation Model for Impact Investment & Responsible Start-ups	SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME
16	Erasmus+	SUSTAIN-CE: Integration of Sustainable Design and Circular Economy Concepts in Civil Engineering Curricula	YASAR UNIVERSITY IZMIR
17	Erasmus+	TRACCE – Community Enabled Open Training on Creative & Cultural Entrepreneurship	WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMISOARA
18	H2020	Just2CE – A just transition to the Circular Economy	AUTONOMUS UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

### Completed Research Projects in 2019-2020

SEERC successfully completed nine projects during 2019 and 2020. Details on the completed projects are available in the table below:



	PROGRAMME	ACRONYM / FULL TITLE	COORDINATOR
1	Jean Monnet Networks	MIGRATE- CTRL+Enter Europe: Jean Monnet Migrant Crisis Network	SEERC
2	Erasmus +	iSTART -A Lean-Training, Innovative, Multidisciplinary Digital Entrepreneurship Platform	YASAR UNIVERSITY IZMIR
3	Erasmus +	ATSIV - Advancing the third Sector thought Innovation and Variation	UNIVERSITY OF PELOPONNESE
4	H2020 MSCA RISE	ProSFET -Promoting Sustainable Freight Transport in Urban Contexts: Policy and Decision-Making Approaches	UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
5	H2020-SWAFS	FIT4RRI - Fostering Improved Training Tools For Responsible Research and Innovation	SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME
6	EU DG Justice	E-PROTECT - Enhancing Protection of Children	LAW & INTERNET FOUNDATION
7	Erasmus+	ARRANGE-ICT - pArtneRship foR AddressiNG mEgatrends in ICT	TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA
8	Erasmus+ Jean Monnet	HLX4EU - Boosting the European integration process in a time of crisis though the Triple Helix: strengthening the delivery of EU policies for growth and jobs	TRIPLE HELIX ASSOCIATION EUROPE
9	Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership	VET4SPORT - Vocational Education and Training for sport workers- Innovative Program for building personal and social skills	MHRA NORTH MACADONIA

### Case Study – FIT4RRI



FIT4RRI is the first responsible research and innovation (RRI) project that managed to introduce RRI into companies by building upon an RRI embedment methodology developed by SEERC. Specifically, ISQ (large quality assurance provider from Portugal) had the following impact: the establishment of an R&D unit/department fully based on RRI (international industrial innovation). Similarly, as ISQ, Sapienza University of Rome (Italy) has implemented the RRI embedment methodology developed by SEERC and has managed to establish an RRI-ruled research center in Sapienza (within

the Saperi&Co center), capable of implementing – together with a responsible governance – public engagement and science education activities based on sustainability and biomaterials and deriving from hard sciences research. Following the same approach, Open University (UK) developed a first co-creation forum/platform for closed access publishers, open access publishers, companies performing text & data mining (TDM), organisations creating TDM corpuses, policy makers, text and data miners and industry that would lead to enabling open access TDM on (closed) scientific publications, facilitating thus the pathway to open science. FIT4RRI outputs have been adopted and extended by other 4 H2020/SWAFS (GRACE, TeRRItoria, RRlstart, WBC-RRI.NET) and 2 Erasmus+ (DIGI-GRENT, TraCCE) funded projects (as spin-offs from FIT4RRI).

## Other Activities

### Research Submissions

A total of 67 new research project proposals were submitted throughout the period of 2019-2020 to various funding bodies, including 22 at H2020 and 37 at the Erasmus+ program. The proposals reflected the research interests and related work of SEERC's research tracks and research clusters within the tracks.

### Publications

A series of publications by SEERC staff and students were published in the period 2019 - 2020 (An extensive list of publications per Research Track is provided at the end of the report in the Appendix).

### Summer Schools

SEERC co-organised one Summer School during the summer of 2019. The 4th Summer School focusing on the current refugee crisis titled: **“Moving on from the Migrant crisis: Socio-political implications of movements to Europe”** in cooperation with the departments of Politics and Sociological Studies of the University of Sheffield.

## THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

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Students enrolled in the SEERC Doctoral programme are skilled individuals who can 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 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.

## Viva examinations

Four PhD candidates underwent their Viva examination in 2019. The Viva examinations took place at SEERC. The PhD students were awarded the Degree of Philosophy. Eminent academics were invited to act as external examiners and contribute to a rigorous process by providing insightful remarks for the candidates. The names and affiliations of the examiners of the PhD viva examination that took place in 2019 and 2020 are provided in the list below:

PHD CANDIDATE	PHD TOPIC	EXTERNAL EXAMINER	AFFILIATION
Darja Koturovic	Governmental and non-governmental action against organized crime and drug trafficking in Serbia	Dr Paolo Campana	University of Cambridge, UK
Danimir Ljepava	Evaluating Determinants of Innovation Outcome: Influence of Interorganizational Relationships and Knowledge Transfer	Dr Julie Brennecke	University of Liverpool, UK
Zlatina Gubatova	Building brand loyalty through social media in economic crisis: a gender and Gen Y perspective of luxury fashion consumers in SEE	Dr Anna Watson	University of Hertfordshire, UK
Armend Bekaj	Rearranging the puzzles of security in post-conflict democracies: a comparative study of the transformation and political integration of armed groups in Kosovo and North Macedonia	Dr Jeremy McMullin	University of St Andrews, UK

## Confirmation Review Process

### 2019

**January 29, 2019:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Ms. Maria Matiaki**, (Full time student) registered with the Department of Psychology was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

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**February 22, 2019:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Ms. Elina Ketikidi**, (Full time student) registered with the Management School was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

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**April 2, 2019:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Ms. Faye Ververidou**, (Full time student) registered with the Department of Law, was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

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**July 4, 2019:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Mr. Delfin Pilana**, (Part time student) registered with the Department of Politics was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

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**September 4, 2019:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Mr. George Kladakis**, (Full time student) registered with the Management School was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

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**October 3, 2019:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Ms. Kristine Brance**, (Full time student) registered with the Department of Psychology was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

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**October 18, 2019:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Mr. Ioannis Spyridis**, (Full time student) registered with the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

## 2020

**February 18, 2020:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Ms. Natyra Xharavina**, (Full time student) registered with the Management School was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

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**May 20, 2020:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Ms. Ioanna Spentza**, (Part time student) registered with the Department of Psychology was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

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**September 16, 2020:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Ms. Vasileia Aristotelidou**, (Full time student) registered with the Department of Psychology, was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

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**September 30, 2020:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Mr. Dimitris Georgantzis Garcia**, (Full time student) registered with the Management School was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

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**November 20, 2020:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Ms. Sanja Arsova**, (Full time student) registered with the Management School was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

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**December 18, 2020:** The PhD status of SEERC student **Ms. Ilina Atanasovska**, (Full time student) registered with the Management School was successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

## Call for Doctoral Applications 2019-2020

### New Admissions

A new Call for applications to the SEERC Doctoral Programme for the academic year 2019-2020 was published in March 2019 and resulted in the following recruits:

NAME	COUNTRY	TOPIC	MODE OF STUDY
Ms Iliana Atanasovska	NORTH MACEDONIA	Resilient agrifood supply chains at the convergence of Industry 4.0 with Resource Efficiency	FULL TIME
Ms Vasileia Aristotelidou	GREECE	Enhanced self-disgust in Parkinson's disease – unravelling its cause	FULL TIME
Ms Evdoxia Eirini Lithoxidou	GREECE	Empathic mirroring avatar for gamified interventions in order to support behaviour change for individual's wellbeing.	FULL TIME
Ms Sanja Arsova	NORTH MACEDONIA	ReTraCe MSCA ITN – Regional development and governance for the transition to the circular economy	FULL TIME
Mr. Dimitris Georgantzis Garcia	GREECE	ReTraCe MSCA ITN -The role of consumer preferences and attitudes in the transition towards a Circular Economy	FULL TIME
Mr. Stefanos Panagiotidis	GREECE	A Hybrid life cycle assessment approach to achieve sustainable fabrication of functional materials and devices.  Sponsored Phd by Johnson Matthey	FULL TIME

## Young Researchers' Skills Development Week 2019 & 2020

### 2019

The 4th Young Researchers' Skills Development Week took place on 13-15 May 2019 in Thessaloniki. The 4th YRW hosted several research workshops filling the identified gaps in PhD students' skills enhancement. The 13th Annual Doctoral Conference, where 24 research papers were presented, was organised as part of the 4th YRW.

### 2020

For 2020, the same event took place online on 22-26 June 2020. The 5th Young Researchers' Skills Development Week hosted several research workshops filling the identified gaps in PhD students' skills enhancement. The 14th Annual Doctoral Conference was organised as part of the 5th YRW, where 20 research papers were presented.

## Other Academic Activities

Throughout 2019 and 2020, SEERC continued the organisation of research seminars in the frame of Open Seminar Series and Research Student Seminars. (For a full list of the SEERC seminars, see Appendix).

## Events Organised by SEERC

For the period of 2019 -2020, SEERC organised a significant number of events listed below.

### 2019

**16 January 2019:** SEERC organised a seminar on the topic “Issues of minor victimisation and extensions to criminal proceedings” under the framework of the E-PROTECT project, at HIGGS in Athens.

**23 January 2019:** SEERC organised the “Smart Specialisation Strategy: What we have learnt, what is the future of the S3” workshop, held at CITY College, Thessaloniki.

**06 February 2019:** SEERC organised a seminar on the topic “Issues of minor victimisation and extensions to criminal proceedings” under the framework of the E-PROTECT project, at DOMOTEL Xenia Hotel in Volos.

**13-15 May 2019:** SEERC organised the Young Researchers’ Skills Development Week at L. Sofou building.

**29 May 2019:** SEERC organised a seminar on the topic “Individual assessment of the needs of juvenile victims of crime: best practices in the European area” under the framework of the E-PROTECT project, at CITY College, Thessaloniki.

**5 June 2019:** SEERC organised a seminar on the topic “Individual assessment of the needs of juvenile victims of crime: best practices in the European area” under the framework of the E-PROTECT project, at HIGGS in Athens.

**11 June 2019:** SEERC in cooperation with HIGGS and the University of Peloponnesus presented the results of the ATSIV project (Erasmus+). The event took place at L. Sofou building.

**12 June 2019:** SEERC organised a lab in Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies under the framework of the DLT4ALL project held at Technopolis Business Park, Thessaloniki.

**13 June 2019:** SEERC and the Authority of the Region of the Central Macedonia organised a conference on Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and S3 in the context of the TeRRItoria project, at the main campus of the International Faculty.

**17-21 June 2019:** SEERC participated in the final workshop of the VET4SPORT project on the subject “HR Curricula for Sport Workers and Social Values Curricula for Sport Workers” at the Hotel Double Tree by Hilton, North Macedonia.

**24 June – 1 July 2019:** SEERC hosted in Thessaloniki a one-week summer school focused on Migration. The Summer School was jointly organised by the University of Sheffield

Politics Department, the Department of Sociological Studies CITY College and took place at the main campus of CITY College.

**9 July 2019:** SEERC organised a seminar on the topic “Individual assessment of the needs of juvenile victims of crime: best practices in the European area” under the framework of the E-PROTECT project, at DOMOTEL Xenia Hotel in Volos.

**30 September - 1 October 2019:** SEERC together with CITY College hosted in Thessaloniki the “2019 EUROPEAN TRIPLE HELIX CONGRESS ON RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP”.

**2 October 2019:** SEERC organised the Training Workshop “Open Science in the Core of Research and Innovation”, held at the ELECTRA Palace Hotel, Thessaloniki.

**19 October 2019:** SEERC together with the Navarino Network organised the final MIGRATE Symposium at the ELECTRA Palace Hotel, Thessaloniki.

**20 October 2019:** SEERC in cooperation with The Northern Greece Entrepreneurs and the Navarino Network organised the “8th Thessaloniki International Symposium in World Affairs” that took place in Olympion Cinema, Thessaloniki.

## 2020

**11-13 February 2020:** The first Kick off meeting of the new CBHE MechaUz project “Modernization of Mechatronics and Robotics for Bachelor degree in Uzbekistan through Innovative Ideas and Digital Technology” was organised by SEERC.

**18-20 February 2020:** SEERC organised the first ESR Training School on “RESEARCH METHODS FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY RESEARCH IN AGRIFOOD” under the framework of the PROCEEDS project. The workshop was held at CITY College, Thessaloniki.

**4 June 2020:** SEERC organised an online seminar on the topic “How to create a business profile on LinkedIn...and more” under the framework of the Employability Skills Seminar series.

**22-26 June 2020:** SEERC organised the Young Researchers’ Skills Development Week online.

**1 July 2020:** SEERC organised an online “Blockchain Innovation” webinar under the framework of the DLT4ALL project.

**19-20 October 2020:** SEERC organised an online “Blockchain Afternoons” webinar under the framework of the DLT4ALL project.

**21 October 2020:** SEERC in cooperation with the Region of Central Macedonia organised an online webinar titled “Preliminary Structure for Gender Equality Plan in Research and Innovation in the Region of Central Macedonia”. The event was organised under the framework of the TeRRitoria project.

**21 October 2020:** SEERC organised an online webinar titled “The operation of child protection structures in Thessaloniki: common challenges and best practices”. The webinar was organised under the framework of the E-PROTECT II project.

**10 November 2020:** SEERC together with NEUROPUBLIC organised an online webinar focused on agricultural technologies and neuroscience marketing techniques. It took place within the AgTech7 project.

**19 November 2020:** SEERC, in collaboration with Alexander Innovation Zone and the University of Western Macedonia, organised an online workshop titled “Dominant Trends in New Technologies, filling the skills gap”, in the context of the ARRANGE-ICT project.

**7-11 December 2020:** The third ReTraCe Network School on “Innovative Bottom-up Circular Economy Business Models” was jointly organised by ReTraCe project partners, SEERC, ABIS and University of Naples.

**17 December 2020:** SEERC organised an online discussion titled “Migrant integration in Greece: A discussion on the current state of policies and practices”. The event was organised as part of the project INTEGRATE, funded by the World Bank Legal Presidency-Secretariat of Global Forum of Law, Justice and Development (GFLJD).

## OUR PEOPLE

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### Our New Staff at SEERC



**Mr Anastasios Ntabizas**, has been appointed as SEERC’s Business Development Manager. He holds an MA degree in Marketing, Advertising and PR from the University of Sheffield and a BSc degree in Computing & Management Science from Loughborough University, UK having more than 12 years’ experience as a consultant and manager working for NGOs and public sector organisations.



**Ms Arsova Sanja** is an ESR fellow at SEERC and a PhD candidate at the University of Sheffield. She received a First-Class degree at the International Faculty of the University of Sheffield (City College, Thessaloniki, Greece) and during her BA in Business and Administration she was awarded the prestigious Undergraduate Awards under the categories of Highly Commended Entrant in Economics (2017) and Business (2016).





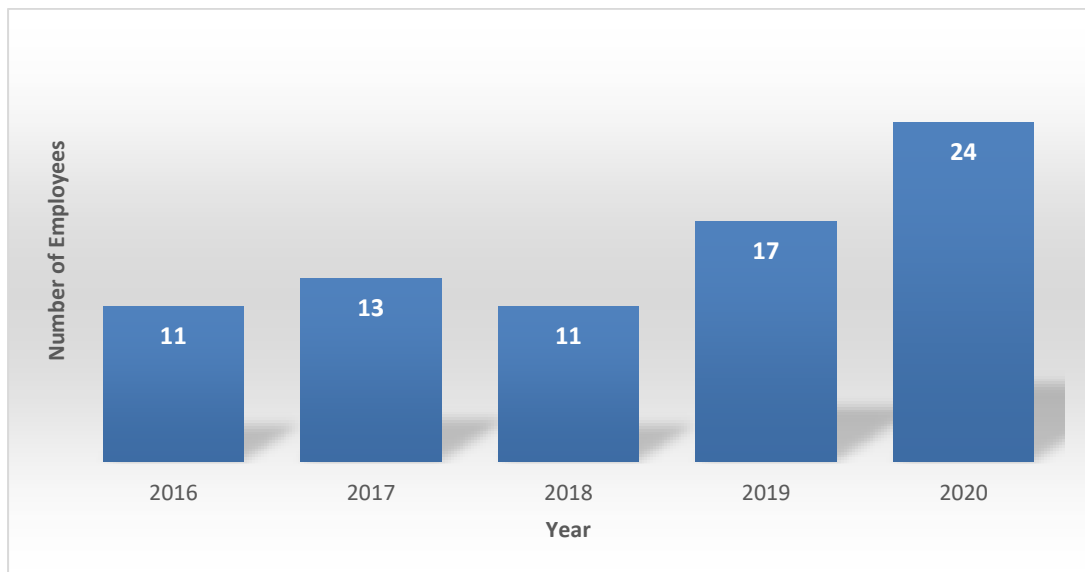
**Mr Dimitris Georgantzis Garcia** holds an Integrated Master's degree in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Glasgow. Throughout his studies, he was able developed a deep understanding of pure and applied mathematics, theoretical models, and the importance of experimental methods.



**Mr Grammatikopoulos Petros** is appointed as the Web IT Services & System Technician of SEERC.

### Our Growth (2016-2020)

In the past years SEERC has continued to invest in exceptionally talented individuals by increasing the volumes of recruitment to deliver high standards in the management of new funded projects and at the same time excellent services for our PhD students. We have a target to expand our workforce in the coming years by being fully committed to openness and transparency. We are also committed to promoting gender equality and diversity in all our activities.



*SEERC's Number of employees per year*

## OUR FUTURE

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Mr. Nikos Zaharis

Director of SEERC

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### **The future of SEERC: priorities for 2021-2022**

In February 2020 the South East European Research Centre successfully completed 16 years of working in the region of South East Europe, performing research for the benefit of the peoples of the region.

Looking forward to the next years to come, we are inspired by what we have achieved, and we are excited to continue our efforts towards the social and economic development of the region in close cooperation with our parent institution, CITY College, University of York Europe Campus, and the University of York itself.

Notwithstanding the challenges that the current pandemic has brought about as well as the ones posed by climate change, we will continue pursuing cutting edge research with high societal impact and expanding the role that the Centre plays in the region and Europe. Our guiding principles will continue to be Quality, Innovation, Impact, and Integrity.

Our priorities for the next couple of years are:

- To align our research strategy with the research strategy of the University of York and the overall strategy of CITY College, University of York Europe Campus;
- To bring University of York research closer to the needs and challenges of the peoples of South East Europe;
- To facilitate our new “CITY College – University of York PhD program” by recruiting top PhD candidates and supporting them in performing high quality research;
- To expand our research networks in Europe and beyond;
- To successfully participate in the new 7-years “HORIZON EUROPE 2021-2027” Research Framework program;
- To provide the opportunity to all the staff at CITY College, University of York Europe Campus to perform high quality research, supervise PhD students and be embedded in Europe-wide research networks;
- To pursue working more closely with the industry and society in our region and beyond;
- To continue being sustainable and resilient.

## APPENDIX

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### Publications

#### 2019

- Xharavina, N., Kapoulas A., and Miaoulis G. (forthcoming) Netnography as a marketing research tool in the fashion industry in South East Europe. *International Journal of Market Research*. DOI:10.1177/1470785319859210
- Karatzas, S., Kapoulas, A., and Prioporas, C. (2019) Consumers' Perceptions on Complexity and Prospects of Ethical Luxury: Qualitative Insights from Taiwan. *Australasian Marketing Journal*, 27, pp 224-232
- Golitsis, P., Fassas, A.P. and Lyutakova, A. (2019) Credit Risk Determinants: Evidence from the Bulgarian Banking System. *Bulletin of Applied Economics*, 6(1), pp. 41-64
- Psychogios, A., Szamosi, L. T., Prouska, R., & Brewster, C. (2019). Varieties of crisis and working conditions: A comparative study of Greece and Serbia. *European Journal of Industrial Relations*, 0959680119837101.
- Psychogios, A., Blakcori, F., Szamosi, L., & O'Regan, N. (2019). From feeding-back to feeding-forward: managerial feedback as a trigger of change in SMEs. *Journal of Small Business and Enterprise Development*, 26(1), 18-42.
- Demiralay, S., & Kilincarslan, E. (2019). The impact of geopolitical risks on travel and leisure stocks. *Tourism Management*, 75, 460-476.
- Hanedar, A. Ö., Gencer, H. G., Demiralay, S., & Altay, İ. (2019). The Ottoman dissolution and the İstanbul bourse between war and peace: a foreign exchange market perspective on the Great War. *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, 67(2), 154-170.
- Petrova, S. and Prodromidou, A. (2019) Everyday Politics of Austerity: Infrastructure and Vulnerability in times of Crisis, *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space* [online], Sage Journals, Available from <https://doi.org/10.1177/2399654419831293>
- Solomon, A., Ketikidis, P., & Koh, S. L. (2019). Including social performance as a measure for resilient and green freight transportation. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 69, 13-23.
- Solomon, A., Ketikidis, P., & Koh, S. L. (2019). Including social performance as a measure for resilient and green freight transportation. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 69, 13-23.
- Simeon Veloudis, Iraklis Paraskakis, Christos Petsos (2019). "An Ontological Framework for Reasoning about Relations between Complex Access Control Policies in Cloud Environments", 9th International Conference on Cloud Computing and Service Science (CLOSER 2019), 2-4 May 2019, Heraklion, Crete – Greece.
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<http://www.seerc.org/new/index.php/component/refbase/?Itemid=132>

## Open Seminar Series

### 2019

- **May 15, 2019:** “Resource-Efficient Cryptography for Ubiquitous Computing” delivered by Dr Elif Bilge Kavun, Department of Computer Science, The University of Sheffield.
- **October 4, 2019:** “Delusions and other extreme beliefs” (comparing paranoid delusions to extreme political and religious beliefs)” delivered by Prof Richard Bentall, Department of Psychology, The University of Sheffield.
- **October 14, 2019:** “Working Memory training: An easy fix for enhancing cognition?” delivered by Dr Claudia von Bastian, Department of Psychology, The University of Sheffield.

### 2020

- **June 4, 2020:** “How to create a business profile on LinkedIn...and more” delivered by Mr Vasilis Tsoulis, Director of Career, Employability & Enterprise Center, CITY College.

## Research Student Seminars

### 2019

- **January 29, 2019:** “An exploration of counselling trainees’ therapeutic work with college students utilizing counselling services. A study on change process and counselling training” delivered by PhD student Ms Maria Matiaki
- **February 22, 2019:** “Sustainable fashion and online communication practices: An exploratory study on consumers online responses towards sustainable fashion in Greece” delivered by PhD student Ms Elina Ketikidi
- **April 2, 2019:** “The human right to health for asylum seekers in the framework of International, European and National Law: the case of Greece” delivered by PhD student Ms Faye Ververidou
- **July 4, 2019:** “Building a state from scratch in Kosovo: how does a newly established small state implement economic diplomacy?” delivered by PhD student Mr Delfin Pillana

- **September 4, 2019:** “Bank Liquidity Creation in Europe and its Relationship with Non-Performing Loans, Regulatory Capital, Credit Risk and Regulation” delivered by PhD student Mr George Kladakis
- **October 3, 2019:** “Migrant Mental Health: The Role of Social Identity” delivered by PhD student Ms Kristine Brance
- **October 18, 2019:** “Efficient Control of Drones Communications in IoT” delivered by PhD student Mr Ioannis Spyridis

## 2020

- **February 18, 2020:** “Corporate Social Responsibility in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in South-East Europe in the Fashion Industry: An Investigation into Organisational Practices and Consumer Behaviour” delivered by PhD student Ms Natyra Xharavina
- **May 20, 2020:** “Factors affecting Everyday Problem- Solving skills in Older Adults” delivered by PhD student Ms Ioanna Spentza
- **September 16, 2020:** “Self- Disgust in Parkinson disease” delivered by PhD student Ms Vasileia Aristotelidou
- **September 30, 2020:** “The role of consumer perception and behaviour in the transition towards a Circular Economy” delivered by PhD student Mr Dimitris Georgantzis Garcia
- **November 20, 2020:** “Implementing Circular Economy practices: a regional perspective” delivered by PhD student Ms Sanja Arsova
- **December 18, 2020:** “Exploring Agri-Food Circular Economy Practices that Lead to Social Value” delivered by PhD student Ms Ilina Atanasovska





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