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1 RESEARCH @ SEERC

1.1 Externally funded research projects update

Nine new externally funded projects were approved for funding and kick started in 2013-14. Another eight projects were successfully completed.

1.1.1 New Awards

2013

HOMER: Home made explosives (HMEs) and recipes characterisation.

The goal of the HOMER project is to implement a study to mitigate the threat of HMEs from the criminal and terrorist elements by enabling by maintainable substantiated HME knowledge that with which has been mapped, researched, collected, studied, filtered, analysed and tested, to be innovatively made available for the law enforcement, security and the manufacturer of precursor, in a secure, useable manner, increasing the security of the European citizen and support of Europe’s current and future security needs.

JEMMS: Joint European Masters in Search & Social Media Marketing

The aim of the project is to implement a European focused community for the sustainable delivery of a Joint European Masters programme in Search and Social Media Marketing (JEMSS). By collaborating with academia, industry and students JEMMS project will address four key challenges (i) the lack of Search and Social Media Marketing and digitally skilled employees, (ii) the low employability opportunities for graduates, Search and Social Media Marketing as catalysts to help grow the European economy and (vi) problems with traditional university apprenticeship models.

PrESS: Promoting Sustainable SMEs

PrESS aims to develop an online DSS and a training approach that will allow European companies monitor and assess their current decision-making strategies in relation to environmental concerns, adopt low carbon decision-making patterns, and develop a long-term plan for low carbon management and environmental sustainability of their supply chains.
ICT2B: Bridging the Entrepreneurial Gap: Transforming European ICT Research into Investment Opportunities

This ICT2B project aims to develop bridges and bring together ICT researchers and entrepreneurial minded individuals with different backgrounds and from many European countries. As a consequence, it will promote the creation of entrepreneurial and innovative ICT start-ups that exploit products and services developed from EU funded ICT R&D projects. The ICT industry in Europe accounts for c.4% of the total EU GDP and is a growing sector; yet despite the comparatively high level of ICT research funded by the European research the level of commercialisation as well as the European private investments in ICT start-ups remain low.

ELIEMENTAL: Breaking Down Barriers to Enterprise

The goal is to use participatory action research (PAR) approaches to establish the socio-cultural barriers to entrepreneurship of under-represented groups in business start-ups and to develop and trial effective learning tools & a validated qualification in Enterprise Learning supported by online mentoring systems for developing & applying entrepreneurial skills.

VIBE: Venture Initiative in the Balkan Europe

The VIBE project addresses the challenge of developing the innovation and entrepreneurship system across the SEE by enabling private investment into innovative entrepreneurial companies in partnership with smart public initiatives and investment. VIBE offers an transnational integrated approach by avoiding unnecessary duplication, mobilizing a critical mass of the regional investment and innovation agencies and providing efficient support to both investors, policy makers and agencies and of course high-growth entrepreneurs across the Regions.

2014

KEEP ME SAFE IN EUROPE

This project focuses on the development and implementation of a game infused e-learning tool to promote health and early access to services for neglect and abuse for young people on the move in Europe. The e-learning tool will be co-produced by twenty-four young people with knowledge or experience of neglect and abuse, to help keep young people safe as they cross Europe.

INVENT: Reinventing the Distribution and Delivery of Personal Services through Cloud Apps and Marketplaces.

INVENT is an industry-driven collaborative research effort focusing on the generation of new knowledge to support the launch of innovative business models that capitalize on three major contemporary trends. The first trend is the rise of cross-platform apps as the predominant paradigm for software delivery. The second is the emergence of online marketplaces as intermediaries for distributing apps and cloud services. The third trend is the
continuing and ever-increasing shift of consumers towards online discovery and consumption of personal services.

HELPcare: Health and socialcare workers: Employability Learning and Professionalisation

The overall aim of HELPcare is to develop and transfer innovative practices in education for the qualification and professionalization of health and social care workers that can be adapted and adopted across the EU28 to make better use of the existing workforce through training, and to encourage young people to view health and social care work as a career choice with recognized routes for progression.

MAIN: Mastering Innovation in Serbia through Development and Implementation of Inter-disciplinary post-graduate curricula in Innovation Management.

The general objective of the project is to foster Serbian innovative capacity by modernizing Serbian HE system and providing sustainable source of high-quality human resources. The project will achieve this by developing and realizing interdisciplinary postgraduate curricula in the field of innovation management based on best practice from existing EU study programs and according to the Bologna requirements at Serbian HE.

1.1.2  Ongoing Research Projects (as of the end of December 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAMME</th>
<th>ACRONYM/FULL TITLE</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7th Framework Programme – Capability, European Commission</td>
<td>HOMER: Home made explosives (HMEs) and recipes characterisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Erasmus, Lifelong Learning programme</td>
<td>JEMMS: Joint European Masters In Search &amp; Social Media Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Life Long Learning Program</td>
<td>PrESS: Promoting Sustainable SMEs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAMME</td>
<td>ACRONYM/FULL TITLE</td>
<td>COORDINATOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>FP7/ICT</td>
<td>ICT2B: Bridging the Entrepreneurial Gap: Transforming European ICT Research into Investment Opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SEE territorial cooperation program</td>
<td>VIBE: Venture Initiative in the Balkan Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Leonardo da Vinci: Multilateral projects for developing of innovation</td>
<td>ELIEMENTAL: Breaking Down Barriers to Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Erasmus+</td>
<td>KEEP ME SAFE IN EUROPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Greek-German research cooperation</td>
<td>INVENT: Reinventing the Distribution and Delivery of Personal Services through Cloud Apps and Marketplaces.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1.1.3 Completed Research Projects in 2013-2014

SEERC successfully completed eight projects during 2013-14. Details on the completed projects are available in the table above:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAMME</th>
<th>ACRONYM/FULL TITLE</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), European Commission</td>
<td>SILVER: Successful intergeneration learning through Validation, Education &amp; Research</td>
<td>Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), European Commission</td>
<td>LRE: Language Rich Europe</td>
<td>EDUCULT, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 7th Framework Programme - International Cooperation, European Commission</td>
<td>WBC-INCO.NET: Coordination of Research Policies with the Western Balkan Countries</td>
<td>Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme</td>
<td>SEE SCIENCE: Boosting Innovation through capacity building and networking of science centres in SEE region.</td>
<td>Municipality of Debrecen, Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 7th Framework Programme - ICT, European Commission</td>
<td>ICT-KOSEU: Supporting Dialogue and Cooperation between Europe and Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244) in Collaborative ICT R&amp;D</td>
<td>SEERC, Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 The Leverhulme Trust</td>
<td>English in Europe: Opportunity or Threat?</td>
<td>The University of Sheffield, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 SEE territorial cooperation program</td>
<td>VIBE: Venture Initiative in the Balkan Europe</td>
<td>SPIRIT, Slovenia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.2 Other Research Activities

1.2.1 Research Submissions

A total of 44 new research project proposals were submitted throughout 2013-2014 to various funding bodies, including 5 in FP7, 12 in H2020, 9 in the Life Long Learning Program and 9 in the Erasmus+ program. The proposals reflected the research interests and related work of the research tracks and research clusters within the tracks. Most of these proposals received positive evaluations and 11 of them where selected for funding.

1.2.2 Publications

A series of publications by SEERC staff and students were published in 2013 and 2014. (An extensive list of publications appearing by Research Track is provided at the end of the report in the Appendix).

2 THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

2.1 Viva examinations

Four PhD candidates have undergone through Viva examinations in 2013-2014. All the Viva examinations took place at SEERC. Three of them were PhD students and they were awarded with the Degree of Philosophy and one Mphil student has been awarded with an Mphil. 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 examinations that took place in 2013-14, are provided in the list below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PhD Candidate</th>
<th>PhD Topic</th>
<th>External Examiner</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Dialechti Fotopoulou</td>
<td>The Impact of Foreign Higher Education on Management Practices: The case of MBA's in Greece</td>
<td>Prof. Antonacopoulou Elena</td>
<td>Management School, University of Liverpool, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Aristea Ladas</td>
<td>Attentional Processes of Adults bilingual in Albanian and Greek.</td>
<td>Dr. Nikolaos Katsos</td>
<td>Dept. of Theoretical &amp; applied Linguistics, University of Cambridge, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Aleksandar Karaev</td>
<td>A comparison of organizational cluster and non</td>
<td>Prof. Robert Huggins</td>
<td>School of planning &amp; Geography, Cardiff University.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2 Confirmation Review Process

2013

**February 15, 2013:** The PhD status of SEERC’s student Mr George Pavlidis, (Full time student) registered with the Department of Sociological Studies, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

**February 15, 2013:** The PhD status of SEERC’s student Mr Fivos Papamalis, (Part time student) registered with the Department of ScHARR, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

**March 22, 2013:** The PhD status of SEERC’s student Mr Rustem Dautov, (Full time student) registered with the Department of Computer Science has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

**April 3, 2013:** The PhD status of SEERC’s student Ms Evi Tramantza, (Full time student) registered with the Information School, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

**April 15, 2013:** The PhD status of SEERC’s student Ms Andreea Teodora Balan, (Full time student) registered with the Management School, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

**July 5, 2013:** The PhD status of SEERC’s student Mr Tomi Dimitrovski, (Part time student) registered with the Information School, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.
2014

January 13, 2014: The PhD status of SEERC’s student Mr Fotis Gonidis, (Full time student, Marie Curie early researcher) registered with the Department of Computer Science, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

January 29, 2014: The PhD status of SEERC’s student Mr Adrian Solomon, (Full time student) registered with the Management School, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

March 10, 2014: The PhD status of SEERC’s student Mr Vassilis Barkoukis, (Part time student) registered with the Department of Psychology, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

March 31, 2014: The PhD status of SEERC’s student Mr Dionysios Basakos, (Part time student) registered with the Department of Computer Science, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

April 8, 2014: The PhD status of SEERC’s student Ms Evi Tramantza, (Part time student) registered with the Information School, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

July 17, 2014: The PhD status of SEERC’s student Mr Armend Bekaj, (Part time student) registered with the Law School, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

September 16, 2014: The PhD status of SEERC’s student Ms Marianna Tsatali, (Full time student) registered with the Department of Psychology, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

September 25, 2014: The PhD status of SEERC’s student Ms Anka Gorgiev, (Full time student) registered with the Department of Psychology, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.
2.3 Call for Doctoral Applications 2013-2014 & 2014-2015

New Admissions

Every year, a new Call for applications to the SEERC Doctoral Programme is published and for the past two academic years (2013-2014 & 2014-2015) the two calls resulted to the following recruits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Mode of Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Anka Gorgiev</td>
<td>SERBIA</td>
<td>The Impact of Neuroscience and Behavioral Economics on Marketing</td>
<td>FULL TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Marianna Tsatali</td>
<td>GREECE</td>
<td>The connection between self disgust, cognition and emotions among adults with depressive symptoms. Can this relationship generalized beyond depressive symptoms?</td>
<td>FULL TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Marina Ntika</td>
<td>GREECE</td>
<td>Investigating Emergent Phenomena in Distributed Systems via Multi-Agent System Modelling and Simulation</td>
<td>FULL TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Stelios Kehaghias</td>
<td>GREECE</td>
<td>How can SME’s in SEE capitalize on the creation of innovation networks outside their boundaries to augment capabilities and achieve sustainable competitive advantage?</td>
<td>PART TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Ioanna Konstantinou</td>
<td>GREECE</td>
<td>Leadership behaviours of Greek SME entrepreneurs</td>
<td>PART TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Tanja Kuzman</td>
<td>SEBIA</td>
<td>Impact of governance on financial performance of state owned enterprises: evidence from developed, developing and transition countries</td>
<td>FULL TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Petros Golitsis</td>
<td>GREECE</td>
<td>A G-VAR model for Southeastern European Countries and European Union. The international reserves, exchange rate fluctuations, the international co-movements of business cycles and the related economic policies</td>
<td>FULL TIME</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scholarships offered by the Ministry of Education in Kosovo - New Admissions

The International Faculty of the University of Sheffield, CITY College in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Kosovo (under UNSC 1244) announced a call for 5 scholarships for either Full time or Part
time PhD studies for 2013-2014 and for 5 scholarships for Full time studies only for 2014-2015.

Following an evaluation process in which both potential supervisors from CITY College – International Faculty and from TUoS participated, the three scholarships were offered to the three successful PhD applicants below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>Mode of Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Adelina Basholli</td>
<td>Wireless monitoring systems for enhancing health services in developing regions</td>
<td>INF</td>
<td>PART TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Bekim Kasumi</td>
<td>Network management for innovation performance</td>
<td>MGT</td>
<td>PART TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Bujar Galloopeni</td>
<td>Investigating executive control and attention in relation to workload in younger and older employees. The role of psychological processes such as personal motivation, job satisfaction, work satisfaction and work readiness as mediators/moderators of cognitive processes in elder’s employability</td>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>PART TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Edon Mustafa</td>
<td>Socially assistive robotics for caring and monitoring elders</td>
<td>COM</td>
<td>PART TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Fesal Baxhaku</td>
<td>Engineering emergence in artificial distributed systems for enabling monitoring networks for health care systems</td>
<td>COM</td>
<td>PART TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Flaka Ismaili</td>
<td>Understanding adaptive and resilient entrepreneurial behaviors in SME’s:Lessons from turbulent business environment</td>
<td>MGT</td>
<td>FULL TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ardian Syla</td>
<td>Fiscal Policy and its effect on Kosovo’s economic growth</td>
<td>MGT</td>
<td>PART TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Kushtrim Zeqiri</td>
<td>The impact of Foreign Direct Investment on exports and economic growth in South-eastern European Countries. An empirical investigation</td>
<td>TRP</td>
<td>PART TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Fatbardha Osmani</td>
<td>Language Comprehension Skills and executive functions in children</td>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>PART TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Linda Tahiri-Rukiqi</td>
<td>The Effects of Real Sector Structural Reforms on the Economic Performance of Kosovo</td>
<td>MGT</td>
<td>PART TIME</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4 DSC 2013 & DSC 2014

Like every year, the last two years, the 8th and the 9th Annual Doctoral Student Conferences took place in early September. In both years, the audience of the conference expanded beyond the boundaries of South East Europe confirming the need for Doctoral Students to come together, discuss their experiences and gain external feedback to their work as well as listen to the progress and methodology of fellow PhD candidates.

The 8th Annual South East European Doctoral Student conference took place on 16-17 September 2013 and more than 40 papers were presented while two workshops took place, one on “Successful Intergenerational Learning in Enterprises: Demonstration of the DIGL tool” presented by Dr. Ana Vivas, Head of the Psychology Department of the International Faculty and Dr Antonia Ypsilanti, Lecturer at the Psychology Department, and one on “Public Engagement and Impact of PhD Researchers” presented by Dr. Tim Vorley, Dr. Robert Wapshott from the Management School of The University of Sheffield. The conference was opened with the key note speech by Assist. Prof. Panagiotis D. Bamidis, School of Health Services, Department of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki on “Silvergaming for body and mind health: neuroscientific principles, software design, pilot deployment and commercialization”.

Next year, on 25-26 September 2014, the 9th Annual South East European Doctoral Student conference took place in Thessaloniki like every year. This year During the two-day conference more than 50 papers were presented while two workshops took place, one on “Systematic Literature Review – Meta Analysis” presented by Dr. Elissavet Chrysochoou and Mr. Giorgos Pavlidis, and one on “How to publish in a quality journal” presented by Prof. Panayiotis H. Ketikidis and Dr. Anastasios Karamanos. The keynote speech was delivered by Professor David Oglethorpe, Dean of the Management School of The University of Sheffield on "Resisting carbon-mania: Keeping socially-responsible business priorities balanced."

2.5 Other Academic Activities

Throughout the two years, 2013 & 2014 SEERC continued the organization of research seminars in the frame of Open Seminar Series and Research Student Seminars. (For a full list of the SEERC seminars, see Appendix).
NETWORKING & DISSEMINATION

2.6 Events Organised by SEERC

**March 28, 2014:** SEERC, in the frame of VIBE project together with Technopolis, organized a workshop on "Venture Capital Opportunities in Southeast Europe: From idea to profit", in Thessaloniki.

**April 11-12, 2013:** SEERC, in the frame of the WBC-INCO.Net project coorganised together with the Mihajlo Pupin Institute in Serbia and the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) in Austria, a workshop on Smart Specialization in Belgrade, Serbia.

**May 21-22, 2013:** SEERC as an official supporting partner to the Balkan Venture Forum together with the Balkan Unilimited, organize the Balkan Venture Forum, the largest venture capital and private equity investment forum in the region created to facilitate access to finance, to improve investor readiness, to catalyse innovation for Balkans’ Region Business community and to foster entrepreneurship development. The second forum took place in Sofia, Bulgaria.

**June 20-21, 2013:** SEERC in cooperation with Istanbul Sehir University in Turkey, The University of Sheffield and the International Faculty of The University of Sheffield, CITY College organised the 6th International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Regional Development 2013 (ICEIRD 2013), that took place in Istanbul Sehir University, Turkey.

**September 16-17, 2013:** 8th Annual South East European Doctoral student conference, Thessaloniki, Greece.

**September 19-21, 2013:** SEERC in cooperation with the Greek Computer Society, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki -Informatics Dept., International Faculty of The University of Sheffield, University of Macedonia - Applied Informatics Dept. and A.T.E.I. of Thessaloniki - Information Technology Dept. organized the Pan-Hellenic Conference on Informatics Thessaloniki.

**November 14-15, 2013:** SEERC as an official supporting partner to the Balkan Venture Forum together with the Balkan Unilimited, organize the Balkan Venture Forum, the largest venture capital and private equity investment forum in the region created to facilitate access to finance, to improve investor readiness, to catalyse innovation for Balkans’ Region Business community and to foster entrepreneurship development. The forum took place in Tirana, Albania.

**November 23-24, 2013:** SEERC was the leader organizer of the 4th conference in the 'English in Europe’ series in Thessaloniki. The aim of the conference was to gain a
comparative understanding of the debates surrounding the role of English as a lingua franca in the South-East Europe and Balkan region and to explore in what ways ELF functions and is visible within these geographical locations.

2014

February 24, 2014: SEERC, together with hemonoe Lab, The International Faculty of TUoS-City College, the Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace, the Innovation zone, The Greek International Business Association (SEVE) and the federation of Industries of Nothern Greece (FING), organized a conference on Triple Helix: “Triple Helix and Smart Specialization: The Next Generation Entrepreneurship in Central Macedonia”, in Thessaloniki.

March 21, 2014: SEERC and Singular Logic in Athens, organized in the frame of RELATE, Marie Curie ITN project an Open Excellence Workshop: “Management and quality control in service-based software” at the premises of Singular Logic company in Athens.

May 15 – 16, 2014: SEERC as an official supporting partner to the Balkan Venture Forum together with the Balkan Unilimited, organize the Balkan Venture Forum, the largest venture capital and private equity investment forum in the region created to facilitate access to finance, to improve investor readiness, to catalyse innovation for Balkans’ Region Business community and to foster entrepreneurship development. The third forum took place in Jahorina, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

May 27 – 28, 2014: For two days, Thessaloniki became a meeting point between SMEs, professional experts, corporate partners and venture capital investors, interested in knowledge-sharing on strategic information, market opportunities and new business trends in the Mobile & Mobility industry. SEERC together with ATLANTIS Research Organization, and Co-supported by Europe Unlimited, the International Faculty of The University of Sheffield - CITY College, VIBE and EUHUB organised the MOBIP Investment and Partnering Forum 2014, at NOESIS centre in Thessaloniki.

June 5 – 6, 2014: SEERC in cooperation with the University of Cyprus and the International Faculty of The University of Sheffield, CITY College organised the 7th International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Regional Development 2014 (ICEIRD 2014), that took place in Nicosia, in Cyprus.

September 2-4, 2014: SEERC, together with The University of Sheffield and SINTEFF organise the “Cloud Service Brokerage – Towards the Multi-Cloud Ecosystem colocated with the 3rd European Conference on Service-Oriented and Cloud Computing (ESOCC 2014) in Manchester.


November 12 – 13, 2014: SEERC as an official supporting partner to the Balkan Venture Forum together with the Balkan Unilimited, organize the Balkan Venture Forum, the largest venture capital and private equity investment forum in the region created to facilitate access to finance, to improve investor readiness, to catalyse innovation for Balkans’ Region Business community and to foster entrepreneurship development. The fourth forum took place in Nova Gorica, Slovenia.

3 SEERC INTERNAL NEWS

SEERC 2004-2014: 10 years of research excellence and challenges: Celebrating the 10th anniversary of SEERC at Sheffield.

SEERC has been established as a legal entity on February 6, 2004. During the year 2014 SEERC celebrates a decade of continuous presence and research activity in the South East European region. To honor this landmark we hold a “SEERC Awareness Week” on November 18-21, 2014 at Sheffield. The week culminated on Friday, November 21st 2014, with a keynote address delivered by Prof. Kevin Featherstone, Eleftherios Venizelos Professor of Contemporary Greek Studies, Director of the Hellenic Observatory, London School of Economics, on “The Balkan State Tradition and the Challenges for Europe”.

![Image of SEERC team members holding a book]
15th Steering Committee Meeting (2013)

The 15th Steering Committee meeting took place at The University of Sheffield on November 25, 2013. Professor Tony Payne Chaired the meeting, Professor Panos Ketikidis, Mr. Nikos Zaharis, Dr. Elisavet Chrysochoou, Dr. Anastasios Karamanos and Dr. George Eleftherakis participated from SEERC and The International Faculty of TUoS, CITY College and from TUoS, Mr. Greg Morgan, Dr. Tony Simons, Dr. Tim Vorley, Dr. Nick Williams, Dr. Chris Jones and Dr. Stacey Lavda participated.

16th Steering Committee Meeting (2014)

Within the context of the 10 Year SEERC celebrations, the 16th Steering Committee meeting took place also, at The University of Sheffield on November 20, 2014. Professor Tony Payne Chaired the meeting, Professor Panos Ketikidis, Mr. Nikos Zaharis, Dr. Dimitrios Nikolaidis, Dr George Eleftherakis, Dr Ana Vivas, Ms Anna Sotiriadou and Ms Paschalia Patsala participated from SEERC and The International Faculty of TUoS, CITY College and from TUoS, Mr. Tom Rhodes, Dr Nick Williams, Dr Tony Simons, Dr Stacey Lavdas, Dr Cris Jones and Dr Greg Morgan participated. Special mention was made for the 10th Anniversary of SEERC, celebrating 10 years of progress and challenges. SEERC should keep research impact as its major focus and also important aspects that we should pay attention are, the engagement of students in research, network sustainability and target alterantive sources of funding. Anew business plan for the next five years should be prepared for 2015 Steering Committee meeting.

3.1 New Staff @ SEERC

2013

Dr. Jose Maria Alvarez works at SEERC as Marie Curie-ER (Postdoctoral) within the RELATE-ITN FP7 project researching in “Quality Management in Service-based Systems and Cloud Applications”. Dr. Jose Maria Alvarez Rodríguez is Master of Computer Science (2007) and Bachelor of Computer Science (2005) by the University of Oviedo. In June 2008 he was rewarded with the “Best Final Degree Project in Computer Science” by the Official Association of Computer Engineers of Asturias (Spain) thanks to this project “Activation of concepts in ontologies through the Spreading Activation Technique”. He has participated in more than 15 research projects in different competitive programmes.

Mr. Kleanthis Mokios works at SEERC as a Research Associate participating in the research project “Broker@Cloud” (European Commission FP7 Programme). Kleanthis Mokios holds a Diploma in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, a Master in Research degree in Electronic and Computer Engineering from Technical University of Crete and a Master of Science
degree in Information Technologies from Athens Information Technology. He has obtained research experience working at Telecommunications Systems Institute in Chania, Crete as well as software development experience working as a Java EE engineer for several years. His current research interests are in the areas of Cloud Computing and Semantic Web technologies.

**Dr. Simeon Veloudis,** works at SEERC as a Research Associate participating in the research project “Broker@Cloud” (European Commission FP7 Programme). Dr Symeon Veloudis holds a BSc and a PhD degree in Computer Science from the University of Reading. He has been employed for several years as a lecturer at various educational institutions. He has a number of publications in related conferences and journals and his research interests lie in the realms of formal security modelling, in cloud computing, and in real-time safety critical systems.

**Dr. Aristea Ladas,** is a Research Associate at SEERC, working on the ELIEMENTAL project. Dr. Ladas completed her PhD in 2013, in the University of Sheffield, on the phenomenon of bilingualism and its effects on attention processes. She was a research assistant and a scientific coordinator in the Long Lasting Memories project (European Commission) for three years, as well as a researcher in other projects funded by the European Commission (e.g. DISCOVER, USEFIL). Moreover, she has worked with children with autism and learning difficulties on a daily basis for three years. She also delivers lectures at City College, the Psychology Department. She is a Graduate Member of the British Psychological Society (BPS), as well as a Member of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Student Chapter.

**Mr. Andreas Baresel-Bonfinger,** works at SEERC as a Research Associate participating in the research projects “VIBE” and “ICT2B”. He has studied French, law, philosophy, business administration and economics at the Institut Catholique in Paris, the Eberhard-Karls University in Tübingen, the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University, and CITY College, International Faculty of the University of Sheffield. He holds an MSc in Information Systems and is currently pursuing a part-time PhD in Green Supply Chain Management at SEERC, the South-East European Research Centre in Thessaloniki. His papers have been presented at national and international conferences. He is managing partner of Wilhelm Bofinger GmbH & CoKG. He held the position of coordinator of European projects at SEPVE, the Association of IT Companies of Northern Greece. Later he worked as management consultant at the Incubator of Technopolis Thessaloniki ICT Business Park. He has been teaching supply chain management and IT for business at CITY College.

2014

**Mr. Adrian Solomon,** is a research associate working on several research projects and a team member in writing new research proposals for acquiring funding. Mr Solomon holds a first class degree in Computer Science from the University of Sheffield International Faculty, CITY College. Currently he is pursuing a part time PhD at SEERC in Green Logistics and Supply Chain Management, registered at the
Management School at TUoS. His past working experience focuses on business modelling solutions for organizations.

**Mr Ioannis Arampatzis**, holds an MSc in Computing Science from the Free University of Brussels (Belgium) and a BSc in Computer Science from the Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki (Greece). Before joining SEERC as a Research Associate under the Marie Curie Initial Training Network ‘RELATE’ in 2014, he had worked in the software industry in Greece for several years. His research interests lie in the area of Cloud Computing, Service-Oriented Computing and Semantic Web.

**Mr Isaak Kavasidis**, holds an MSc and a BSc in Computer Engineering from the University of Catania (Italy). Before joining SEERC as a Research Associate under the Marie Curie Initial Training Network ‘RELATE’ in 2014, he had worked as a researcher at the University of Catania for several years. His research interests lie in the area of Computer Vision, Pattern Recognition and Semantic Web.

**Mr Christos Petsos**, works as a Research Associate at SEERC. He holds a Degree in Applied Informatics from the University of Macedonia and a MSc in Software Engineering from the University of Sunderland. Christos Petsos has worked as a Software Engineer in several EU-funded projects since 2006. His main research interests fall within the domains of Object-Oriented Software Engineering Theory, Cloud Computing, Text Mining and Information Retrieval.

4 **Priorities for the next two years**

The year 2015 marks the end of SEERC’s second multiannual business plan. Since 2010 the Center focused its activities on the eight priorities set by the 2010-2015 business plan. Now it is time to review the successes, contemplate on shortcomings and move forward with a new Business plan for the years 2016-2020. This business plan will be presented within 2015 to the SEERC Steering Committee and will be informed by:

- the Europe 2020 strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and its adaptation in Greece and the rest of the South East European Countries (both EU members and EU candidate countries);
- new developments in the Western Balkans including the EU membership of Croatia and the continuation of the EU accession talks of the rest of the candidate countries;
- the University of Sheffield 2020 goals as outlined at the “Shaping our Research Future” document;
- the continuation of the financial crisis (especially in Greece) its consequences and the possibilities of a variety of responses;
- the changing environment of externally funded research in Greece and in Europe;
the developments of the innovation ecosystem in the area and

the research results, aspirations and strategies of the various groups of researchers from the International Faculty and the other faculties of the University of Sheffield that use SEERC as a platform for research in South East Europe.

In the next two years SEERC will focus its funded research efforts on making a successful transition to the new funding mechanisms under the Europe 2020 and Innovation Union strategies, including the relevant local frameworks. We expect to compete on new research and innovation challenges outlined by H2020, Erasmus+ and the new Territorial cooperation programs as well as to focus on national, local and private sources of research funding.

We want to continue contributing to the start-up, innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem of the area, by:

- organising major events through our ICT2B and STARTIFY7 projects which we are aiming to become sustainable self-funded events;
- our support for local and regional initiatives like the SUPERFOUNDERS Balkan accelerator and the THESS-SMART Innohub;
- our support for grass-roots initiatives that focus on bringing together experts, practitioners and would-be entrepreneurs from various sectors and disciplines

In parallel we are aiming at cooperating and synchronizing our start-up support activities with the European Institute of Technology EIT Digital initiative.

We will further strengthen our Doctoral Program Procedures in cooperation with the Doctoral Academy of the University, aiming at an enhanced student experience, high quality recruits and graduates and a truly engaging and challenging academic environment.

We will particularly look to expand our research in the causes, effects and responses of the current economic crisis, building upon our initiative for research on "The Political Economy of Crisis in Southern Europe: Greece, Spain and Turkey"

We will aim to enhance the impact of our research and expand the public engagement activities in cooperation with the Departments at the International Faculty and the other faculties of the University of Sheffield.

Finally, we are looking forward at reengineering and revitalizing our main advising body: the International Advisory Board, by bringing in new members from the South East European region and adopting more flexible procedures for gaining their insights and guidance.
5 Appendix:

5.1 Publications per Research Track

Research Track 1: Enterprise, Innovation and Development

2013


Cvetanovski, I., & Kapoulas, A. (2013). CRM performance optimization and customer base augmentation through innovation and building strong affective commitment with customers vis-a-vis behavioral commitment. In South East European Doctoral Student Conference.


2014


Baresel-Bofinger, A., Ketikidis, P. H., Zaharis, N., & Kandiliari, F. (2014). Fostering cross-border early stage funding for innovative SMEs in the region of South-East Europe: The case of the VIBE project. In 7th International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development. Nicosia, Cyprus.


Research Track 2: Information and Communications Technology

2013


2014


Research Track 3: Society and Human Development: Psychology, Politics, Sociology, and Education

2013


2014


Karvounis, A., & Zaharis, N. (2014). Greece and EU structural funds: what do the choices made by Greece regarding the allocation of structural funds over the past 3


PLEASE NOTE that these lists might be incomplete since the publications database is continuously updated. For a last update please follow the link below:

5.2 Open Seminar Series

**January 16, 2013:** “Cognitive Flexibility Across the Life-span” delivered by Dr Dan Carroll, Department of Psychology, The University of Sheffield.

**February 18, 2013:** “How large should a pilot trial be?” delivered by Dr Dawn Teare, Senior Lecturer in Genetic Epidemiology, at ScHARR, The University of Sheffield.

**February 19, 2013:** “Bulgaria on the path of growing knowledge based economy” delivered by Dr. Evgeni Evgeniev, Assoc. Prof. Dean, VUZF University.

**February 22, 2013:** “Towards a Pan-European E-Procurement Platform to aggregate, publish, and search public procurement notices powered by Linked Open Data: The Moldeas Approach” delivered by Dr. Jose Maria Alvarez Rodriguez, Marie Curie Experienced Researcher (Postdoctoral) at SEERC.

**March 22, 2013:** “Physics, Computation and the Nature of Observation” delivered by Dr. Mike Stannett, Department of Computer Science, The University of Sheffield.

**October 21, 2013:** “Challenges and Delights: Cross-disciplinary research in the EU and health law”, delivered by Prof. Tamara Hervey, School of Law, The University of Sheffield.

**December 18, 2013:** “Specification, Verification and Testing of Hybrid Conventional/Unconventional Computing Systems” delivered by Dr. Mike Stannett, Department of Computer Science, The University of Sheffield.

**January 20, 2014:** “Energy poverty in Europe: Underlying dynamics and characteristics” delivered by Prof. Stefan Bouzarovski, Professor of Geography at the School of Environment and Development at the University of Manchester and Director of the Centre for Urban Resilience and Energy and Dr. Saska Petrova, Lecturer at the School of Environment and Development at the University of Manchester and Research Co-ordinator of the Centre for Urban Resilience and Energy.

**February 12, 2014:** “Positive Dyslexia: Working to our Strengths” delivered by Prof. Rod Nicolson, Dept. of Psychology, The University of Sheffield.

**February 12, 2014:** “God, do I have your attention? How religion affects cognition and action” delivered by Prof. Bernhard Hommel, Dept. of Psychology, Leiden University, The Netherlands.
February 18, 2014: “The Uncanny Valley: what it is, why it matters and how we might be able to avoid it” delivered by Prof. Roger Moore, Dept. of Computer Science, The University of Sheffield.


March 4, 2014: “Modelling, specification and verification. Why do we need them?” delivered by Dr. Marian Gheorghe, Dept. of Computer Science, The University of Sheffield.

March 10, 2014: “Young driver risk-taking: Measurement, Development and Intervention” delivered by Dr. Richard Rowe, Dept. of Psychology, The University of Sheffield.

March 27, 2014: “Solutions for Technology Enabled Resilient Green Freight Transportation” delivered by Mr Adrian Solomon, PhD student, MGT School, The University of Sheffield.

April 8, 2014: “Patterns of blended information behaviour in Second Life” delivered by Ms Sheila Webber, Senior Lecturer, Information School, Director of the Centre for Information Literacy Research, The University of Sheffield.

June 6, 2014: “Spike-Based Reinforcement Learning in Continuous State and Action Space: Modelling the Morris Watermaze navigation task” delivered by Dr. Eleni Vasilaki, Dept. of Psychology, University of Sheffield.

June 27, 2014: “Model-based Testing in Practice” delivered by Dr. Anthony Simons, Dept. of Computer Science, The University of Sheffield.

September 23, 2014: “Interdisciplinary Tales from the Environment & Behaviour Research Group (EBRG)” delivered by Dr. Christopher R. Jones, Dept. of Psychology, The University of Sheffield.

November 4, 2014: “Robots and eldercare: the ethical issues” delivered by Dr. Amanda Sharkey, Dept. of Computer Science, The University of Sheffield.

December 18, 2014: “Modelling and verification. A case study from synthetic biology” delivered by Dr. Marian Gheorghe , Dept. of Computer Science, The University of Sheffield.
5.3 Research Student Seminars

August 27, 2013: “An introduction to the revolting shelf” delivered by PhD student Mr Philip Powell, visitor from TUoS.

11 July, 2013: “Management and policy issues emerging from the use of information technology (IT) in health care delivery: Investigation of national readiness for electronic health record system” delivered by PhD student Mr Tomi Dimitrovski.

April 15, 2013: “High performance work systems and organizational performance in multinational subsidiaries operating in the Balkan region. Theoretical perspectives and pilot testing” delivered by PhD student Ms Andreea Teodora.

April 3, 2013: “Engineering students’ Information Literacy perceptions and needs in the UK and Greece: A Literature Review” delivered by PhD student Ms Evi Tramantza.

March 22, 2013: “A self-adaptation framework to address evolution and change in service-based cloud environments” delivered by PhD student Mr Rustem Dautov.


February 15, 2013: “Social factors that influence cognitive decline with ageing” delivered by PhD student Mr George Pavlidis.

January 13, 2014: “Cross-platform development and deployment of cloud-based applications” delivered by PhD student Mr Fotis Gonidis.

January 29, 2014: “A knowledge based decision support system for resilient and green freight transportation: The case of South Eastern Europe” delivered by PhD student Mr Adrian Solomon.

March 10, 2014: “Self-affirmation and doping behavior” delivered by PhD student Dr Vassilis Barkoukis.

March 31, 2014: “An Emotional BDI Agent Model: The influential role of emotions to the perceptual and cognitive process” delivered by PhD student Mr Dionysios Basakos.

April 8, 2014: “A longitudinal comparative case study of Engineering students’ Information Literacy perceptions and needs in the UK and in Greece” delivered by PhD student Ms Evi Tramantza.
July 17, 2014: “Rearranging the puzzles of security in post-conflict democracies: a comparative study of the transformation and political integration of armed groups in Kosovo and FYR Macedonia” delivered by PhD student Mr Armend Bekaj.


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