The
University
Of
Sheffield.

International Faculty
CITY College.

South-East
European Research
Centre.

Annual Report 2016

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1   RESEARCH @ SEERC

1.1   Externally funded research projects update

Three new externally funded projects were approved for funding and kick started in 2016. Another four projects were successfully completed.

1.1.1   New Awards

ATSIV: Advancing the Third Sector through Innovation and Variation

ATSIV will impact in terms of: more skilled and socially aware adult NGO workers; enhanced quadruple helix co-creation and local/regional/national/EU level, increase of active citizenship, mitigation of the social groups at risk, boost of NGO job market, increased philantropy from quadruple helix stakeholders towards NGOs, cross-EU homogenous NGO innovation through co-creation, achievement of EU2020, EU Digital Agenda, EU Social Cohesion & active citizenship agenda, EU HE Modernisation/Internationalization Agenda, Digitalization of industries, EU directive on social entrepreneurship, etc.

iSTART: A Lean-Training, Innovative, Multidisciplinary Digital Entrepreneurship Platform

Currently, EU significantly lacks capacities of fostering digitally driven startups in true co-creation with all stakeholders. iSTART responds to this need by aiming to develop an innovative, evidence-based transnational framework that will markedly improve the knowledge and skills of academic institutions to produce more marked/startup oriented DEP curricula, reducing the barriers in this field. The project consortium comprises key academics, investors, incubators from different sectors who will co-create the envisaged DEP curriculum and will pilot it through an open innovation and co-creation virtual learning environment (VLE).

MIGRATE: CTRL+Enter Europe: Jean Monnet Migrant Crisis Network

The MIGRATE Jean Monnet network focuses on the 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 network 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.

1.1.2   Ongoing Research Projects (as of the end of December 2016)

	PROGRAMME	ACRONYM/FULL TITLE	COORDINATOR
1	Erasmus+	ATSIV: Advancing the Third Sector through Innovation and Variation	University of Peloponnese, Greece
2	Erasmus+	iSTART: A Lean-Training, Innovative, Multidisciplinary Digital Entrepreneurship Platform	Yasar Universitesi, Turkey
3	Jean Monnet Networks	MIGRATE: CTRL+Enter Europe: Jean Monnet Migrant Crisis Network	South East European Research Centre, Greece
4	Erasmus+ Strategic partnerships	NetMIB: Network of multidisciplinary ideation and business model generation	University of Pecs, Hungary
5	Erasmus+ Strategic partnerships	TrainERGY: Training for Energy Efficient Operations	University of Lodz, Poland
6	EU-INDIA	REINVEST: EU-India Research & Innovation Partnership for efficient and sustainable freight transportation	University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
7	Erasmus+ Strategic partnerships	HELPcare: Health and social care workers: Employability Learning and Professionalisation	University of Lancaster, United Kingdom
8	HoRIZON ICT07	PaaSword: A Holistic Data Privacy and Security by Design Platform-As-A-Service Framework Introducing Distributed Encrypted Persistence in Cloud-Based Application	CAS Software, Germany

1.1.3   Completed Research Projects in 2016

SEERC successfully completed four projects during 2016. Details on the completed projects are available in the table below:

	PROGRAMME	ACRONYM/FULL TITLE	COORDINATOR
1	HORIZON 2020 LEIT/ICT	STARTIFY7: A team-building thematically-focused and lean – training summer academy system for young future ICT entrepreneurs	University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

	PROGRAMME	ACRONYM/FULL TITLE	COORDINATOR
2	Erasmus+	KEEP ME SAFE IN EUROPE	Anglia Ruskin University, United Kingdom
3	7th Framework Programme – Capability, European Commission	HOMER: Homemade explosives (HMEs) and recipes characterisation	PNSI - Police Service of Northern Ireland, United Kingdom
4	Erasmus, Lifelong Learning programme	JEMMS: Joint European Masters In Search & Social Media Marketing	University of Salford, United Kingdom

1.2   Other Research Activities

1.2.1   Research Submissions

A total of 37 new research project proposals were submitted throughout 2016 to various funding bodies, including 12 at H2020, 11 at the Erasmus+ program, 5 at COST, and 3 at the Greece-Fyrom Cross-border co-operation. 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 4 of them were selected for funding.

1.2.2   Publications

A series of publications by SEERC staff and students were published in 2016. (An extensive list of publications is provided at the end of the report in the Appendix).

2   THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

2.1   Viva examinations

Five PhD & 1 MPhil candidates have undergone through Viva examination in 2016. The Viva examinations took place at SEERC. The PhD students and were awarded with 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 & MPhil viva examination that took place in 2016 are provided in the list below:

PhD Candidate	PhD Topic	External Examiner	Affiliation
Mr Fotis Gonidis	A framework enabling the cross-platform development of service-	Professor Keith Jeffery	Honorary/visiting Professor at University of Cardiff,

PhD Candidate	PhD Topic	External Examiner	Affiliation
	based cloud applications		Heriot Watt University and Masaryk University, Brno, CZ
Mr Rustem Dautov	EXCLAIM framework: a monitoring and analysis framework to support self-governance in Cloud Application Platforms	Dr Steffen Zschaler	King's College London Department of Informatics
Mr Giovanni Serafini	Comprehending HRM Policies and Practices in the Multinational Firm within the Hotel Industry: Explaining Variety and Commonality in Countries of Domicile - Evidence from Developed Economies and the Transitional Periphery	Professor David Collings	DCU Business School Dublin City University
Mr Adrian Solomon	A Quintuple Helix Framework for the Implementation of Resilient and Green Road Freight Transportation in South East Europe	Professor Vicky Manthou	Department of Applied Informatics, University of Macedonia, Greece
Mr Andreas Baresel-Bofinger	Implementation of Innovative Green Management Methods in the Supply Chain: The Case of the Greek Manufacturing Sector	Professor Maro Vlachopoulou	Department of Applied Informatics, University of Macedonia
MPhil Candidate	**MPhil Topic**	**External Examiner**	**Affiliation**
Mr Konstantinos Rousis	Disciplined Exploitation of Emergent Properties	Dr Ilias Sakellariou	Department of Applied Informatics, University of Macedonia

2.2 Confirmation Review Process

February 9, 2016: The PhD status of SEERC's student Ms Tanja Kuzman, (Full time student) registered with the Management School, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

February 23, 2016: The PhD status of SEERC's student Mr Petros Gkolitsis, (Full time student) registered with the Department of Economics, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

February 23, 2016: The PhD status of SEERC's student Mr Petros Gkolitsis, (Full time student) registered with the Department of Economics, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC

February 24, 2016: The PhD status of SEERC's student Mr Fesal Baxhaku, (Part time student) registered with the Computer Science Department, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

March 31, 2016: The PhD status of SEERC's student Mr Bujar Gallopeni, (Part time student) registered with the Department of Psychology, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC

April 15, 2016: The PhD status of SEERC's student Ms Linda Tahiri-Rukiqi, (Part time student) registered with the Management School, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

July 12, 2016: The PhD status of SEERC's student Mr Bekim Kasumi, (Part time student) registered with the Information School, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

July 15, 2016: The PhD status of SEERC's student Mr Edon Mustafa, (Part time student) registered with the Computer Science Department, has been successfully confirmed at the Confirmation Review Process that took place at SEERC.

2.3   Call for Doctoral Applications 2016-2017

New Admissions

A new Call for applications to the SEERC Doctoral Programme for the academic year 2016-2017 was published in April 2016 and resulted to the following recruits:

Name	Country	Topic	Mode of Study
Ms Alexandra Laketa		Cognitive correlates of bilingualism throughout the life-span	FULL TIME
Ms Arvesa Studenica	KOSOVO	Does the bilingual advantage with respect to the Theory of Mind continue in	FULL TIME

Name	Country	Topic	Mode of Study
		adulthood? The case of Greek-Albanian speakers	

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 2 scholarships for PhD studies at SEERC for 2016-2017.

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

Name	Topic	Dept.	Mode of Study
Mr Drilon Lajci	Decoding employee voice in countries of crisis SEE region: New models of understanding and development	MNG	FULL TIME
Mr Delfin Planna	Implementation of economic and commercial diplomacy in the Western Balkans - multidisciplinary study of commercial diplomacy policies and practices in Albania and Kosovo	POL	PART TIME

2.4 Young Researchers' Skills Development Week 2016

The 1st Young Researchers' Skills Development Week took place on 19-21 May 2016 in Thessaloniki. The 1st YRW hosted several research workshops filling the identified gap in PhD students' skills enhancement. From the next year it is scheduled to combine both PhD skills' development workshop and a Doctoral Conference continuing the Annual Doctoral Conference that took place at SEERC the last 10 years.

2.5 Other Academic Activities

Throughout 2016 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

January 22, 2016: SEERC as a supporting partner to the AgriEntrepreneurship team hosted their workshop on "Agri-Accelerator & Promotion of Entrepreneurialism in the Agricultural sector"

March 30, 2016: SEERC as a supporting partner to the AgriEntrepreneurship team hosted their workshop on "Products of Greek Agriculture with added value"

March 31, 2016: SEERC and the International Faculty of the University of Sheffield, CITY College in cooperation with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the Navarino Network organized the Symposium: European Migrant Crisis: Challenges of a fragmented corridor that took place at Electra Palace, Thessaloniki.

May 19-21, 2016: SEERC organized the Young Researchers' Skills Development Week at L. Sofou building.

June 5-7, 2016: SEERC co-organised along with the International Faculty of the University of Sheffield CITY College, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, in cooperation with the Faculty of Security of St. Clement of Ohrid University, a regional student conference on the topic: "Migration in the Balkans: Common Security Challenges and Ways to Cope with the Prolonged Crisis" in Skopje and Gevgelija, FYROM.

July 4-15, 2016: SEERC hosted in Thessaloniki a two-week startup Academy focused on Digital Transportation. The academy has been co-organised by the Hellenic Institute of Transport. The Summer Academy was organised within the frame of Startify7 project, funded by the European Commission and part of the StartUp Europe initiative.

September 21, 2016: SEERC & the International Faculty of the University of Sheffield, CITY College co-organize the very important conference on cluster development 'VII Balkan & Black Sea Conference DAYS OF CLUSTERS 2016'. Within the conference our director Mr. Zaharis and Dr Szamosi are presenting under the session 'Understanding the cross-clusters interactions in the economic structure of the global economy'.

September 21, 2016: SEERC organizes a multiplier event of the 'Keep me Safe in Europe' project where the new e-learning game that was constructed in the frame of the project was presented as a workshop.

October 18, 2016: SEERC as a supporting partner to the AgriEntrepreneurship team hosted their workshop on "Starting a new online business"

October 20-21, 2016: SEERC hosted the Semantic and Social Media Adaptation and Personalization (SMAP) workshop which is the evolution of the Semantic Media Adaptation and Personalization initiative, which was founded during the summer of 2006 in an effort to discuss the state of the art, recent advances and future perspectives for semantic media adaptation and personalization. .

October 22, 2016: SEERC in cooperation with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Navarino Network organized the "5th Thessaloniki International Symposium in World Affairs" that took place in Olympion, Thessaloniki

November 29, 2016: SEERC as a supporting partner to the AgriEntrepreneurship team hosted their workshop on "Benchmarks on agricultural products and food"

December 5, 2016: SEERC participated in the the kick-off Conference of MIGRATE project (MIGRATE: CTRL + EnterEurope: Jean Monnet Migrant Crisis Network), (project coordinated by SEERC), that took place at the Central European University in Budapest along with all partners

December 15, 2016: SEERC organized the dissemination event of HOMER, South East European Road Show Event: Collecting Data, Analysing Information and Managing Knowledge In The Fight Against Home Made Explosives (HMEs) that took place at L. Sofou building.

3 SEERC INTERNAL NEWS

18th Steering Committee Meeting (2016)

The 18th Steering Committee meeting took place on November 24, 2016 in Sheffield. Professor Tony Payne Chaired the meeting. Professor Panayiotis Ketikidis, Mr. Nikos Zaharis, Ms. Jo Purves, Dr Barry Dixon, Dr Chris Jones, Dr Mike Stannett, Dr Gabriel Ozon, Dr Pavlos Gkasis, Dr George Eleftherakis, Dr Efrosyni Kalyva and Dr Zoi Tatsioka took part in a discussion on future prospects of the Centre.

3.1 New Staff @ SEERC

Dr Pavlos Gkasis, is the new Research Track 1 Leader and participates in funded projects. a part time research associate working on several research projects. Dr Gkasis holds a PhD in Economics from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece, a MSc in International Business and Economic Development from The University of Reading Business School, Reading, UK and a
BA (Hons) in International and European Economic and Political Studies – 2003, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

Dr Alexandra Prodromidou, is a Research Associate. Dr Prodromidou holds a PhD in Russian Studies from the University of Birmingham, UK, a MA in Mediterranean Studies from the King's College London, UK and a BA (Hons) in International Relations in the School of European Studies with Italian from the University of Sussex, UK

Ms Eleni Tsimiga, executive secretary & Doctoral Programme Administrator. Ms Tsimiga holds a BA in Business Administration with concentration in Marketing and is finishing her MA in Counseling Psychology with Practicum. She speaks fluent English and has a basic knowledge of Norwegian. Her role within SEERC includes every day management of the office, secretarial support to the SEERC Director, administrative support to the Doctoral programme and to the core team. She is the point of contact for booking the audiovisual and conference facilities at SEERC.

4   Appendix:

4.1   Research Publications

Battini, D., Choudhary, A., Isolan, I., Shankar, R., Solomon, A., & Tiwari, M. K. (2016). Carbon Trading Systems in the international setting: analysis and critical comparison. In International Conference on Green Supply Chain, 10-13 July. London, UK

Ketikidis, P. H., Chikhladze, K., & Baresel-Bofinger, A. (2016). Early Stage Investment in Southeast Europe: Issues and Challenges. In Working Paper.

Ketikidis, P. H., Solomon, A., & Hajrizi, B. (2016). Focusing on the Triple Helix: a strategy for ensuring continuity and growth in crisis struck countries. In University Industry Interaction Conference, 1-3rd June. Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Nersisyan, L., Siavalas, F., Solomon, A., & Ketikidis, P. H. (2016). Digital social media marketing for entrepreneurs: boosting brand image and innovation potential. In 9th International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development, 23-24 June. Bucharest, Romania.

Siavalas, F., Bota, E., Solomon, A., & Ketikidis, P. H. (2016). Quintuple Helix Co-creation as a Pillar for Responsible (Environmentally and Socially) Entrepreneurship. In 9th International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development, 23-23 June. Bucharest, Romania.

Solomon, A., & Ketikidis, P. H. (2016). Empirical evidence for Quintuple Helix Co-Creation Towards Solving the Challenge of Low Carbon and Resilient Supply Chains under Innovative Theoretical Model Convergence. In XIV International Triple Helix Conference, 25-27 September. Heidelberg, Germany.

Solomon, A., Ketikidis, P. H., & Koh, S. C. L. (2016). Towards a new Theoretical Foundation Convergence as a Key Enabler of a Low Carbon Economy: Practical evidence for Quintuple Helix Co-Creation Towards Solving the Challenge of Low Carbon and Resilient Supply Chains. In 3rd International Conference on Green Supply Chain, 10-13 July. London, UK.

Thuemmler, C., Grigoriadis, N., Angelidis, P., Jefferies, N., Zhen, B., Kang, G., et al. (2016). White Paper: A New Generation of eHealth Systems Powered by 5G. European Commission - Digital Single Market / Wireless World Research Forum.

Zaharis, N., Tolias, Y., Sanopoulos, A., & Metaxas, M. (2016). Lessons from a cluster support intervention supported by the Structural Funds in Greece.. Ohrid, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Veloudis, S., & Nissanke, N. (2016). A Novel Permission Hierarchy for RBAC for Dealing with SoD in MAC Models. Comput. J., 59(4), 462–492.

Veloudis, S., & Paraskakis, I. (2016). Defining an Ontological Framework for Modelling Policies in Cloud Environments. In 2016 IEEE International Conference on Cloud Computing Technology and Science (CloudCom), Luxembourg City (pp. 277–284). IEEE Computer Society.

Veloudis, S., & Paraskakis, I. (2016). Ontological Templates for Modelling Security Policies in Cloud Environments. In Proceedings of the 20th Pan-Hellenic Conference on Informatics, PCI'16, November 10-12, Patra, Greece (pp. 1–6). ACM, New York, NY, USA.

Veloudis, S., Paraskakis, I., & Petsos, C. (2016). Validating Policies for Dynamic and Heterogeneous Cloud Environments. In Afsarmanesh H., Camarinha-Matos L., Lucas Soares A. (eds) Collaboration in a Hyperconnected World. PRO-VE 2016. IFIP Advances in Information and Communication Technology, vol 480 (pp. 506–517). Porto, Portugal: Springer International Publishing.

Veloudis, S., Verginadis, Y., Patiniotakis, I., Paraskakis, I., & Mentzas, G. (2016). Context-aware Security Models for PaaS-enabled Access Control. In Jorge Cardoso, Donald Ferguson, Víctor Méndez Muñoz, and Markus Helfert (Eds.) Proceedings 6th International Conference on Cloud Computing and Services Science (CLOSER 2016) Vol. 1 and 2, Rome, Italy, April 23-25(pp. 201–212). CITEPRESS - Science and Technology Publications.

Verginadis, Y., Patiniotakis, I., Mentzas, G., Veloudis, S., & Paraskakis, I. (2016). Data Distribution and Encryption Modelling for PaaS-enabled Cloud Security. In 2nd CloudSPD Workshop, Proceedings of the 8th IEEE International Conference on Cloud Computing Technology and Science, (CloudCom), Luxembourg City (pp. 497–502). IEEE Computer Society.

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

http://www.seerc.org/new/index.php/component/refbase/?Itemid=132

4.2 Open Seminar Series

July 5, 2015: *"Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning"* delivered by Dr Andrea Vlachos, Computer Science Department, The University of Sheffield.

4.3 Research Student Seminars

February 9, 2016: "Board turnover, political interference and ownership model: Are they important determinants of SOEs financial performance?" delivered by PhD Ms Tanja Kuzman

February 23, 2016: *"Interactions of monetary policies in SEEC in an EMU context. A Global VAR model"* delivered by PhD students Mr Petros Gkolitsis,

February 24, 2016: *"An adaptive data architecture for Artificial Distributed Systems focused on monitoring patients with chronic diseases through wireless sensor networks"* delivered by PhD student Mr Fesal Baxhaku.

March 31, 2016: *"The influence of cognitive, motivational and work-related factors in older adults' decision-making performance in the work place"* delivered by PhD student Mr Bujar Gallopeni.

April 15, 2016: "*The impact of institutions on export performance: the case of Kosovo"* delivered by PhD student Ms Linda Tahiri-Rukiqi,

July 12, 2016: "Impact of knowledge flows through formal and informal networks on innovation practice of multinational companies" delivered by PhD student Mr Bekim Kasumi

July 15, 2016: *"Socially Assistive Robots for caring and monitoring the elderly"* delivered by PhD student Mr Edon Mustafa,

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