

# BUANEWS

Balkan Universities Association E-Bulletin

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# **Balkan Universities Association**

## TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY OF VINE-GROWERS AND WINE-MAKERS TRIFON ZAREZAN AT THE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY - PLOVDIV

The Agricultural University - Plovdiv celebrated the holiday of vine-growers and wine-makers, known as Trifon Zarezan (Trifon the Pruner). It is also the official feast of the Faculty of Horticulture with Viticulture - a unique academic structure on the Balkans. The holiday is traditionally marked on 14th of February, on the edge of the winter going away and the coming spring, setting the beginning of the new agricultural season. There are many rituals performed to ensure prosperous and fruitful grape harvest, most of them dating back to Thracian times when remarkable wines spread the glory of our lands.

This year the Deputy Prime Minister, the Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Committee of Agriculture, the Deputy Regional Governor of Plovdiv District, the Mayor of Plovdiv Municipality, local authorities, rectors and business partners joined the academic staff and students of AU for the first pruning of vines on the University vineyards.

Prof. Dr. Hristina Yancheva, the Rector of the University, greeted the guests and announced the start of the 75th Anniversary celebrations. She congratulated the students and

staff of the Faculty of Horticulture with Viticulture on their professional day and presented the educational and research achievements of teachers and students throughout the year.

The tradition says that the strongest, healthy and generous man, who made the best wine of the year, is appointed the 'King of the Vineyards'. Engineer-technologist Lambrin Topuzliev was awarded the title 'The King 2020'. He addressed the colleagues and guests presenting the collection of over 450 cultivars and rootstocks on the University vineyards and the latest innovative research projects.

The University Winery, celebrating its Fifty Anniversary, is unique for experimental microvinification and production of boutique wines, possessing a rich collection of samples since its establishment. It is one of the 28 university cellars in the world, awarded a number of national and international prizes.

The pruning ritual was followed by Bulgarian folk dances, songs and traditional dishes, blessing that the more wine and food on the table on that day, the more generous the next harvest will be.



## ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH TEAM: iGEM THESSALONIKI'S GOLD MEDAL FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE INTERNATIONAL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED MACHINE COMPETITION, PRESENTING "POSEIDON"

iGEM Thessaloniki, is a multidisciplinary team of students of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki that participated in the widely known Synthetic Biology "iGEM" competition, which is held annually in Boston, U.S.A. The team presented the project "POSEIDON" and was rewarded with a gold medal for designing and experimentally proving their innovative idea. "POSEIDON", which stands for Programmable Orthogonal Systems Engineered Into DNA Oligo Networks, is a DNA Computer which can provide novel solutions to basic science puzzles by being able of quantifying DNA-Protein interactions. The team designed multilayer molecular circuits that examine a protein's properties and quantify its binding affinity towards a particular DNA sequence. The toolkit

focuses on the needs of basic research; the use of low-cost materials and the ever-growing demand in the clarification of molecular interplay. Through this assay, we are able to identify the sequence-specific binding site of DNA-binding proteins, as well as possible mutations or epigenetic modifications that are responsible for the dissociation of these interactions.

POSEIDON contributes to society by facilitating the work of the scientific community. By providing scientists with a universal and cost-effective method which can measure the binding affinity of a certain DNA sequence to a protein molecule or a Complex, iGEM Thessaloniki gives an extra tool for the study of diseases and the testing of drugs targeting specific proteins.



### **iGEM Thessaloniki's team members:**

Platon Megagiannis, Department of Medicine, AUTH

Sofia Moysiadou, Department of Biology, AUTH

Kristine Chanagkian, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Alexander Technological Institute of Thessaloniki

Kiriaki Karava, Department of Biology, AUTH

Apostolos-Stefanos Ioannidis, Department of Pharmacy, AUTH

Aliki Athanasiadou, Department of Physics, AUTH

Charalambos Malathounis, Department of Chemical Engineering, AUTH

Ioannis Maliouris, Department of Informatics, AUTH

### **iGEM Thessaloniki's Principal Investigators:**

Aivaliotis Michail, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, School of Medicine, AUTH

Mosialos Georgios, Professor, Department of Genetics, Development and Molecular Biology, School of Biology, AUTH

## THE EUROPEAN PROGRAM H2020 I-PROGNOSIS OF THE ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI WON THE 'AWARD FOR THE MOST INNOVATIVE PROJECT IN HEALTHY AGING' IN FRANCE

The European Program H2020 i-PROGNOSIS of AUTH won the 'Award for the Most Innovative Project in Healthy Aging' at the AgeingFit contest (<https://www.ageingfitevent.com/>) held in Nice, France. In the competition, which promotes innovation in the field of healthy aging, participated in more than 200 projects, and only 15 of them these were selected for presentation in the final phase in Nice.

The goal of the European i-PROGNOSIS project is to develop intelligent tools for timely detection of Parkinson's disease and innovative solutions for maintaining the quality of life of patients. As part of the project implementation, the Research Unit of the Processing Unit AUTH Lab and Biomedical Technology developed an application in which keystroke data is recorded and analyzed on a smart touch screen mobile phone, to separate healthy people from patients with Parkinson's disease. The data analyzed are related to keystroke rate and pressure when pressing keys, without the need to record the characters typed.

Published work (in English) <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-25999-0>

I-PROGNOSIS Project Website (English) <http://www.i-prognosis.eu/>

Information on the data collection study [http://www.i-prognosis.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/iPROGNOSIS\\_GDataStudy\\_PIS\\_Consent\\_GR.pdf](http://www.i-prognosis.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/iPROGNOSIS_GDataStudy_PIS_Consent_GR.pdf)

IPrognosis application <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.iprognosis.gdatasuite>

Diffusion material <http://www.i-prognosis.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/iPrognosis-App-PressKit.zip>



## SELFIE DAY AT THE MUSEUM HOSTED AT THE TROY MUSEUM

In order to increase interest in museums and ancient ruin locations throughout the world, the traditional "Selfie Day at the Museum," initiated three years ago, was held at the entrance of the ancient ruins in Çanakkale.

This year it was hosted at the Troy Museum, the finalist of Europe's 2020 Museum of the Year. To gain international recognition of Turkey's museums and increase knowledge of museums among people from

ages 7 to 77, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism this year organised through social media an award competition. For competition purposes, selfies taken at the museum were shared at #museumselfiedayturkey and #müzedeselfiegünü.

Among the "Selfie Day the Museum" participants was ÇOMÜ Vice President Bunyamin Bacak taking selfies and supporting the event.



**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE SUCCESS FROM İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY**

Istanbul University has ranked as the second among 82 universities of Turkey in the survey that is prepared by University Ranking Academic Performance (URAP) within METU Department of Informatics.

Istanbul University continues being science-oriented university with both national and international acquired successes. Getting prominent among the world universities, İstanbul University has shown the results of being a research university with scientific and academic studies by moving with the vision of a world university. İstanbul University that holds its historical and cultural accumulations to the future has achieved another success thanks to qualified education with the slogan "Science Bridge Connecting Past and Future".

In the ranking list where the world's best universities rank and which includes 82 universities from Turkey, İstanbul University has achieved the second rank in Turkey while ranking 582 among 2500 universities in the world.

In the world rank, China has ranked the first among 389 universities, USA has ranked the second among 352 universities and Japan has ranked the third among 141 universities. India has ranked the fourth among 137

universities and England has ranked the fifth among 105 universities in the list. Turkey has ranked the sixth among 82 universities after England.

Among the universities of Turkey, Hacettepe University has ranked 534, Istanbul Technical University has ranked 698, Middle East Technical University has ranked 706 and Ankara University has ranked 787.



## 10TH INTERNATIONAL BALKAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE (IBAC) WILL BE HELD IN ODESSA

International Balkan Annual Conferences (IBAC), launched by Istanbul University in 2011, continues to be held in a different Balkan country every year, in a Balkan city that stands out with its historical and cultural aspects. The tenth meeting of IBAC will be held between 15-17 October 2020 in Odessa, one of the most important port cities of Ukraine.

IBAC conferences, the first of which started in 2011 in Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, were regularly scheduled in Tirana (2012), Sarajevo (2013), Bucharest (2014), Sofia (2015), Belgrade (2016), Pristina (2017), Zagreb (2018) and lastly in Komrat, the capital of Gagauz Autonomous Region of Moldova. The tenth meeting of IBAC will be held between 15-17 October 2020 this year in Odessa, one of the most important port cities of Ukraine.

Aiming to address the Balkans from a wide range of social sciences, especially disciplines of history, culture, economy, cinema, communication, folklore, art, international relations, architecture, language and literature; IBAC conferences, which have adopted the common historical past, civilization and cultural heritage of the Balkan people as an important goal, trying to make a scientific contribution in strengthening the inter-communal relations in the Balkans in practice.

Rector of Istanbul University Prof. Dr. Mahmut Ak made a study visit to Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University on January 20, 2020. During Prof. Dr. Mahmut Ak's meeting with Rector of Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University Igor N. Koval, Vice Rector for International Relations. Dr. Sergiy F. Skorokhod, Head of the International Relations Office Dr. Viktor S. Grinevych, Head of the History of Ukraine Professor. Dr. Olena Bachynska, T.C. Odessa Consul General Sadin Ayyıldız and Istanbul University History Department Faculty Member Assoc. Dr. Metin Ünver was present. During the meeting, the history, academic structures, student profiles, educational and research objectives of the two universities and the ongoing and potential cooperation between the two universities were evaluated.

Rector of Istanbul University Prof. Dr. Mahmut Ak gave information to his counterpart about IBAC conferences and emphasized the importance of 10th IBAC conference to be held in Ukraine in terms of providing scientific contribution

to the relationship between Turkey and Ukraine and bringing a historical depth, and he gifted the books of previous IBAC conferences. Rector of Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University Prof. Dr. Igor N. Koval stated that he is pleased to cooperate with Istanbul University in a scientific event like IBAC, which has its own tradition. The conference was decided to be held between 15-17 October 2020. After the meeting, the university museum and anthropology laboratory in the Rectorate building were visited.

Prof. Dr. Mahmut Ak, visited T.C. Odessa Consul General Sadin Ayyıldız at his office within the scope of his visit. During the visit, the IBAC meeting to be held in October 2020 was discussed. Finally, Prof. Dr. Ak visited Yuriy Dimchoglo, the Second President of the Odessa District Council in his office. Prof. Dr. Ak shared information about IBAC conferences. The visit focused on more effective collaboration and partnership opportunities that the conference, which will be held in Odessa on October 15-17, will offer scientists of the two countries in the future.

Istanbul University conducts IBAC conferences in cooperation with the well-established and leading university of the country where the meeting will be held. Within the scope of this traditional practice, the 10th IBAC Conference will be carried out with the scientific cooperation of Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University. Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University, one of the leading higher education institutions of Ukraine, was founded in 1865. The university is named after Ilya Ilyich Mechnikov (1845-1916), who was a zoologist and microbiologist, and was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1908.

An important scientific output of IBAC conferences is the IBAC book series, which is published in English after the meetings. In this way, the books on the Balkans yesterday and the future are presented to the benefit of the world of science and the relevant people, including current reviews of scientists who are experts in their field. All scientists are invited to the conference and <https://ibac.istanbul.edu.tr/en/> can be applied for extensive information and communication. In addition, electronic copies of the books published so far are available at this address.



## OBSERVATORY OF İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY BRINGS ASTRONOMY TOGETHER WITH SOCIETY

İstanbul University Observatory Application and Research Center maintains the activities aiming astronomy related scientific events to be conveyed to all sections of the society alongside the scientific studies. Head of the center, Prof. Dr. Tolga Güver has given information about the establishment process of the center, activities and current studies.

The first observatory in İstanbul University was opened in 1933 upon Atatürk's request. The new building of center which was established in 1990 with the name of İstanbul University Observatory Research and Application Center was completed in 2013. Having got the name of İstanbul University Observatory Application and Research Center in 2014, the center includes Sun Observatory established in 1936, telescope called IST40 and observatory established in 2013 and a planetarium in the same building. Emphasizing that aim of the center is to support the need of telescope and astronomical equipment to the students and researchers in this field, Prof. Dr. Tolga Güver indicated that Observatory Application and Research Center is effectively used in the public education besides direct research.

### Cooperations with Important Establishments

Indicating that they are in cooperation with TÜBİTAK, NASA and European Space Agency, Prof. Dr. Güver has told: "Our 30 cm telescope was used for the night observations in 1933 when it came here. Because the light pollution really high in İstanbul, we use this telescope for the day observations

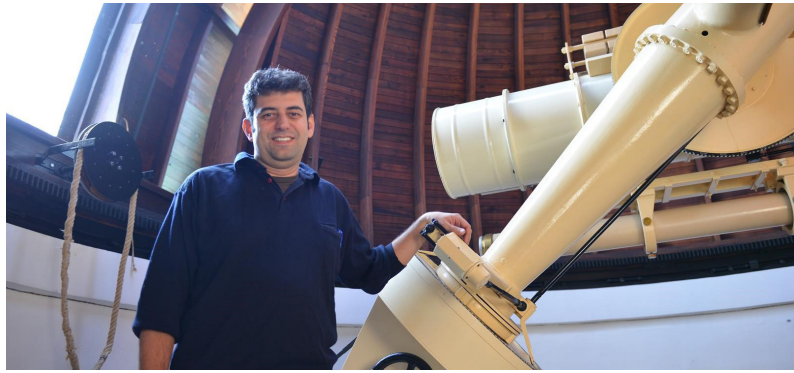
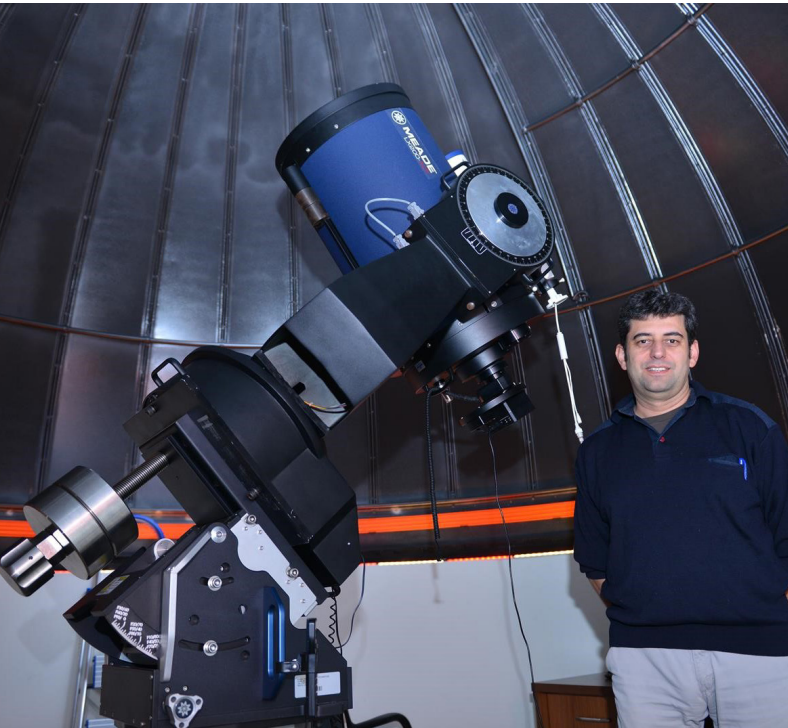
now. The bigger telescope which is used for the scientific purposes is in Çanakkale Ulupınar Astrophysics Observatory land within the scope of protocol with Çanakkale 18 Mart University.

### Observation Nights Are Held in the Last Friday of Each Month

To make scientific and social events to conventionalize in all parts of the society, Observation Nights are held in the last friday of each month since 2017. Prof. Dr. Güver used these statements: "We have established a planetarium by getting sponsored. We are screening films about astronomy for public and arranging events. We have also important collections. For instance, we have the collection of Wolfgang Gleissberg who gave astronomy lectures in İstanbul University. This collection includes telescopes and some tools from long ago. We are really happy to show all of these to our students and other people."

### "Our Telescope Has Been Modernized by the Support of Our Rectorateship"

Remarking that 30-cm telescope has been modernized by İstanbul University Rectorateship and in this way undergraduate and postgraduate students can observe at nights, Prof Dr. Güver has told that the students are seen as the part of center and it is important to support them via different sources.



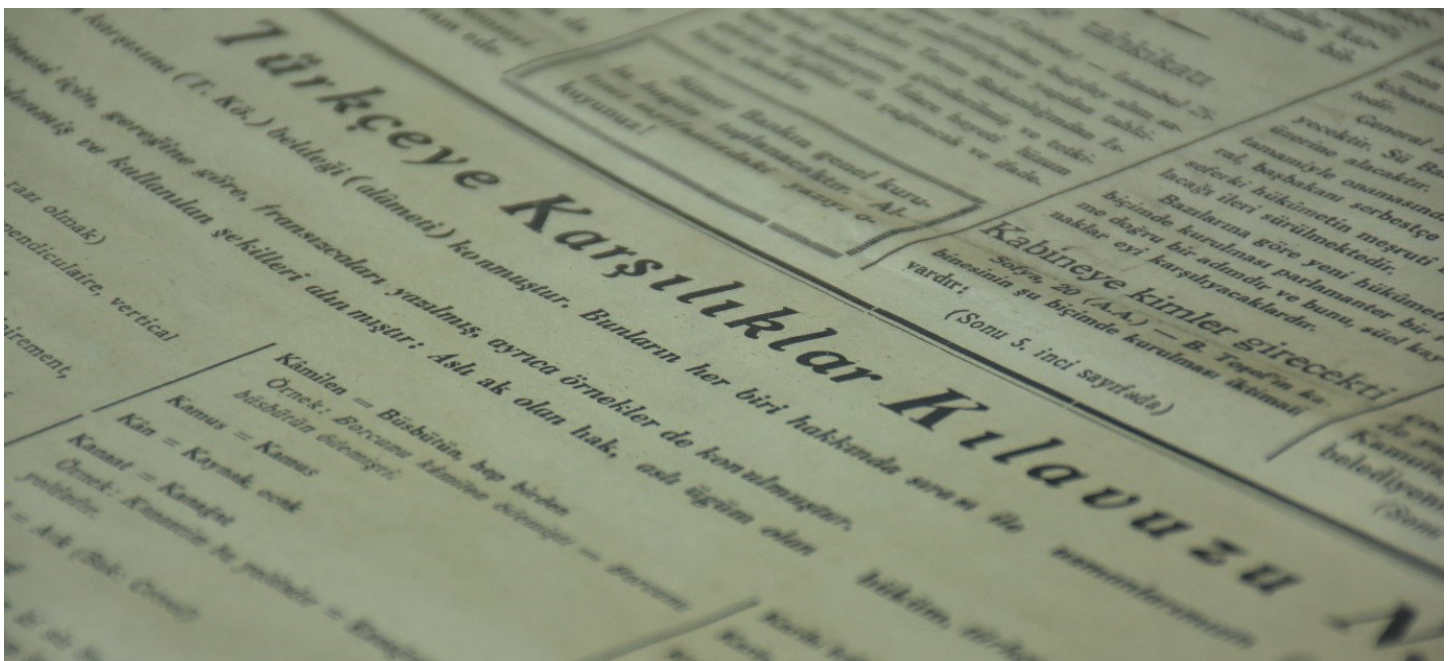
**THE PROJECT OF "A LOOK FROM NEWSPAPER TO HISTORY" IS GIVEN ACCESS**



**İU HEAD OFFICE OF LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION HAS GIVEN ACCESS TO 55 DIFFERENT LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS WHICH WERE PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1928-1942 WITHIN THE CONCEPT OF THE PROJECT OF THE "A LOOK FROM NEWSPAPER TO HISTORY".**

Besides its valuable and rich collections, İstanbul University's Central Library has maintained the feature of being an important library with service quality by being the only research university library. Various projects are carried out with the aim of protecting the rare works that belong to the collection of Central Library and Rare Books Library,

popularizing the use of these works, transferring cultural inheritance to future generations safely and national/international introduction by Head Office of Library and Documentation. One of the important projects has become the project of "A Look From Newspaper to History".



**RARE NEWSPAPERS ARE BROUGHT TO LIGHT**

There are 18.422 newspapers as a cultural treasure in the collection of Central Library. The newspapers are published in languages such as Ottoman Turkish, Romaic, Bulgarian, French, German, English and Turkish.

Covering two years of effort, the project of "A Look From Newspaper to History" was carried out with the aim of

conveying old newspaper archives with researchers via an integrated library automation system. Moreover, it is aimed to bring old precious newspapers to light with this project, bring them together by creating awareness, easy access for researchers to eligible newspapers, and to protect collection and transfer it to future generations.

**55 LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS ARE OPENED TO ACCESS**

In the context of the project of "A Look From Newspaper to History", scanned with OCR technique, 581.106 pages from 55 different newspapers published between 1928-1942 are opened to access of users on the integrated library automation system. The newspapers are still transferred to system within the scope of project.

To be able to access Integrated Library Automation System,  
<http://nek.istanbul.edu.tr:4444/ekos/GAZETE/>



## İSTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (İSTANBUL TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ - İTÜ)



Founded in 1773 with the name “Mühendishane-i Bahr-i Hümayun” (Imperial School of Naval Engineering) during the reign of Mustafa III, Istanbul Technical University is a prominent and pioneering university of engineering and architecture with many innovative studies in science, technology, research and development.

İTÜ, as a university mainly composed of graduate engineering schools and research laboratories, works closely in collaboration with enterprises and other economic and social partners. Our university facilitates the knowledge and technology transfer to industries, management centers, briefly to all society. To do this, İTÜ has established many technoparks, incubation centers, entrepreneurship and innovation center and technology transfer office. This way, İTÜ offers a favorable environment for students to build a successful career in their professions, to improve themselves, to seek internship opportunities and to conduct research projects.

Being a research university, the objective of İTÜ is handling problems at regional and global scale to be solved in fields,

generating new ideas, developing new perspectives and creating new values. It meets the needs of researchers with intelligent young minds that it has molded. On the other hand, it is leading research in many areas, turning them into prototypes and providing adequate conditions. As being a pioneer university, carried out many projects throughout its 240 years history, it has shown that it is a research university capable of competing globally with ongoing and future projects.

İTÜ aims to stimulate a global approach, steering for a global mindset. İTÜ upholds a strong commitment to take the scientific and technological advancement to further levels with peer institutions at the global scale. İTÜ provides its staff, students and partners with various international programs.

For further information and admission, please visit;

<http://global.itu.edu.tr/>

<http://www.sis.itu.edu.tr/eng/application/>



## IZU STUDENTS BECAME THE 2<sup>ND</sup> IN WORLD IN THE USA

Our students have achieved great success in the “American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME) Student Mechanisms and Robot Design” contest, that is organized internationally in the field of engineering in which many applications from different countries of the world have been made.

Harvard, Tsinghua, Yale students from the world's leading universities participated in the “American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME) Student Mechanisms and Robot Design” competition, which was held for the 43th time this year in the state of California, USA. İremnaz Çay, Sinem Sena Ertaş, Merve Bosna and Mustafa Bekir came together and competed in the final stage in this important competition

with the name of İZU Robotics GO4 team. The team gained the appreciation of the jury with their work “autonomous amphibious robot preventing marine pollution”. Youngsters of İZÜ went down in history as the first and only Turkish team competing in the final stage in the competition held for the 43rd time this year with the project they designed.

The final stage was held on August 18-21, 2019 in California, USA. Vice Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Under the consultancy of Faculty Member Gökhan Erdemir, İZU Robotics GO4 team won the second place in the world with the “Design and Implementation of Autonomous Amphibious Robot for Water Surface Cleaning” project.

## GREENMETRIC IN 2019 RANKING AMONG THE BEST 500 UNIVERSITIES OF THE WORLD

The best universities of 2019 were determined by UI GreenMetric, which evaluates the world's distinguished universities. Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, which has attracted attention with its recent activities, entered the list this year and took its place among the top 500 universities in the world.

The successful works of recent years with its natural wonder campus, experienced academic staff, classrooms with technological infrastructure and laboratories continue to increase the prestige of Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University. UI GreenMetric, which has an important place in the ranking of world universities, announced the 2019 list.

World's major universities are included in the ranking where universities are evaluated in the categories of sustainability, effective and efficient use of resources, infrastructure, energy, climate change, recycling, water resources, transportation, education and research.

With the library and laboratories ,which Zaim has, it takes firm steps towards creating a good research infrastructure, gives a good education integrated with history, civilization and nature, respects the environment, pays special attention to sustainability, focuses on recycling and energy saving, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, as a university that is on the way to develop awareness on the saving and waste of resources and assets that are entrusted to human beings on earth, has

managed to be among the top 500 in the world rankings as a young University with its works and performance. While İZU produces the necessary research infrastructure, science and technology for a sustainable future, it continues to pioneer works in these areas with its nature-friendly complex and campuses that increase the quality of life. . This year, the UI GreenMetric ranking, which has become more and more important in the World University Rankings in recent years, is alongside the respected Universities of the world from Asia, Europe and America this year it was eligible for a university from Turkey to enter universities ranking and included in the analysis.

### **The Success Belongs to my Esteemed Colleagues**

Drawing attention to the importance of the success achieved, our Rector. Dr. Mehmet Bulut, “This UI GreenMetric is the most important criterion for Sustainability in the world ranking. In addition, there are also criteria such as education, research, infrastructure, energy, adaptation to climate, waste, effective and efficient use of resources, etc. Recently, all administrative and Our work with our teammates in the academic team has an important place in achieving this successful outcome I congratulate all members of our Board of Trustees and all of our teammates who started to work hard in our team and I offer my sincere gratitude. In my opinion, our civilization we live in, in terms of value and future state of our world, this is actually one of the most important ranking in

the international arena. Turkey is one of the most important countries that can make an important contribution in this field. We hope that in the future more universities in Turkey are located in this area. Because first of all, our universities must be aware of the rapidly depleting natural resources and the danger that awaits our polluted world. Universities have responsibilities to guide society and the world. For this reason, in order to leave a more beautiful world to our young people,

to whom we will entrust future, we must take care of the existence of everyone, other than human, the environment, nature, in short, our future. For this country, we need to act together with a greater sense of responsibility for the next generation. As İZÜ, I would like to express that we will try to do our best together within the scope of this opportunity. I hope we will reach a much more beautiful and livable world and successes together. "

## IZU'S RECORD ATHLETE SERHAT BULUT BALKAN CHAMPION

Serhat Bulut, a student of Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Department of Physical Education and Sports Teaching, won the gold medal in the Balkan U20 Athletics Championship as a champion in the 60 meter in disability category.

At the Balkan Indoor Athletics Championship hosted by our country, National athletes made a strong impression. Ay-star youth, who achieved championship successively in men's branches, completed the fourth Balkan U20 championship with a medal record. Turkey has achieved successful results including 8 gold, 6 silver and 7 bronze medals at the championships with four-year history.

Serhat Bulut, one of the students of İZÜ Physical Education and Sports Teaching Department, became the

Balkan Champion with a score of 8.00 in the 60 meter in disability category and won the gold medal. Mehmet Muharrem Kasapoğlu, Minister of Youth and Sports, gave the award to Serhat Bulut.

Rector of İZÜ Dr. Mehmet Bulut received Balkan Champion student Serhat Bulut in his office. Receiving information about his work from the young athlete. Dr. Mehmet Bulut expressed his satisfaction with Serhat Bulut's successes. National Athlete Serhat Bulut, drew attention to Turkey with breaking the record of 50 meters in the category of handicap championship which was held in Turkey at the beginning of 2020 .Bulut managed to renew the record of 6.99, which could not be broken since 1989, with a rating of 6.87.

## KIRKLARELİ UNIVERSITY RECEIVED “SPECIALIZED UNIVERSITY” STATUS IN THE FIELD OF FOOD



Council of Higher Education President Prof. M. A. Yekta Saraç announced the names of five universities selected in addition to the ten universities that were selected within the scope of the “Universities Aimed at Regional Development” initiated by CoHE in 2015 and their fields of specialization at a meeting held at CoHE.

Kırklareli University, as one of these five universities, chosen as a specialized university in the field of Food. The decision was announced by Prof. Dr. Yekta Saraç, during the meeting in CoHE which was held on 23rd January 2020. Speaking at the meeting, our Rector Dr. Bülent Şengörür stated that the structure of the regional economy is base upon food production and manufacturing industry, and added: “Speaking of the food sector, milk and dairy products are especially effective in the development of the regional economy. Kırklareli meets 30% of the milk need of the

Marmara Region. Meat and meat products, beekeeping, bee products, viticulture and grape products also contribute greatly to the economy of the region. Working in close cooperation with Kırklareli University, farmers, manufacturers, small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives, improving both the quality of the products specific to Kırklareli, developing local brands, geographical signs, and using the resources of our province that are still not used; will contribute to sustainability in food production as well as new economic gains.”

Head of Higher Education Council, Prof. Dr. Yekta Saraç stated the universities, which are given the duty of specialization in regional development, will be supported financially by the Strategy and Budget Office of the Presidency and academic staff will be provided by CoHE.



## KIRKLARELI UNIVERSITY INTRODUCED NEW POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS



Kırklareli University introduced six new postgraduate programs, two of which are doctoral programs (Mathematics, Architecture) and four of which are master programs with thesis (Mathematics, Architecture, Tourism Guidance, Nutrition, and Dietetic).

With the newly opened programs, the number of postgraduate programs within the Institute of Science has increased to 13, the number of postgraduate programs within the Institute of Social Sciences has increased to 31, and the number of postgraduate programs within the Institute of Health Sciences has increased to 6.



**FORMAL VISITS OF TEKIRDAG NAMIK KEMAL UNIVERSITY IN ROMANIA**

Prof. Dr Mümin Şahin, the Rector of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University and a delegation of academicians has made some formal visits in the city of Constanta where most of the Turkish population exist, within the context of their visit to Romania as being one of the Universities in Thrace Region invited by the University of Ovidius, Constanta.

During the visit, cooperations and joint diploma programmes have been negotiated and also a bilateral cooperation agreement has been signed between Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University and Ovidius University of Constanta incorporating department of Turkology. The bilateral agreement was signed by Prof Dr Sorin RUGINA, Rector of Ovidius University of Constanta and Prof Dr Mumin ŞAHİN, Rector of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University. Rector ŞAHİN explained that " We are glad to give an education opportunity in Tekirdağ to our brothers living in Balkans with the goal of familiarizing ourselves and assisting the solutions to the problems in the region for a year after we have taken office. We have gained the quota of Balkan via our contacts with YOK and Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University has become one of the three universities with Balkan Quato, thanks to God. We aim to raise the number of our international students to 5000 in four years. We have also completed our preparations for establishing the Department of Balkan Languages at our Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Moreover, we're planning

to organize Rumeli Tekirdağ Immigration Workshop in December, in cooperation with Tekirdag Association of History Awareness. In addition to Application and Research Center of Balkan Studies, our actions on establishing Rumeli Research Institute continues. In 2020 we aim to organize International Rumeli Symposium with the partnership of KADEM and more other favourable studies as well if god lets".

Rector Şahin also expressed " As Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University we are the only university in Thrace who took the Health Tourism Authorization Certificate. Thus, our Research and Application Hospital has become an important base for health in our region and Balkans".

After the visit and negotiations with Consul General of Constanta, Sulhi Tarhan, Yunus EMRE Institute has been visited and during consultations with Seher Korucu, Acting Manager of the Institute, our university has been promoted.

Rector ŞAHİN was accompanied by Assoc. Dr Hilmi TOZKIR , Deputy Chief Physician of TNKU Application and Research Hospital, on behalf of the Faculty of Medicine and Assist. Prof. Dr H. Selçuk ETİ, the Manager of Application and Research Center International Relations and Supervisor of The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey and Ins. Nazlı KÜÇÜKGÖKSEL, a staff member of Application and Research Center International Relations.

## NIIGATA UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN VISITING TNKU



A delegation consisting of Prof. Naoki HARADA , Deputy Dean of Niigata University The Faculty of Agriculture, Assist. Prof Dr Raşit ASILOGLU, a faculty member of the Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Dr Oğuz Can TURGAY, the Coordinator of GLOCAL AGE 2020 Project and a faculty member of TNKU the Faculty of Agriculture and Japanese Students have visited Prof Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN, the Rector of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University in his office.

Professor Naoki HARADA informed about "The Project of Global Capacity Building of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Production in Higher Education" and stated that they would like to benefit from our university's successful studies on agriculture.

Prof. Dr Mümin ŞAHİN expressed that Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University uses every means available in order to raise alumni that will shape the future and added that it is given

great importance to exchange programs by the university. He added that with the experience and knowledge of The Faculty of Agriculture, Japanese students will be informed about developing organic farming, reducing the risk of disaster and also our students will have the opportunity learn about plants, food and agricultural technologies in Japan and every step will be taken by our university to provide these exchanges. Assist Prof. Dr H. Selçuk ETİ, The Manager of Application and Research Center and Assist. Prof. Dr Levent Toksöz, a member of Japanese Language and Literature Department were accompanying the delegate during the visit as well.

The visit ended with photo shooting altogether and Japanese delegation under the guidance of Assist. Prof. Dr H. Selçuk ETİ, The Manager of Application and Research Center also had a chance to see NABİLTEM Laboratories and discover the opportunities provided by our university.

**TRAKYA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IS COMING TO HOUSES**

Trakya University Nation's Coffee House had signed an important project during the days when we stayed in houses due to the Covid-19 outbreak that affected the world. The Project which was initiated with the slogan "Stay Home, Read a Book! "Bring Your Book to Your Feet" delivered 122 books to readers' addresses without the age limit that are registered in Nation's Coffee House.

Trakya University Nation's Coffee House, which is one of the important cultural centers of Edirne and welcomes hundreds of booklovers every day, stopped accepting visitors within the scope of Covid-19 measures. Nation's Coffee House, which carried out an important project to evaluate the process spent at home with books and to keep the reader

and books from being disconnected, decided to deliver its books to the homes of his readers. The books requested through the form on Nation's Coffee House's website were disinfected and hygienically packaged on special devices and delivered to addresses by staff in special clothes. 122 works in many different categories, such as philosophy, psychology, art, literature, religious and children's books, which appeal to all age groups in Nation's Coffee House, met with its readers.

Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, Rector of Trakya University thanked the staff of Nation's Coffee House, Prof. Dr. Cevdet Kılıç, Secretary General and Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Prof. Dr. Nurten Çetin, Head of The Library and Documentation Department who implemented such a project to ensure



that Edirne's cultural life would not be interrupted and said, "Nation's Coffee House has filled an important gap in Edirne since its opening day. It became one of the important meeting points of our city with its working environment and events. Our peaceful Nation's Coffee House, where the city and the university come together, where people read books while sipping their tea; closed its doors to its visitors for a while as a result of the measures taken within the scope of the epidemic. We have delivered the books with this Project that we want to read but can't find the time to read them to the homes of our readers who demand them with our special clothes

employees by disinfecting them. I would like to announce here that we have reopened the door of our Nation's Coffee House to our readers in accordance with the social distance and hygiene rules these days when we return to our new normal life."

Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, Rector of Trakya University, Secretary General Prof. Dr. Cevdet Kılıç presented a certificate of thanks to Çağdaş Bavkır for their contributions to the Project said "Nation's Coffee House opened its doors again with normalization processes and expects to welcome his visitors with 6,500 books and treats.

## **TRAKYA UNIVERSITY SIGNED ON ANOTHER IMPORTANT COOPERATION IN THE BALKANS: 2+2 JOINT PROGRAM OF BACHELOR DEGREE FOR "TURKISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE" BETWEEN TRAKYA UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA HAS BEEN APPROVED"**



Trakya University, which provides services to the Balkans in many areas with its economic, social and cultural cooperations, continues to contribute to the higher education of the region with its academic cooperation. Trakya University, which is home to the most Balkan students in Turkey and has drawn attention for its works towards the Balkans, has added another one to its cooperation in the region.

A historic cooperation has been signed between Trakya University and the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina", one of the oldest and most established higher education institutions in Kosovo. The 2+2 Joint Undergraduate Program agreement in the field of "Turkish Language and Literature"

signed between Trakya University and University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" was approved by the Higher Education Council (YÖK).

The cooperation between University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina", and Trakya University in Kosovo, one of the countries where Turkish is spoken of in its most decent and elegant form, is expected to contribute significantly to the studies of Turkish Language and Literature in two countries. As a part of the cooperation, students will be eligible for a diploma valid in both countries by studying at University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" and Trakya University for 2 years. In this way, students in Kosovo will complete two years of

their education in Turkey and learn the Turkish language much better in its country, while Turkish students will have the opportunity to examine Turkish Language and Literature in Kosovo from a different perspective, which has a history of hundreds of years. The programme will also serve as a bridge of culture, thanks to the strengthening relations between the students of the two countries.

**Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, Rector of Trakya University, who gave information on the subject, said,**

“ I would like to express my sincere thanks to Rector of University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”, Prof. Dr. Marjan Dema, who has supported the implementation of this valuable cooperation, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ergin Jable, Faculty at the Turkish Language and Literature of Faculty of Philology, Assist. Prof. Dr. Levent Doğan, Director of Trakya University Institute of Social Sciences and Faculty at the Department of Turkish Language and Literature, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Murat Türkyılmaz, Director of the International Relations Application and

Research Center, and the instructors of the Department of Turkish Language and Literature of both universities. We would like to provide our best support to Kosovo, the brother country, to bring the higher education quality of the region to higher levels with this academic cooperation. Kosovo has a very deep-rooted accumulation in Turkish language and literature dating back centuries.

We are very happy to open a joint Turkish Language and Literature undergraduate program with University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina in Kosovo, where Turkish language is spoken in its purest form. We believe that the cultural bridges between the two countries will be strengthened and moved to the future thanks to this program. I would like to thank our Presidency of Higher Education Council, who has supported all the work we have done in the Balkans and contributed to the realization of this cooperation. I wish the program to be auspicious.”



## UBT - TOP UNIVERSITY FOR TOP STUDENTS



UBT is a leading Higher Education Institution in the Republic of Kosovo, established in 2001. UBT is the institution with most accredited study programs in Kosovo, based on the labor market demands and international practices. It offers 41 undergraduate and graduate programs, 124 specializations within various areas of study: Engineering; Business and Economy; Public policy; Computer science; Social science; Architecture and Spatial Planning; Arts and Medicine and Public Health.

UBT's main objectives are: Academic Excellence; Developing research, innovation and social responsibility; Creating a positive working and learning environment; Maintaining and increasing internationalization and regional partnerships; and Partner with community.

At UBT, more than 15,000 students study in seven campuses within Kosovo (Prishtina with two campuses, Innovative Campus in Lipjan, Ferizaj, Prizren, Peja, Gjilan). These students are highly demanded in the labor market in Kosovo, region and beyond. Furthermore, UBT has three representation offices in Vienna, Budapest and Tirana. It has 120 laboratories, 15 centers of competence, 53 spin-offs, 9 institutes, 40 e-learning platforms, 7 libraries with 250,000 books.

Over 600 academic, 220 administrative and nearly 100

visiting staff work in a diverse range of fields. According to Kosovo Statistics Agency, UBT is the biggest employer in private higher education institutions, in Kosovo.

UBT represents Republic of Kosovo in many research, technology and innovation organizations and international institutions. It has over 450 International Cooperation Agreements with Universities and international academic institutions. The collaboration with UBT partners is based in following fields: Joint Research Activities; Academic Programmes; Study Visits; Joint Development Projects; Joint Conferences; and Special short-term academic programs. Double degree programs are organized with some of partner universities. Students and professors of UBT benefit from international programs such as Erasmus +, Bologna Experts, CEEPUS, TEMPUS, IPMA, AESOP, ECCE, EUCEET, ELFA, ENSE, and Balkan Universities Association.

UBT's quality has been proven through international recognition by EFQM, for Leading Excellence with 5 Stars, and is also certified with ISO standards for quality management.

UBT, in co-operation with EON Reality, has created the first AVC virtual Reality Center in Balkans, a 30 million USD, the biggest international investment in Kosovo. UBT developed the project of the Smart City in order to support the local municipalities, developed a Multimedia and



Digital Television, and participated on the development and implementation of PhD programs, with focus in ICT, for Kosovo Education System.

UBT is well known for its Annual International Conference, with 8 International Conferences organized so far. In the last Conference there have been presented around 450 research papers, within 21 study programs, by worldwide authors. Also, UBT annually organizes its Summer Academy within 22 study fields.

UBT Kosovo teams participated in many international competitions. They won the "Natev Explorer" project, an international competition organized by NASA. In this

competition, 950 projects participated, from 133 different countries. In 2019, UBT has been awarded a golden medal from FIRST Global Challenge, regarding its contribution in the international competition of robotics, in Dubai. UBT built the latest generation of NAO Robot, in Kosovo. Also, its robotics team won the European Robotics Competition, "EUROBY 2011", in 2011.

This year, UBT, completes its 19th year of operation. It is the largest and most demanded private Higher Education Institution in Kosovo. Being part of UBT means being successful.



## THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST



Considered the most appreciated university among employers in Romania, according to the QS University Rankings, the University of Bucharest offers to its students and teachers - members of the academic community the opportunity to study in a prestigious international community, built around the CIVIS Consortium - the European Civic Alliance. CIVIS representatives have already begun to lay the foundations to harmonize the Doctoral programmes of its eight universities during a two-day meeting held at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) on December 12th and 13th 2019.

Besides that, a new research, recently published in the journal *Papers in Palaeontology*, yielded a conclusive, though surprising, answer concerning a strange type of fossil eggshells by using an innovative investigation technique. The international research team reporting the discovery includes Dr. Zoltán Csiki-Sava, professor at the Faculty of Geology

and Geophysics from the University of Bucharest. The team succeeded to determine the true identity of a peculiar type of fossil eggshells called *Pseudogeckoolithus*, originating from the end of the Cretaceous Period (roughly 85 to 66 million years ago), eggshells that confused European paleontologists for several decades.

Returning to CIVIS, on Friday 7th February 2020, Sapienza University of Rome organized the "Innovative Medical Education in the Digital Era" international conference, through the Sapienza Information-Based Technology Innovation Center for Health (STITICH). The event was under the aegis of the European CIVIS Consortium, of which the University of Bucharest is a member. The conference's main purpose was to create an interdisciplinary group for medical education and new technologies that may contribute to progress and innovation.



## FIRST STEPS ON HARMONIZING CIVIS DOCTORAL PROGRAMS



CIVIS representatives have begun to lay the foundations to harmonize the Doctoral programmes of its eight universities during a two-day meeting held at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) on December 12th and 13th 2019.

Over the two working days, teams from the universities of Aix-Marseille, Athens, Brussels, Bucharest, Madrid, Rome and Stockholm shared in detail the organization and regulation of their own Doctoral Programs, and analyzed strategies to strengthen their collaboration and establish joint projects at this educational level within the CIVIS framework. At the end of the meeting, the participants agreed on a series of conclusions and promote actions in order to move forward on this point.

Among the priorities identified by CIVIS representatives are the promotion of international mobility of doctoral students

within the alliance and facilitating the development of co-directed thesis. In addition, they identified activities which may be of interest to doctoral students of the eight universities that make up the alliance, such as the Research Symposium for Doctoral Students in Health Sciences and Biomedicine to be held at UAM on 22 May 2020. Finally, it has been agreed to strengthen communication related to Doctoral Programmes and other possible areas of interest have been identified, such as the organisation of Summer Schools.

This meeting is another step in the development of the CIVIS project, particularly in relation to the objective of promoting educational and research excellence programs. One of the goals of the CIVIS alliance is that 20% of their doctoral thesis receive the European Doctorate label by 2022.

## **ANOTHER DINOSAUR PUZZLE SOLVED BY PALEONTOLOGISTS THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH TEAM REPORTING THE DISCOVERY INCLUDES DR. ZOLTÁN CSIKI-SAVA, PROFESSOR AT THE FACULTY OF GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST**



A new research, recently published in the journal *Papers in Palaeontology*, yielded a conclusive, though surprising, answer concerning a strange type of fossil eggshells by using an innovative investigation technique.

The research was conducted by an international team led by Seung Choi from the Seoul National University (South Korea) and including Yuong-Nam Lee (Seoul National University, South Korea), together with Miguel Moreno-Azanza (Universidade Nova de Lisboa; Museu de Lourinhã, Portugal), Zoltán Csiki-Sava (University of Bucharest, Romania), and Edina Prondvai (Ghent University, Belgium, currently at the MTA-MTM-ELTE Research Group for Paleontology, Hungary).

The team succeeded to determine the true identity of a peculiar type of fossil eggshells called *Pseudogeckoolithus*, originating from the end of the Cretaceous Period (roughly 85 to 66 million years ago), eggshells that confused European paleontologists for several decades.

The *Pseudogeckoolithus* eggshells are widely distributed across southern Europe and also appear in northern Africa. In Romania, they are common in the dinosaur-bearing fossiliferous rocks of the Haeg Basin, within the Haeg Country UNESCO Global Geopark. The eggshells are thin (usually less than 0.3 mm). Whereas some aspects of their microstructure resemble those of the eggshells of some theropods (that is, predatory dinosaurs), other features are reminiscent of those of modern gecko (lizard) eggshells. Furthermore, they are characterized by a unique node-like ornamentation, being in this respect also remarkably similar to the eggshells of some modern geckoes. Thus, these fossils were commonly referred to as 'geckoid' eggshells by the experts.

"This was a case of a very confusing signal within the European Late Cretaceous fossil record. Due to its similarity to modern gecko eggshells, *Pseudogeckoolithus* was often regarded as a proof supporting the presence of ancient gecko-

like lizards in the tropical archipelago covering the southern part of Europe at the end of the reign of dinosaurs” says Zoltán Csiki-Sava from the University of Bucharest, one of the co-authors of the study.

In order to clarify the identity of the *Pseudogeckoolithus* egg-layer, the team investigated such ‘geckoid’ eggshell fossils from Romania (originating from the Geopark, but also from the Transylvanian Depression, in the neighborhood of Sebeș, Alba County), Hungary, and Spain. They used a novel technique called Electron Backscatter Diffraction (EBSD) analysis to reveal their detailed crystallographic pattern, and compare it with that of modern geckos as well as of birds and extinct bird-like dinosaurs, the so-called maniraptorans.

“We are now fully aware that modern gecko eggshells and typical dinosaur (including bird) eggshells have completely different crystallographic arrangement. Thus, we decided to compare the crystallographic image of *Pseudogeckoolithus* to that of the eggshells of modern geckoes and birds, as well as those of small predatory dinosaurs, to solve the *Pseudogeckoolithus* enigma” explains Seung Choi, who had previously studied in detail both gecko and predatory dinosaur eggshells using the same technique.

Indeed, the researchers could confirm that *Pseudogeckoolithus*, with its eggshell crystals growing from the inner towards the outer shell surface, has a completely different crystallographic arrangement from that of modern gecko eggshell, where crystal growth appears to proceed from the outer surface inwards. Instead, *Pseudogeckoolithus* eggshells show a crystallographic arrangement typical to birds and their maniraptoran ancestors, to which the main villain from the movie *Jurassic Park*, *Velociraptor*, also belongs.

“*Pseudogeckoolithus* eggshells are so thin and fragile, that it is often difficult to recognize pristine fragments that preserve all the features typical to theropod eggshell, such as multiple layers with different types of crystals. Nevertheless, EBSD allowed us to identify these structures even in the less well preserved specimens, confirming that *Pseudogeckoolithus* is not a true gecko eggshell. Accordingly, there is no evidence that geckoes were common in the Upper Cretaceous of Europe, as often interpreted previously” comments Miguel Moreno-Azanza, from Universidade Nova de Lisboa and Museu de Lourinhã. “The misleading identity of *Pseudogeckoolithus* was already addressed by Nieves López-Martínez and Monique Vianey-Liaud who named it back in 1997. They classified this eggshell as dinosaurian but named it ‘gecko-like stone egg’, which is what *Pseudogeckoolithus* stands for. Now, these new techniques allowed us to firmly corroborate their initial

observation - these eggshells originate from eggs laid by dinosaurs” he adds.

In fact, the pan-European distribution of *Pseudogeckoolithus* eggshells actually implies the common presence of small, likely closely related bird-like predatory dinosaurs throughout Europe during the Late Cretaceous. “It is remarkable how widespread the *Pseudogeckoolithus*-type eggshells are. They turn up practically everywhere in the Late Cretaceous archipelago, regardless of geographic position, sedimentary environment or age of the rocks. Now, based on the abundance of their eggshells, we can envisage easily the large number of small feathered predatory dinosaurs that roamed these tropical islands, even when their body fossils are very rare or even completely absent.” explains Zoltán Csiki-Sava the significance of their results.

Shockingly, *Pseudogeckoolithus* has many features in common with the eggshells of megapodes, modern birds that do not brood their eggs; instead, they build large mounds of dirt and vegetation and bury their eggs inside. In the mound, organic matters are fermented, producing the heat required to hatch the eggs. Both *Pseudogeckoolithus* and megapode eggshells are thin, have funnel-like breathing canals, and disperse node-like ornamentation, a combination of traits that is otherwise very rare in modern bird eggshells. “Based on these features and the eggshell thickness proportions, the eggs themselves were probably no larger than the eggs of a crow (~ 3×4 cm) and were laid in a buried nest. However, the mother herself was likely larger than a crow, maybe about the size of a chicken, because the dinosaurian pelvis was narrower, and hence their eggs were proportionately smaller than those of modern birds.” says Edina Prondvai.

“This study is a very good example as to why and how advanced and sophisticated analytical methods become more and more important in paleontology. They can not only identify fossil organisms where other, traditional methods fail to deliver, but can also shed new light on their distribution, life and evolution” concludes Seung Choi, lead author of the study.

The paper reporting this research can be accessed at

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/spp2.1294>

More details here:

<https://unibuc.ro/o-noua-enigma-despre-dinozauri-elucidata-de-paleontologi/?lang=en>



## THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST AT THE “INNOVATIVE MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL ERA” INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ROME UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE CIVIS CONSORTIUM

On Friday 7th February 2020, Sapienza University of Rome organized the “Innovative Medical Education in the Digital Era” international conference, through the Sapienza Information-Based Technology Innovation Center for Health (STITICH). The event was under the aegis of the European CIVIS Consortium, of which the University of Bucharest is a member.

The conference gathered professors, doctors and experts in medical education and new technologies from some of the most reputed European universities. Digital education, medical electronic learning tools, ethical approaches in medical education, medical libraries as high standard learning centres and simulation laboratories are some of the topics tackled within the conference. The conference’s main purpose was to create an interdisciplinary group for medical education and new technologies that may contribute to progress and innovation.

Assoc. professor Sorin Costreie, PhD, Vice-Rector for International Relations, Member of the Steering Committee of CIVIS attended the event on behalf of the University of Bucharest and led the third conference session on “Ethical Issues in Medical Education & Medical Humanities”. The session was also attended by Assoc. Professor Emanuel Socaciu, PhD, of the Faculty of Philosophy, member of the Research Centre in Applied Ethics and Professor Elena Druică, PhD, from the Faculty of Business Administration, who presented the paper “Sacrificial dilemmas and the moral intuitions of medical students”. Lecturer Emilian Mihailov, PhD, of the Faculty of Philosophy, delivered a presentation on “Machines in action! The challenge of empathy in medical practice”.

Here you can see the full programme of the “Innovative Medical Education in the Digital Era” international conference.

The European Civic University called “CIVIS” is an ambitious initiative that aims to build a self-standing European alliance gathering of eight of the most important European universities.

Aix Marseille Université (France), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece), University of Bucharest



(Romania), Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (Spain), Sapienza Università di Roma (Italia), Stockholms Universitet (Sweden), Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen (Germany).

As a European Union pilot project within the European Universities Alliance initiative, CIVIS will be a role model and will define the way in which universities can reunite, in order to increase opportunities for 400.000 students and 55.000 staff members. CIVIS aims to promote values, culture, European citizenship among young generations of students and also represents a bridge between Europe, the Mediterranean zone and Africa. More details about CIVIS alliance can be found here.

More details here:

<https://unibuc.ro/universitatea-din-bucuresti-prezenta-la-conferinta-internationala-innovative-medical-education-in-the-digital-era-organizata-la-roma-sub-egida-consortiuului-civis/?lang=en>



**THE UNIVERSITY OF GJAKOVA COMMEMORATES THE HOLOCAUST**

Under the care of the Rector at the University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani" Prof. Artan Nimani PhD ran the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The Rector speech fills you in to indicate words: "The University has been organizing for the first time ever, but now it will be a time for traditional activities to commemorate International Holocaust Day..." Part of this commemoration was also the exhibition organised in collaboration with the representative of the Jewish Diplomatic Corps for Kosovo.

<https://uni-gjk.org/lajme/761/universiteti-i-gjakoves-perkujton-holokaustin>

**GJAKOVA UNIVERSITY "FEHMI AGANI" RISES TO 3446 HIGHEST PLACES IN WORLD LEVEL**

In the latest updated ranking of this ranking system, the University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani" has marked a rise, ranking 19846 in the world. Webometrics reflects UGJFA's rise to 3446 positions above 2019.

<https://uni-gjk.org/en/lajme/776/universiteti-i-gjakoves-fehmi-agani-ngritetper-3446-vende-melarte-ne-nivel-boterore>

**RECTORS' CONFERENCE "UNIVERSITY, POLICY AND FUNDAMENTAL VALUES OF HIGHER EDUCATION" WAS HELD**

University, Higher Education Policy and Core Values", the topic of discussion at the next rectors conference, which brought together all free university rectors, the country's premier, minister of education, science, use and innovation, chief and office EU ambassadors and other participating ambassadors

<https://uni-gjk.org/lajme/789/mbahet-konferenca-e-rektoreveuniversity-politika-dhe-vlerat-themelore-te-arsimit-te-larte>



## UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE, TIRANA, ALBANIA



The founding of the Higher Medical Institute [HMI] dates back on September 22 of the year 1952 and the duty of this institution was to prepare only General Practitioners.

In 1957 a decision was made for establishing the University of Tirana, on the basis of several higher institutes, including the Higher Medical Institute [HMI], which was transformed into the Faculty of Medicine of the State University of Tirana.

In the year 1994 the Nursing Higher School was founded. After a decade of its activity, in the year 2004, this school was transformed into a Nursing Faculty, under the authority of the State University of Tirana.

The recent decades have seen radical changes and transformations of the social and economic system, which were reflected directly also to the Faculty of Medicine and the

Faculty of Nursing, which were ultimately headed towards western experience and practices, establishing the University of Medicine, Tirana.

University of Medicine, Tirana was established in 2013. The Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Medical Technical Sciences were separated from the University of Tirana, becoming main units of the UMT. University of Medicine, Tirana, is presently composed of three faculties: Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Medical Technical Sciences and the Faculty of Dentistry.

Introductory speech of the Rector Nimani

<https://uni-gjk.org/en/faqe/2/rektori>

### PROGRAMS OF STUDY AT UMT

- The programs of study are divided in three levels of study:
  - 9 programs of Bachelor degree
  - 3 programs of Integrated Diploma Master of Sciences
  - 7 programs of Master of Sciences
  - 9 programs of Master of Professional Studies
  - 38 programs of Medical Specializations
  - 26 programs of Doctorate studies



## Faculty of Medicine

- Master of Science in General Medicine (Msc): 6 years, integrated second cycle of studies;
- Master of Science in Pharmacy (Msc): 5 years, integrated second cycle of studies;
- Bachelor in Public Health (Bsc): 3 Years, first cycle of studies;
- Master of Science in Public Health (Msc): 2 years of studies, second cycle of studies;
- Master of Professional Studies in Public Health (MP): 1 year of studies, second cycle of studies;
- Master of Professional Studies in Health Management (MP): 1 year of studies, second cycle of studies;
- Medical Specializations, 35 programs of studies: 3 to 5 years of studies, third cycle of studies;
- Doctoral studies (PHD), 17 programs of studies: 3 years of studies, third cycle of studies.

## The Faculty of Medical Technical Sciences

- Bachelor in General Nursing (Bsc): 3 Years, first cycle of study
- Bachelor in Midwife (Bsc): 3 Years, first cycle of study
- Bachelor in Laboratory technician (Bsc): 3 Years, first cycle of study
- Bachelor in Logopedics (Bsc): 3 Years, first cycle of study
- Bachelor in Imagery (Bsc): 3 Years, first cycle of study
- Bachelor in Physiotherapy (Bsc): 3 Years, first cycle of study
  
- Master of Professional Studies in Nursing Management (MP): 1 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
- Master of Professional Studies in Midwife (MP): 1 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
- Master of Professional Studies in Laboratory technician (MP): 1 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
- Master of Professional Studies in Logopedics (MP): 1 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
- Master of Professional Studies in Imagery (MP): 1 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
- Master of Professional Studies in Physiotherapy (MP): 1 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
- Master of Professional Studies in Palliative Care (MP): 1 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
  
- Master of Science in Nursing (MP): 2 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
- Master of Science in Midwife (MP): 2 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
- Master of Science in Laboratory technician (MP): 2 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
- Master of Science in Logopedics (MP): 2 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
- Master of Science in Imagery (MP): 2 year of studies, second cycle of studies.
- Master of Science in Physiotherapy (MP): 2 year of studies, second cycle of
- Doctoral studies (PHD), 8 programs of studies: 3 years of studies, third cycle of studies.

## The Faculty of Dentistry

- Master of Science in Dentistry (Msc): 5 years, integrated second cycle of study;
- Bachelor in Dental Hygienist (Bsc): 3 Years, first cycle of studies;
- Bachelor in Dental Technician (Bsc): 3 Years, first cycle of studies
- Medical Specializations, 3 programs of studies: 2 to 4 years of studies, third cycle of studies.
- Doctoral studies (PHD), 3 years of studies, third cycle.



In addition, the University of Medicine, Tirana is member of various network universities in Europe.

University of Medicine Tirana is full-rights member of Balkan Universities Association (BUA) and member of the Francophone University Agency that represents a global network of more than 845 universities and research centers from 111 countries on five continents that use the French language. Recently, the University of Medicine, Tirana has become a member of UniAdrion that represents an association of universities and research centers of the Adriatic-Ionian area established in 2000 with the purpose to create a permanent connection among these institutions, within the framework of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative. The purpose of UniAdrion is the collaboration between universities and research centers with the aim of strengthening international cooperation and of favoring the progress of culture, science, training and research in the countries of the Adriatic-Ionian basin. UMT is a member of Organization for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System (ORPHEUS) that is an association of European biomedical and health science faculties and institutions. ORPHEUS is committed to safeguarding the reputation of the PhD as a research degree and strengthening career opportunities for PhD graduates.

### Strength points

- The 67-year tradition in the preparation of health professionals.
- Academic scientific capacities: UMT's pedagogues follow-up a significant number of national and international activities; they publish articles in international journals with or without impact factor. UMT in collaboration with Medical Associations, organize many conferences, workshops, CME with participation of foreign speakers.
- The Network of Excellence Students (a team of students has won 3d position in an international competition for clinical cases developed in Russia). Four excellent students have been for 6 weeks in FIDIA Pharmaceutical Company, Italy for training.
  - 300 members of academic staff
  - 100 Full Professors
  - 8000 students enrolled at three levels of study: Bachelor, Master and Doctoral.
- The University of Medicine, Tirana also offers 36 programs of Specialization studies for medical residents at the Faculty of Medicine and dental residents at the Faculty of Dental Medicine.

### Completed Projects

- DEEP ( Deferipone evaluation in Paediatrics) The program- FP7/ Horizon 2020
- MEDIGENE ( Genetic and environmental factors of insulin resistance syndrome and its long-term complications in immigrant Mediterranean populations)
- BIR ( Balcan Registry of Immunotherapy)
- EUSCAPE ( European Survey on Carbapenemase-producing Bacteria.
- ISHAM ( Cryptococcus working group Genotyping of Cryptococcus neoformans and Cryptococcus gattii).
- GLOBAL PPS ( The Global Point Prevalence Survey of Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance)
- TAMIGA (MO28347) - Roche international study in France.
- EDENext- Biology and control of vector-borne infections in Europe) The program- FP7 .
- CCH Fever (Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, Modern Approaches to Diagnostics, Surveillance, Prevention, Therapy and Preparedness)
- EMCDDA –European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.
- GAPP ( Gabentin in Pediatric Pain)- The program- FP7
- ALBNANO - The program- Horizon 2020.

### Projects on-going

#### Horizon 2020

- EUSCREEN (Implementation of cost-optimized childhood vision and hearing screening program in middle-income countries in Europe).

#### ERASMUS

- Since 2013, 150 students have profited Erasmus+ mobility.
- Partner in:
  - GRADUA - Erasmus Capacity Building
  - QUADIC - Erasmus Capacity Building

For further information about the events and academic activities of UMT, please consult the official website in the address: [www.umed.edu.al](http://www.umed.edu.al)





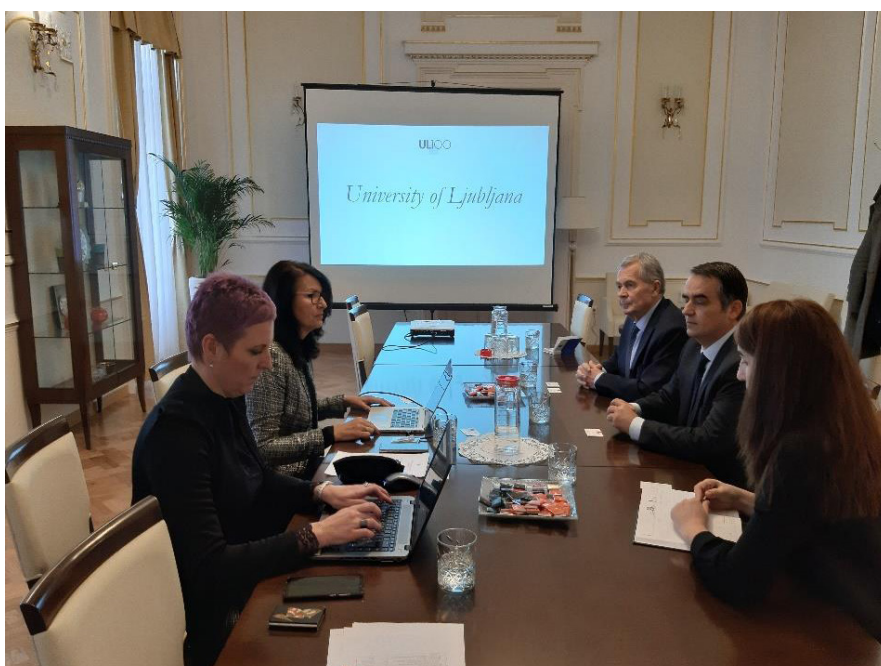
## THE STUDENT FROM MITROVICA PRODUCES CHEESE FROM WHEY



As a master's student at the Faculty of Food Technology (FTU) at the University of Mitrovica "Isa Boletini" (UMIB), Petrit Idrizi has managed to produce whey cheese and thereby defended his diploma thesis entitled "Technology Assessment" of cheese-whey". Idrizi states that the idea for this was born during his stay at a university in the Netherlands, under the Erasmus + program. Idrizi points out that this was something new about the nature of the research work being done at the Faculty of Food Technology (FTF), but has found support from the teachers and in this case from the mentor, Prof. Alush Musaj. Although the FTF laboratories lack some of the equipment needed for this type of production, he has succeeded in doing his research and producing whey cheese.

## COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA IS DEEPENING

Leaders of the University of Mitrovica "Isa Boletini" (UMIB) and those of the University of Ljubljana (UL) have agreed to deepen interuniversity cooperation. This readiness was confirmed during a visit by UMIB Rector Alush Musaj to the University of Ljubljana, where he was received by Assistant Rector Maja Slovinc. Rector Musaj, who was also accompanied by the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo in Slovenia, Avni Kastrati, thanked the Assistant Rector, Maja Slovinc, for willingness for cooperation. He said that the good experience of cooperation between the UMIB Faculty of Geosciences and the



## FIRST JOB AND CAREER FAIR WAS HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY "ISA BOLETINI"



Organized by the Career Development Center and supported by GIZ, the "First Job and Career Fair" at the University of Mitrovica "Isa Boletini" (UMIB) was held on Thursday. The activity was attended by private companies, public companies and UMIB faculties. At the opening ceremony of the fair, UMIB's Rector Alush Musaj thanked the companies for their participation and cooperation. According to him, UMIB is trying to be as open as possible to the business industry, their ideas and their experience. He noted that they are also trying to adapt to market demands and needs so that students are ready and prepared for new trends.

## "INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOSCIENCE", HAS GATHERED RESEARCHERS FROM DIFFERENT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MITROVICA



Launched Thursday at the University of Mitrovica's "Isa Boletini" (UMIB), the "International Geoscience Conference", has aroused tremendous interest both at home and abroad. The conference was attended by 86 participants, with a total of 75 abstracts, of which 52 were accepted. In addition to researchers from local universities, researchers and scientists from different European countries, such as Finland, Italy, Poland, Turkey and Slovenia, are also attending the conference. The twoday conference, organized by UMIB, the Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Geological Service of Kosovo, has been recognized as an extremely important event for geosciences. The Rector Musaj welcomed the guests to this conference, which, according to him, represents an event not only for UMIB and Mitrovica, but also for our country in general.

**OUR STORY**

The University of New York in Tirana (UNYT), Albania is a fascinating blend of challenge and vision, in response to the needs of a global society and era. Currently, UNYT offers a selection of double Bachelor and Master degrees in collaboration with prestigious American and European universities.

The range of diplomas offered at UNYT includes double Bachelor degrees conferred in Tirana by the State University of New York-Empire State College, USA or the University of Greenwich, UK.

Situated in the heart of Tirana, the capital city of Albania, UNYT aspires to establish itself as a dynamic, multicultural and leading center for higher education in the Balkans and beyond. To support the needs of its students, research, and scholarships the university is expanding its library resources,

organizes scientific seminars promoting research and scholarships, and engages in original research and promotion of scholarly work. It is for this reason that UNYT attracts students of higher abilities and employs academic staff of distinction, some recognized as international leaders in their fields.

UNYT is the first private University in Albania founded in 2002, at a time when Albania needed a higher education institution that would operate as a locomotive for the development of the future generation of leaders.

UNYT strives to fulfill its mission of educating tomorrow's leaders and business executives and it's committed to the intellectual, creative and personal development of its students.

## WEEK OF INTEGRITY



In the frame of the “Week of Integrity,” the University of New York Tirana organized on the 6th of February the Academic Seminar “Integrity in Academia” and “Moot Court Competition in Human Rights & Integrity with a focus in Refugee Law”.

During this session, the panelists delved into problems of integrity within the education sector as well as what actions have already been taken by academia and other organizations until now. The panelists discussed initiatives of state institutions on this matter, the most important needs of the sector, and the gaps that the regulatory framework has in this aspect.

The Experts also explored an important recommendation during this seminar: the need to include a course on ethics within each major to increase professional conduct for students studying that major.

In the second session, UNYT organized the Moot Court that addressed the most pertinent and topical questions relating to integrity and international refugee law, drawing on the current crisis situations.

The event was concluded with the Moot Court Competition on “Human Rights & Integrity with focus on Refugee Law”.



**BALKAN RESEARCH CENTER**

On 11.02.2020, His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu honored Maarif International Schools | University of New York Tirana with his presence in the opening ceremony of the new office "Balkan Research Center".

University of New York Tirana of Maarif International Schools had the privilege to also host the participation of his Excellency, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Tirana H.E. Mr. Murat Ahmet Yörük, the Board Member of the Turkish Maarif Foundation Mr. Mahmut Mustafa ÖZDİL, the representative of the Turkish Maarif Foundation in Albania Mr. Fatih Cankurt, the Rector of the university Prof. Dr. Ismail Kocayusufoglu, UNYT alumni student, academics, as well as, school directors, teachers, union and NGOs representatives, and our dear students.

In his speech, Minister Çavuşoğlu emphasized the Turkish foreign policy priority on Balkans' stability and prosperity. The BRC center aims to contribute to a prosperous collaboration by means of the exchange of academic opinions, research, and gaining expertise in the field of Balkan research.

BRC aims to make significant contributions across different disciplines by using a transdisciplinary approach and insider's perspectives. In line with its mission, vision, and objectives, the Center will organize a wide range of activities, including student exchange, research fellowships, lectures, workshops, seminars, symposiums, round-table discussions as well as international cooperation.



## ALBANIAN EARTHQUAKE

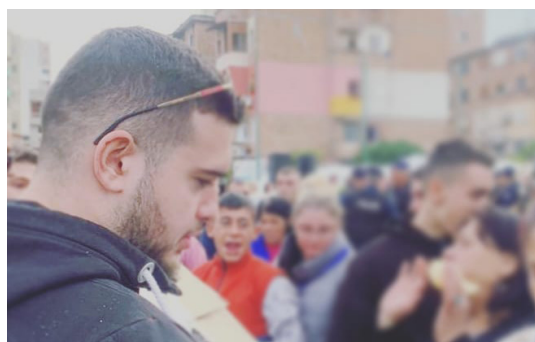


Mr. Fatih Cankurt, Director of the Turkish Maarif Foundation branch in Albania, Prof. Dr. Ismail Kocayusufoğlu, Rector of the "University of New York Tirana", The Charity Club of UNYT with the support of Turkish Red Crescent visited the area of Kruja and families affected by the earthquake. They visited more than 100 families and gave donations to all of them. We were devastated to see their current conditions and the trauma that affected them. Also, our students cooked today 500 meals for the ones in need. When we give cheerfully everyone is blessed. Kindness in giving creates love.

In addition to the concrete assistance of the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for the construction of 500 housing, along with health, support, and humanitarian relief, "Turk Maarif Foundation" will also help in the recovery of the affected area after the earthquake.

Students of the Turkish Maarif Foundation in Albania will further assist in the following days in the distribution of the aid from the Turkish Red Crescent.

Thankful to our Heroes & Sheroes !!!



**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR**

The Maarif Foundation of Turkey, on April 13-14, 2019 in Tirana, organized an educational fair with the aim at increasing the number of foreign students in Turkish universities and promoting Turkish universities abroad. The opening ceremony at the National History Museum of Albania was attended by Albanian Minister of State for the Protection of Entrepreneurship, Eduard Shalsi, Maarif Foundation Vice President Osman Kabaktepe, Turkey's Ambassador to Tirana, Murat Ahmet Yörük, Maarif Foundation Coordinator Fatih Cankurt, other representatives of Turkish institutions in Albania, lecturers, and students in Albania.

Deputy Chairman of the Maarif Foundation, Kabaktepe, said the vision of the Turkish Maarif Foundation is to become a pioneering educational institution that educates people of pure minds who, according to him, use knowledge to achieve the peace and well-being of mankind.

Turkey's Ambassador to Tirana, Murat Ahmet Yörük, said during his speech that this education fair is an excellent

opportunity for Albanians to learn more about Turkey.

"I am convinced that our Albanian brothers and sisters will choose Turkey as their destination for higher education and I hope this education fair can meet your expectations and open up new career opportunities in the future," said Ambassador Yörük.

The two-day fair, organized for the first time in Albania, is also held under the auspices of the Turkish Embassy in Tirana and with the support of the Municipality of Tirana.

The fair is attended by İstanbul Şehir University, Nişantaşı University, İstinye University, Şey Edebali University in Bilecik, Ömer Halis Demir University in Niğde, Pamukkale University, Üsküdar University, İstanbul Aydın University, İlim University in Cyprus, Erciyes, Fırat International University, İstanbul Gelişim University, and other educational institutions, including the Maarif Foundation University in Albania, New York University Tirana



## YTB SCHOLARSHIPS



Within the framework of the collaboration of "Turkey Scholarships" and the Turkish Maarif Foundation, a round-table meeting was done with the 25 YTB scholarship students!

The best undergraduate and graduate students from Albania who began studying at UNYT this year received a 4-year scholarship from Prof. Dr. Ismail Kocayusufoglu, the Rector of the University of New York Tirana.

"We will do their best to make sure you can develop your talents here. I hope that the scholarships you obtained will encourage you to continue your work. You will become successful, but in order to be successful, the most important thing is that you be a good person. We will always keep an eye to your success", Prof. Dr. Ismail Kocayusufoglu said to the scholarship holders.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Fatih Cankurt, director of Albania of the Turkish Maarif Foundation.

" Our mission is to provide a healthy, growth-oriented educational environment that motivates us to pursue excellence. Maarif is a global education brand, we are considered the workers of education, and now, you are part of our family"

Türkiye Scholarships is an international scholarship program funded by the Government of Turkey. Scholarships offered under this program are available to international students at associate, undergraduate, master and Ph.D. level of higher education. The aim of Türkiye Scholarships is to improve mutual understanding with other countries and to contribute to global knowledge with a people-oriented approach.





## RUSE UNIVERSITY WELCOMES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY WITH STRENGTH, DIGNITY AND AUTHORITY, AND ALWAYS FACING KNOWLEDGE, YOUTH AND FUTURE - 12-TH NOVEMBER 2020

### РУСЕНСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ „АНГЕЛ КЪНЧЕВ“



The University of Ruse is a state-funded higher education institution with around 8,000 students and over 400 highly qualified lecturers. It is among the 10 largest universities in Bulgaria and the largest Bulgarian multi-profile university along the Danube River. It has extremely strong positions and significant influence in the Bulgarian - Romanian cross-border region along the Danube and in the entire Danube Region. We are the only Bulgarian university member of the Danube Rectors' Conference and a regular member of the European University Association, Visegrad University Association, Balkan University Association and other international organizations. University of Ruse is intensively involved in EU international cooperation programmes: Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, Interreg, etc. It ranks among the first three Bulgarian universities with respect to the number of implemented international projects, student and staff mobility and financial contribution from international projects and has more than 500 bilateral agreements signed with HEIs from 51 countries.

The University of Ruse has already obtained four subsequent accreditations, the last one from 2018 with a grade of 9,44 of maximum 10. It offers 50 Bachelor, 90 Master and 52 PhD programmes in 23 accredited professional fields. The broad

research profile of the University provides opportunities for research and innovation in the most advanced scientific areas, as well as for participation in thematic networks and authorship developments of key importance for the economy of knowledge on a national and international scale. Annually, the University of Ruse organises and holds 15-20 prestigious national and international conferences, the Proceedings of some indexed by SCOPUS. The University publishes 5 international journals: Entrepreneurship & Innovation; Balkan Agricultural Engineering Review; Information Communication and Control Systems and Technologies; Pedagogical Innovations, Journal of Applied Linguistic and Intercultural Studies.

The University has significant experience in coordination of EU-funded projects. Some of the projects implemented at UR give innovative solutions to regional and cross-border cooperation issues linked to the inter-regional cooperation and partnership; sustainable future of the Danube river basin and preservation of its natural and cultural heritage; establishment and strengthening regional and European networks in education and science, e.g. in computing, in innovative educational technologies and others.



**CONSORTIUM OF CONNECT H2020 PROJECT**

All four project will be realize by large consortia of prestigious international research and academic institutions.

With these four projects the University of Sarajevo will be granted 461.735,00 EUR for research and supporting project activities from the biggest world budget for research and innovation and establish cooperation with 73 research institutions and big companies from Europe and the world.

Mr Suvad Džafić, assistant ministry for science and culture at the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH outlined that the result the University of Sarajevo achieved represents a result of this Ministry as well which is an institution responsible for Horizon 2020, its promotion and implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is very important for BiH to participate in framework programs through its institutions, research centers and with its researchers enabling us to join such programs despite the significant competition at EU level and the lack of funds.

The projects as well as their significance for research in Bosnia and Herzegovina were presented by their coordinators: prof. dr. Damir Kapidžić, Faculty of Political Science, coordinator of the project CONNEKT, prof. dr. Ahmet Alibašić, Faculty of Islamic Studies, coordinator of the project RESILIENCE, and doc. dr. Miralem Mehić, Faculty of Electronic Engineering, coordinator of the project OPENQKD.

<http://www.unsa.ba/en/novosti/four-new-university-sarajevo-horizon-2020-approved-projects-presented>





# **Balkan Universities Association**

# BUANEWS



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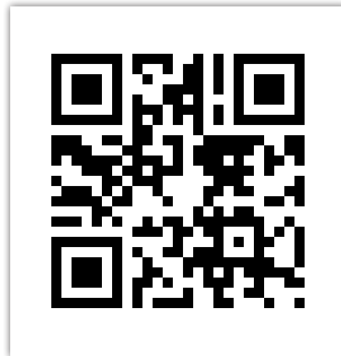
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