

ERUA Traveling seminar

How do students and citizens organize solidary action to create sustainable futures?

Dates: 30.11 – 2.12.2022

Venue: New Bulgarian University, Hall 20, Corp 1 (<https://goo.gl/maps/b4q4Ygg93DR7X1N7A>) and other places in Sofia (see detailed program)

Participants: 15 Students from RUC University, 15 Students from NBU University

Context

The economic and financial crises, the pandemics, the wars and conflicts have exacerbated long existing economic and social problems around the world, and analyses and forecasts by international organisations indicate that adverse economic and social effects will continue in the years ahead. The need for innovative and long-term solutions to social problems has come to the fore. There is no doubt that we need a radical rethinking and change of the existing economic and social model, of the economic and social policies as well as of the behaviour and activities at the individual level. In this context, civil society initiatives, projects and organisations play an important role. In recent years, the social and solidarity economy (cooperatives, mutuels, associations, foundations and social enterprises) and the collaborative economy have rapidly developed in Europe. The self-organisation, the inclusive and collective nature, the mutuality, the solidarity, the democratic governance, the primacy of people and social purpose over capital inherent in these organisations help to meet unmet needs of society and are becoming drivers of social transformation and change in many developed and developing countries.

Against this backdrop, the current crises provide favourable opportunities for civil society organisations in Bulgaria to accelerate their development, implement projects with social impact and contribute to the development of an inclusive and sustainable economy. Similarly to the developed European countries, in Bulgaria we have recently witnessed a rapid growth of civil society initiatives, which are often informal, spontaneous and voluntary but they still remain unnoticed and slightly explored. At the same time, they are largely influenced by the experience and practices in the developed European countries. In this regard, the main objective of the traveling seminar is to stimulate and generate ideas and concrete proposals from researchers and students to further encourage initiatives and implement projects of all citizens and particularly of young people that will ensure a sustainable future for all.

Expected results

- Students will acquire, broaden and deepen their knowledge of the ideas, concepts, practices and organizations of the social economy, the circular economy and the sharing economy in Bulgaria as well as the leading concepts of social design and social care.
- Students will get acquainted with the functioning and activities, problems and opportunities of social enterprises and civil society in Bulgaria.

- Ideas and proposals for the development and improvement of courses and programmes on social and circular economy, sustainable future and social care at both universities will be delivered.
- Students' projects for their personal involvement and contribution to the creation of a sustainable future will be elaborated.
- Adoption of concrete actions for collaborative research and joint publications between researchers as well as exploration of opportunities for joint courses at the NBU and the RUC.

Activities

- Lectures and discussion with students on the emergence, ideas, principles, values and current trends in the development of social and solidarity economy organizations, circular economy and sharing economy in Bulgaria.
- Lectures on "social and solidarity economy", "social design", "social innovation and change", alternative economies, by professors from RUC.
- Visits to social enterprises in Sofia in order to get acquainted with different models of social business organisations in practice, their functioning, innovative approaches for dealing with social issues, and activities.
- Presentations by representatives of civil society organizations on the state of the art, the problems and the opportunities facing the sector in Bulgaria.
- Students group work to share views and make suggestions for projects for their personal involvement and contribution for the creation of a sustainable future.

Preliminary reading and preparations to be sent to the participants by e-mail

- Read COST project chapter on social enterprises in Bulgaria by Tsvetelina Marinova and Elisabeth Yoneva (18 pages)
- Read text from Katia Dupret and Kai Green on SE Danish context
- Prepare a 1 minute presentation of yourself and your experiences with solidarity action
- Watch the videos presenting the social economy cases that we will visit/hear about.

Day 1 (30.11.2022), Venue: New Bulgarian University (Hall 20, Corp 1 unless specified)

9.15-9.30	Coffee and Welcome and Tour de table, Eduard Marinov, Tsvetelina Marinova (NBU), Katia Dupret (RUC)
9.30-10.15	<i>Group exchange: What are the students' experiences with solidary actions?</i>
10.15-11.00	<i>Social and solidary economy in theory and in context in Bulgaria and other Balkan countries</i> , Tsvetelina Marinova (NBU)
11.15-12.00	<i>Why is social and solidarity economy an answer to societal and sustainability crises?</i> , Kai Green, Katia Dupret (RUC)
12.00-13.00 Artes restaurant, NBU	Lunch (self-paid)
13.00-14.30 Hall 304, Corp 2, NBU	<i>Why do we need sustainability in marketing</i> , Eduard Marinov (NBU), <i>The circular business model</i> , Mina Markova (NBU), <i>Make art fancy again? Digital art platform</i> , Hristina Stoimenova (NBU)
14.30-15.00	Coffee break
15.00-15.45	<i>Collective action (Cooperation), cooperatives, cooperative governance structures, values and principals, commitment and trust – classical and modern theories and their practical implementation. The Bulgarian case</i> , Ivan Boevsky (NBU)
15.45-16.15	<i>International Travelling University Place for future: Transdisciplinary Model of sustainability learning and knowledge co-creation in a trans-academic milieu</i> , Radosveta Krastanova (NBU)
16.15-16.30	Break
16.30-18.00	Exchange workshop: Group peer-to-peer reflection (students/researchers) discuss different theories, concepts, practices, institutional structures.
18.30 The School restaurant (next to NBU)	Dinner (self-paid)
(optional) 18.00 - 21.15	<i>Lecture on Sustainability and circular economy, Master Programme "International Business and Development"</i> , Mina Markova (NBU)

Day 2 (1.12.2022), Venue: New Bulgarian University (Hall 20, Corp 1 unless specified)

9.30-10.00	Good morning coffee and Program for the day
10.00-11.00	<i>Innovative services and products of Bread houses network</i> , Nadezhda Grigorova (Founder and General Manager)
11.00-12.00	<i>11.00-12.00 Business with social impact, Art atelier Tvorilnica in support with people with mental disabilities</i> , Valentina Hristakieva (Art atelier Tvorilnica)
12.00-13.00	Transport Break
13.00-14.30 outside NBU	<i>Field trip visit of Blagichka – Zero waste, Sofia</i> (Group 1), https://blagichka.com/ (https://goo.gl/maps/Nejo9HnVT5dER8Ax6)
14.30-16.00 outside NBU	<i>Field trip visit of Blagichka – Zero waste, Sofia</i> (Group 2), https://blagichka.com/ (https://goo.gl/maps/Nejo9HnVT5dER8Ax6)
(optional) 18.00 outside NBU	Sofia sightseeing tour, https://freesofiatour.com , (https://g.page/freesofiatour?share)

Day 3 (2.12.2022), Venue: New Bulgarian University (Hall 20, Corp 1 unless specified)

9.00-9.15	Good morning coffee and Program for the day
9.15-10.00	<i>Does the insect industry create new value to local resources and communities for a more sustainable food system?</i> , Mariya Alexandrova (Nasekomo)
10.00-10.30	<i>Students' experience in volunteering</i> , Margarita Stankova, Polina Mihova and students from the Department of Healthcare and Social Work (NBU)
10.30-11.30	<i>Group work: what kind of collaborative ideas does this seminar on alternative organizing for sustainable futures create? Ideas generation in groups: addressing prospects and challenges qualified through lectures and interviews</i> (Kai Green, Katia Dupret, Tsvetelina Marinova, Eduard Marinov)
11.30-11.45	Coffee break
11.45-12.40	<i>Group work: How do students and citizens organize solidary action to create sustainable futures? peer to peer brainstorm</i> (Kai Green, Katia Dupret)
12.40-13.00	Closing reflections, Tsvetelina Marinova (NBU) and Katia Dupret (RUC)
13.00-14.00 Artes restaurant, NBU	Artes restaurant, NBU (self-paid)
14.00-15.00	Visiting the Center for Treatment of Childhood Communication, Behavioral and Emotional Disorders at the NBU