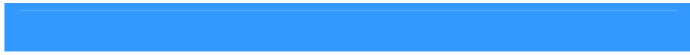




The
University
Of
Sheffield.



SOUTH - EAST
EUROPEAN
RESEARCH
CENTRE

Annual Activities Report 2007



CITY

Affiliated Institution of the
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

Status Report

2007 was a year of significant changes for the Balkans with the EU enlargement process embracing another country, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia that acquired candidate country status along with Croatia and Turkey. The beginning of the year welcomed Bulgaria and Romania as new member states in the EU, altering in this way the Greek border in the north to borders with a European country. The rest of the Western Balkan countries (WBC), Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo under UN Resolution 1244, are part of the Stabilisation and Association process and have been granted the status of potential candidate countries. The EU places a lot of emphasis on research that is carried out in or with the WBC as a means of understanding and preparing the countries for future membership.

SEERC follows closely the developments and updates its research agenda with information that sources in the Western Balkan Countries; the insight and directions that the International Advisory Board members offer to the Centre are complemented by connections to international contacts that were established through collaboration in research projects and by the SEERC Research fellows. These networks are vital for ensuring that the Centre updates its agenda with topics of importance to the region. One of the ways of achieving this is by offering opportunities for the study of related topics to doctoral students. After five years of existence and a number of cohorts of students, the SEERC doctoral programme celebrated the first two doctoral graduates who successfully completed their studies. This accomplishment signifies the maturity that the programme has reached and opens up doors for advancing the doctoral experience further through utilising lessons learned. Already, one of the graduates has taken up a place at SEERC as a post-doctoral student expanding on the research that was carried out throughout his studies during the previous years, while the other has been employed by a major IT company in Thessaloniki.

One of last year's achievements was SEERC's participation in the first Calls of FP7. Already by the end of the year, there's been notification of three projects that are to be funded by the EU. The preparations for the transition from the FP6 to FP7 Calls were rigorous and SEERC staff utilised the experience in proposal preparation of the past years: collaborations with existing partners were negotiated and new partnerships were pursued. Throughout 2007 submissions of project proposals and discussions of potential research ideas continued in a productive manner.

One of the indicators of the recognition that SEERC has gained over the past years is the fact that SEERC is the choice for partnerships for many well-established organisations and centres. Invitations reach the Centre not only for collaboration in research projects but for organising events throughout Europe and South East Europe in particular (SEERC is invited to co-organise events or to support them scientifically); all this adds to the fact that the Director and the Chairman are regularly invited as a keynote speaker to high-level events and that staff members and research track leaders are invited as experts to round table discussions and workshops or to the scientific programmes of various events. This naturally opens up the possibilities for networking.

Notable progress has been made since its establishment and the positive prospects ahead would not have been possible without the support from the people of the University of Sheffield; in particular special thanks is owed to Professor Keith BURNETT, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, and to Professor Robert BOUCHER, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, Professor Tony CROOK, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield as well

as to Mr. Yannis VERVERIDIS, the Principal of CITY Liberal Studies and to Dr. Panayiotis KETIKIDIS, SEERC Chairman and Vice-principal of CITY Liberal Studies for their commitment and support at every level throughout our effort. SEERC will try hard to advance its work and thus live up to the expectations of all the people who have encouraged it from the beginning .

A. RESEARCH @ SEERC

Research Projects Update

The restructuring of the SEERC Research Tracks in 2006 set the basis for advancing the organization of group work on research proposals. Project leaders came together with research assistants to discuss ideas and to network with contacts for partnering in projects.

Overall, five new projects were launched in 2007 with a total budget of €100.028, another four were approved for funding with a total estimated budget of €342.500 and are expected to start in the first half of 2008 while one of the older, FP6 projects, MIRIAD was successfully concluded.

New Awards

Five new projects concluded negotiations with the EU and other funding authorities and the signature of contracts in late 2006 and started their work in 2007:

J-WEB: Collaboration environment for Judicial European network in Western Balkans, contract number 045331: SEERC is part of an international consortium of partners from Italy, Romania, the Republic of Montenegro, France and the UK. J-WEB will develop an innovative judicial cooperation environment specifically in the cross-border criminal matters investigation phase carried out between EU and Associate countries. Scientific and social results aim to target the fight against criminality in the South East European research area and to impact regional measures against organised crime. The project is led by Project Automation based in Milano, Italy.

QF Embodiment: The exchange of experiences during the creation and testing of sectorial qualification frameworks and their drawing near to each other, in the light of EQF: This project is funded by the DG Education and Training Leonardo Da Vinci programme and it brings together partners from Spain, Sweden, Estonia, the Czech Republic and Romania to exchange experiences on the road to implementing the European Qualifications Framework and to reinforce vocational training practices and quality. The project is led by NIVE, the National Institute of Vocational Training in Hungary, (a former partner of CITY College).

eSDI-Net⁺(European Network on Geographical Information Enrichment and Reuse): This is a project funded by the eContent Plus programme. This project aims to bring together existing Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) key players and target users in a Thematic Network as a platform for communication and exchange between different stakeholders for the promotion of cross border dialogue and exchange of best practices on SDI throughout Europe. The network will promote high-level decisions, low-level technical discussion and information exchange, in order to increase awareness concerning the importance of GI enrichment and of SDI's for GI reuse, and to permit the creation of integrated guidelines, standards, and implementation of best practices.

In fall 2007 SEERC won a contract to organise the **3rd EPISTEP** workshop following a competitive process led by URSIT Ltd, the coordinator of the EPISTEP project. EPISTEP is an innovative project funded by FP6 in order to enhance SME participation in European Technology Platforms. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. George ELEFThERAKIS, Track Leader for the SEERC Research Track 2: Information & Communication Technologies with the support of SEERC staff. Dr. Konstantinos GLINOS, Head of the Embedded Systems Unit at the Information

Society and Media DG of the European Commission, was the keynote speaker and during the event the three European Technology Platforms (ARTEMIS, eMobility, ENIAC) were presented.

SECI: Strengthening Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness and Innovation.

This project is funded by the British Embassy in Skopje to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education in F.Y.R. of Macedonia for the inclusion of entrepreneurship and innovation in secondary and higher education curricula. SEERC involved two senior staff members (Dr. Pittaway and Dr. Ketikidis) in the provision of services through our network contacts in F.Y.R. Macedonia.

Progress on Current Research Projects

FUSION: The project is currently in month 26 of its 30-month duration and has recently completed a formal review in Brussels on the 14th of March, 2008. All project deliverables (reports and software) have been submitted on time and the project is expected to end as planned, on the 31st of July, with its final formal review scheduled for the end of September. The recent drop-out of two partners from the consortium brought about the need to amend the project contract in order to re-distribute the research work that the leaving partners did not perform, and the associated EC funding. In this context, and in recognition of SEERC's commitment and contribution to the project, SEERC was asked to undertake additional research work and funding. The changes required to the "Description of Work (DoW)" text were approved during the recent formal review meeting, but the official review report is still pending. The project is led by Dr. Iraklis PARASKAKIS, Mr. Dimitris KOURTESIS and Mr. Dimitris BIBIKAS.

J-WEB: The project is undergoing month 13 of its duration and has just passed a successful review from the Commission, which took place in Brussels at the end of February. All deliverables have been found to the right level of quality and there were only minor comments for improvement. This has been encouraging for the consortium due to several changes to the partnership (four partners dropped out and had to be replaced). Overall the project is on schedule; a small delay has been reported to the Commission and an extension has been granted as to the end date (+ 3 months). The project is led by Dr. George ELEFThERAKIS.

Completed Research Projects

MIRIAD: The project was completed in December 2007 with a Consultation Workshop on the final Knowledge Investment Strategy for Central Macedonia and East Macedonia and Thrace. This workshop had been succeeded by a first preparatory workshop on deciding the parameters of the strategy in April 2007. The Knowledge Investment Strategy Document that was based on the recommendations of the stakeholders during the previous workshop is currently finalized and will be available for dissemination to targeted stakeholders.

Other Research Activities

□ Research Submissions

2007 was a productive year that brought SEERC/CITY researchers generating ideas for funding and participating in proposals led by renowned coordinators with the help of international partners. The outcomes of this effort was that approximately 30 projects were submitted to a variety of funding sources (FP7, DG Education and Training, European Science Foundation, EuropeAid, Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace, DG Enterprise) throughout the year totalling roughly 4m euro.

□ Research Training Seminars

A training seminar was organised on March 26, 2007 on Discourse Analysis and it was delivered by Dr. Antonis SAPOUNTZIS, Social Psychologist; the seminar was the first one in the Qualitative Research Seminar Series and it was followed by

another on Critical Discourse Analysis delivered on June 08th 2007 by Ms. Sara HANNAM of CITY Liberal Studies, Lecturer and Director of the English Learning Support Unit.

□ Publications

DEACON, B., and STUBBS, P., (eds.), (2007), "Social Policy and International Interventions in South East Europe", Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

DRANIDS, D., and SAKELLARIOU, I., (eds.), (2007), Proceedings of the 3rd South East European Workshop on Formal Methods: Service-oriented Computing Teaching Formal Methods, organized by SEERC and CITY College, Thessaloniki, Greece, 30/11-01/12/2007.

PARASKAKIS, I., (ed.), (2007), "Infusing Research and Knowledge in South East Europe", Proceedings of the 2nd Annual SEERC Doctoral Student Conference, organized by SEERC, Thessaloniki, June 22-23, 2007.

KEFALAS, P., SOTIRIADOU, A., DAVIES, G., and MCGETTRICK, A., (eds), (2007), Proceedings of the Conference Informatics Education Europe II: Developments in East and South East Europe, 29-30 November 2007, Thessaloniki, Greece. ISBN: 978-960-89629-3-4.

PARASKAKIS, I., STAMATOPOULOU, I., and PAUNOVSKI, O., (eds), (2007), "Infusing Research and Knowledge in South East Europe", Proceedings of the 1st Annual SEERC Doctoral Student Conference, organized by SEERC, Thessaloniki, July 10th 2007.

KOURTESIS, D., and PARASKAKIS, I., "Combining SAWSDL, OWL-DL and UDDI for Semantically Enhanced Web Service Discovery," in *Proceedings of the 5th European Semantic Web Conference (ESWC 2008)*, June 2008 (forthcoming).

KOURTESIS, D., and PARASKAKIS, I., "Web Service Discovery in the FUSION Semantic Registry," in W. Abramowicz and D. Fensel (eds.) *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Business Information Systems (BIS 2008)*, Lecture Notes in Business Information Processing, vol. 7, Springer, Heidelberg, May 2008, pp. 285-296 (forthcoming).

DRANIDIS, D., KOURTESIS, D., and RAMOLLARI, E., "Formal Verification of Web Service Behavioural Conformance through Testing," *Annals of Mathematics, Computing & Teleinformatics, Vol. 1, No. 5*, 2007.

DRANIDIS, D., KOURTESIS, D., and RAMOLLARI, E., "Formal Verification of Web Service Behavioural Conformance through Testing," in *Proceedings of the 3rd South-East European Workshop on Formal Methods (SEEFM07)*, Thessaloniki, Greece, November 2007, pp. 112-125 (ISBN 978-960-89629-4-1).

KOURTESIS, D., and PARASKAKIS, I., "Enabling Semantic Matchmaking of Web Service Descriptions in UDDI," in *Proceedings of the 3rd Balkan Conference in Informatics (BCI 2007)*, Volume 1, K. Boyanov, R. Nikolov, I. Nikolova, and M. Nisheva, Eds. Sofia, Bulgaria: Demetra, 2007, pp. 217-228 (ISBN 978-954-9526-41-7).

ALEXAKIS, S., BAUER, M., PACE, A., SCHUMACHER, A., FRIESEN, A., BOURAS, A., KOURTESIS, D., "Application of the FUSION Approach for Assisted Composition of Web Services," in IFIP International Federation for Information Processing, Volume 243/2007, *Establishing the Foundation of Collaborative*

Networks, L. Camarinha-Matos, H. Afsarmanesh, P. Novais, and C. Analide, Eds. Boston: Springer, 2007, pp. 531-538 (ISBN 978-0-387-73797-3).

BOURAS, A., GOUVAS, P., KOURTESIS, D., and MENTZAS, G., "Semantic Integration of Business Applications Across Collaborative Value Networks," in IFIP International Federation for Information Processing, Volume 243/2007, *Establishing the Foundation of Collaborative Networks*, L. Camarinha-Matos, H. Afsarmanesh, P. Novais, and C. Analide, Eds. Boston: Springer, 2007, pp. 539-546 (ISBN 978-0-387-73797-3).

KOURTESIS, D., PARASKAKIS, I., FRIESEN, A., GOUVAS, P., and BOURAS, A., "Web Service Discovery in a Semantically Extended UDDI Registry: the Case of FUSION," in IFIP International Federation for Information Processing, Volume 243/2007, *Establishing the Foundation of Collaborative Networks*, L. Camarinha-Matos, H. Afsarmanesh, P. Novais, and C. Analide, Eds. Boston: Springer, 2007, pp. 547-554 (ISBN 978-0-387-73797-3).

TUMMARELLO, G., MORBIDONI, C., KOURTESIS, D., PIAZZA, F., and PULITI, P., "Toward MUI: Ontology Assisted Global Identification of Audio Resources," in *Proceedings of the 2nd Italian Workshop on Semantic Web Applications and Perspectives (SWAP 2005)*, Trento, Italy, December 2005, CEUR Workshop Proceedings, Vol. 166 (ISSN 1613-0073).

KOURTESIS, D., "AudioMatch: A System for Content-Based Indexing & Identification of Audio Signals Using MPEG-7," presented at the *4th International Student Spring Symposium on Contemporary Topics on Information Technology (S3CTIT05)*, Thessaloniki, Greece, May 20-21, 2005.

BIBIKAS, D., PARASKAKIS, I., PSYCHOGIOS, A.G. and VASCONCELOS, A.C., (Accepted and Forthcoming). "Emerging enterprise social software knowledge management environments: current practices and future challenges", *International Journal of Learning and Intellectual Capital*.

BIBIKAS, D., PARASKAKIS, I., PSYCHOGIOS, A.G. and VASCONCELOS, A.C., (2008). "An integrated Knowledge Innovation Process Management model: The Case of Skandia", *Knowledge Ecology in Global Business: Managing Intellectual Capital* (Eds: Ordonez De Pablos, Lytras).

BIBIKAS, D., KOURTESIS, D., PARASKAKIS, I., BERNARDI, A., SAUERMAN, L., APOSTOLOU, D. and MENTZAS, G. (2008). "Organisational Knowledge Management Systems in the Era of Enterprise 2.0: The case of OrganiK", *International Conference on Business Information Systems BIS, Social Aspects of the Web Workshop*, Innsbruck, Austria 5-7 May 2008.

BIBIKAS, D., PARASKAKIS, I., PSYCHOGIOS, A.G. and VASCONCELOS, A.C., (2007a), A novel approach to enterprise knowledge management systems: an enterprise Web 2.0 holistic model. *South Eastern European Doctoral Conference*, Thessaloniki, 22-23 June 2007.

BIBIKAS, D., PARASKAKIS, I., PSYCHOGIOS, A.G. and VASCONCELOS, A.C., (2007b), Towards a holistic model of decentralized enterprise Knowledge Management Systems: Emerging Web 2.0 technologies and management techniques. Paper to be presented at the *European Conference on Operational Research (EURO XXII)*, Prague, 8-11 July 2007..

A new issue of the SEERC Bulletin was published (Vol.4 Issue 1) under the theme "Innovation and Regional Development in South East Europe" hosting articles on the topic from Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey, UK and USA. The Bulletin was disseminated hard copy widely to key targets from related sectors and also it was disseminated electronically to targeted recipients from SEERC's mailing lists.

B. THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

□ The first two SEERC Doctoral Graduates

On November 10, 2007 two SEERC Doctoral Students were awarded their Doctoral degree by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, Professor Micheline Beaulieu in the CITY-SHEFFIELD ceremony, following successful defence of their thesis in viva voce sessions the previous months.

- Dr. Leonidas ORFANIDIS researched Data Quality Issues in electronic Health records throughout his studies at SEERC. His viva was held on March 28, 2007. The examiners were Dr. Miguel NUNES (University of Sheffield) and Dr. Eleni KALDOUDI (Lab of Medical Physics, School of Medicine, Democretus University of Thrace).
- Dr. Lambros LAZURAS conducted research on psychosocial antecedents of intentions to smoke among Greek adolescents. The viva was held on October 17, 2007. Professor Stephen SUTTON (University of Cambridge) and Dr. Ana VIVAS (CITY College) were the examiners.

In both cases, Dr. Iraklis PARASKAKIS, SEERC Senior Research Officer and Academic Director of the SEERC Doctoral programme acted as viva coordinator.

Following graduation, Dr. Orfanidis has launched his career with a position at a well-established local company, Open Technology Services (OTS S.A) while Dr. Lazuras continues with SEERC as a post-doctoral student funded by Cancer Research UK; the funding was obtained after Prof. EISER submitted a proposal to the foundation for the continuation of the research on smoking.

□ Call for Doctoral Applications 2007-2008 & New Admissions

A new Call for applications to the SEERC Doctoral Programme for the academic year 2007-2008 was published in late April 2007. In accordance with the usual SEERC-Sheffield planning, applications were accepted for Broad Thematic Area or Specific Research Topics. Broad thematic areas are normally areas of broad interest to SEERC and Specific Research topics are directly related to areas of research as proposed by University of Sheffield and CITY College academic staff who wish to supervise SEERC doctoral students. Twenty applications were received in response to the Call for Doctoral applications for the new academic year noting an increased interest for Research Track 1 topics. Following a rigorous evaluation process including an interview, no candidates ensued for admission for the academic year 2007-2008 due to a weakness in fulfilling admission criteria.

Still, in 2007 SEERC welcomed four new doctoral candidates. Professor Richard EISER of the University of Sheffield (Psychology Department) secured funds from Cancer Research UK for two new doctoral students. The new students, Ms. Erika MELONASHI from Albania and Mr. Martin ZLATEV from Bulgaria are engaged in studies that step on previous research conducted by Dr. Lambros LAZURAS, a post-doctoral student now, on the impact of social norms on smoking. Another two candidates were admitted in 2007 due to a delay in completing their registration process after being admitted in 2006 in the programme. Mr. Dimitrios BIBIKAS (Greece), registered with the Information Studies department will study "Knowledge Management Practices and Emerging Web 2.0 Technologies" and Mr. Andrej LUNESKI (F.Y.R.O.M) started his doctoral study in October 2007 after registering with the Computer Science department. His doctoral study is focused on Emotional and Affective Speech Synthesis.

Name	Country	Topic	Mode of Study
Dimitrios BIBIKAS	Greece	Knowledge Management Practices and Emerging Web 2.0 Technologies	Part-time

Andrej LUNESKI	F.Y.R.O.M.	Emotional and Affective Speech Synthesis	Full-time
Erika MELONASHI	Albania	Smoking prevention in the Balkans	Full-time
Martin ZLATEV	Bulgaria	Smoking prevention in the Balkans	Full-time

□ The 2nd Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference

Following up on the success of the 1st Annual SEERC Doctoral Student Conference (July 10th 2006) SEERC opened up the conference to a two-day event inviting presentations from doctoral students from South East Europe in particular and also from across Europe. More than 150 abstracts were submitted and underwent peer-reviewing. The conference was split in sessions according to the SEERC Research Tracks; each of the doctoral student presentations was followed by discussion moderated by a number of invited discussants from academic institutions. All papers presented were disseminated on a CD and will soon be available in a volume of proceedings. The conference is coordinated by Dr. Iraklis Paraskakis, Academic Director of the SEERC Doctoral Programme and organized with the involvement of SEERC doctoral students and staff.

□ Other Academic Activities

Throughout 2007 SEERC continued the organization of research seminars within the frame of Open Seminar Series and Research Student Seminars; at the same time, in collaboration with the CITY Business Administration and Economics Department a new series of seminars was introduced with CITY staff sharing their research with staff, students and external audiences as well as with experts from the Business community delivering lectures on current topics. (For a full list of the SEERC seminars, see Appendix on page 15).

□ New Supervisors @ SEERC

In 2007, SEERC was pleased to welcome to the team of SEERC Supervisors, Professor Roger MOORE of the Computer Science Department who supervises doctoral student Andrej Luneski. Professor Moore is a Professor of Spoken Language Processing in the Department of Computer Science and the Head of the Speech and Hearing Research Group.

C. NETWORKING & DISSEMINATION

December 13, 2007: Consultation Workshop on the final Knowledge Investment Strategy for Central Macedonia and East Macedonia and Thrace, in the frame of SEERC's MIRIAD project (Managing and Infusing Research Investment and Development).

December 9-12, 2007: SEERC co-organises the 5th International Conference on Supply Chain Management and Information Systems (SCMIS 2007), Melbourne, Australia with a range of international partners. Having tackled the organisation of the 2005 conference SEERC, a member of the international SCMIS consortium, participated in the organisation of the 5th conference of the series.

December 7, 2007: 3rd EPISTEP workshop, "Delivering the future of mobile communications, embedded systems and nano-electronics", Thessaloniki, Greece (www.seerc.org/espistep).

November 29-30, 2007: CITY College and SEERC organize Informatics Education Europe II: Developments in East and in South East Europe. (<http://www.seerc.org/ieei2007/index.html>). The IEEII conference brings together Informatics Educators across Europe to provide a forum for sharing experience, innovative ideas and identifying common issues to be addressed within Europe. "Developments in South-East and East Europe" was its main theme: the conference addressed common problems among educators related to the development, improvement, delivery and evaluation of Informatics curricula and provide an opportunity for sharing experiences and best practice examples from all over Europe.

November 30-December 1, 2007: 3rd South East European Workshop on Formal Methods: Service-oriented Computing Teaching Formal Methods, Thessaloniki, Greece (www.seefm.info/seefm07). The aim of this 3rd workshop is to continue this success by engaging more researchers of the Formal Methods community not only from South-East Europe but also from the rest of the world. The theme of this workshop was twofold and dealt with (a) Web Services and Formal Methods, and (b) Teaching Formal Methods.

November 28, 2007: the SEERC Culture and Politics Research Group led by Ms. Sara Hannam, Leader of the third SEERC Research Track: Governance, politics and Society, organizes a discussion based on the film "Eternity and a Day" by Theo Angelopoulos (honoured with a doctoral degree during the CITY-Sheffield Graduation Ceremony in November 2007) on the topics of: migration, ethnic and national identity, racism and the treatment of immigrants.

November 14, 2007: The 1st Workshop of the Children at Risk Workshop Series entitled "Children and Cancer: Care and prevention" was organised by SEERC and Sheffield and was led by Prof. R. EISER, Prof. C EISER and Dr. E KALYVA. It attracted speakers from Greece, Slovenia, Germany, UK and the Czech Republic. The aim of this series is to gather experts on Children at Risk to form a network for researching further issues within this generic topic. During the process SEERC will seek to liaise with all major governmental and non-governmental actors in this field.

June 22-23, 2007: The 2nd Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference. Following up on the success on the 1st Annual SEERC Doctoral Student Conference that took place on July 10th 2006 SEERC invited presentations from doctoral students from South East Europe and beyond to an

event that eventually attracted more than 150 abstracts and received highly positive feedback.

June 01-03, 2007: Transnational Governmentality in South East Europe: Translating neo-liberalism on the sovereign frontier: concepts, cases and contestations, Rabac, Istria, Croatia. The 5th workshop in the Multi-level Governance series, a series of workshops exploring issues of Multi-level Governance organized by SEERC and the Economics Institute, Zagreb and funded by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

April 24, 2007: the 2nd Workshop of the MIRIAD project (Managing and Infusing Research Investment and Development, a project funded by FP6/Regions of Knowledge).

D. SEERC INTERNAL NEWS

□ 8th Steering Committee Meeting

The 8th meeting was realized in SEERC premises on November 09 2007, with the participation of Sheffield Head of Departments and SEERC Research Track leaders.

□ 7th Steering Committee Meeting

The meeting took place at the University of Sheffield on May 17th, 2007 and was well attended by University of Sheffield, SEERC and CITY Liberal Studies staff. The group discussed the course of the Business Plan and next steps of actions for SEERC as well as the Centre's Dissemination Strategy.

□ 3rd International Advisory Board (IAB) Meeting

The 3rd IAB Meeting took place at SEERC on June 15 and its synthesis was enriched from a number of new members from Serbia, Romania and the UK. The members were informed in detail by the SEERC Director, Mr. Nikos ZAHARIS and the Chairman of the SEERC Steering Committee, Prof. Tony CROOK, on the latest developments in the research strategy of SEERC, on the formulation of the Research tracks and the improvements to the doctoral programme. They also had the opportunity to listen to Doctoral students who presented their research and answered their questions. All members engaged in a lively discussion with suggestions focusing on topics for future research, on further links to the industry and further value for the doctoral programme.

Staff News & Networking

- ❖ November 29-30, 2007: Nikos ZAHARIS delivers a presentation on the MIRIAD project at the South East European Conference on Innovation, organised under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Development, General Secretariat for Research and Technology.
- ❖ November 29-30, 2007: Informatics Education Europe II: Developments in East and South East Europe, organised by CITY College and SEERC, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- ❖ November 13, 2007: a project meeting for the Multi-level Governance project funded by the ESRC takes place at SEERC with a range of researchers from South East Europe including Greece and led by Professors Taylor, Geddes and Drs. Lees and Bache.
- ❖ October 24-26, 2007: Dimitris KOURTESIS and Dimitris BIBIKAS participate in the eChallenges Conference (e-2007) in the Hague, and organize a workshop on behalf of the FUSION consortium entitled "Advancing European research in Enterprise Interoperability".
- ❖ October 23-27, 2007: Christina MIARITI presents SEERC at the "Cultural Facilities and Youth" (funded by DG Education and Culture) at the meeting of the EUROMEDINCULTURE network in Marseille, for the expanding of the network to EUROMEDINCULTURE+.
- ❖ October 3-6, 2007: Nikos ZAHARIS participates at the TII (Association for Technology Transfer and Innovation/SEERC is a member of the Association) Brussels Group meeting to promote the undertaking of the Annual TII Conference in 2009 by SEERC following a proposal to the Association.
- ❖ September 27-29, 2007: 3rd Balkan Conference in Informatics, Sofia, Bulgaria. Extensive participation with presentations from Dr. Paraskakis, Dr. Eleftherakis, SEERC student Ognen Paunovski, Dr. Dimopoulos, and Dr. Dranidis.
- ❖ September 9-14, 2007: Dr. Iraklis PARASKAKIS and Mr. Dimitris KOURTESIS present "Web Service Discovery in a Semantically Extended UDDI Registry" at the 8th IFIP Working Conference on Virtual Enterprises (PRO-VE 2007) in

- Guimaraes, Portugal. The workshop was organised by SEERC on behalf of the FUSION consortium.
- ❖ September 04, 2007: SEERC welcomes Ms. Sara HANNAM as Research Track leader for the 3rd SEERC Research track "Governance, Politics and Society".
 - ❖ July 12-14, 2007: SEERC Doctoral Student Ms. Katerina MARKIDOU presents "The reaction of bank lending to macroeconomic fluctuations of monetary policy transmission in Greece" at the 4th Advances in Applied Financial Economics conference, Samos, Greece.
 - ❖ July 8-11, 2007: SEERC Doctoral Student and Research Associate Mr. Dimitris BIBIKAS presents "Emerging Web 2.0 technologies and management techniques: towards a holistic model of decentralized enterprise knowledge management" at the 22nd European Conference on Operational research, Prague, Czech Republic.
 - ❖ July 5-7, 2007: Dr. Alexandros PSYCHOGIOS, presents "A Londoner in Athens: transferring Anglo-Saxon management knowledge to non-Anglo Saxon business systems" at the 23rd EGOS Colloquium: Beyond Waltz – Dances of Individuals and Organisation, Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration.
 - ❖ June 14-15, 2007: SEERC Doctoral Students Maria XENITIDOU and Katerina MARKIDOU present papers at the London School of Economics during the 3rd Hellenic Observatory PhD Symposium on Contemporary Greece: "Structures, Context and Challenges". Xenitidou M., "Talking about Greekness and migration in Central Northern Greece: The construction of multiple categories of Greeks as the "ultimate contract" for migration?" Markidou K., "Credit in the monetary transmission mechanism: an evaluation of the credit channel using Greek data".
 - ❖ June 13, 2007: Mr. Zaharis will chair the first workshop of the project "eBIZ4SMEs", a project of the Association of IT Industries of Northern Greece (partners: ATLANTIS Consulting and the German-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce), a project with the objective of promoting e-business applications among Greek SMEs.
 - ❖ June 11-12, 2007: 2nd European Young Researchers' Workshop on Service Oriented Computing, Leicester, UK. Mr. Dimitris KOURTESIS, SEERC Research Associate presented "A survey of Service oriented Development Methodologies" on behalf of SEERC Doctoral Student Mr. Ervin RAMOLLARI. The paper authors are: Ervin RAMOLLARI, Dimitris DRANIDIS, and Anthony SIMONS.
 - ❖ June 08, 2007: The i-techpartner Central Macedonia Academy was held in Thessaloniki. I-techpartner is a collaborative innovation network with the mission to join European technology leaders with SMEs and investors and build value-creating relationships by making technology development alliances and investments accessible and effective. I-techpartner is organised by ATLANTIS Consulting and supported by SEERC.
 - ❖ May 08-10, 2007: SEERC Doctoral Student Mr. Andreas BARESEL-BOFINGER presents paper "Implementation of Green Supply Chain Management in South East Europe: a literature review, supply chain in South East Europe", at the German EU Council Presidency Conference "Sustainable Neighbourhood: from Lisbon to Leipzig through Research". The paper was prepared by Andreas BARESEL-BOFINGER (SEERC), Dr. Panayiotis KETIKIDIS (SEERC), Dr. Lenny KOH (University of Sheffield) and Prof. John CULLEN (University of Sheffield).
 - ❖ April 02, 2007: Mr. Zaharis participates in the 1st Steering Committee Meeting of the TECH SME partnering: Clustering Converging Tech Transfer projects and Innovative SMEs across regions.
 - ❖ March 31-April 1, 2007: 4th International Conference on Informatics, Educational Technology and New Media in Education. 4 papers were presented in this conference organized by the Faculty of Education of the University of

Novi Sad by SEERC Staff Dr. PARASKAKIS, Dr. DRANIDIS and SEERC PhD students George KATAKALOS and Petros LAMERAS.

- ❖ March 29, 2007: Mr. Zaharis presented a paper in Melnik, Bulgaria on "The overall framework for Bulgarian-Greek relations after Bulgaria's accession to the EU (future prospects and opportunities) with focus on the current issues in the field of R & D/Innovation in Greece". He was invited in the frame of the Information Workshop for potential beneficiaries under Projects for cross-border cooperation between Bulgaria and Greece, a workshop of the project "Technical Assistance in Analysis of Local Potential for cross-border partnership between Bulgaria and Greece".

New Staff

October 2007: SEERC had the pleasure of welcoming Ms. Athanasia HALATZOUKA at the position of Executive Secretary after Ms. May PASCHALIDOU left SEERC to relocate to another city changing career path at the same time. Ms. HALATZOUKA has a background in Psychology and a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology as well as related experience.

September 2007: SEERC welcomed in September 2007, Ms. Sara HANNAM who was assigned Research Track leader for Research Track 3 "Governance, politics and Society" in the position of Dr. Sean HOMER. Ms. HANNAM is responsible for coordinating Research Track activities (meetings, partnerships and proposals) along with liaising with the respective Track leader from the University of Sheffield, Prof. Andrew Taylor, and with staff from related departments (Departments of Sociological Studies, Education, Politics and Journalism).

September 2007: Dr. Nikolaos FIKOURAS, Research Engineer of the R & D department of MARAC Electronics becomes the first SEERC Affiliated Researcher in a network that is yet to be expanded.

E. Priorities for 2008

Having consolidated research activity at various levels in 2007 (proposal preparation, networking and conducting the actual research) by participating in projects from different funding sources, SEERC aims to utilise the knowledge acquired in 2008 as a basis for expanding activities to programmes and partners of which there is currently limited experience. This process dictates to a certain extent, the according harmonization of core SEERC activities accompanied by clear-cut initiatives for embracing topics of interest to the South East European region as they arise (i.e. from the International Advisory Board members' suggestions).

In terms of Research, a primary goal is to successfully conclude projects funded from Framework Programme 6 and to look into ways for exploiting and disseminating the research findings according to the target groups. The end of 2007 has brought news on the favourable outcome of SEERC applications to FP7 Calls, therefore it will be of immediate importance to successfully conclude contract negotiations with the EU, to make sure that administrative procedures of the new Framework programme are known and understood by the project leaders and to make the research teams functional so that the work can begin in a timely manner. In terms of programmes, SEERC is particularly interested to build on in FP7 projects and to secure participation in new programmes of the Lifelong Learning programme of the DG Education and Training given the work and positive experiences of Leonardo Da Vinci programmes. Furthermore, SEERC will examine the possibility of applying for Calls in the Territorial Cooperation programme (TC) 2007-2013, due in late autumn 2008; the focus of the TC programme is more on innovation and competitiveness rather than on spatial planning and this relates directly to the focus of Research Track 1: Enterprise, Innovation and Development. Finally, as contacts with the Greek General Secretariat for Research and Technology are reinforced, SEERC continues to look towards national funds in the near future.

The graduation of two SEERC doctoral students in 2008 was truly rewarding and set the tone for materializing a refreshed academic programme that will constitute a unique research experience for future students. In 2008 the majority of the first and second cohorts of students (2003-2004 and 2004-2005 cohorts) is expected to graduate. 2007 was a year of vivid discussions with the University of Sheffield aiming to solidify administrative procedures for the doctoral students. This turned out to be a complex task that needed careful consideration of both the particularities of studying at SEERC and harmonization with the University's rules. The talks between Dr. Paraskakis, Academic Director of the doctoral programme and related departments of the University (i.e. Graduate Research Office) have been critical for finalizing the procedures and for the production of a Handbook to be expected in early 2008. As the programme expands with new students arriving, SEERC intends by the end of 2008 to have put in place a rigorous monitoring system for reasons internal to the optimum operation of the programme and for purposes of best communication and update with the University of Sheffield. At the same time, the Centre looks for ways to improve the academic environment by enriching research seminars with external participants and by establishing further the Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference; this means making it more attractive to participation from Europe and South East Europe in particular and more responsive to the needs of the students with workshops on skills development included. On top of this, another way of growing academic activity within SEERC is the creation and expansion in 2008 of a network of affiliated researchers. These are people whose academic profiles fit the research direction of SEERC; their main task will be to carry out research and to publish in areas of immediate research interest to

SEERC, contributing in this way to SEERC becoming a point of reference in research in South East Europe and Europe in general. Last, a way to fortify research efforts is to build and finalise the SEERC Claroline e-learning platform in a way that makes it possible to manage learning and collaborative research activities allowing at the same time, interaction with the supervisors of the students.

As CITY and SEERC researchers expand their knowledge and research activities, the expertise acquired from their quality work will be distilled in order to formulate a series of publications, the Research Methods Series, expected in 2008 and of potential use to researchers not only within SEERC and CITY but very importantly to the SEE region as well. Within its academic activities, another target is to explore, in 2008, the viability of a new Master of Science course, possibly in Governance and European Affairs or in a related area. This idea is at the moment at an initial stage and a decision about materializing it is expected by the end of 2008.

2007 was an exciting and rewarding year in terms of networking and events. The launching of a new publication, "Social Policy and International Interventions in South East Europe" that was the direct outcome of research carried out and supported by SEERC along with the launching of the Children at Risk Workshop series and the first workshop on "Children and Cancer" gave SEERC good reason to believe that there is margin for new types of events that gather researchers in common efforts and activities. For 2008, SEERC will seek to expand the formal and informal networks it has built so far and to organize events that address current topics of interest to researchers and open the way to fresh thinking and ideas.

APPENDIX

□ Open Seminar Series

December 04, 2007: "Programming with Diagrams in UML 2.x", by Dr. Tony SIMONS, Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield.

November 12, 2007: "Intermediality in theatre and performance: perception, power and higher education", by Ms. Freda CHAPPLE, Institute of Lifelong Learning, University of Sheffield.

November 08, 2007: "Collaborative Research and Capacity Building through Geographical Information Science", by Dr. Robin SMITH, Informatics Collaboratory for the Social Sciences, University of Sheffield.

October 23, 2007: "Protecting Children from harm: how far should we go? An exploration of the English experience", By Professor Jan HORWATH, Department of Sociological studies, University of Sheffield.

October 4, 2007: "Strategies for Embedding Enterprise Education in Universities", by Dr. Luke PITTAWAY, Management School, University of Sheffield.

September 05, 2007: "Studies of how the general public search the Web and how meta-cognitive strategies can be deployed to improve web search effectiveness", by Dr. Barry EAGLESTONE and Dr. Andrew MADDEN, Department of Information Studies, University of Sheffield.

June 07, 2007: "A systems model for the field of Informatics", by Dr. Tony COWLING, Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield.

May 10, 2007: "JWALK-Lazy, Systematic Class Unit Testing" by Dr. Tony SIMONS, Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield.

May 07, 2007: "Securing more affordable housing in Britain: the use of planning gain to provide both land and private finance for affordable homes" by Professor Tony CROOK, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, Department of Town and Regional Planning.

April 17, 2007: "Pedagogy and Process in 'Organisational Problem Solving'", by Dr. John KAWALEK, Management School, University of Sheffield.

February 13, 2007: "Advertising to Children: Context, Research", by Dr. Caroline OATES, Management School, University of Sheffield.

January 23, 2007: "Auditory Hallucinations – what makes their experience real?", by Professor Peter WOODRUFF, Head of Academic Clinical Psychiatry, University of Sheffield.

□ Research Student Seminars

June 07, 2007: "Modelling of Complex Systems: Towards Empirical Analysis of Emergent Behaviour", by SEERC Doctoral Student Mr. Ognen PAUNOVSKI.

May 31, 2007: "A Phenomenographic Inquiry into Teachers' Experiences of Using VLEs for Teaching and Learning Practice", by SEERC Doctoral Student Mr. Petros LAMERAS.

March 20, 2007: "The Invisible in Cinema: Creating the Invisible – preliminary findings from field research", by SEERC Doctoral Student Mr. Efthimis HATZIS.

February 13, 2007: "Journalist Murders in Turkey: Serial Killings with a Different Murder each time", by SEERC Doctoral Student Mr. Sinan GOKCEN.

- CITY Business Administration and Economics Department (BAED) Seminars in collaboration with SEERC

December 19, 2007: "Investor Reactions to voluntary corporate disclosures in an experimental asset market" by Dr. Ioannis KRASSAS, Department of Business Administration and Economics Department (BAED), CITY College.

December 05, 2007: "Towards a country-specific view of total quality: application of TQM in Greek Service Industry", by Dr. Alexandros PSYCHOGIOS, Department of Business Administration and Economics Department (BAED), CITY College.

June 06, 2007: "Restructuring the Employment Relationship in South East Europe: The impact of Total Quality-based Changes on Managerial Aspects of Work: Lessons from Greece" by Dr. Alexandros PSYCHOGIOS, Lecturer, BAED, CITY College and Research Track 1 Leader, SEERC.

May 17, 2007: "The demand for Military Expenditure: Evidence from the EU15 (1961-2005)", by Dr. Eftychia NIKOLAIDOU, Senior Lecturer, CITY College, BAED.

May 10, 2007: "Just where did we go wrong in the strategic change process? Supporting employees through strategic change: a key to success", by Dr. Leslie SZAMOSI, Lecturer, CITY College, BAED.

May 03, 2007: "Retrieving the work of Emir Kusturica as a Critique of Ethnic Nationalism", by Dr. Sean HOMER, Senior Lecturer, CITY College, BAED.

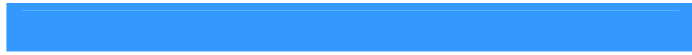
April 24, 2007: "Investor Reactions to Voluntary Corporate Disclosures in an Experimental Asset Market", by Dr. Ioannis KRASSAS, Lecturer, CITY College, BAED.

March 15, 2007: "The use of factor and cluster analysis in marketing" by Dr. Konstantinos ALEXANDRIS, Lecturer, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

February 12, 2007: "Public Spending Vs. Economic Growth", by Dr. Constantinos ALEXIOU, Lecturer, CITY College, BAED.



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



South - East European Research Centre
17 Mitropoleos Street
54624, Thessaloniki, Greece
Tel: +30 2310-253477-8
Fax: +30 2310 253478
contact@seerc.org
<http://www.seerc.org>



CITY

Affiliated Institution of the
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD