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South East European Research Centre – Profile



Introduction

The **South East European Research Centre (SEERC)** is a multidisciplinary, not-for-profit research centre based in Thessaloniki, Greece. It was established jointly by the University of Sheffield (UK) and CITY College (Greece) in 2003, as a truly international research institute with the mission to support the stable and peaceful development of South-East Europe by conducting pure and applied research in, and for the region. Research at SEERC is organised along three research tracks:

1. Enterprise, Innovation and Development
2. Information and Communication Technologies
3. Society and Human Development: Psychology, Politics, Sociology and Education

Within each of these areas, SEERC has developed multiple research groups focusing their expertise on specific sets of questions. In line with the international vision established for the centre, each research group is composed at its base of researchers from the University of Sheffield and from CITY College, and is open to additional members coming from universities, research centres, and think tanks throughout Europe.

Since its establishment in 2003, SEERC has consolidated its structures and has put in place procedures –administrative and strategic- for the planning of its key activities, which include:

- **Collaborative Research:** SEERC participates and coordinates a great number of research projects and collaborations within international consortia, funded through EU sources as well as through foundations and national funding agencies. These projects address issues of importance to the South East European region and beyond, and cover a range of diverse and often cross-disciplinary research topics.
- **Doctoral Programme:** SEERC hosts the Doctoral Programme of the University of Sheffield in Thessaloniki. The programme offers the opportunity to study towards a PhD degree from the University of Sheffield, under joint supervision by academic staff from the University of Sheffield and CITY College. The programme currently numbers more than 30 Students (full-time and part-time) coming from numerous countries throughout Europe.
- **Networking / Events:** Each year SEERC organises numerous international or regional conferences and workshops within Greece and other countries of South East Europe, which aim at bringing together experts in a range of topics relevant to SEERC's research activities. Along with targeted networking missions to SEE countries, these events contribute to the establishment of SEERC as an important research institute and international think-tank in the region.
- **Publications:** The outcomes from regional and international events organised by SEERC, or from funded research projects in which SEERC participates, are disseminated at an international scale through timely publications of books, bulletins, and more.

Each of the above key activities of SEERC is presented in further detail in the sections that follow.

1. Collaborative Research

SEERC's goal is to conduct research on timely topics and deliver results of relevance and value to the scientific community, policy-makers, and the general public. To that end, SEERC has developed a number of Research Clusters that initiate activities leading to funded research projects in collaboration with other Research Institutes, Universities, Public Bodies and Governmental Agencies, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Large Enterprises, Associations of Companies, Technology Transfer and Innovation Networks, Non-Governmental Organisations, and many more.

Since its establishment in 2003 SEERC has received funding for a significant number of research projects by various funding agencies and funding programmes.

Ongoing research projects (as of December 2009):

1. RELATE: "Trans-European Research Training Network on Engineering and Provisioning of Service-Based Cloud Applications" (funded by FP7 Marie Curie Initial Training Network Programme).
2. Asviloc+: "Agencies Supporting Value of Innovation Systems in Regional and Local Economies" (contracted by ANATOLIKI Regional Agency within the framework of a project funded by the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Program).
3. MedLab. "Mediterranean Living Lab for Territorial Innovation" (contracted by the Regional Authority of Central Macedonia within the framework of a project funded by the Mediterranean Transnational Cooperation Program).
4. ELIE: "Employability. Learning through International Entrepreneurship". (funded by Life-long-learning Program).
5. INTERVALUE: Inter-regional cooperation for valorisation of research results (funded by South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme).
6. CAST: Enabling Customisation of SaaS Applications by Third parties (funded by Eurostars programme, EUREKA & European Commission).
7. YOU RESPOND: Developing a good practice guide and training manual for young people's participation in research, policy and practice developments to prevent and combat violence (funded by DAPHNE III programme, DG Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission).
8. WBC-INCO.NET: Western Balkan Countries International Cooperation Net (funded by 7th Framework Programme - International Cooperation, European Commission).
9. MORMED: Multilingual Organic Information Management in the Medical Domain (funded by CIP ICT Policy Support Programme).
10. INNOPOLIS: Innovation Policy in University City Regions (funded by INTERREG IVC Interregional cooperation program).
11. LRE: Language Rich Europe (funded by Life-long-learning Program).
12. Cyprus Tobacco Control: An Econometric and Social Analysis of the Impact of Tobacco Control Policies in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry in Cyprus (funded by the Research Promotion Foundation in Cyprus).

Completed research projects:

1. OrganiK: An organic knowledge management system for small European knowledge-intensive companies (funded by 7th Framework Programme - Research for the Benefit of SMEs, European Commission).
2. SUMMIT II: Business Incubation Management Training Institute II (funded by Leonardo da Vinci Programme, DG Education and Culture, European Commission).
3. e-SDI NET+: European Network on Geographic Information Enrichment and Reuse (funded by eContentplus Programme, DG Information Society and Media, European Commission).
4. Rural Economic and Social Development for Mountain Villages in Turkish Thrace (funded by CFCU EU Delegation in Ankara).
5. J-WEB: Collaboration environment for Judicial European network in Western Balkans (funded by 6th Framework Programme - IST, European Commission).
6. 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 (funded by Leonardo da Vinci Programme, DG Education and Culture, European Commission).
7. Multi-level Governance in South East Europe: Institutional Innovation and adaptation in Croatia, Greece, FYROM and Slovenia (funded by the British Economic and Social Research Council - ESRC).
8. FUSION: Business Process FUSION based on Semantically-enabled Service-Oriented Business Applications (funded by 6th Framework Programme - IST, European Commission)
9. MIRIAD: Managing and Infusing Research Investment and Development (funded by 6th Framework Programme - Regions of Knowledge, European Commission).
10. SWIM: Development of an Intelligent System for the Management of Semantic Web Services (funded by PENED2003 programme, Hellenic General Secretariat for Research and Technology).
11. Infusing Knowledge into South East European SMEs: Establishing a Platform for Developing Business Alliances, Supply Chains and SME-Research Community Interaction (funded by the British & Foreign Commonwealth Office - FCO).
12. Socio-economic Security Survey for SEE: Regional Correspondent of the Socio-economic Survey programme of the International Labour Organisation for Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus Kosovo, FYROM, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia (funded by International Labour Organisation, United Nations).
13. Embedding ICT/Multimedia Standardisation Initiatives into European Vocational Training Development Strategies (funded by Leonardo Da Vinci Programme, DG Education and Culture, European Commission).
14. Ambient Learning: Ambient, multimodal and context-sensitive lifelong learning (funded by eTen programme, DG Information Society & Media, European Commission).

15. EPOS: e-Procurement Optimised System for the Healthcare Marketplace (funded by eTen programme, DG Information Society & Media, European Commission).
16. SPiB: Smoking Prevention in the Balkans (funded by Cancer Research UK - Tobacco Advisory Group).
17. Embed4Auto: Model-based Development of Embedded Software for the Automotive Sector (funded by Leonardo da Vinci programme, DG Education and Culture, European Commission)
18. ICT-WEB-PROMS: Promoting ICT cooperation opportunities and policy dialogue with the Western Balkan Countries (funded by 7th Framework Programme - ICT, European Commission).
19. ELEVATE: Integrating pedagogically-documented, value-added e-training add ons in commercial software products of European Software SMEs (funded by 7th Framework Programme - Research for the Benefit of SMEs, European Commission).

2. Doctoral Programme

SEERC is committed to growing the number of highly trained researchers working in South East Europe. As part of its mission SEERC offers opportunities for postgraduate students to undertake research based at SEERC in Thessaloniki leading to the award of a PhD degree by the University of Sheffield. Today there are more than 30 students undertaking doctoral study at SEERC, in either full-time or part-time mode.

The programme aims to:

- build greater research capacity across the region
- provide greater access to South East Europe for students from elsewhere
- foster collaboration and the sharing of perspectives among researchers throughout the region and beyond

Faculty from the University of Sheffield and CITY College in Thessaloniki jointly supervise the students' training and research. All full-timers are based at SEERC whereas the part-timers are normally mid-career professionals resident in South East European countries. In this way, there is a valuable exchange of knowledge and insight to the region among students, supervisors and SEERC.

Unique Features of the Doctoral Programme at SEERC

Joint Supervision scheme: Each student is assigned a supervisor from the University of Sheffield and CITY College respectively. This scheme exposes the students to a diverse set of knowledge and contacts that originates in the expertise and work of the two supervisors based in different regions.

Research Training: During the first two years of their studies, students complete a Research Training Program, a series of theoretical, methodological and subject-specific courses, while at the same time conducting research in order to complete a thesis by the end of the third year. SEERC -in collaboration with CITY College- operates special units that equip students with the skills and competences necessary for conducting research and also for entering academic professional life.

The Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference: Each year SEERC organises the Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference giving young researchers the opportunity to present their work in a doctoral forum. The aim of the conference is to initiate an exchange of knowledge between young researchers and to help establish a network of scholars undertaking research in Southeast Europe.

Research Student Seminars: SEERC encourages students to present the progress in their research in small scale events attended by fellow students and staff and to benefit from exposure to an audience of diverse composition. During these events they have the chance to utilise important feedback from the students and staff as well as to sharpen their communication and presentation skills.

Open Seminar Series: Alternatively, experts are invited from related sectors to hold seminars on topics at the forefront of European developments and to raise questions suited to the intellectual background of the students. The Open Seminar Series are planned with maximum student involvement so that students simultaneously develop and apply their organisational skills.

3. Networking / Events

One of the core goals of SEERC is to ensure targeted dissemination of its research findings particularly in South East Europe (SEE). Since 2003 a number of events have been organised in the region to address topics of importance to South East European countries and also to bring together a range of actors from academia, business and the government to discuss scientific developments in sectors of vital interest to the Balkan countries and Europe.

2010

- September 13-14, 2010: 5th Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference (DSC 2010), Thessaloniki, Greece (<http://www.seerc.org/dsc2010/>)
- May 27-29, 2010: 3rd International Conference in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Regional Development (ICEIRD 2010), Novisad, Serbia (www.iceird.org/2010/)

2009

- December 5, 2009: 4th South East European Workshop on Formal Methods, Thessaloniki, Greece (<http://www.seefm.info/seefm09/>).
- October 07-09, 2009: 10th IFIP Working Conference on Virtual Enterprises (PRO-VE) "Leveraging knowledge for innovation in Collaborative Networks", Thessaloniki, Greece (www.pro-ve.org/2009).
- September 18, 2009: International Workshop on "Training and Networking for WB-EU research cooperation in ICT for learning and e-Learning", Thessaloniki, Greece, organised in the frame of the 4th Balkan Conference in Informatics (BCI 2009). (www.ict-web-proms.eu).
- July 6-7, 2009: 4th Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference (DSC 2009), Thessaloniki, Greece (www.seerc.org/dsc2009)
- June 24-26, 2009: 13th Annual International Conference on Economics and Security, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- June 01-02, 2009: Workshop on "Multi-level Governance in South East Europe (SEE) – Institutional innovation and adaptation in Croatia, Greece, Slovenia and F.Y.R.O.M." organised in the frame of the namesake research project funded by the ESRC, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- April 24-25, 2009: 2nd International Conference in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Regional Development (ICEIRD 2009), Thessaloniki, Greece (www.seerc.org/iceird2009).
- April 22-24, 2009: TII Annual Conference "Regional Excellence in Innovation: case studies from around the world", Thessaloniki, Greece (www.tii.org).

2008

- June 26-27, 2008: 3rd Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference (DSC 2008), Thessaloniki, Greece (www.seerc.org/dsc2008).

- May 31st, 2008: Conference on Smoking prevention, Thessaloniki. A conference organised on the occasion of the International Day Against Smoking.
- May 27, 2008: Workshop on Geographical Information Systems (GIS): Introduction and Practical Use, by Dr. Robin Smith and Ms. Diane Palmer of the University of Sheffield (Informatics Collaboratory of the Social Sciences and Department of Geography).
- May 13-14, 2008: Innovation Crossroads: A US and EU Comparative Perspective on Entrepreneurship and Innovation-focus on South East Europe, Thessaloniki, Greece. A two-day event that brings together panels of expert practitioners (entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers) to discuss critical success and failure factors and lessons learned from their entrepreneurial initiatives, successes and failures.
- May 08-11, 2008: International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development, Skopje and Ohrid, F.Y.R. Macedonia. (www.iceird.org).
- March 11-12, 2008: The Children At Risk Workshop Series, "Exploring Issues of Risk and Vulnerability to Children in South East Europe", Thessaloniki, Greece (www.city.academic.gr/childrenatrisk).
- February 15, 2008: Book launch event in collaboration with the University of St. Cyril and Methodius for the publication "Social policy and International Interventions in South East Europe", edited by Bob DEACON and Paul STUBBS in association with SEERC. Published by Edward Elgar Publishing.

2007

- 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 7, 2007: 3rd EPISTEP workshop, "Delivering the future of mobile communications, embedded systems and nano-electronics", Thessaloniki, Greece (www.seerc.org/epistep).
- 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).
- November 29-30, 2007: Informatics Education Europe II Conference: Developments in South East and East Europe, Thessaloniki, Greece (<http://www.seerc.org/ieei2007/index.html>)
- November 14, 2007: The Children At Risk Workshop Series, "Children and Cancer", Thessaloniki, Greece.
- June 22-23, 2007: 2nd Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece (www.seerc.org/dsc2007)

2006

- July 10, 2006: 1st Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece (www.seerc.org/dsc2006)
- June 9, 2006: International Workshop on e-Government and its Spatial dimension, Sofia, Bulgaria (www.seerc.org/eGov2006).
- June 22-24, 2006: 10th Annual Conference on Economics and Security, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- April, 28-30, 2006: 3rd Multi-level Governance Workshop, "Emerging Transnational Governmentality in South East Europe: Intermediaries and translation in inter-stitial spaces", Stubicke Toplice, Zagreb, Croatia.
- November 18-19, 2006: 2nd South East European Workshop on Formal Methods: Practical dimensions: challenges in the business world, Ohrid, FYROM.

2005

- November 11-12, 2005: 2nd Multi-level Governance Workshop, "South-Eastern Europe, Governmentalities and the Politics of Scale: Social Policy and Borders in the new Europe", Stubicke Toplice, Zagreb, Croatia.
- September 22-24, 2006: 10th International Symposium for Health Information Management Research (ISHIMR 2005), Thessaloniki, Greece.
- July 6-8, 2005: 3rd International Workshop in Supply Chain Management and Information Systems, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- May 27-28, 2005: Conference on labor markets, growth and poverty reduction strategies: Western Balkans, organised in cooperation with the World Bank, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- February 4-5, 2005: 1st Workshop on Multi-level Governance and Policy transfer in South East Europe, Zagreb, Croatia.

2004

- June 10, 2004: Workshop on "Financial Sector Reform in South East Europe", Skopje, FYROM.
- January 23-24, 2004: Workshop on "Electoral Processes on South East Europe", Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

2003

- July 5, 2003: International Conference on "The Greek EU Presidency's Balkan-European Integration process: where do we go from here?", Thessaloniki, Greece.
- December 8, 2003: Institute for International Education (IIE) Workshop on "Tools for strengthening Internationalisation and Networking", Thessaloniki, Greece.

- November 20, 2003: 1st South-East European Workshop on Formal Methods "Agile Formal Methods: Practical, Rigorous Methods for a changing world", Thessaloniki, Greece.
- September 19-20, 2003: 6th Annual Globalisation and Social Policy Programme Seminar (GASPP), Thessaloniki, Greece.

4. Publications

SEERC undertakes the publishing of proceedings of the international and regional events it organises as well as the publication of research findings from its funded research projects, which are then disseminated to key targets in the region of South East Europe. Below is an indicative list of book publications since SEERC's establishment in 2003.

2010



Proceedings of the 5th Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference: Infusing Research and Knowledge in South East Europe
Alexandros Psychogios, Filippos Proedrou, Efrosini Kalyva, George Eleftherakis, (editors)



Horwath, J., Hodgkiss, D., Kalyva, E., Spyrou, S., Akhtar, S., Dikaiou, C., et al. (2011). *YOU RESPOND Promoting effective project participation by young people who have experienced violence (greek version)*. Thessaloniki, Greece.



Horwath, J., Hodgkiss, D., Kalyva, E., Spyrou, S., Akhtar, S., Dikaiou, C., et al. (2011). *YOU RESPOND Promoting effective project participation by young people who have experienced violence*. Sheffield, UK.

2009



Proceedings of the 4th Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference: Infusing Research and Knowledge in South East Europe
George Eleftherakis, Sara Hannam, Efrosini Kalyva, Alexandros Psychogios (editors)



Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development (ICEIRD 2009)
Panayiotis Ketikidis, Anna Sotiriadou, Thanos Hatziapostolou, and Fotis Misopoulos (editors)

2008

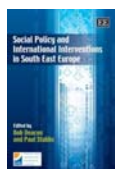


Proceedings of the 3rd Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference: Infusing Research and Knowledge in South East Europe
Iraklis Paraskakis, Andrej Lunski (editors)



6th International Conference on Networked Learning - Handbook and Abstracts
V. Hodgson, C. Jones, T. Kargidis, D. McConnell, S. Retalis, D. Stamatis, and M. Zenios, (editors)

2007



Social Policy and International Interventions in South East Europe (2007)
Bob Deacon and Paul Stubbs (editors)



Proceedings of the 8th Workshop on Membrane Computing
George Eleftherakis, Petros Kefalas, and Gheorghe Paun (editors)



Proceedings of the 3rd South East European Workshop on Formal Methods: Service-Oriented Computing and Teaching Formal Methods
Dimitris Dranidis and Ilias Sakellariou (editors)



Proceedings of the 1st IRCCC Workshop on Children and Cancer: Care and Prevention
Christine Eiser, Richard Eiser, Efrosini Kalyva, and Lambros Lazuras (editors)



Proceedings of Informatics Education Europe II (IEEII 2007): Developments in South East Europe
Petros Kefalas, Anna Sotiriadou, Gordon Davies, and Andrew McGettrick (editors)



Proceedings of the 2nd Annual South East European Doctoral Student Conference: Infusing Research and Knowledge in South East Europe
Iraklis Paraskakis, Andrej Luneski, Alper Kayhan (editors)

2006



Supply Chain Management and Logistics in South East Europe
Panayiotis H. Ketikidis and S. C. Lenny Koh (editors)



Infusing Knowledge into South East European SMEs: Establishing a Platform for Developing Business Alliances, Supply Chains and SME-Research Community Interaction
S.C Lenny Koh, Robert Huggins, and Fotis Missopoulos (editors)



Proceedings of the 2006 International Workshop on e-Government and its Spatial Dimension
Dimitris Dranidis and Konstantinos Dimopoulos (editors)



Proceedings of the 1st Annual SEERC Doctoral Student Conference: Infusing Research and Knowledge in South East Europe
Iraklis Paraskakis, Ioanna Stamatopoulou, Ognen Paunovski (editors)



Proceedings of the 10th Annual International Conference on Economics & Security
Eftychia Nikolaidou (editor)

2005



Financial Sector Reform in South East Europe
Georgios Anastasiadis (editor)



Proceedings of the 10th International Symposium on Health Information Management Research
Panagiotis D. Bamidis, Peter Bath, Barry Eaglestone, Anna Sotiriadou (editors)



Proceedings of the 3rd International Workshop on Supply Chain Management & Information Systems
Panagiotis H. Ketikidis, S.C. Lenny Koh (editors)



Democratisation in Southeast Europe: An Introduction to Election Issues
Dusan Pavlovic, Goran Petrov, Despina Syrri, David A. Stone (editors)



Proceedings of the 2nd South East European Workshop on Formal Methods: Formal Methods: Challenges in the Business World
George Eleftherakis (editor)

2004



Proceedings of the 1st South-East European Workshop on Formal Methods: Agile Formal Methods: Practical, Rigorous Methods for a Changing World
Dimitris Dranidis and Kalliopi Tigka (editors)

2003



Integrating the Western Balkans Into Europe: The Aftermath of the Greek EU Presidency
David A. Stone and Despina Syrri (editors)



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