**SOFIA UNIVERSITY ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’**

**FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY**

**NATIONAL PROGRAM "YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND**

**POST-DOCTORAL STUDENTS - 2"**

**Applicable Projects**

**Project: MEASURING IMPACT IN YOUTH WORK - MISSION (IM)POSSIBLE!**

Head of the project - Assoc. Prof. Albena Taneva, PhD - taneva@phls.uni-sofia.bg

Department of Public Administration from the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" is part of the project MEASURING IMPACT IN YOUTH WORK - MISSION (IM)POSSIBLE. The duration of the project is from April 1, 2022 to March 1, 2024.

The head of the project from the Bulgarian side is Assoc. Prof. Albena Taneva. Lead organization: NAPOR, Serbia. Partners in the project are: Bulgaria, the Republic of North Macedonia, Italy and Portugal.

The aim of the project is to map existing impact measurement systems and develop mechanisms and tools that monitor the impact of youth work on young people and the social environment.

The result of the project is expected to be the creation of a new mechanism measuring the impact of youth work, which in the future will be applicable in the advocacy of youth activities at the European and national level.

Project activities will cover:

* Mapping and creating a sample document on measuring the impact of youth work on the personality of young people (IO1)
* Development of a mechanism that will contribute to measuring the social impact of youth activity. (IO2) and LTTA – training.

Results planned by the project are:

* The publication of the brochure "Mapping of leading practices at local, national and European level regarding youth work impact on youth".
* Developed mechanism with tools to measure the impact of youth work on young people.
* A research study containing a mechanism and tools for measuring the social and economic impact of youth work, accompanied by a report on an implemented mechanism in 4 countries involving 300 youth and trainings.
* The collected leading practices at local, national and European level to measure the impact of youth work on young people and the development of a new mechanism enrich the capacity of national youth work associations and lead to advocacy initiatives based on relevant data.



**Project: Transform4Europe: The European University for Knowledge Entrepreneurs**

**Erasmus+ European Universities - EPP-EUR-UNIV-2020; Project No. 101004048**

**(01 November 2020 - 30 October 2023)**

Institutional Coordinator for Sofia University – Prof. Maria Stoycheva, PhD - stojchevap@phls.uni-sofia.bg

**Project Annotation**

The **Transform4Europe Alliance (T4EU)** comprises seven universities from different regions in Europe: Saarland University (Germany), the University of Alicante (Spain), the Estonian Academy of Arts (Estonia), the University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland), Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria), he University of Trieste (Italy), and Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania).

The T4EU partners have set themselves the ambitious aim to forge a new type of transnational inter-university collaboration and contribute to the development of the European Education Area.

The T4EU Alliance is seeking to establish joint European curricula, foster innovative teaching and learning environments, create a smart transformation strategy for regions and establish effective research and innovation inter-regional dialogue.

The scientific and educational activities of the alliance target the following **three Transform4Europe focus areas:**

* Digital transformation and smart regions
* Environmental transformation and sustainability
* Societal transformation, community building and inclusion.

More specifically, under the current Call for Proposal under the *Young Scientists and Post-doctoral Fellows – Phase 2* Project of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science the T4EU Alliance supports research in any of these areas:

* **Digital transformation and smart regions:** open and digital business, entrepreneurship, management; smart growth, smart cities, regions, etc.
* **Environmental transformation and sustainability:** landscape ecology and environmental protection; waste management, resource efficiency and sanitation; sustainable regional (territorial) planning and development; sustainable spatial planning and urban development; geospatial information systems, earth observation and Big data; sustainable energy; sustainable economic growth, consumption and production; sustainable human settlements and urban planning, etc.
* **Societal transformation, community building and inclusion:** various dimensions of societal transformation – political, social, cultural, educational and legal; multilingualism and plurilingualism, language policies and language education policies, intercultural and democratic competence, perceptions and attitudes to ‘foreign’ people, change in identities and identifications in the European area and beyond; education as transformation with reference to internationalisation in and of education; human rights and democratic citizenship, etc.

**Project: Psychological aspects of health inequalities and quality of life**

**BNSF, MES, Bulgaria, КП-06-H35/1**

Head of the project - prof. Sonya Karabeliova, PhD, DSc, karabeluov@phls.uni-sofia.bg

The modern understanding of health represents an integral category, a dynamic phenomenon and a process of continuous change as a result of the influence of various factors related to the interaction of man with the environment. In this regard, two main types of health behaviours are defined: behaviour that reduces the risk of disease; behaviour oriented toward prevention and health improvement. Health risk behaviours are associated with any human activity that increases morbidity and decreases quality of life. Among them, unhealthy eating, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and poor physical activity. In addition, excessive use of the Internet, health anxiety, which increase the level of stress, cyberchondria, etc. stand out. At the same time, self-regulation of health behaviour is related to how people perceive and evaluate their health status, knowledge of health risk factors, personality type, coping strategies, and adaptation capabilities in ever-changing external conditions. This concept is reflected in the basic postulates of health psychology, which are related to the role of prevention, socioeconomic factors, lifestyle change, subjective feelings of happiness and well-being, and the role of individual behaviour in maintaining good health status and high quality of life.

**The goal** of the project is to create an integrative multidimensional model for maintaining good physical and mental health for optimal human functioning. To achieve this goal, tasks have been formulated that are oriented towards identifying the psychological and socioeconomic risk factors that predict the health behaviour of young people in Bulgaria. Achieving the main goal will contribute to clarifying the current status of the issue under consideration and its significance for the healthy lifestyle of young people in the Bulgarian socio-cultural context. The main activities of the project include comparative analysis and interpretation of data from theoretical and empirical studies of the psychological correlates of health behaviour.

**Applicants are expected** to demonstrate research experience in handling, describing, analysing, and interpreting data from empirical psychological studies. Further, experiences in preparing scientific reports and articles published in journals and presented at conferences, and experience participating in issue-focused research projects of the current project are expected.

**Project: CultUrEn (Culture Urban Environment) – cultural heritage as a factor for achieving a sustainable urban environment BNSF / MES / KP-06-N45/6 -** **08.12.2020**

**Deadline for execution: 08.12.2023**

Head of the project – prof. Ivan Kabakov, PhD, DSc, kabakov@phls.uni-sofia.bg

„**CultUrEn** (Culture Urban Environment) – cultural heritage as a factor for achieving a sustainable urban environment“ **project** is a reaction to the need for fuller use of the potential of cultural heritage to impact societies and their development, as well as to transform the modern city into a place for meaningful human existence, which combines the latest technological achievements with memory and heritage that have reached us. In other words, smart cities gain added value from the quality of the environment when they become cities of memory, that protect and integrate cultural heritage into the urban infrastructure.

**The main idea** of the project is to map and present individual cultural objects that have potential for the development not only of the city, but also of the region in which they are located. The accomplishment of the research task requires the identification of representative Bulgarian cities and towns[[1]](#footnote-1) which cultural heritage has been studied with a view to its integration into the urban infrastructure. Within the framework of the project, models of integration of cultural heritage in the urban environment should be developed, based on a critical analysis of the available information. These models will further assist public authorities in their effort to develop strategies and policies in the field of cultural heritage, plans for integrated development of municipalities as well as plans for the preservation and management of cultural sites.

**The main aim** of the project is to design models of integration of cultural heritage in the urban environment, which to create prerequisites for increasing investment and professional qualification of specialists working in the field of cultural heritage, as well as for modernisation of memory institutions, introduction of innovations, and modern design to ensure access of all stakeholders and organisations to heritage with a view to increasing the quality of life in Bulgarian cities and towns.

**The thematic areas of the project** in which young scientists and postdoctoral students could be involved, with their own research projects and topics that strengthen the already implemented research and complement the achieved research results in the indicated cities, are the following:

1. Iconic buildings / sites
2. Industrial heritage
3. Dissonant heritage
4. Urban heritage
5. Policies for urban development

**Project: RUSTIK - Rural Sustainability Transitions through Integration of Knowledge for improved policy processes**

Head of the project - Associate Professor Petya Slavova, pslavova@phls.uni-sofia.bg

RUSTIK is a four-year project (01.09.2022 - 31.08.2026) funded by the Horizon Europe programme of the European Commission and aims to explore the readiness of rural areas to make the so-called "Green Transition" in its three dimensions - socio-economic and digital transformations and climate and environmental change. The main objective of the project is to develop the concept of functional rural areas through the collection of new various type of data and the integration of the existing one. To achieve this goal, the project will use conventional qualitative and quantitative methods and techniques through a participatory approach (participatory methods), creating twelve living labs in Europe, one of which will be based in Bulgaria.

The main activities of the project are focused to:

* the analysis of existing scientific literature and policy and regulatory documents, related to the three thematic dimensions of the Green Transition in rural areas;
* the analysis of existing data and the development of comparative methodologies for the registration of new data;
* the application of specific participatory methods to build a living lab in a pre-selected rural area.

The project aims to encourage the development of post-doctoral and young scholars' projects in two thematic areas, focusing on actors and processes developing in rural areas:

1) Socio-economic food research, alternative food chains/ food networks and multifunctional practices in the agro-food sector (1);

2) Research on socio-cultural and economic practices of nature and natural resource use in the context of the Green Transition (1).

Applicants should demonstrate available previous research experience in the form of published articles and conference presentations on one of the two topics, as well as research experience in rural research through participation in research projects focused on this topic. Applicants' experience with projects funded under the European Commission's Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020, FP7) and the Territorial Cooperation Programme (ESPON) will be considered an advantage.

1. The list of identified cities and towns is to be found in the leaflet of the project. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)