

CEEPUS Network - CIII-AT-1301-00-2425

CESEENet - Central, East and South-East European PhD Network in Management and Economics

The aim of the ***Central, East and South-East European PhD Network in Management and Economics (CESEENet)*** is to intensify cooperation and knowledge transfer among Central, East and South-East European universities that offer doctoral programs in business and economics in order to increase the quality of their PhD programs. The network proposed in this application is embedded in the existing CESEE PhD network with 37 Universities from CEE and SEE (see <https://ceseephd.net/>). The specific goal of CESEENet is to strengthen the scientific communication and collaboration between PhD students and researchers in the CEE and SEE region. The participation of CESEENet in the CEEPUS program offers an excellent opportunity to provide the necessary funding for the PhD students from the partner institutions increasing their chances of successful participation in the exchange programs.

The ***CEEPUS Network*** (2023-2024) (<https://www.ceepus.info/default.aspx#nbb>) is embedded in the existing CESEENet with 45 Universities from CEE and SEE (see <https://ceseephd.net/members/>). The participation of 37 CESEENet partners in the CEEPUS program offers an excellent opportunity to provide the necessary funding for the PhD students from the partner institutions increasing their chances of successful participation in the exchange programs. The following partners participate in 2023-24 in CEEPUS network:

University of Rijeka, Faculty of Economics and Business

University of Vienna, Faculty of Business, Economics and Statistics

University of Graz, School of Business, Economics and Social

University of Klagenfurt, Faculty of Management, Economics & Law

University of Sarajevo, School for Economics and Business

University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Economics

St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences

Varna University of Economics, Faculty of Management

Masaryk University in Brno, Faculty of Economics and Administration

University of Economics, Prague, Faculty of Business Administration

University of Economics, Prague, Faculty of Management

University of Split, Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Economics & Business

Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Economics

University of Rijeka, Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management

Corvinus University of Budapest, Corvinus Business School

University of Pécs, Faculty of Business and Economics

University Sts.Cyril and Methodius - Skopje, Faculty of Economics - Skopje

Cracow University of Economics

SGH Warsaw School of Economics

'Nicolaus Copernicus' University in Torun

Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management University of Warsaw, Faculty of Management

THE ACADEMY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES OF BUCHAREST

“BABES BOLYAI” UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ-NAPOCA, Faculty of Economics

WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMISOARA, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Economics

University of Economics in Bratislava

University of Niš, Faculty of Economics

Moldova State University, Faculty of Economic Sciences

University of Economics in Katowice

Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Doctoral School of Social Sciences

Faculty of Economics in Prilep, University St.Kliment Ohridski

Faculty of Economics, Technical University of Košice, Slovakia

Doctoral School at the Gdansk University of Technology

Faculty of Economic Sciences, Koszalin University of Technology in Poland

University of Dubrovnik, Department of Economics and Business

Objectives

The major purpose of CESEENet is to promote and facilitate cooperation within the universities from Central, East and South-East Europe that offer PhD education in Management and Economics in order to increase the quality of their PhD programs. The membership in CEEPUS will offer excellent opportunities for research and teaching cooperation and strongly improve the financial possibilities of the PhD students and faculty members wishing to participate in the exchange programs of the CEE and SEE partner institutions.

At the strategic level the network will allow:

- to facilitate the PhD students' exchange among participating Universities and Faculties;
- to strengthen research cooperation in the field of Management and Economics;
- to deepen research and teaching connections among PhD students and academic personnel of the participating Universities.

At the operational level this is going to be achieved by:

1. organizing joint PhD courses in Management and Economics, with the special emphasis on online courses and hybrid courses with blended learning arrangements;
2. organizing other teaching activities, in particular summer schools and scientific workshops for PhD students in the specific fields of study;
3. designing and conducting research seminars for participants of the Network Universities;

4. promoting cooperation on various doctoral committees (starting from PhD topic application). Cooperation will be promoted through creation of database of professors (starting from associate professors) who are willing to quickly respond to requests for different activities within PhD studies, e.g. participation in doctoral committees, PhD Conference Review boards. There will be possibilities for hybrid participation in all activities.

All in all the participating institutions in the CEEPUS program will contribute to the general purpose of creating an environment of excellence with a European perspective, while still preserving educational and cultural diversity.

Biggest Achievements

The cooperation activities within the CEEPUS Network resulted in the following main advantages and opportunities:

- Increase of opportunities for student and staff mobility for research and teaching
- Creation of several permanent research contacts due to the CEEPUS Network
- Creation of a collaboration culture that supports the initiation and realization of future cooperation between the members.

Biggest Challenge

One of the biggest challenges is the size of the network, which makes it difficult to organize and coordinate activities, but we made adjustments accordingly, since we focus on areas and problems that are common to all PhD programs/PhD students, and that is the methodology (both technical and scientific, as is elaborated in Planned Activities section).

Planned Activities

(I) PhD courses: The major goal of the network is the exchange of doctoral students for participating in the PhD courses of the partner universities. The list of the courses offered by the partner universities is published and regularly updated at <https://ceseenet.org/courses/>.

Selection of the Courses

1. Students are expected to choose the relevant courses in cooperation with their PhD advisor from their home university;
2. In order to register for the course, the students should directly contact the administrative support personnel of the partner university;
3. Detailed course information is to be provided to the students by the relevant lecturer from the partner university;
4. For specific organizational issues students may also contact the administrative support personnel of their university responsible for coordination of CESEENet activities.

Recognition

Which steps have to be taken to ensure mutual recognition of the PhD courses?

1. The structure of the PhD programs of the partner institutions is developed in accordance with the Bologna system guidelines (including the system of credit transfer - ECTS).
2. Partner institutions should have a critical number of academically qualified (AQ) professors.

Moreover, all universities currently applying for participation in CEEPUS are members of the existing CESEENet, with entry requirements including the necessity for mutual recognition of the PhD courses.

(II) Annual PhD Workshop: The PhD students from the network universities have the opportunity to participate in the annual PhD Workshop in Management and Economics (further PhD Workshop). Last year (2023) the workshop was organized by the University of Rijeka, Faculty of Economics and Business. The purpose of the workshop is to provide the PhD students an international discussion forum for their research. Theoretical, conceptual and empirical papers from all areas of economics, management and finance are welcome. This kind of workshop is held annually in June.

(III) Workshop in Scientific Paper Writing in Management and Economics: The PhD students also have the opportunity to attend a methodological Summer School, organized in the form of English Scientific Paper Writing Workshop.

(IV) Joint Supervision of PhD Theses and Collaboration in all stages of PhD studies: A further activity foreseen as a part of the network cooperation is the joint supervision of PhD theses by two or more professors from participating universities. Moreover, professors from partner universities will be encouraged to become members of various doctoral committees (starting from PhD Topic Defense Committee).

Selection Criteria for Student Mobility

The PhD students officially registered in the doctoral programs in management and/or economics in one of the partner universities can participate in the exchange program. They should satisfy the following selection criteria:

- (1) Excellent competence in the field of doctoral study (supported by the track record of the course grades);
- (2) High relevance of the PhD course/workshop for the doctoral study (supported by the motivation letter from the applicant and a recommendation letter from her scientific supervisor);
- (3) Excellent language competence (English) both in speaking and writing.

Selection Criteria for Teacher Mobility:

Mobilities for teachers will be selected/approved if they satisfy the following criteria:

- have official requirements to be an advisor to PhD students (it will be based according to the criteria set by the outgoing partner institution)

Coordination

- Coordination activities: Regular meetings (at least two times a year virtually and one time in situ at one of the partner Universities) are going to serve as the platforms for direct communication among the partner institutions, in particular for exchanging previous experiences collected through conducting project activities, improving network coordination and discussing future activities within the network. The network participants are instructed to discuss and coordinate all planned activities with the network coordinator before the launch of the activities in the network.

Special Merit

The network proposed in this application is embedded in the existing CESEE PhD network with 40 Universities from CEE and SEE. The CESEE PhD network was founded in 2010 by the University of Sarajevo, University of Ljubljana and University of Vienna within the framework of a Tempus project. The universities comprising the existing CESEE PhD network are located not only in CEEPUS member countries but also in the countries currently not covered by CEEPUS, including Greece, Italy, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

CEEPUS Program's vision of intensifying regional cooperation and exchange in CEE and SEE is highly compatible with the mission of the existing CESEE PhD Network. The purpose of this network is to promote and facilitate cooperation within the universities from Central, East and South-East in order to increase the quality of their PhD programs in Business and Economics and to intensify research cooperation. This enables a long-term perspective of regional research cooperation in CEE and SEE by improving the knowledge and skills of the doctoral students in this region.

Based on the experience of cooperation among the network participants within the existing CESEE PhD network (<https://ceseephd.net/members/>), one of the most challenging issues influencing the efficiency of network activities is the availability of funding for the mobility applicants. High costs associated with the research and teaching stay at the host countries institutions very often prevent the PhD students from CEE and SEE from participating in the exchange activities. That is the reason why participation in the CEEPUS program is seen as an excellent opportunity to solve this problem by providing funding for eligible PhD students from the partner institutions increasing their chances of successful participation in the exchange programs. In addition, the opportunities offered by the CEEPUS program will allow the participants of the network not only to achieve their goals but also to bring the volume and intensity of their cooperation to a new level.

Future Strategy

The future strategy of this CEEPUS network is to intensify the research cooperation on the PhD level in Management and Economics among the existing partner universities in the Central, East and South-East European Region. Therefore, the aim of CESEENet is to develop a regional scientific cluster for research and teaching in Management and Economics. The long-term mission of the Network is to strengthen the quality of the PhD programs and hence the competitiveness of their PhD researchers and research institutions across Europe.