

NETWORK

"Europe from the Visegrad and Balkan Perspective"

LONG TERM PROGRAM DESCRIPTION for 2024/2025

Network "Europe from the Visegrad and Balkan Perspective" was established to bring together countries from the Central Europe (Visegrad Four: Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic) and the Balkan region (Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria and North Macedonia). The composition of the network includes both the EU members and the EU candidates and covers the broad region of Central and South-Eastern Europe that shares similar heritage but also face similar challenges. We believe that we have a lot in common and still we do not know enough about each other. We also find it useful for our international students that can learn more about the region or conduct research at home and at the partner universities.

We applied for a CEEPUS network because we wanted to cooperate deeper and more frequently and CEEPUS mobilities provide this opportunity both for students and teaching staff. Until the network was created, we were cooperating on the bilateral or three-sided basics but our aim was to establish the bigger network that would be more inclusive and more effective.

Our every-year plan includes:

1. Student mobilities (short term for MA and PhD students and long term for BA and MA students)
2. Teachers mobility (apart of teaching we also want to learn from each other, and establish or strengthen the research ties)
3. Summer school (organised annually from 2016 by University of Pecs, also twice in the online mode due to covid-19 pandemic)
4. Short excursion (Belgrade University proposed to host us but 3 years in a row the Serbian NCO did not grant short term excursions, this is why in upcoming 2024/2025 we aim at an excursion to Sofia)
5. Regular contact of coordinators to exchange news, and progress of students but also teaching materials and/or tools.

We are convinced that this is a right direction, as within the network we have a reach experience in organisation of summer schools, study trips, Intensive Programmes, research projects and conferences.

We are also connected (in different configurations) by the joint MA programme, double degree MA programme and H2020 Innovative Training Network "Fatigue" as well as H2020 research project "Poprebel" that resulted in join publications. We are working on new research applications for the next EC calls.

We believe that working together will be more effective both for students who will have an opportunity to study in different countries or to work under joint supervision but also for researchers working on the international grants and planning research in consortiums.

Last but not least the summer schools we are organising since 2016 and excursions will allow both students and teachers to learn about the current problems/issues in our region such as minority issues, migration crisis, role of Visegrad Group or European integration of Western Balkans.

We see our CEEPUS cooperation being very positive and bringing a lot of satisfaction both students and teachers, this is why we would like to continue it and improve our network.