

CEEPUS Network - CIII-AT-1301-00-1920

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 33 Universities from CEE and SEE (see <http://ceseenet.org/>). 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.

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;
- 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

- organizing joint PhD courses in Management and Economics:

The future teaching strategy will focus on online courses and courses with blended learning arrangements.

- organizing other teaching activities, in particular summer schools and scientific workshops for PhD students in the specific fields of study;

- designing and conducting research seminars for participants of the network universities;

- promoting cooperation on doctoral committees.

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.

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 <http://ceseenet.org/>.

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 the participation in CESEENet are the members of the existing network, 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 the workshop was organized at the University of Economics - Varna (Bulgaria) on September 27-28, 2018. This year the workshop will be held at the Ivan Franko National University in Lviv (Ukraine), September 19 - 20. 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 in economics, management and finance are welcome.

(III) Workshop in Scientific Paper Writing in Management and Economics: The PhD students also have the opportunity to attend a Summer School, organized in the form of English Scientific Paper Writing Workshop. This year the workshop is going to be held at the University of Vienna (Austria) on September 9–13, 2019. It will consist of two parts:

- Part I: Improve your Scientific Writing Skills - organized and conducted by Prof. Christina Pawlowitsch, and
- Part II. Applications and Exercises in Management and Economics - organized and conducted by Prof. Josef Windsperger.

(IV) Joint Supervision of PhD Theses: 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.

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.

Coordination

Regular meetings (once or twice a year 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 33 Universities from CEE and SEE (see <http://ceseenet.org/members/>). 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 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, 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 the participation in CEEPUS program is seen as an excellent opportunity to solve this problem by providing funding for the 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 at 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 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, by including further partner universities from CEE and SEE countries. Expanding the network will strengthen the quality of the PhD programs and hence the competitiveness of their PhD researchers and research institutions across Europe.

This process may also require an extension of the CEEPUS membership coverage, for instance to Baltic States, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Turkey and Russia (see Figure 1). Overall, the Central, East and South-East European orientation of this PhD network will complement other European research initiatives that focus mainly on other European regions.



Figure 1: CEE and SEE Countries