

RISEOradea participated in the final SMARTSOC project meeting

SMARTSOC, a three-year project with more than 10 partners, had its final meeting in Budapest

Thirteen institutions from nine European countries coordinated by the University of Žilina (Slovakia) participated in the three-year project supported by the ERASMUS+ program. The main SMARTSOC (Education of Future ICT Experts Based on SMART Society Needs) project's goal was to increase through intensive interdisciplinary study activities skills of ICT students in areas of business, social activities and sustainability skills defined by strategic documents "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (UN resolution) and "Horizon Europe" (EU regulation) programs. Other pillars of the project were also smart specialisation strategies of the participating partner's regions and their important targets for regional development in the EU.

The final project meeting took place in Budapest from 29 to 31 August 2022, organised by the University of Debrecen, the SmartSoc consortium partner.

The project coordinator and manager Peter Márton (UNIZA, Slovakia) welcomed the representatives of Spanish, Croatian, French, Bulgarian, Romanian, Finnish, Slovakian and Hungarian universities, as well as a German NGO, who worked together in the project implementation. They focused on reviewing the project events, best practices and results of the past three years. Each partner could report on the impact of the joint work on students, teachers and institutions. The meeting also allowed the consortium to draw conclusions and recommendations.

Even though the SmartSoc project faced the pandemic situation, the whole consortium, with joint efforts and flexibility, managed and realized a successful online workshop for the participating students. These online workshops followed the two-month virtual mobility in the first and the second year. With the help of their supervisors and related study materials and activities, international student groups prepared a detailed CANVAS model and Business plan for their start-up company. All teams provided a business solution to some socially, environmentally or sustainability significant problem with the help of the latest IT technologies.

Finally, in the last project year, the student teams could already participate not only online but to travel to Valencia for two weeks workshop to finish the work started during the virtual mobility, meeting the team members and supervisors live as a real team.

Based on three years of feedback from more than 100 project participants, students expressed huge satisfaction in getting an opportunity to gain four ECTS credits and especially a lot of valuable skills, experience, knowledge, and new friends and maybe colleagues or business partners.

The work at the University of Oradea was coordinated by Polgar Istvan, lecturer in the Department of International Relations and European Studies.

A project like SmartSoc is a way to teach our young generations to develop and "make alive" together smart solutions reflecting and sustainably satisfying needs in an international context. SmartSoc project outputs are open-access and published on the project website: <https://www.smartsoc.uniza.sk/>