

**SECOND OPEN MEETING OF BALKAN UNESCO CHAIRS ON  
“*EDUCATION FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INNOVATION AND  
SUSTAINABILITY IN THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY*”  
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA  
26-27<sup>th</sup> October 2017**



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Romanian National  
Commission for UNESCO



The Bucharest University  
of Economic Studies



Faculty of Business Administration  
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## I. CONTEXT

The concept of promoting competencies-based education is considered to be the main pillar for improving the quality of life and implementing sustainable development goals. Sustainability should be implemented throughout the entire **Curriculum**, closely monitored by the accreditation bodies, and, the **Interdisciplinary approach** to education should be a main priority.

A number of **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** were formally adopted in 2015, with the main purpose to end extreme poverty, protect the environment and promote prosperity for everybody. (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>). The **Sustainable Development Goal 4** (<https://en.unesco.org/node/265600>), together with **Education 2030 Framework for Action** (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002456/245656E.pdf>) represent the main issues for Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Within the UNESCO priority area of **Education**, there can be found 20% of the UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN **Networks**. (<http://en.unesco.org/countries>)

## II. OBJECTIVES

- To celebrate and highlight the contribution of UNESCO's existing network of Chairs, together with the Networks in Education within the Balkan Peninsula, to education for entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainability.
- To address the issue of implementation of the Education 2030 Framework for action.
- To discuss the progress of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 Quality education.
- To showcase and discuss persistent challenges in higher education, such as Curriculum and Interdisciplinary approach.

## III. ACTIVITIES

Activities of the **Second Open Meeting of Balkan UNESCO Chairs on “Education for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Sustainability in the Knowledge Economy”** from October 26-27, 2017, Bucharest, ROMANIA include:

- An official ceremony with opening remarks and keynote speeches of actors from various fields (education, government and businesses), discussions, project proposals, networking and media presence.
- The **Workshop on Innovation in the Energy Sector** with participation of PhD students, MBA Energy students, business representatives from energy sector and other participants.

#### IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- The BALKAN ACTION PLAN 2017-2020, a policy action towards implementation with success of the Education 2030 Agenda in Balkan countries.
  - The follow-up Action Plan will be submitted for consultation to the UNESCO representatives.

#### V. IMPACT

- UNESCO's existing network of Chairs, together with the Networks in Education within the Balkan Peninsula, will conclude with the adoption of the BALKAN ACTION PLAN 2017-2020, an instrument for the UNESCO Chairs from Balkan States to sustain and influence the implementation of the Education 2030 Framework for action, with the purpose of implementing the Sustainable Development Goal 4 Quality education.
  - This will come as a continuation of the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030 adopted in 2015, on behalf of the World Education Forum 2015 from 19-22 May 2015 in Incheon, hosted by the Republic of Korea. The forum organized by UNESCO, in partnership with UNICEF, the World Bank, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women and UNHCR brought together over 1600 participants from 160 countries. The Incheon Declaration for Education 2030 sets out a new vision for education for the following years.
- The BALKAN ACTION PLAN 2017-2020 will guide the UNESCO Chairs in Education from Balkans, in close link with the UNESCO Chairs, to generate and develop new tools to help Member States address the challenges raised by the Sustainable Development Goals in Education.
- The BALKAN ACTION PLAN 2017-2020 will underline the need for interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in connecting science, society and policy and sharing knowledge widely.

#### VI. FOLLOW-UP ACTION PROPOSALS

1. UNESCO Chairs invited to the Second Open Meeting of Balkan UNESCO Chairs on *“Education for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Sustainability in the Knowledge Economy”* will be asked to address the following broad issues:
  - a) Best practices in your institution regarding the integration of the concepts of innovation and sustainability into the curricula in the context of diversity.
  - b) Best practices in your institution regarding implementation of interdisciplinary education for sustainable development.
  - c) Joint-proposals for further collaboration, between the UNESCO Chairs and other stakeholders, in teaching & learning, research and mobility, under the framework of various

European programs (Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, Danube Transnational Program, European Commission, other interested donors).

- d) Proposals of other actions meant to strengthen the capacities of UNESCO Chairs to contribute to the SDGs.
- e) Proposals regarding the extension of the UNESCO Chairs network with national/international organizations and the private sector

**The viewpoints expressed by the chairs will be included in the final conference report and in the action plan proposed.**

2. **UNESCO Chairs invited to the Second Open Meeting of Balkan UNESCO Chairs on “*Education for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Sustainability in the Knowledge Economy*” will be asked to send contributions on the topic of *Innovation in Energy Sector* in order to be published in a volume in collaboration with UNESCO.**
3. **UNESCO Chairs invited to the Second Open Meeting of Balkan UNESCO Chairs on “*Education for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Sustainability in the Knowledge Economy*” will be asked to contribute with project proposal drafts to be considered for the coming EU funding calls (COST Action, ERA-NET, Horizon 2020, Erasmus +, other interested donors).**