



Young scholars' workshop, a new scientific journal and a website are some of the SCHOLARNET activities, which will be implemented by the end of 2020

Optimism, exchange of ideas and a clear ambition for achieving research excellence marked the first meeting of the project partners of the SCHOLARNET international capacity building project. The first official meeting of the representatives of the [Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at 'St. Kliment Ohridski' Sofia University](#), [Universitede Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines](#) and [Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg](#) was held on 28th October and was digitally mediated due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID - 19 pandemic.

Assoc. Prof. Atanas Georgiev, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administrations at 'St. Kliment Ohridski' Sofia University, who is also the SCHOLARNET project leader, kick started the first meeting. He expressed his gratitude to the partner universities from France and Germany and highlighted the importance of maintaining and developing international partnerships with leading research institutes, especially in the context of research capacity building. Prof. Albena Vutsova and Assoc. Prof. Todor Yalamov, SCHOLARNET coordinators, presented the main objectives of the project focusing on fostering young scholars' research career. Assoc. Prof. Stela Raytcheva from [Universitede Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines](#), along with Prof. Kai-Ingo Voigt and Oscar Pacos from the [Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg](#) were pleased that the project will help increase research cooperation, knowledge exchange and deepen the partnership with Sofia University.

Some of the topics discussed during the meeting included defining specific objectives for the current Q4 2020 project cycle, a monitoring mechanism for implementation, allocation of work teams and appointment of a project Advisory Board, in which the rectors of the three universities will participate.

An ambitious action plan, which is to be implemented by the end of 2020, was agreed upon at the end of the meeting. Creating of a project website, organizing of a PhD students' panel session at the end of November, as part of the 'Just and SMART Transitions: New Deals, Markets and Governance' International Research Conference, as well as the publication of a new 'Economic Boundaries and Transformations' scientific journal are some of the activities which are part of the action plan for the next two months. By the end of November, a communication strategy will be developed through which the goals and results of the SCHOLARNET project will be communicated to a wider audience, including researchers, students, social partners, business organizations, the public sector and policy makers. The SCHOLARNET project aims to build up research capacity through knowledge transfer, exchange of good practices, related academic research and participation in various networking events. It is part of the implementation of the Bulgarian 'European Research Networks' National Research Programme and it is in line with the priorities of the 2014 - 2020 National Smart Specialization Innovation Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria.