

**May 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Panel One**

**Internationalisation of Higher Education. Strengthening partnerships across the EU and beyond**

**10.00-11.30 EET**

**Chair:** Prof. Dr. Madeleine Danova, Dean of Faculty of Classical and Modern Philologies, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

**Internationalisation in higher education and its impact on academic staff at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski**

**Abstract**

This paper draws on a qualitative study which explored the impact of internationalisation in higher education on academics who teach and conduct research at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. Analysis of the data showed that internationalization is perceived as *Opportunity* and *Effort* - opportunity to overcome the isolation of the peripheral knowledge system and effort to participate in the international scientific discourse. The categories of *Opportunity* and *Effort* are interconnected and complement one another. They are explained within the subcategories of: *Transborder academic mobility and research networks, Setting the research agenda, Visibility and promotion, Leaving the comfort zone, A shift in one’s personal research agenda, Meeting high publication standards, Academic programs in English.*

**Dr Desislava Karaasenova** teaches at the European Studies Department, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria. Her main research interests include internationalisation of academia, transnational academic mobility, and intercultural communication.

**Multilingual Sydney: Multilingualism Research Centre in action**

**Abstract**

In this presentation, I will discuss the establishment and development of the Multilingualism Research Centre at Macquarie University. We are an interdisciplinary research Centre established in late 2019 with academic and research student members across three faculties. I will focus on the research streams we developed and the research support mechanisms. The five research streams are meant to be springboards for further collaboration with academic researchers, community organisations and government agencies. I will outline three projects to demonstrate new interdisciplinary collaborations on multilingualism research and some of our thoughts on future development. 2020 has so far been a challenging year for many researchers, especially those in Human Sciences. I will also discuss some of the challenges we face in the

current and post-COVID19 research environments, and the proposals to overcome some of these challenges.

**Dr Alice Chik** is Senior Lecturer in the School of Education and Associate Director of Multilingualism Research Centre, Macquarie University. Her main research interests include language learning in informal contexts, urban multilingualism and literacy education.

## **The potential of educational systems to ensure systematic development of plurilingual and intercultural competence**

### **Abstract**

Today's challenges on national, European and global levels require that young people develop corresponding skills and competences. As pointed out by Karvounaraki et al. (2018), encouraging the development of common European values and consolidating European identity through communicative processes among the representatives of a new generation of EU citizens is of paramount importance. These new citizens are to be capable of working within and across various national, European and global cultures by using multiple languages. In view of the intensified mobility and intellectual exchanges of teachers, scholars and students across national and disciplinary borders it is necessary to understand some of the mechanisms in place which enable such dynamics. This article presents a study of relevant theoretical sources as well as of EU and national documents regarding language and educational policies with a specific focus on the transition between secondary and tertiary education. The research design includes analysis of examples from Bulgaria to shed light on how to ensure systematic and coherent development of plurilingual and intercultural competence in educational practices.

**Dr. Nikolina Tsvetkova** is an Associate Professor at the European Studies Department, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria, where she teaches ESP, Intercultural communication, and Project terminology. She has also been involved in teacher training, material design, intercultural learning, using ICT and especially Web 2.0 in formal and non-formal education. Her research interests are in the field of language education, intercultural education, and applying ICTs in teaching and learning.