



**HORIZON 2020
MARIE SKLODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS – ITN/ RISE
PARTNER SEARCH FORM**

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| Organization Name/ Department/ Website | Plovdiv University https://www.uni-plovdiv.bg/ |
| Organization Short Name | PU |
| Organization Type | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academic <input type="checkbox"/> Non-academic |
| Research Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry (CHE) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC) <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Sciences (ECO) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Science and Engineering (ENG) <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Geosciences (ENV) <input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences (LIF) <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics (MAT) <input type="checkbox"/> Physics (PHY) |
| Sub-Fields/ Keywords | Religion(s), ethnicity, tolerance, live-with-difference, prejudices, human rights, Balkans |
| Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action(s) of interest? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> European Training Networks (ITN-ETN) <input type="checkbox"/> European Industrial Doctorates (ITN-EID) <input type="checkbox"/> European Joint Doctorates (ITN-EJD) <input type="checkbox"/> Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) |
| Short Description of the Organization | Plovdiv University is one of the leading higher-education institutions, the second biggest in the Republic of Bulgaria. The PU confer each form of educational degree i.e. specialist, bachelor, master and doctor in natural, humanitarian, social, engineering and economic sciences, combined within the nine faculties. The management of teaching and research activities at the PU is supported by administrative and business units that include: University Information Centre, University Library, Audio-Visual Center, Science and Research Department, Centre for Distance Education, University Publishing House, Center for Career Prospects, Sports Center, Educational Theatre, technical centers, supporting and service units. The PU actively maintains international contacts with almost all European countries, the United States as well as countries in Asia and Africa. |



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| <p>Previous Related Projects/ Research Experience</p> | <p>The themes of former <i>Balkan Summer School on Religion and Public Life</i> were as follows: 2011, <i>A Mosaic of Margins: Ethnicity, Religion, and Belonging</i> (https://logos.uni-plovdiv.net/en/web/logos.etn/bssrpl-2011) 2013, <i>Syncretic Societies – Bridging Traditions and Modernity</i> (https://logos.uni-plovdiv.net/en/web/logos.etn/bssrpl-2013) 2015, <i>Conversion and the Boundaries of Community</i> (https://logos.uni-plovdiv.net/en/web/logos.etn/bssrpl-2015) 2017, <i>Strangers and Neighbors</i> (https://logos.uni-plovdiv.net/en/web/logos.etn/bssrpl-2017)</p> |
| <p>Short Description of the Project idea</p> | <p><i>The Balkan Summer School on Religion and Public Life</i> (BSSRPL) (https://logos.uni-plovdiv.net/en/web/logos.etn/bssrpl) has been organized bi-yearly since 2011 as a unique pedagogical project where participants and organizers work together to develop strategies of learning to “live with difference” without trivializing, marginalizing or denying these differences.</p> <p>The goal of the BSSRPL is to provide a laboratory for the practical pedagogy of tolerance and living with difference in a global society. We attract participants (ages from mid-20’s to mid 60’s) from many nations and diverse backgrounds, who, jointly, create a space of interaction within which they are moved to new understandings of themselves, their taken-for-granted assumptions about the world, and their attitudes toward others they may see as threatening, or even dangerous. Our participants have included: school teachers and principals, municipal workers, journalists, students, clerics, artists, NGO leaders, university professors and lawyers from Western and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Asia, Africa and the Americas. BSSRPL programs strive to provide new, transferable skills that participants can then use in their home settings as tools for negotiating difference and coping with the discomfort that difference often invokes. Through our unique pedagogical approach which combines lectures, site visits, shared physical activities and hands-on learning, participants ultimately come to appreciate difference, while at the same time affirming their own particular communal identities.</p> <p>The BSSRPL is housed at the PU and our two-week program take place in Plovdiv as well as in the small villages in the surrounding Rhodope Mountains.</p> |



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| | We invite partners from universities and organizations throughout Europe who may be interested in our methods and approach to join with us in developing new models for “living with difference” in a rapidly changing world. |
| Related MSCA Call | H2020-MSCA-ITN-2018 |
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