



# University of Ruse Angel Kanchev

## 70 Years

### Facing Knowledge, Youth and Future



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**THE SOCIAL WORKER'S CLUB AT THE "ANGEL KANCHEV"  
UNIVERSITY OF RUSE FINALIZED  
PROJECT "EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL PLATFORM FOR KNOWLEDGE,  
CREATIVITY, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT"**

At the beginning of December 2019, the Social Worker's Club at the "Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse completed all tasks and activities related to the "Educational and Social Platform for Knowledge, Creativity, Growth and Development" project<sup>1</sup>. The project was implemented with the support of the Ruse Free Spirit City Municipal Foundation and in partnership with the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs – Ruse Municipality, Regional Directorate for Social Assistance – Ruse, Directorate for Social Assistance – Ruse, Non-profit Association "Equilibrium" – Ruse, Non-profit Association "Child and space", Non-profit Association "Centre Dynamics" – Ruse, Foundation "Friendly Support" – Ruse, Foundation "Third Age" – Ruse, Association of people with intellectual disabilities – Ruse, Regional organization of the blind – Ruse, Bulgarian Red Cross, Caritas – Ruse, Bulgarian Association of Social Workers.

The project aims to create a wide-ranging social, educational and professional platform that functions sustainably over time as a source of knowledge, creativity, growth and development and serves as an important factor towards: learning, sharing and promoting good educational and professional practices; implementation of active and constructive interaction between the educational and social work practice with a focus on the acquiring of knowledge, skills and experience, implementation of creative performances and production which are directed towards the achievement of growth and development; discussing and analysing current problems in the field of educational and social work practice and looking for

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<sup>1</sup> Project "Educational and Social Platform for Knowledge, Creativity, Growth and Development": <https://socialaffairsru.weebly.com/105510881086107710821090-1054107310881072107910861074107210901077108310851072-108710831072109010921086108810841072-2019.html>



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opportunities for solving and defining them into good educational, professional and social practices.

The project involves experts from state and municipal services, social service providers, social workers, social work teachers and students and users of social services. This makes possible the establishment of favourable and dynamic conditions in the contemporary local and regional context for the continuous adoption of knowledge, skills, values and experience, realization of creative initiatives and exchange of good educational and professional practices. The project underlies as a significant issue the challenges of the social work education and the profession “social worker”, it presents opportunities for their development through good and innovative practices in the dynamic environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which are to be implemented and included in the training and practice of the social workers. In this respect, its importance and relevance are highlighted, in terms of seeking and finding appropriate solutions to current and important issues in the educational, social and professional fields in accordance with the need for improvement and development of the education, the profession and the practice of all social work in the context of the dynamic changes and challenges at the end of the second and the beginning of the third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The project is launched after the World Social Work Day – 2019 and the Regional Forum for good educational and professional practices in the social activities field – 2019. It includes experts training in five modules on topics relevant to the preparation of social students and social workers, such as: sign language in different directions (alphabet, numbers, days of the week, months, names of subjects, activities, people, concepts and expressions related to social work and the everyday duties of the social worker); knowledge and skills for the use of psychotherapeutic approaches in supportive activities; knowledge and skills in applying The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health for Children and Youth as a basis for the provision of therapeutic care; theoretical and applied aspects of different types of intelligence as a tool for working with users in social services; knowledge and skills for psychosocial work with children with mental disorders and their families in the community and in social services.



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The knowledge, skills and experience acquired in the training modules are upgraded and developed with the participation of social workers, users of social services, students and teachers in three creative workshops where production is prepared (script, compositions, scenery, photographs, costumes, music, songs, dances) for the final stage of the project – Christmas concert for users of social services in Ruse municipality. The use of contemporary forms and methods of social work and involvement in joint art-therapeutic and occupational-therapeutic activities creates favourable conditions and environment for promoting the cognitive and creative activity of the participants and for overcoming barriers in communication with children and people with disabilities, coping with stereotypes and prejudices and inclusion in the principles of tolerance and non-discrimination.

The concert performance presents in an interactive and artistic way through compositions, music, songs, dances and stories the results of the activities carried out in the training modules and creative workshops and the mutual respect, equality, tolerance and social inclusion formed in their conditions through the acquired knowledge, skills and experience and the growth and development achievements of students, users, social workers and social service professionals.

It is envisaged that the platform will continue to operate and be established as an annual initiative by the organizer and partners. The results of all project activities are presented to the academic and professional communities and the general public through media publications at local, regional and national level. A compilation of all project results with the title “Good educational and professional practices in the social work field – knowledge and attempt for growth and development” is to be published at some point.

Project Coordinator

“Educational and Social Platform for Knowledge,  
Creativity, Growth and Development”

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