

## **TRANSFORM4EUROPE WEEK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA IN KATOWICE KATOWICE. 24-28TH APRIL 2023**

We invite students, administrative and academic staff of all the Transform4Europe partner universities to take part in a second edition of the Transform4Europe Week at the University of Silesia in Katowice. The topic of the event is "Just Transition". We would like to focus on various aspects of changes that await the post-industrial regions. Undoubtedly, the challenges related to environmental protection and rapid climate change are among the most important.

### **DIDACTIC STREAM**

Within didactic stream, students can choose from five modules offered by USil (20 didactic hours). In order to obtain 3 ECTS credits for participation in didactic stream, students are also obliged to be present at the introductory lecture and to take part in Languages for lunch module. Up to 2 students from partner universities for each module.

#### **1. Module name: Challenges and choices of the Anthropocene epoch**

Module teacher: **Prof. Piotr Skubała, PhD**

We live in special times, when the human population is still dynamically growing, economic growth affects more and more people around the world. Civilization changes are a source of pride and satisfaction for many. Man is transforming the surface of the Earth on an unprecedented scale. However, the price we may have to pay for constant interference in nature related to obtaining energy sources by using soil, water, forests or animals can be very high. Our pressure on the environment has become so significant that in 2000, biologist Eugene F. Stoermer and atmospheric scientist Paul J. Crutzen (1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry) suggested that the modern geological epoch should no longer be called the Holocene, and give it the name "Anthropocene". In their opinion, we live in a new geological age, because Homo sapiens has become a hyper-causative force of geological significance. The course will cover, among others the following issues:

- Anthropocene – the era of man.
- Planetary environmental crisis.
- Climate change as the greatest moral challenge of our time.
- A new paradigm for the development of civilization.
- On the way to the symbiocene. State of knowledge about the functioning of the Earth's biosphere.
- On the way to the symbiocene. Laws in the natural world.

- On the way to the symbiocene. Man's connections with nature. Man as a holobiont.
- Pandemic and biodiversity.
- People to defend nature and climate. Assessment of social behavior.
- Resolving environmental conflicts from an ethical perspective.
- Ecological and Carbon Footprint as a Lifestyle Change Tool and Business Model.

## 2. **Module name: Found in translation: how to understand cultures (and nature)**

Module teacher: **Katarzyna Ponikowska, PhD**

Cultures differ. It is determined by their philosophical and religious backgrounds, the natural environment they are fitted in, the political challenges they have to confront, etc. Sometimes we may need a clue to operate appropriately in the modern, diverse world. Therefore we will help one another and discuss how to make contact with other cultures exciting, not threatening.

## 3. **Module name: Negotiate your way in life and business**

Module teacher: **Iwona Wojtala, MA**

"Everything is negotiable. Whether or not the negotiation is easy is another thing." (Carrie Fisher) We all negotiate on a daily basis, with our family, friends, peers, bosses, colleagues, business partners, just to name a few. During the classes, students will learn how to gain an upper hand in negotiations, both in life and in business. They will study the main principles of negotiations and go through their stages to find out how to prepare for negotiations and how to conduct them. Students will also explore the differences between negotiating styles in various cultures. Within a company, negotiation skills can lead to career advancement, therefore emphasis will be put on practical skills through a number of case studies and role plays in a business setting as well as on the development of language skills in English.

Upon completion of the module students will develop their fluency in English and practise the vocabulary needed to conduct negotiations. They will become aware of the complex nature of negotiations and various negotiating styles across cultures. The module is aimed at interested students of any field of study, provided that they are at B2 level in English.

## 4. **Module name: Metaversum and law**

Module teachers: **Rafał T. Prabucki, PhD, Jakub Wyczik, MA**

The course considers the legal aspects in relation to new models available through new technologies. Students perform work on a freely available solution and then, based on

empirical experience, discuss the issue from the legal side. Each case study is preceded by a discussion of available legal solutions. The most related solutions to virtual worlds will be discussed: artificial intelligence systems for generating images and texts, tokenisation tools, privacy enhancement tools and other case studies related to new technologies.

## 5. Module name: Gender equality in the society

Module teachers: **Magdalena Półtorak, PhD, Jolanta Klimczak, PhD**

The course Gender Equality in Society aims to familiarise students with various aspects of social inequality, primarily determined by gender and gender-related stereotypes. It will be conducted from sociological and legal perspectives. The classes will focus on the gap between legal guarantees of equality and facts, identify specific barriers women and men face in academia, media, the political sphere, advertising, the labour market, the private sphere, etc., and propose concrete measures to eliminate them.

### ADMINISTRATIVE STREAM

The agenda for the administrative stream members is scheduled for three days: 25, 26, 27<sup>th</sup> April and is addressed to staff involved in project applying and implementation processes. Keynote speech: "Project Proposal and Implementation" will be presented by representatives of the University of Alicante.

Up to 2 staff members from partner universities to take part in Administrative stream.

### RESEARCH STREAM

Theme of the stream: *Applying for research grants by doctoral students* – details to be confirmed.

Up to 2 staff members from partner universities to take part in Research stream.

### CULTURAL AND SOCIAL STREAM

Every participant in the Transform4Europe Week is welcome to participate in the events complementary to their stream activities:

- **Integration picnic** – 24<sup>th</sup> of April, 5 p.m., University of Silesia in Katowice campus (the venue will be determined due to the weather conditions);
- **Grand Concert** – 25<sup>th</sup> of April, 6 p.m., Concert Hall of the Academy of Music in Katowice. International ensembles of the alliance partners will perform, the ANTHEM of Transform4Europe will have its premiere. Due to the restricted amount of seats, prior registration is required for this event;
- **Getting to know Silesia** – the set of sightseeing historical walks including Katowice city center, traditional coal miners district Nikiszowiec, Silesian Park in Chorzów, Jewish heritage in Sosnowiec. All the events will be implemented by public transportation.