



Šiauliai
Academy



ERASMUS+ BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMME

REGIONAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND ETHICS (REME!)

**18th–22nd of September, 2023 (Face-to-face) and
25th of September – 13th of October, 2023 (Online)**

Institute of Regional Development, VU Šiauliai Academy
(Vytauto str. 84, Šiauliai, Lithuania)

Background:

The Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) is an Erasmus+ project joint programme consisting of three HEIs – Vilnius University (Lithuania), University of Latvia (Latvia) and University of Pardubice (Czech Republic) for learners to come together for both physical and online activities. The program aims to develop short, intensive joint mobility curricula and activities on regional research methodology and ethics.

BIP_REME! seeks:

- research-based learning,
- innovative ways of learning and teaching,
- online collaboration,
- challenge-based approaches that tackle societal challenges.
- to create opportunity to reach out to new groups of students with limited mobility possibilities,
- development of transnational and transdisciplinary curricula.

Participants:

Current master degree students, University staff
Minimum 17 participants (excluding VU ŠA students).

Duration:

The physical activity will be 5 days (18th-22nd of September, 2023) and the virtual component is compulsory – 3 weeks after physical mobility, 4 hours per week (25th of September – 13th of October, 2023).

The BIP will award 3 ECTS credits.

The call for applications is opened till the 31st of May, 2023

Students must keep in touch with ERASMUS coordinators in their home institutions to be nominated for this programme.

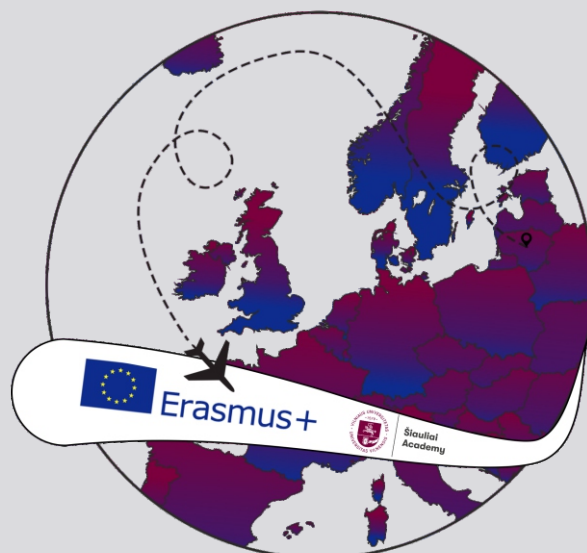
The subject of the BIP:

REGIONAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND ETHICS (REME!)

Recent changes of the society, economy and environment requires regional development specialists to have not only good knowledge in regional policy and development, business management, public management or public administration, but more and more to discuss about what we know and what we want to know. Master degree students, preparing to become regional development specialists, often come into contact with research results of surveys, reports, findings from academic and applied research. Knowing general theories that underlie good research is not enough, the more specific practices of regional development field research requires understanding of causal relationships in social systems and good skills of research methods' application. Research ethics and academic integrity are the fundamentals to the process of research performance.

This has encouraged the idea of bringing together current master degree students to develop their methodological knowledge and research competencies. The Blended Intensive Programme REME! seeks to use the blended approach to learning and teaching the regional research methodology and ethics in a supportive international environment by focusing on six main subject areas of the main topic:

1. Answering the questions “why” and “how”: the foundation of research methodology (Assist. Prof. Dr Jurgita Joniškienė, Vilnius University, Lithuania);
2. Strategic planning and its methods in the field of regional development (Prof. Dr Iveta Reinholde, University of Latvia, Latvia);
3. Quantitative research method: Conceptualization and operationalization in the field of regional development (Assist. Prof. Dr Solomon Gyamfi, University of Pardubice, Czech Republic);
4. Foundations in qualitative methods: mapping the field (ESRC doctoral researcher Nora Leach, University of Nottingham, UK);
5. The use of the Delphi method in regional research (Assoc. Prof. Dr Daniela Ventsislavova Georgieva, International Business School Botevgrad, Bulgaria);
6. Virtues ethics and Dilemma game for researchers of regional development (Assoc. prof. Dr Vita Juknevičienė, Vilnius University, Lithuania).



Details of subjects and tutors are as follows:

Name of the Lecturer: Assist. Prof. Dr Jurgita Joniškienė (Lithuania)

Lecturer's Profile: Dr Jurgita Joniškienė graduated PhD studies in Social sciences area, Management scientific field (joint right of the doctoral studies at Vytautas Magnus University, Klaipėda University, Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Mykolas Romeris University, Šiauliai University), focusing on collaborative value creation process in cross-sector partnerships. Her research interests include NGO and civil society, management and governance of collaborative arrangements, research methodology. Currently, she works as an assistant professor at Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University.



Subject Title: Answering the questions “why” and “how”: the foundation of research methodology

Annotation: the intensive module goal is to guide participants in writing an effective research methodology by helping them to gain a clear understanding of a research methodology's structure. The special focus will be dedicated not just to “the collection of methods or rules” applied to research, but as well to “principles, theories, and values” that support research approaches. During the module research philosophy is an important part of research methodology will be analyzed. The understanding of philosophical approaches enables participants to decide which approach should be adopted in their research and why, to determine the research strategy and the methods of that strategy.

Name of the Lecturer: Dr Iveta Reinholde (Latvia)

Lecturer's Profile: Iveta Reinholde is the professor of public administration at the Department of Political Sciences of the University of Latvia. She has considerable



experience in conducting policy evaluations, working in multi-national teams and international setting on such areas as public administration reform, internal audit, human security and public services. In addition, fields of her research include EU public policy, public policy evaluation and analysis, public sector organizations and organisation theory.

Iveta Reinholde was involved in the project “Gender and human security”. Her publications cover policy issues like perception of threats, human security and empowerment of local communities where she has analysed many factors impacting empowerment process. Currently she is principal investigator in the project “The subjective security perception of the

inhabitants of Latvia: Influence on the making of security politics” financed by the national science council. Dr. Iveta Reinholde has also been a visiting scholar at several universities including the universities of Oslo, Kyoto and Hokaido.

She is experienced in advising and designing policy recommendations for national and local governments as she is a head of Public Council of National Audit Office. Since 2014, she is an independent expert for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe. In 2019, she has been awarded with Alena Brunovska Award for Teaching Excellence in Public Administration (NISPAcee).

Subject Title: Strategic planning and its methods in the field of regional development

Annotation: the intensive lectures provide an overview of the strategic planning approach in the regional development. The focus will be on the following issues like: strategic planning over the levels of governance, different types KPI and the concept “the point of growth”. During the lecture, there will be debates on:

- determining the direction and priorities of regional development;
- methods, useful for creating strategies for regional development;
- practical implementation of strategies and development programmes;
- adoption of regional development strategy and development programs to external changes.

Name of the Lecturer: Assist. Prof. Dr Solomon Gyamfi (Czech Republic)

Lecturer's Profile: Dr Solomon Gyamfi obtained his Master of Science in Economic Policy and Administration in the field of regional development and Governance, a joint degree program from the University of Pardubice and Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University. He holds Ph.D. in Economic Policy and Administration mainly focusing on Regional and Public Economics. His research interest is in the Public sector support for innovation, innovation systems, knowledge management and other interdisciplinary areas of economics, public policy, and public administration. Currently he works at the University of Pardubice, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Institute of Economic Sciences as an Assistant Professor.



Subject Title: Quantitative research method: Conceptualization and operationalization in the field of regional development

Annotation: The entire module will center around the idea of how the imaginations of individuals can be transformed into a well-structured thought. The lecture will seek to explain the processes of conceptualizing the general idea about the need to solving regional development issue by helping participant to specify distinct meanings of concepts resulting from their observations and experiences. General approaches to the quantitative research design will help participants appreciate how researchers go about the use of quantitative research method. The approaches and measurement of indicators in quantitative research will be another focus of the module. A practical econometric analysis will be done for the purposes of illustration. The statistical tools for the illustration of data analysis are from Gretl and Smart PLS-SEM.

Name of the Lecturer: ESRC doctoral researcher Nora Leach (United Kingdom)

Lecturer's Profile: Nora Leach holds a BA in Politics and International Relations (First Class), a MA in International Security and Terrorism (with Distinction) and a MA in Social Science Research - Political Science and International Relations (with Distinction) from the University of Nottingham, UK. She is currently a PhD candidate in the School of Politics and International Relations. Her current research seeks to investigate the impact of European Union (EU) integration on the professionalisation of bureaucratic elites in post-communist Europe. Her work is funded by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Nora's research interests include, but are not limited to, executive governance, public administration, politicisation of bureaucracy, and democratisation and Europeanisation in the context of Central and Eastern Europe.



Subject Title: Foundations in qualitative methods: Mapping the field

Annotation: This intensive module provides a conceptual overview of the various approaches and debates associated with theory and practice of qualitative research. It examines a range of contrasting perspectives on the design of research including problem identification, selection and sampling, and analysis. The role of the researcher in generating qualitative data is a key theme, which runs through the module. Consideration is given to the ways in which qualitative and quantitative approaches may be seen as complementary. The module will also cover the ways in which qualitative research can be evaluated. It facilitates dialogue between members of different social science disciplines, to give an understanding of how some issues or practices may be viewed differently from different disciplinary perspectives.

Name of the Lecturer: Assoc. prof. Dr Daniela Ventsislavova Georgieva (Bulgaria)



Lecturer's Profile: Dr Daniela Ventsislavova Georgieva is an associate professor and a dean at International Business School, Bulgaria (www.ibsedu.bg). Apart from the work as a university lecturer, Daniela Georgieva works as a senior analyst at the Applied Research and Communication Fund in Sofia, Bulgaria (www.arcfund.net). The ARC Fund is the only Bulgarian think-tank with a strong track record in the field of innovation policy and technology transfer. During her professional development Daniela Georgieva was a researcher at the Bulgarian Academy of Science and Faculty of economics and business administration, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She was as well the Head of Political Cabinet of the Ministry of

Tourism in Bulgaria during a temporary expert government in 2021. She has a specialisation on the field of promoting innovation and entrepreneurship through incubation at the Entrepreneurship and development institute of Indi (India). Her research interests are in the field of management accounting, accounting policy, accounting of non-profit organizations, innovative projects, evaluation and recognition of intangible assets, innovation and entrepreneurship, R&D.

Subject Title: The use of the Delphi method in regional research

Annotation: This intensive module provides a general overview of the Delphi method and its ways of implementation into the practice for the purposes of regional research. The students will better understand the concept of the Delphi Method as an effective way of collecting experts' opinions and evaluation on specific problem or policy. The course focuses on the Delphi Method process implementation, its goals, advantages and disadvantages. The students will gain more knowledge on how to conduct the different stages of the Delphi Method by themselves from different disciplinary perspectives and what kind of outcomes to expect.

Name of the Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr Vita Juknevičienė (Lithuania)

Lecturer's Profile: Dr Vita Juknevičienė graduated PhD studies in Kaunas University of Technology with the high interest in regional innovation management and development of regions. Currently, she specialises in the modernization of the public sector and regional development as an associate professor at Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University. Recently she was certified as the trainer in the programme “Virtue based ethics and Integrity of Research: Train-the-Trainer program for Upholding the principles and practices of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity” (VIRTU2E).



Subject Title: Virtues ethics and Dilemma game for researchers of regional development

Annotation: The intensive module aims to increase the knowledge about virtues and norms in research, ethical aspects while organizing, conducting the research and publishing its results. Participants will learn about the the multidimensional nature of goodness and will understand how the different typologies of goodness are relevant and important to the work of a researcher. They will familiarize with principles of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and learn about differences between moral conflict and moral dilemma. Participants will stimulate awareness of, and an open and critical discussion about integrity and professionalism in regional research using innovative tool – Dilemma Game Apps.

Schedule of ERASMUS BIP

In-person Mobility Planned Activities							
Time	09:00-11:00	Break 11:00-11:15	11:15-13:15	Lunch time 13:15-14:15	14:15-16:15	Break 16:15-16:30	16:30-18:30
1	Introduction/Opening of the BIP		Lunch time	Sightseeing tour in Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University and other Šiauliai places			
2	Topic 1 Prof. Jurgita Joniškienė		Topic 1 Prof. Jurgita Joniškienė		Topic 2 Prof. Iveta Reinholde		Topic 2 Prof. Iveta Reinholde
3	Topic 3 Prof. Solomon Gyamfi		Topic 3 Prof. Solomon Gyamfi		Topic 4 Prof. Nora Leach		Topic 4 Prof. Nora Leach
4	Topic 5 Prof. Daniel Georgieva		Topic 5 Prof. Daniel Georgieva		Topic 6 Prof. Vita Juknevičienė		Topic 6 Prof. Vita Juknevičienė
5	Visiting Vilnius University Vilnius Campus, discussion					End of BIP, closing ceremony	

Online Engagement and assessment Planned Activities			
2 hours online session / 4 hrs per week (start time is 6 p.m. EET)			
Week 1 2023.09.25 – 29	Topic 1 Prof. Jurgita Joniškienė Thursday, 2023.09.26 18:00-20:00		Topic 2 Prof. Iveta Reinholde Thursday, 2023.09.28 18:00-20:00
Week 2 2023.10.02 – 06	Topic 3 Prof. Solomon Gyamfi Tuesday, 2023.10.03 18:00-20:00		Topic 4 Prof. Nora Leach Thursday, 2023.10.05 18:00-20:00
Week 3 2023.10.09 – 13	Topic 5 Prof. Daniela Georgieva Thursday, 2023.10.10 18:00-20:00		Topic 6 Prof. Vita Juknevičienė Thursday, 2023.10.12 18:00-20:00

Place:

Šiauliai Academy Information Centre of Vilnius University Library
Vytauto str. 84, Šiauliai, Lithuania

Accommodation:

Students' dormitory of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University
Dubijos str. 1B, Šiauliai, Lithuania

Participants may be provided with the accommodation in double or triple rooms (for two/three students). They will get the registration form after the nomination from their home institutions and they will have to mention in it if they need the accommodation. Participants will pay for the stay in the place (by online bank transfer or payment in the bank).

Information: <https://www.sa.vu.lt/en/about/student-information/living-and-studying#accommodation>

Photos here: <https://www.sa.vu.lt/stojantiesiems/bendrabutis/2-uncategorised/667-vusa-bendrabutis>

Social activities:

Information will be provided later.

Internet connection:

Participants will be provided with the access to Wi-Fi after registration to VUIS system.

Access to computers:

Participants will be provided with the access to computers during BIP meetings, but they should use their own PCs in dormitories if needed.

More information about Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University:

<https://www.sa.vu.lt/en/about-the-academy/about-us>

<https://www.facebook.com/siauliu.akademija>

<https://www.sa.vu.lt/en/news/1392-erasmus-blended-intensive-programme-regional-research-methodology-and-ethics-reme>