

Feedback

The ERUA travelling seminar in Sofia, organised at New Bulgarian University, was designed as a compact three-day academic and cultural programme focused on the intersection of corporate governance, human rights, and sustainability in Europe. The seminar combined theoretical discussions with practical exposure and informal learning.

From an academic perspective, the seminar sessions were the core strength of the programme. The lectures on corporate governance, state-owned enterprises, and human rights in the corporate sphere were well-structured, relevant, and intellectually engaging. Even in a lecture-based format, the topics were presented in a way that maintained interest and provided a solid understanding of current legal developments in these areas.

Beyond the academic component, the social and cultural activities added an important dimension to the experience. The programme included visits to key historical and cultural sites in Sofia, such as museums, churches, and the city centre, as well as opportunities to explore local gastronomy. These activities helped to contextualise the academic content and allowed participants to better understand the local environment. The informal interactions during walks and group activities also contributed significantly to networking and group cohesion.

At the same time, there were a few organisational aspects that could be further improved in future editions. The schedule was occasionally subject to changes, which sometimes made it a bit challenging to plan ahead and fully coordinate participation. For instance, the originally planned visit to the Agency for Public Enterprises and Control was replaced with a visit to another state enterprise. While it was still an interesting experience, its connection to the academic themes of the seminar was not immediately clear.

Additionally, during some of the group activities, the level of coordination varied, and participants at times explored different options independently. While this flexibility was appreciated, having a more clearly structured common programme for certain activities could help strengthen the sense of a shared group experience. It might be useful to consider introducing a core set of joint activities, alongside designated free time, to maintain both structure and flexibility.

Overall, despite the organisational shortcomings, the travelling seminar was a valuable and enriching experience. It successfully combined academic learning with cultural exposure and provided a platform for meaningful discussions in an international setting. The atmosphere was open, engaging, and intellectually stimulating.

Finally, special appreciation should be expressed to the organisers and academic coordinators for their effort in bringing together such a programme.

Organising an international travelling seminar is inherently complex, and the overall outcome clearly reflects significant dedication and commitment. With improved coordination and more stable planning, this initiative has strong potential to become an even more impactful academic experience in the future.







