UNIVERSITY OF LIBRARY STUDIES AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (ULSIT)

situated in Sofia, is one of the leading universities in Bulgaria with modern and dynamic development and national and international recognition (http://www.unibit.bg). In 2017, ULSIT celebrates its 67th anniversary.

ULSIT is accredited by the National Accreditation and Evaluation Agency to deliver education in Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral degrees. It has professional preparation and educational competence and capacity in the fields of: Library and Information Sciences, Social Communications; Informatics and Computer Sciences and National Security. The University offers 15 Bachelor and 26 Master programmes in these areas, as well as a number of Doctoral programmes. ULSIT's social mission is to prepare highly qualified, socially responsible, personally motivated and adaptive to the labor market specialists.

The University has the strategic aim for sustainable development as a leading higher school with a significant scientific, technological and innovative potential. It is capable of getting actively involved in the European Research and Innovation Area by implementing projects under Horizon 2020, Erasmus+ and TEMPUS Programs, as well as other international and national projects and initiatives.

ULSIT has established partnerships with many European research and educational institutions, centres and high technological companies especially in the field of Library and Information Sciences, Internet technologies, educational technologies, etc. ULSIT is a member of the IFLA, EBLIDA, EULCID, ICOMOS, Balkan Universities Network and etc.

The main university units are: Faculty of *Library Studies and Cultural Heritage*, Faculty *of Information Sciences*, and Department of *Comprehensive Studies*. In 2012 Interfaculty UNESCO Chair in *ICT in Library Science, Education and Cultural Heritage* was established. There are three research institutes associated to ULSIT: *Institute for Research and Doctoral Studies, Institute for Research in the Field of Organisation, Management and Preservation of Cultural Heritage* and *Institute of Leadership in an Information Environment*. In 2013, the *University Youth Knowledge Academy*, based on the new educational paradigm of UNESCO *by accredited qualification to certified skills* was established.

UNESCO CHAIR AT ULSIT

plays the role of a Centre of Excellence and innovation zone in the specified areas of ICT in Library Studies, Education and Cultural Heritage. It's the most *active* chair in Bulgaria and one of the leading Chairs in the UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs Programme. UNESCO Chair complies with the following priorities of UNESCO:

- Youth – realisation of modern education process aimed at acwuiring interdisciplinary knowledge and skills relevant to the new requirements in the career development of students;
- Sustainably protecting and enhancing cultural heritage within the complex processes of globalization – to develop the Chair as a custodian of heritage and a repository of knowledge for South-East Europe;
- Enhancing universal access to information and knowledge - supports equal access to education, information and cultural heritage in support of the Education for All UNESCO Programme.

The UNESCO Chair goals and activities are in line with the Millennium Developments Goals and it contributes to the National Strategy for Smart Specialisation and National Strategy for Science and Education. In addition, the chair contributes to the Regional Development by taking into account the existing experiences and good practice across the world and in synergy with other UNESCO chairs, strengthens the existing networks of partners at regional level (South-East Europe, Danube Macro-Region).

Members of ULSIT are among the founders and active participants of the International Summit on ICT in Education (*EDUsummIT*) events and apply an innovative model for transferring the *EDUsummIT* results to Bulgaria, Central and Eastern/ South-Eastern Europe through regular follow-up events such as:

- UNESCO International Workshop *QED'11*: *Re-Designing Institutional Policies and Practices to Enhance the Quality of Education Through Innovative Use of Digital Technologies* - of EDUsummIT'11

- UNESCO International Workshop *QED'14*: *Quality of Education and Challenges in a Digitally Networked World* - of EDUsummIT'13

- UNESCO International Workshop *QED'16: Technology Advanced Quality Learning for ALL* - of EDUsummIT'15.

EDUsummIT 2017: *Rethinking Learning in a Digital Age* is the fifth International Summit on Information Technology (IT) in Education to be held in Borovets, Bulgaria, on 18-20 September, 2017, co-hosted by ULSIT, Sofia, Bulgaria, and the Netherlands Institute for Curriculum Development**.**

QED'17 is held on 20-21 September, 2017 in Sofia with parallel sessions at the EC Representation in Bulgaria and the Sofia City Library. The topic of QED'17 is *Children in the Digital Age,* which is an upgrade of the *Children in the Information Age,* initiative started in Bulgaria 32 years ago. The participants in EDUsummIT'17 join the conference QED'17, where share the outcomes from the work of the global forum.

QED'11, 14-16 June, 2011, Sofia

QED'14, 30-31 October, 2014, Sofia

QED'16, 13-14 June, 2016, Sofia

Additional information is available on the web site of the UNESCO Chair: http://unesco.unibit.bg