



**UNIVERSITY OF NATIONAL AND WORLD
ECONOMY**

**FACULTY OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS
AND POLITICS**



**ASSOCIATION OF ECONOMIC UNIVERSITIES
OF SOUTH AND EASTERN EUROPE AND THE BLACK SEA REGION
(ASECU)**

On the occasion of the
30th Anniversary of ASECU (1996–2026)

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

22nd ASECU International Conference

**SUSTAINABLE
SOUTH AND EASTERN EUROPE 2030+:
Tackling Socioeconomic Transitions
through the SDGs**

24–25 April 2026

Sofia, Bulgaria

University of National and World Economy (UNWE)

(Hybrid format: in-person at UNWE & online)

International Scientific Committee

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Melina PETROMELIDOU, Head of ASECU Office

The event at a glance

24 April 2026 – ASECU for the FUTURE National Event (Bulgaria)

A policy-oriented forum involving representatives from academia, public administration, international organizations, business associations, and civil society.

25 April 2026 – Academic Conference Sessions

Presentation of research papers by scholars from the ASECU network and other international institutions.

About the conference and the event

The international conference “Sustainable South and Eastern Europe 2030+: Tackling Socioeconomic Transitions through the SDGs” aims to provide a multidisciplinary platform for discussion and exchange of ideas on the key socioeconomic transformations affecting countries in South and Eastern Europe in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The conference responds to the growing need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially in light of recent global initiatives such as the United Nations Summit of the Future, which emphasizes strengthening international cooperation and shaping the policy framework beyond 2030.

Countries in South and Eastern Europe face a range of complex challenges related to demographic change, regional disparities, energy transition, digital transformation, institutional capacity, and economic restructuring. Addressing these issues requires interdisciplinary research, evidence-based policymaking, and stronger cooperation between academia, policymakers, and the business community.

The conference is organized within the framework of the ASECU initiative “ASECU for the FUTURE”, which promotes national and regional events across the network of economic universities in South and Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region. The Bulgarian event hosted by the University of National and World Economy aims to contribute to this initiative by fostering dialogue between universities, public institutions, businesses, and civil society organizations.

The event will combine policy dialogue and academic research presentations, providing opportunities for both scholarly discussion and practical policy exchange.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE of the conference is English.

CONFERENCE COSTS

There is no fee for participation. The conference organizers cannot cover costs of international travel.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

All accepted contributions will be included in the conference's Book of Extended Abstracts. Selected papers subject to a double-blind review process will be published in:

- **South – Eastern Europe Journal of Economics** <https://asecu.gr/seeje/>
- **Bulgarian Journal of International Economics and Politics** <https://bjiep.unwe.bg/en/>
- **Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean Review** <https://www.lawjournals.unic.ac.cy/index.php/bsemr/about>

Authors may be invited to revise and expand their papers in accordance with the editorial requirements of the journals.

IMPORTANT DATES

Extended abstract submission deadline: **10th April 2026**

Notification of acceptance: **15th April 2026**

Full paper submission deadline: **24th May 2026**

Conference dates: **24–25 April 2026**

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Authors are invited to submit an **extended abstract (2–5 pages)** in English presenting the main idea, research question, and expected or preliminary results of their research.

Each submission should include:

- title of the paper
- author(s) names, affiliations and contact information
- JEL classification codes
- 3–5 keywords

Extended abstracts should be submitted in **Word format**.

The extended abstract should follow a simple structure including:

Introduction (including research question/objectives)

Methodology / approach or analytical framework (where relevant)

Main findings or expected results

Brief list of references

Detailed instructions for the preparation of full papers will be provided after the acceptance of extended abstracts.

Contact information

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