A new activity developed in the project consisted of co-organizing the International Conference „Inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Challenges, measures and solutions (ISEG 2017), Brasov, 20-21 October 2017 (http://unitbv.ro/iseg/publication-opportunities)

In this conference, Ileana Tache presented the paper: Sibel Mehter Aykin and Ileana Tache „53 Years Pledge for Turkey: Ankara Agreement and Beyond”

In addition, other members of the project published articles in the Conference Proceedings, as follows:

- Bianca Tescașiu, Gheorghe Epuran and Alina Simona Tecău - “The European Multi-level Governance and its Impact on the Marketing Environment in Conditions of Sustainability”
- Monica Răileanu Szeles - "A Multilevel Approach to the Regional Digital Divide in the European Union”.

As a result of ISEG Conference, a special issue of *Journal of Smart Economic Growth* has been published in December 2017 – WELFARE STATE, SOCIAL POLICIES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE (editor Monica Raileanu-Szeles).

This issue is realized in collaboration with our Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. The aim of this special issue is to provide a comprehensive overview on the South-Eastern Europe’s social map, with a particular focus on the welfare state regimes that have developed here in the last decade and
their connection with the economic growth of the region. Over time, the European “generous” welfare state (particularly the Northern welfare state model) proved its inefficiency because of the lack of sustainability, so that this topic has become subject of intense debates all over the Europe. The South-Eastern European countries have combined different characteristics of the traditional models and therefore have developed their own models, which had to continuously adapt to the specific macroeconomic challenges faced by these countries in the transitional process.

We intend to answer questions such as: “What should be the coordinates of the future sustainable European welfare state?”, “What welfare state models are more appropriate to be followed by the South-Eastern European countries?”, “Do the macroeconomic peculiarities of the South-Eastern Europe allow the development of traditional welfare state models into this corner of Europe, or rather they require specific models?”.

The novelty of the this ISEG special issue consists of analyzing the architecture of the welfare state in a particular region of Europe and its relationship with the economic growth which has not been intensively debated in the literature. This study could give insights into the development of a new welfare state model in the South-Eastern Europe that emerge from the specific socio-economic characteristics of the region.