EDITORIAL

Economic and social prosperity in the 21st century depend on the ability of nations to educate all members of their societies to be prepared to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Universities have a key role in innovative societies. They must be able to adjust rapidly to the changing demands of society and the labour market trough effective and transparent governance in the framework of education policies.

Universities promote the global innovation society by developing and integrating all three elements of the "knowledge triangle" (education, research and innovation), by investing fully in people, skills and research, and by supporting modernization of education systems to become more relevant to the needs of a global knowledge-based economy.

Education, the enhancement of skills, and the generation of new ideas are essential to the development of human capital and are the key engines of economic growth, drivers of market productivity, and sources of cohesion for all nations.

Development of a global innovation society depends on the mobility and integration in all nations of people, knowledge and technologies. As science, technology and economic progress become more global, international collaboration in education is of primary importance to generate talent and knowledge needed to find solutions to fundamental global challenges. Knowledge-based economies require innovative education systems and reliable and transparent legal and policy frameworks.

University systems must generate new knowledge and innovation to sustain long-term economic growth. We will collaborate on creating research networks among higher education institutions, research centers and business, and capitalize on the leading edge technology they produce. We will share best practices on knowledge-based cluster development and public–private partnerships to facilitate global knowledge dissemination and move technologies quickly from the laboratory to the market place. Sharing among relevant stakeholders best practices ideas and experience about education governance, funding, modern teaching methods, as well as about recognition and transparency of qualifications could also add value.

We will promote international academic mobility at all levels, significantly increasing the mobility of students, teachers and researchers. We will enhance existing programs of exchange and promote the development of cross cultural skills. The Bologna Process aimed at creating the European higher education area is an example of one such program.

We will share information about qualification system in our countries to increase understanding of national academic practices and traditions. We will foster a global education environment that emerges excellence and innovation with increased access, and we will encourage effective systems for the assessments and comparison of foreign qualifications in the public and private sectors.

We will prepare our people to embrace change trough lifelong learning. We will strengthen linkages between learning, enterprise training and the labour market, including trough distance education and cross-border provision of education services. We welcome active participation of the business community and non-governmental organizations in the development of continuous education that provides the competences and skills needed by our societies and economies.

We should share information and promote understanding of our countries qualifications systems, teaching methods, education management and financing.

We reaffirm our commitment to use information and communication technologies (ICTs) in education. ICTs are crucial to meeting the educational needs of technology-intensive economy. Accessible educational resources are important tools for creating a more equitable ad more efficient global information environment.

We will strive for high standards in particular in mathematics, science and technology, to provide strong foundational elements for the global innovation society.

We welcome initiatives to support the learning of foreign languages at all educational levels. The ability to communicate and to learn foreign languages is also essential in today's global environment.

We will work within our national systems to make teaching an attractive career choice, to develop teachers' knowledge and skills, and to retain effective teachers in schools. Fundamental to improving student learning and achievement is the presence of highly qualified teachers in every classroom.

We encourage our relevant education authorities, the private sector and other stakeholders to share information and best practices on a wide range of issues related to modernization of education systems. In the new millennium, the management of knowledge strategies is as fundamental as the management of more traditional educational resources – personnel, finance and facilities. Thus, education systems should focus increasingly on developing intellectual capacity, not only in terms of the mastery of content but in processing, adapting, applying existing information, and, more importantly, in creating new knowledge.

The BSUN president for 2010-2012,
The rector of the National University of Science and Technology
"MISIS"
Professor Dr. Dmitry Livanov,
BSUN president

CONTENTS

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

NETWORKING

FUTURE EVENTS

Report of the
CONGRESS OF THE BLACK SEA UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

National University of Science & Technology "MISIS"
April 24th, 2010 – Moscow, Russian Federation

Agenda

April 24th, 2010

09:00   Opening Ceremony of the BSUN 2010 Congress

- Prof. Dr. Dmitry Livanov, Rector, National University of Science and Technology "MISIS"
- Acad. Prof. Dr. Michaylo Zgurovski, Rector, National Technical University of Ukraine, BSUN Presiden
- Prof. Dr. Eden Mamut, BSUN IPS Director

10:00- 10:30	*Coffee Break*
10:30 – 12:00	Plenary Session – Country Reports
12:00 – 13:30	*Lunch*
13:30-16:00	Plenary Session - Knowledge Triangle
1600- 1630	*Coffee Break*
16:30-18:30	9th Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region
18:30	Closing of the BSUN Congress
19:00	*Banquet*

April 25th, 2010

- Satellite Events
- Social Programme
- Departure of the participants

Outcomes:

Prof. Dr. Mychailo Zgurovsky the BSUN President for the mandate 2008-2010 presented the activity report.

The participants to the Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region have presented opinions, comments and proposals.

Country Reports presented by:
- Prof. Jorgaq Kacani, Rector of Polytechnic University of Tirana
- Prof. Victor Ciupina, Rector of "Ovidius" University of Constanta
- Prof. Muhammed Sahin, Rector of Istanbul Technical University
- Prof. Sergy Bilelikov, Rector of Zaporizhzhya National Technical University

BSUN Awards for universities with contributions to the academic cooperation from the Black Sea Region:

- Azerbaijan Technical University, Prof. Dr. Havar Mamedov,
- Azerbaijan State Oil Academy, Prof. Dr. Siyavush Garayev
- Taurida V. Vernadsky University, Prof. Dr. Nikolay V. Bagrov
- University of Patras, Prof. Dr. Stavros Koubias
- Varna University of Medicine, Prof. Dr. Anelia Klisarova
- Istanbul Technical University, Prof. Dr. Muhammed Sahin.

BSUN Awards for personalities with outstanding contributions:

- Prof. Dr. Sergey Sydorenko, National University of Ukraine "KPI", Kiev
- Prof. Dr. Victor Ciupina, Rector of „Ovidius" University of Constanta
- Sergy Bielikov, Rector of Zaporizhzhya National Technical University
- Prof. Dr. Abel Maharammov, Rector of Baku State University

Priority areas established for the future activities of the Network:

1. Sustainable Development
2. Networking on Innovation and Knowledge Transfer
3. Energy Security & Renewable Energy Sources
4. Advanced & Multifunctional Materials
5. IT&C - Networking & High Performance Computing
6. E-health & Telemedicine
7. Social & Cultural Cohesion in the BSR

Priority projects for the next period:

- Virtual Centre on Interoperability of University Digital Platforms
- Digital Archive for Cultural Heritage of the BS & CS Region
- Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Social Cohesion
- Master Degree Program on RES
- MSc/PhD Program on Sustainable Development & Governance

Administrative issues:

- the election of the new President of the Network, for the mandate 2010-2012, in the person of Prof. Dmitry Livanov, Rector of National University of Science and Technology "MISIS";
- the nomination of Prof. Dr. Jorgaq Kacani, the Rector of Polytechnic University of Tirana for the President mandate 2012-2014;

Membership applications that have been discussed and approved by the Executive Board:

- Private Higher Education Institution "Donetsk Institute of Tourist Business", Ukraine;
- LEPL Illia Chavchavadze State University, Georgia;
- Giresun University, Turkey.

REPORT
of the BSUN President
at the Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region
Moscow, April 24, 2010

CURRENT STATUS of ACADEMIC COOPERATION
in the FRAMEWORK of BSUN
Prof. Dr. Mychailo Zgurovsky

Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all let me express our common gratitude to Prof. Livanov, rector of National University of Science and Technology "Moscow Institute of Steel and Alloys" for hosting our Congress of Rectors from the Black Sea Region.
Today's Congress concludes my two years term in office as BSUN President.

The Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) has been established in 1998 in Constantza in the format of the 2nd Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region based on the PABSEC recommendation.

The idea of higher education institutions networking has been welcomed with enthusiasm by the Academic Community of the Region and it has been developed covering over 115 universities from the 11 countries of the Black Sea Region (BSEC). These countries are: *Albania*, *Armenia*, *Azerbaijan*, *Bulgaria*, *Georgia*, *Greece*, *Moldova*, *Romania*, *Russian Federation*, *Turkey and Ukraine.*

The Black Sea is a geographic entity which has been developed throughout centuries as the region with specific aspects of culture, politics, economy and geostrategy. The region includes the riparian countries and is commonly considered as bridging the Caspian region with Balkans and the Middle East with North-Eastern Europe.

With the population of 350 mil people, and area of 20 mil square kilometers with huge oil and mineral resources, with excellent conditions for agriculture and with crossroad position of East-West and North – South transport corridors, the region has a large potential for growth.

At present the Black Sea Region is ranked as a 3-rd large geo-economic entity based on the development trend between 2002 and 2007.

The Black Sea region has been a traditional partner of EU. In March 2003 the European Commission launched the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) with the objective of strengthening prosperity, stability and security of Europe.

Following enlargement of European Union in January 2007 with the accession of Romania and Bulgaria, the EU now borders the Black Sea and has direct involvement in the policy of the region.
In April 2007, the Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy. Mrs. Benia Ferrero-Waldner, stated: "with accession of Bulgaria and Romania the Black Sea Region became as a part of EU".

International system of BLACK SEA REGION cooperation and development includes many respectable organizations, among them BSUN occupies noticeable place.

Today BSUN is an intellectual environment which ensures the movement towards euro integration, maintains such European values as tolerance, cultural diversity, international and interconfessional dialogue.
In order to concentrate its efforts, the BSUN activity was structured on framework programs with duration of 2 years which were proposed and implemented by each Presidency.

In this regard, up to now there were developed the following frameworks programs:
- The Sustainable Development in the Black Sea Region – Romanian Presidency (1998-2000)
- The Partnership between the universities and the communities – Turkish Presidency (2000-2002)
- Excellence in Education – Azerbaijan Presidency (2002 –2004)
- Science and Education for the Sustainable Development in the Black Sea Region– Moldavian Presidency (2004 – 2006)
- Generating Synergies – Bulgarian Presidency (2006-2008)
- Sustainable Development: Global and regional context – Ukrainian Presidency (2008-2010)

These days it has passed 2 years after the Congress of Rectors from the Black Sea Region which was organized in April, 2008 at National Technical University of Ukraine "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute". During the Congress there were established the priority areas for the future activities of the Network:

➢ Sustainable development:
➢ Networking on Innovation and Knowledge Transfer:
➢ Energy Security and Renewable Energy Sources:
➢ Advanced and Multifunctional Materials:
➢ Networking and High Performance Computing:
➢ E-health & Telemedicine
➢ Social and cultural cohesion in the Black Sea Region

The participants of the Kyiv Congress have signed the Declaration of Rectors on the Sustainable Development in the Black Sea Area.

This Declaration postulated that for the nearest future the Sustainable development policy should be one of the most important for the region and also universities should make new efforts for implementation of the principles of UN Program "Decade of Education for the Sustainable Development".

The rectors of Black Sea University region expressed their deep concern regarding the scale and speed of environmental degradation, and the depletion of natural resources, which will have a dramatic impact on our region and on the heritage of future generations.

We believe that urgent actions are needed to overcome these fundamental problems and to reverse the trends. Universities should play a major role in the education, research, policy formation, and information exchange necessary to make these goals possible. The main regulations of this declaration are presented on the next slides:

1. Use every opportunity to raise public, governmental, industrial and foundation, and university's awareness in the area of sustainable development of our region.
2. Establish programs to produce expertise in environmental management, sustainable development, and related fields and to develop the capability of university faculty to teach environmental literacy to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students.
3. Encourage the involvement of government (at all levels), foundations,

nongovernmental organizations, and industry in supporting university research, education, policy formation in environmentally sustainable development.
4. Establish partnerships with primary and secondary schools to help develop the capability of their faculty to teach about population, environment, and sustainable development issues.
5. University teachers should hold individual trainings in solving ecological problems for municipality employees and authorities of our countries.
6. Establish an Academic Steering Committee for Sustainable Development in the Black Sea Region and appoint the BSUN International Permanent Secretariat to support each other's efforts in carrying out this declaration.

During last two years other important initiatives and events took place under the frame of BSUN. I would like to mention only some of them.

During 18-21 of September, 2008, it was organized the 8th Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region, dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the BSUN, in Eforie Nord, Romania. Conference has analyzed the situation of the higher education and there were defined effective projects for academic cooperation in the Black Sea Region.

On December 12, 2008, it was organized an International Seminar dedicated to preserving the minority and regional languages in the Black Sea Region.
Between 11-14 June, 2009 the BSUN, participated at the 33rd Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, which took place in Bucharest, Romania.

During the BSUN Executive Board Meeting, organized at Sakarya University and Istanbul Technical University, between 18-21 February, 2009, Prof. Dmitry Livanov, Rector of NUST "MISIS" has been proposed as BSUN Future President. In this meeting there were presented the BSUN priority areas and the future projects of BSUN:

1. Sustainable Development
   - Development of a Network tool for global simulation of quality and safety of human life.
2. Technology Transfer
   - Knowledge and Innovation Community on climate change
3. Sustainable Energy
   - BSUN regional Master/PhD programs on: "Sustainable Development and

Governance: Global and Regional context" and "Management of renewable and sustainable energy systems"

4. **Advanced Materials**
   - Networking tools for advanced materials research
5. **IT&C**
   - IT Platforms for Management and Learning Resources
6. **E-health and telemedicine**
   - Satellite based telemedicine conferencing Network
7. **Intercultural and Social Cohesion**
   - Student's camp on intercultural and interethnic cooperation in the Black Sea Region.

In 2009 BSUN was involved in developing and participating as partner in several projects to be financed by different funds. These projects are:

- Digital Archive of Black Sea Universities Network on Scientific Data and Publications;
- Digitalization of Rare Books and Manuscripts.
- BSUN Joint Master Degree Study Program on the Management of Renewable Energy Sources.

In 2009 the joining to the European Institutes of Innovation and Technology initiative was one of the main BSUN priorities. In this respect a special program named INNOENERGY has been developed.

On the 1st of November it was organized the meeting of the members of three organizations of interuniversity cooperation: Black Sea Universities Network, "Eurasia" Universities Association and Association of Universities of the Caspian Sea Region.

On this occasion it was signed the *Baku Declaration* for cooperation between the three organizations. Declaration initiates the actions for raising the role, quality and prestige of higher education in Black Sea Region.

On the same day it was organized the BSUN Executive Board Meeting. Meeting debated the problems related to the activities of the Network, cooperation with the international institutions such as BSEC, PABSEC, and OECD.

Our vision of BSUN future development consists in undertaking some further steps to accomplish the above mentioned plans and programmes, such as:

- Strengthening partnership with international organizations: PABSEC, BSEC, OECD, EUA, European Commission and FP7.
- Developing the Regional Dimension of the Bologna Process.
- Developing of Universities Network resources.
- Supporting for Academic Regional Mobility.
- Rising the activity of Universities consortiums to fulfil projects according to the previously determined priorities:
  – Sustainable development for the Black Sea Region;
  – Academic networking and GRID technologies for the Black Sea Region (Black Sea GRID);
  – BSUN regional master degree programs: "Sustainable development and governance", "Management of renewable energy sources";
  – Students' summer schools in minority's languages tolerance and cultural diversity;
  – Virtual International BSUN Laboratory in Electron Microscopy for Advanced Nanomaterials etc.

Thank you for your attention.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION WITH ROMANIAN UNIVERSITIES

Prof. Dr. Victor CIUPINA, Rector
"Ovidius" University of Constantza, Romania

"The Bologna Declaration in 1999 set out a vision for 2010 of an internationally competitive and attractive European Higher Education Area where higher education institutions, supported by strongly committed staff, can fulfill their diverse missions in the knowledge society; and where students benefiting from mobility with smooth and fair recognition of their qualifications, can find the best suited educational pathways.

……

Since 1999, 47 parties to the European Cultural Convention, have signed up to this vision and have made significant progress towards achieving it.

……

The Bologna Process and the resulting European Higher Education Area, being unprecedented examples of regional, cross-border cooperation in higher education, have raised considerable interest in other parts of the world and made European higher education more visible on the global map."

Budapest-Vienna Declaration
on the European Higher Education Area
March 12, 2010

In the case of Romania, since the fall 2005, the higher education system has been in line with the Bologna Agreement. As a result, most Bachelor's programs take 3 years to complete. However, some programs last longer – for example, some technical fields, medicine and architecture.

Master's programs take 1 to 2 years beyond the Bachelor's degree. Master's programs are a prerequisite for admission to Ph.D. programs.

Ph.D. programs usually take 3 years to complete. Under special circumstances, the duration of study may be extended by 1 or 2 years.

Accreditation

Since October 2006 university accreditation issues are dealt with by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

University profiles

According to the information posted on the website of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, there are 56 accredited public universities, 32 accredited private universities, and 23 institutions enjoying temporary accreditation.

With prestigious public universities, applicants must sit for an entrance exam that includes oral and/or written tests. Private universities generally select students based on their average grade in the "Bacalaureat" exam; they may also require an interview. For fields like foreign languages, architecture, music or physical education, students may sit for an aptitude test.

Education is free for top students admitted to public universities. Other students who meet the admissions requirements pay tuition fees in the area of $800 per year. Private universities charge similar fees.

At the graduate level, students pay fees starting at $500 per year.

A range of MBA (Master in Business Administration) programs are available in Romania. They are usually joint programs with universities in Canada, the U.S., and France and their fees range from $6,000 to $14,000 per program.

Assessment

Just like in the secondary education system, grades in the higher education system range from 1 to 10, where 10 is the highest, and 5 is the lowest pass.

At the end of the undergraduate program, students take a final comprehensive exam called "Licenta". They need to pass oral and written tests in their areas of concentration.

The higher education diploma is called "Diploma de Licenta".

Upon request, the student is issued the "Diploma Supplement" in Romanian and English, free of charge.

Current challenges

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education accomplished the institutional evaluation of 48 universities and granted different degrees of trust. It has been the first exercise at this scale. The

participation of universities to the evaluation has been done on voluntary base and after this exercise it shall become mandatory.

In order to develop a new regulatory framework and to allow the Romanian Universities to address the new challenges at regional and global scale it has been promoted a new law of education putting emphasis on governance, quality and scientific research. At present, the law is under public debates.

Under the current circumstances, the opportunities of cooperation in our region are limited only by the limits of our creativity. As we did in the last 11 years, we shall continue to support the initiation of cooperative projects that could contribute to the sustainable development of our region opening a new chance to our students to fulfill their dreams for a better world

BRIDGING THE COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND INDUSTRY IN UKRAINE

Prof. Dr. S. Byelikov, rector, A. Smoliarov, rector's assistant
Zaporizhzhya National Technical University

Coordination Meeting in ZNTU according to cooperation with BSUN

According to ZNTU membership in BSUN it was decided to create a coordinating council for the initiation of cooperation and enhancing relations between the universities.

For local universities interconnection and powerfully cooperation with BSUN local BSUN office in ZNTU was created.

During the Association of Rectors of Ukrainian Higher Technical Educational Institutions Meeting newly created office of the Coordinating Council was attended by the president of BSUN prof. M. Zgurovsky.

BSUN Executive Board Meeting, Sakarya, Istanbul, Turkey

Executive Board members had the opportunity to work in Turkey's two major universities: Sakariya University and Istanbul Technical University.

Review of universities teaching and research base showed great changes in higher education in Turkey over the past 10 – 12 years.

At the BSUN Executive board meeting membership of 5 Ukrainian Universities was accepted.

BSUN Web-portal Development Internal Collaborative Project

The main aim of this project:

to make suitable, functional and modern instrument for foolproof interconnection of the BSUN universities-members.

Universities-participants:
- NTUU "KPI" (Ukraine)
- "OVIDIUS" University (Romania)
- ZNTU (Ukraine)

BSUN Rector's Meeting "Technical University in Industrially Developed Region"

The aim of this meeting in first and foremost was to discuss and focus attention on interconnection of Technical University and high-technology developed enterprises in industrially developed region.

And also to create possibilities for discussion among enterprise directors and owners and university's rectors on how to overcome the challenges and obstacles facing higher education.

BSUN Executive Board Meeting Baku, Azerbaijan

On the occasion of Baku State University's 90th Anniversary celebration it was organized the BSUN Executive Board Meeting.

The Executive Board debated the problems related to the activities of the Network, the cooperation with the international institutions (BSEC, PABSEC and OECD) and a number of administrative issues.

Ukraine also hands on during discussion. As the result of these debates The Baku Declaration it was created and signed as document of Intentions and relation between Eurasian Universities Association, BSUN and Association of Universities of The Caspian Region.

After debates as the Network members 3 universities from Ukraine were accepted:
- Dnipopetrovsk University of Economics and Law – Ukraine
- Poltava National Technical University after Yuri Kondratyuk
- National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute"

DELCAM - Educational Centers Network

The Ukraine universities and the British company "Delcam" cooperation project. The aim of this project is the introduction of modern CAD / CAM-solutions for scientific and industrial sectors. Nowadays, successfully operating 18 training centers at universities throughout whole Ukraine. Contests, Olympiads and internships workshops are organized in the UK. Project's active development was also through a publicity in BSUN members, welcoming to cooperation technical institutions.

DELCAM & BSUN Educational Centers Network

Universities-members of BSUN where nowadays DELCAM training centers are established:
- Crimean Engineering Pedagogical University
- National Mining University
- National Technical University "Kharkov Polytechnic Institute"
- National Technical University of Ukraine "KPI"
- Poltava National Technical University

- Sevastopol National Technical University
- Zaporizhzhya National Technical University
- Zhitomir Institute of Engineering and Technology

Ukraine & BSUN Network Development in Ukraine

16 universities became the members of BSUN during 2 years of Ukrainian national office activity:

1. Poltava national technical university after Yuri Kondratyuk
2. Dnipropetrovsk University of Economics and Law
3. National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute"
4. Pryazovskyi State Technical University
5. Odessa State Environmental University
6. Republican Higher Educational Institution "Crimean University for The Humanities"
7. Dnipropetrovsk National University of Railway Transport
8. Bohdan Khmelnytsky National University
9. Kremenchuck Mykhailo Ostrohradskiy State Polytechnic University
10. Odessa National Academy of Food Technologies
11. The University of Banking of The National Bank of Ukraine
12. Sevastopol National Technical University
13. Zaporizhzhya National Technical University
14. Kremenchuck Mykhailo Ostrohradskiy State Polytechnic University
15. Taurida v. Vernadsky University
16. Crimean Engineering Pedagogical University

Conducted forums and meetings dedicated to cooperation development and new projects are launching. The cooperation projects' main directions were specified.

Should also note the experience and solutions, which are eager to share BSUN members. Especially important this cooperation is for the technical institutions. Development of high-tech manufacturing and communications between universities and business are the goal of whole activities.

www.ntuu-kpi.edu.ua
www.zntu.edu.ua

THE LAUNCHING OF LIVE BROADCASTING FACILITY ON BSUN PORTAL

E-Conference on:

HEAT TRANSFER AND THERMOELECTRIC ENERGY CONVERSIONS IN NANOSTRUCTURES AND NANOSTRUCTURED MATERIALS

June 28th, 2010
"Oviuds" University of Constanta

Recently it was inaugurated the life broadcasting component on the BSUN website www.bsun.org - the BSUN Centre of Tele-Conferences & Long Distance Learning

The first Tele-Conference was held on June 28th, 2010, at 4 PM (Constanta Local Time - GMT+2) by Dr. Theodorian Borca-Tasciuc. He presented a lecture on *Heat Transfer and Thermoelectric Energy Conversions in Nanostructures and Nanostructured Materials*.

Dr. Theodorian Borca-Tasciuc Mechanical, Aerospace and Nuclear Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Nanostructuring has lead to materials with the highest thermoelectric energy conversion efficiency. A top-down approach is employed typically in the development of nanostructured bulk thermoelectrics.

At Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute an interdisciplinary team focuses on the bottom-up construction of thermoelectric devices and nanostructured bulk materials from individual building blocks obtained by fast and scalable synthesis techniques. The talk focused on thermoelectric transport investigations of RPI's pnictogen chalcogenide nanostructures, nanodevices, nanomaterials and our current understanding of the structure property relationship.

It will start with a recently discovered new class of single-component nanostructured bulk chalcogenide materials where we have observed — without optimization or alloying— *n-type* bismuth telluride with ZT ~ 1 and an increase by 60% over bulk ZT in a *p-type* nanostructured bulk Sb2Te3.

We present investigations of thermal conductivity, Seebeck, and electrical conductivity of single

crystal individual Sb2Se3 nanowires with diameters between 80-230nm.

For the smaller diameter nanowires we report threshold switching and ambient dependent electric transport that can change electrical conductivity by more than an order of magnitude. We employ the Sb2Se3 nanowires in a proof-of-concept demonstration of a nanowire heat pump.

The talk will also present advances made by our group in the field of thermal and thermoelectric transport investigations. These include development of a scanning microprobe technique capable to measure simultaneously, in contact mode, the thermal conductivity and Seebeck coefficient, and to perform thermal conductivity characterization in non-contact mode.

We discuss a method to extract the individual thermoelectric properties, as well as the contact electrical and thermal resistances, of thermoelectric samples from the transient Harman method. Finally, we show how nanoscale heat sources may experience a much reduced substrate thermal conductivity, as indicated by our studies of heat dissipation from individual electric nanoheaters patterned on a silicon substrate.

Theodorian Borca-Tasciuc has started his academic career in 2001 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and since 2007 he is an associate professor there. He holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from UCLA in 2000 and a BS in Physics from Bucharest University in 1995.

Theo Borca-Tasciuc's research interests focus on nanoscale thermal and thermoelectric transport characterization and Micro/Nanosystem device design and testing for sensing, thermal management and energy conversion applications. He is a winner of the NSF CAREER award (2004), an associate editor for the Journal of

Nanomaterials, and a member of the ASME's K8 committee on Fundamentals of Heat Transfer.

He has organized and chaired symposia and sessions on nanoscale thermal transport and energy conversion with ASME and MRS.

Current research topics in his laboratory includes thermoelectric transport in nanostructures and nanomaterials; contact thermal and electrical resistance across nanojunctions; controllable thermal valves; high conductance thermal interface materials; and development of thermal and thermoelectric characterization techniques for thermoelectric nanostructures.

THE PHENOMENON OF PSYCHICAL IN THE CONTEXT OF PSYCHE PERCEPTION BY MEANS OF ACTIVE SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EDUCATION

O.V. Ovcharenko
Bohdan Khmelnytsky National University at Cherkasy
Department of Psychology

1. Introduction. The problems of contemporary practical psychology are connected with the necessity to study deep-laid mechanisms of psyche functioning in the unity of its conscious and unconscious realms. Various methods of psychological research oriented on investigation of social, "exterior" motives of human behaviour, which remove practical psychology from perception of inner individual determinants of psychical action, have obtained propagation for today.

The method of active social and psychological education (ASPE) developed by the Professor, Member of the Academy of psychological sciences of Ukraine Tamara S. Yatsenko in 1978 is one of the methods of perception of psyche unconscious realm. The process of psychocorrection in ASPE groups is built on realization of deep-laid mechanisms of psyche. The education is carried out by mediate method through cognition of (one) self without imposing theoretical knowledge, which could be incomprehensible without its practical presentation on the individual. For further study of psychocorrection capability of the above-mentioned method, it is necessary to analyse thoroughly the categories of psyche and psychical which are the subject of study of practical psychology.

2. Statement of the problem. In scientific literature the concepts "psyche" and "psychical" are used repeatedly as synonymous, however there is some difference between them. Thus, psyche is defined as: "a property of high-organized substance which allows the subject to reflect actively objective reality" [6]; "brain function"; "dynamic system being in motion and acting under the influence of various inner and outer factors" [7]. In its turn, psychical is considered as a category of spiritual or mental life of the individual [5]. The concept "psychical" means "that which is connected with psyche" [4], therefore all real events in their inner comprehension by the individual could be referred to the phenomenon of psychical, as phenomenon is "an event represented through experience of sensory perception" [5]. Just through the feeling of significance for the individual of some aspects of live, the person determines their value and is guided by them in his own activity.

In the process of interaction of the person with a socium, all psychical structure of the individual is formed, the person's Ego image is determined, development and self-perfection of the person take place that is characterized by procedural and dynamic properties. Such approach was searched by S. L. Rubinstein, which considered that psyche and activity should be perceived in the unity in the process of their interaction [2]. Therefore, it is necessary to combine education with practice during which fixing of the learnt material takes place. Just such prospects could be achieved by means of deep-laid correction under the method of active social and psychological education. The founder of above-mentioned method, Prof. T. S. Yatsenko emphasizes on the necessity to perceive unconscious through its objectification and disclosure for realization. Thus, the person, realizing the reasons of his own self-contradictions which are traced in irrational actions and non-constructive expenditure of psychical energy, can correct his behaviour getting rid of stereotypes and aiming at self-development.

In the perspective of research of the phenomenon of psychical, it is worth to consider functional characteristics of conscious and unconscious realms of psyche. According to A. Adler's research, consciousness is "the reflection or photographing of the reality" and unconscious is "inner behaviour aspects" [1, p. 88]. It is easy to trace the consciousness by the person's actions, words and mental states. Unconscious is presented symbolically in dreams, memories, and faults; often it is hidden from the consciousness. The view on the problem of functioning of conscious and unconscious realms discloses the contradiction in demonstration of their features, distinguishing their ambiguous part in psyche formation.

The researchers [5; 6; 7] consider that the consciousness is inherent only to the human being and is a unique one, since it is formed in the process of ontogenesis and has its own individuality according to social factors of its development. There are two kinds of consciousness being distinguished: stable and transient or changeable. In its turn, unconscious is characterized by subjective, inner control of the

ambient reality perceived by the individual. Psyche unconscious realm is closely connected with human feelings.

A. N. Leontyev considered the consciousness as common knowledge of the nation in which the individual is formed. Identification of the person with a group depends on mastering of the language that allows creating in future the prospects for development of individual consciousness.

According to Z. Freud's psychoanalytic concept, consciousness is a property which belongs to psychical structure, however is characterized by functioning of the organs of sense, which is realized and serves as a criterion for satisfaction or dissatisfaction of human needs. Unconscious is connected with life and death instincts and is characterized by ulterior behaviour motives which could be traced in dreams, spontaneous human actions erroneous from the point of view of the consciousness.

In the research studies T. S. Yatsenko analyzes the characteristics of conscious and unconscious realms of psyche which determine its inner dynamics. Since conscious and unconscious realms do not exist separately from each other, although they have their autonomy, it is worth to study them in common, as formation of inner component is impossible without interaction with outside world [2; 3; 8; 9]. Contradiction between conscious and unconscious determines inner problem of the subject, therefore T. S. Yatsenko considers the process of harmonization of psychical demonstrations that allows the person to reach his own correction and mental health as a basis of psychocorrection work in the group of active social and psychological education. The consciousness and unconscious have their logic, in particular, the logic of conscious and the logic of unconscious which are diametrically opposite to each other, therefore determine availability of contradictions in psyche structure.

The researcher emphasizes that it is worth to consider psychical in its dynamic characteristics. Psychical is "the synergy of conscious and unconscious, simultaneous unity" [3, p. 108]. It is worth to consider psychical as integral organization in conscious and unconscious demonstrations, that is through the logic of conscious and the logic of unconscious which can not coincide with each other, since the logic of conscious answers the tasks of a socium and the logic of unconscious – the subject's infantile wishes [8]. The essence of psychical is reflected in preservation of the autonomy of conscious and unconscious, in aspiration for integrity and in mutual conversion of conscious energy into unconscious, and vice versa. Such opposite direction of psychical energy is determined by self-contradictions.

Psyche is "a system-ordered dynamic formation" [3, p. 219]. Thus, it is worth to point out the peculiarities of research of psyche conscious and unconscious

realms in their unity and simultaneity of procession. The work on psychocorrection in ASPE group is guided by a number of principles which provide feeling of confidence, safety and aspiration for self-knowledge. T. S. Yatsenko's psychodynamic approach is oriented on providing of the possibilities for perception of ulterior sense of psyche through its symbolic representation in pictures, that is indirectly. Nonverbal exercises, role games, psychodrama, work with subject models, dialogue – these are the methods of practical psychology which allow perceiving unpremeditated motives of the individual's behaviour according to his conscious purposes and expectations. Above-mentioned methods of perception do not destroy the structure of functioning of psychical but only present it. That's why the phenomenon of psychical could be perceived only by means of presentation of the sense of unconscious in the consciousness that underlines the necessity to study human psyche in the unity of its psychical components. Dynamic property of psychocorrection process is connected steadily with static property, as T. S. Yatsenko indicates when considering psyche dynamic and static characteristics which exist in interconnection. Perception of psychical allows the person to feel intuitively the preconditions for forming motives, aims and values hidden from the ambient world. The phenomenon of psychical can be studied by means of individual, creative approach to the person, but not on the basis of standard, stereotyped perception of the individuality under the criteria of actual experimental data.

3. Conclusions. Having analyzed scientific literature, one can ascertain that psyche is a wide concept containing both conscious and unconscious realms, mechanisms of their interaction and demonstration. Psychical can be regarded as a characteristic of psyche demonstrations, its inner, mental processes and features. However, in spite of categorial difference of the concepts been considered, it is worth to point out the necessity of perception of psychical in the structure of psyche in the unity of all their components and connections.

4. Prospects of the further research. The method of active social and psychological education opens the opportunities for perception of unconscious deep-laid components of psychical structure in their conscious presentation through symbolic expression by drawings, by means of psychodramatic methods, role game, etc. There is no doubt that projection of unconscious is realized in the relationship with the people around, therefore the necessity to study deep-laid determinants of psychical regulation in its dynamic and static characteristics occurs.

5. Referenses.
[1] Адлер А. Понять природу человека / Пер. Е. А. Цыпина − СПб.: Академический проект, 1997 − 256 с.
[2] Брушлинский А. В. Проблема бессознательного в трудах С. Л. Рубинштейна // Вопросы психологии. – № 3. – 1979. – С. 115 – 121.

[3] Теория и практика глубинной психокоррекции: Вторая Авт. школа академика АПН Украины Т. С. Яценко / Сост.: А. В. Глузман, А. Э. Мелоян, И. В. Евтушенко, С. Ш. Раджабова, Л. Г. Туз / Под редакцией Т. С. Яценко. – Ялта: РИО КГУ, 2009. – 221 с.: ил.

[4] Тлумачний словник української мови. / Укладачі Ковальова Т. В., Коврига Л. П. / – Харків: Синтекс, 2002. – 672 с.

[5] Философский энциклопедический словарь / Ред.-сост. Е. Ф. Губский и др. – М.: ИНФРА-М, 1999. – 576 с. – (Б-ка словарей «ИНФРА-М»).

[6] Філософський енциклопедичний словник / Під ред.. В. І. Шинкарука – К.: «Абрис», 2002 – 746 с.

[7] Шапар В. Б. Психологічний тлумачний словник – Х.: Прапор, 2004. – 640 с.

[8] Яценко Т. С. Взаємозв'язки свідомого і несвідомого та їх вплив на адаптованість // НАУКОВИЙ ЧАСОПИС НПУ імені М. П. Драгоманова. Серія № 12. Психологічні науки: Зб. Наукових праць. – К.: НПУ імені М. П. Драгоманова, 2009. – № 24 (48) – С. 13 – 21.

[9] Яценко Т. С., Кміт Я. М., Олексієнко Б. М. Активне соціально-психологічне навчання: теорія, процес, практика: навчальний посібник. – Хмельницький: Видавництво НАПВУ, 2002. – 792 с.

E-mail: klimmi@ukr.net , tel. 38(0472)455185

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC-PRACTICAL CONFERENCE "QUALITY OF THE MODERN EDUCATION SERVICES – BASIS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS COMPETITIVENESS"

27-29 May, 2010, Sevastopol National University of Nuclear Energy and Industry, Sevastopol, Ukraine

Prof. Dr. C.N. Malovik Dean of Metrology and Quality Systems Management Faculty Sevastopol National University of Nuclear Energy and Industry

On May 27-29, 2010 the International Scientific-Practical Conference "Quality of the Modern Education Services – Basis of the Higher Education Institutions Competitiveness" held under the aegis of Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, Ministry of Fuel and Energy of Ukraine, State enterprise National Nuclear Energy Generating Company "Energoatom", Black Sea Universities Network, National Technical University of Ukraine "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute", took place at Sevastopol National University of Nuclear Energy and Industry.

Participants from different regions of Ukraine, as well as Russia, Romania and Turkey arrived to the conference. Representatives of ministries and agencies, heads of higher education institutions, leading specialists and reputed scientists in the field of qualimetry, standardization and certification, the lecturers from Ukrainian and CIS higher education institutions, and representatives of the Black Sea Universities Network participated in the conference. Among the participants were National Technical University of Ukraine "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute", Cherkasy Bohdan Khmelnitsky National University, Institute of Technology of Orel State Technical University, Samara State Technical University, Kiev National University of Technologies and Design, Kharkov National University of Radioelectronics, University of Banking of the National Bank of Ukraine, Obninsk University for Nuclear Power Engineering (UNPE NRNU MEPhI), private enterprise "Scientific Production Association "InterTech", the National Information Centre for Ukrainian-EU S&T Cooperation.

The conference was devoted to the wide range of issues regarding exchange of the international experience and the development of the scientific areas in the field of qualimetry, standardization, certification, monitoring and improving quality of education services as well as the analysis of the operating certified quality management systems in the environment of increasing competition and world economy globalization in order to identify the ways of their improvement which included debate and discussion concerning trends and dynamics of the education services market development, analysis of higher education institutions competitiveness, and recommendations regarding strategies of increasing their competitiveness in national and international markets.

The conference was opened with the address of Vice-rector on Education Work of Sevastopol National University of Nuclear Energy and Industry S.T. Miroshnichenko who emphasized that quality is the necessary condition of higher education institution competitiveness. It is quality which enables the entrants to choose the appropriate university and enables the graduates to make a successful career in the future. The problem of education quality and particularly the quality of higher professional education has always been urgent.

At the plenary session the papers were delivered: by the Former Rector of Istanbul Technical University Prof. Dr. Gulsun Saglamer, "Quality Assurance in Higher Education and EUA Institutional Evaluation Programme"; by the Rector of Ovidius University of Constantza Prof. Dr. Victor Ciupina, "The quality management policy at Ovidius University of Constantza; by the representatives of Ovidius University of Constantza Alina Lascu, Dilver Emin, Claudia David "External Evaluation Report of Ovidius University of Constantza"; by the dean of Metrology and Quality Systems Management Faculty of Sevastopol National University of Nuclear Energy and Industry Prof. C.N. Malovik and his vice-dean O.I. Buteiko "Selecting the Ways of Developing a Quality Management System for Modern Education Services Quality Assurance of Higher School Education Services"; by the rector of Crimean Engineering Pedagogical University Prof.

Dr. Fevzi Yakubov "Engineering Pedagogical Education in the context of the new social and economic tasks"; by the director of the private enterprise "Scientific Production Association "InterTech" N.I. Babych and V.A. Kulikov "Interactive Laboratorial Trainer Complex 'Intersmart' as a Basic Means of Providing Teaching Process Standard – a Modern Informalogic Service".

Prof. Dr. Eden Mamut told about objective, tasks and main functions of the Black Sea Universities Network.

Section 1 considered the issues connected with researching national and international markets of educational services, monitoring and evaluating the quality of educational activity processes and their results. In the report "BS-ERA.NET Project: New Opportunities for Establishing Scientific and Technical Cooperation of the Black Sea Region Countries" the Head of the International Project Section of International Cooperation Department, NTUU "KPI" S.N. Shukaev threw light upon the prospects of the Black Sea States. The report of A.B. Kondrashyhin "Complex Approaches in the Research of National HEIs Innovative Abilities: Regional Aspects" dealt with the aspects of higher education institutions' innovative activities at the regional level. The reports of S.A. Nesterenko and V.A. Krisilov touched upon the methods and means of formalizing the tasks of monitoring and qualimetry for rating evaluation of higher education institutions. The Rector of Cherkasy Bohdan Khmelnitsky National University Prof. Dr. A.I. Kuzminskyy presented the paper "The Role and Possibilities of a Classic University in Increasing Education Services Quality (on the example of Cherkasy Bohdan Khmelnitsky National University), BSUN coordinator at Zaporizhzhya National Technical University A.V. Smolyarov told about positive results of the departments rating resulting from their activity. During the sitting of Section 1 the following reports were also delivered: "Monitoring of the Entrants' Education Strategies as a Method of Diagnosing HEIs Competitiveness" by I.G. Malonovsky; "Developing Approaches to Evaluating and Monitoring Quality of Higher Education Institutions Education Services" by M.N. Strigunova; "Monitoring Education Quality as an Instrument of Improving Teaching Process at a Higher Education Institution" by N.A. Parkhomenko; "Developing Multiplicative Model of Social-Professional Competitiveness of a Specialist" by A.V. Kirichek and A.V. Morozova; "Quality of Education Services: Ways of Providing and Improving it" by A.V. Gunkalo; "Computer Control of the Students' Residual Knowledge at a Technical University" by V.V. Semenets, O.S.

Shkilya, V.I. Kauk; "aspects of Information-Methodological Provisions of Education" by T.P. Gordienko and E.V. Globina; "Using Mathematical Models based on Correlation Dependences for Prognostication of Production Systems Parameters" by N.M. Gorodnichaya.

In the reports heard during the sitting of Section 2 the participants of the conference highlighted the issues of the state, development and certification of quality management systems of education services.

At the sitting of Section 2 the following papers were also presented: "The Mechanism of Developing and Implementing Quality Management System at a Higher Education Instiution" by M.E. Rogoza and N.I. Oguy; "Quality Assessment of Quality Management Systems by means of Defining the Interconnections of the Processes" by G.M. Trisch; "On the Preparation to Certification Audit of a Higher Education Institution Quality System" by D.V. Tetervak; "Information Technologies as a means of Providing Quality of Training Specialists in the Systems of Distance Learning" by A.E. Popova, N.N. Prokopenko, A.G. Sapronova; "Bicorporative System of Multi-Level Training of Engineering and Scientific Personnel for the Enterprises of the Fuel and Energy Complex byI.B. Kostylova, V.N. Mihkelkevich, E.U. Chekotilo; "Applying the Methods of Evaluating and Prognosticating the Remaining Life of the Measuring Channels when Training Highly Qualifes Specialists for NPS" by U.I. Novikova and A.V. Udin; "Increasing the Efficiency of Thermalphysic Stand Application in Surveying Qualification Works" by A.N. Bakulina, V.V. Nikishin; "Modern Problems of University Education in the Contents of Master Courses in Pedagogic Specialities" by M.V. Mikhailichenko; "The Resource of Atomics Elements: Methods, Technologies, Personnel" by A.F. Getman; "The Experience of Training Specialists and Masters at the Faculty of Cybernetics of UNPE NRNU MEPhI" by I.A. Chumakova, E.N. Aldontseva; "The Role of a Quality Management System in Training Specialists of Shipboard Professions at the Level of International Standards at St. Petersburg State University for Waterway Communications" by A.A. Kuzmina, S.N. Taranuhin; "The Role of the Personnel in Creating and Implementing Quality Management System at Higher Education institutions" by M.N. Strigunova, U.A. Ushakova.

All those present at the conference were interested in the issues tackled in the reports of I.S. Kravchenko "Export of Education – the National priority of Ukraine", A.V. Smolyarov "The Methodology of the departments rating resulting from their activity", S.N. Shukaev "BS-ERA.NET Project: New Opportunities for Establishing

Scientific and Technical Cooperation of the Black Sea Region Countries", A.V. Gunkalo "Quality of Education Services: Ways of Providing and Improving it", I.B. Kostylova, V.N. Mihkelkevich, E.U. Chekotilo "Bicorporative System of Multi-Level Training of Engineering and Scientific Other participants of the conference in their subjects and results.

The International Scientific-Practical Conference "Quality of the Modern Education Services – Basis of the Higher Education Institutions Competitiveness" on May 27-29, 2010 at Sevastopol National University of Nuclear Energy and Industry was held at high scientific level and demonstrated the increasing development of the mutually beneficial cooperation with the education institutions of the Black Sea Universities Network under the conditions of European integration.

In conclusion the recommendations of the conference should be pointed out:

Personnel for the Enterprises of the Fuel and Energy Complex".

The conference showed that all the reports were presented at the highest pedagogical level, all the speakers managed to arose the interest of the

- the improvement of quality management system of higher school education services is necessary, urgent and promising, especially from the point of view of providing and increasing the students' performance;
- it was decided to support the initiative to hold the international Scientific-Practical Conference every two years at different universities in different countries of the Black Sea Universities Network.

DEVELOPING LIBERAL EDUCATION IN CAUCASUS

Prof. Dr. Levan Tsagareli,
Associated Professor, Acting Dean

1. Introduction

Around ten years ago Georgian government became aware of the fact that the educational system was in crisis. There were several reasons for that: low salaries and wide-spread corruption, obsolete programs and out-of-date methodology, common distrust against the educational institutions (schools, universities etc.) and unprofessional teaching staff. Since then the government has been running the reform of the entire educational system to tackle these problems. Professionals involved in this process have been searching for the model that would help to improve the quality of education as well as meet the growing demands of living in today's globalized world. With this purpose The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia launched several projects aiming to make Western educational institutions accessable to Georgian students and scholars and thus to integrate Georgian universities into the European education system. One of these projects is the project of liberal education.

2. Why Liberal Education?

It is a well known fact, that the attempts to transfer the American experience of liberal education to other countries have largely failed. However it happened to be the most appropriate model for Georgian circumstances. Why is that the case?

In contrast to the European education system Georgian school system - although in a running reconstruction phase is still at a very low level. After graduating from the high school the majority of high-school certificate holders lack the minimum of capacities required for successful study at the university level.
Large number of former high-school learners are not able to make an oral presentation or create a simple written document. Moreover, they can scarcely communicate in any other language than their native one and have never used electronic media in search for information. Furthermore, the high-school graduates are mostly not aware of wide range of professions and careers needed in a society.
Their notion of professional development is particularly impacted by stereotypes of their parents and their own accidental affection to a certain subject within the high-school curriculum. Due to the insufficient experience and extremely poor intellectual level, young people at the age of 18 are not predisposed to make a choice of life-long importance.

Obviously there should be a middle stage between the high-school and the academic degree, where they can get an overview of the great variety of individual development opportunities and acquire necessary skills for their further studies or occupation.

Liberal Education appears to be the model which provides exactly the link missing in today's educational system of Georgia. Emphasizing the imparting of general knowledge and development of general intellectual skills within the Bachelor qualification, this model conveys the foundation for a successful career and allows an individual to make an independent and well reasoned choice of a field of study.

There is one more reason for Liberal Education to be the most appropriate model for Georgia today: its focus on critical thinking. In a country with young democracy like Georgia it is crucial to build understanding of plurality of values and respect for differing opinions. In the given situation educational system plays a decisive role in nurturing a citizen who is open to new perceptions, one who questions assumptions and can think rationally.

However, the implementation of the model in Georgia is both easy and difficult. In contrast to European countries with relatively well structured higher education systems it is definitely easier to reconstruct a system which is in apparent crisis after the crash of Soviet Union and needs to be fundamentally revised in any case. On the other hand. it is difficult considering the conservatism of population and the discrepance between the old system and the new one. Ilia State University is the only state university in Georgia attempting to implement the liberal education model and this can be considered as an experimental project with a perspective to establish this model in the region.

3. About Ilia State University

Ilia State University was founded in 2006 on the basis of two former pedagogical universities and as a result of their merger and complete reorganization. It is a research university with 200 professors, 110 researchers and about 8000 students enrolled in different programs. The University has the best annual research rate in Georgia and manages more than 30 ongoing research projects.
Quite importantly, Ilia State University is the first University in Georgia to use international peer

reviewing in its publications and its students are taught with internationally renowned textbooks which are translated into Georgian. Thus, the University creates the ideal environment for development of research to close the gap between Georgian scientists and the global scientific community.

Beside the focus on research the University takes pride in the unique administrative structure in the region consisting of 3 schools and 3 colleges: School of Law, School of Business Administration, School of Graduate Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering, College of Sport.

The schools administer either both - undergraduate and graduate programs or solely the graduate and postgraduate studies, whereas the colleges concentrate exclusively on undergraduate programs.

This type of administration division contributes to interaction between several programs and branches of study and allows to design the programs in an interdisciplinary way. One of the most successful cases in this respect is the College of Arts and Sciences.

4. Studying at the College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences at Ilia State University is unique in the entire region. The Collage acts in accordance with the University mission of aiming to acquaint students with the diversity of the world and to equip them with the skills and knowledge to make the most out of their opportunities.

The objective of the College is on the one hand to provide students with broad education, interdisciplinary approach, learning strategies, ability to draw reasoned conclusions and actualize their knowledge, and on the other hand to give them in-depth competence in at least one academic area. According to the principles of liberal education students enjoy the freedom of choice and are independent in scheduling their individual curriculum.

The College unifies more than 20 undergraduate programs within 7 different branches of study such as Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, Pedagogical Sciences, Natural and Earth Sciences, Exact Sciences and Liberal Arts. The College stands out due to its smaller enrollment (about 800 students per year) and class size (between 3 and 30 students per class) as well as enormous choice of courses in different areas.

A student is granted Bachelor degree after four years of full-time study and gaining of at least 240 ECTS. This amount of ECTS is earned by passing general courses (60 ECTS), major subject courses (120 ECTS) and minor subject courses (60 ECTS). However students can take any other combination of courses offered by the College instead of declaring one particular minor.

The general courses have to be attended during the first year of study at the University and are mostly obligatory. The general courses are: Introduction to Contemporary Thinking, Mathematics, Basics of Computer, IT Literacy, Academic Writing, Art of Presentation, Communication and Discussion, English.

In addition to these obligatory courses students are offered general courses from each branch of study with purpose of acquainting them with diverse disciplines. After getting an idea of different majors students are advised to select one of them and to deepen their knowledge in a particular field during the next three years.

Most of the curricula are structured in such a manner that students can easily change their major or minor at any moment they feel attracted by some other subject than declared after first year of study.

This type of mobility is based on the modular system: Every curriculum consists of one or more modules (i.e. group of courses) common to other curricula. Students take advantage of the absence of strict borders between several curricula and arrange their studies in accordance with their own preferences. To those students who clearly demonstrate their scientific interests and are eager to continue studying at the higher level of education (Master and PhD) the College offers a special Research Workshop where they can participate in running scientific projects conducted by the Institutes of the University. Thus, they not only contribute to the realization of a project, but also develop their own research skills. Furthermore, the students involved in a project stand a chance to become an assistant researcher and start a long-term cooperation with the University.

Consequently, the College of Arts and Sciences compensates the missing link in today's educational system, attempts to establish liberal values in younger generation and helps to constitute the philosophy of Georgian society in the future.

5. Vision of Future

Today's world is changing rapidly and therefore one of the goals of contemporary education is to react adequately on new demands and challenges. With this in mind, Ilia State University is constantly updating its structure and internal policy. To its ongoing projects belong the creation of a modern campus as a place where students can pursue their personal interests and become accustomed to teamwork which will give them a perception of the University being not just a place of study but rather a place of different intellectual activities.

Another goal to achieve through the process, is the equipping laboratories with cutting-edge technologies in order to make the exact and natural sciences more attractive for younger generation and thus to encourage the revival of these fields in Georgia.

The last (but not least) objective to mention is improvement of teaching quality. For this purpose the

University regularly organizes teacher trainings introducing new methods and rethinking assessment criteria by shifting from the result oriented, frontal classes to process oriented, interactive ones.

As an expected outcome of these efforts we may observe the rise of a new type of educational institution with a stronger concentration on student, as well as an outstanding focus on research and practice preparing them to design their future freely and efficiently.

Ilia State University, College of Arts and Sciences
I.Chavchavadze Ave. 32, GE-0179
levan_tsagareli@iliauni.edu.ge

DONETSK INSTITUTE OF TOURIST BUSINESS

Rector of DITB, Doctor in Economics, Prof. Dr. Valentine Danilchuk
Deputy Rector for International Relations, Candidate in History,
Prof. Dr. Vitaliy Razumnyy

Donetsk Institute of Tourist Business is a private higher educational institution with the IV level of accreditation. It has qualifications of Bachelor, Specialist and Magister.

DITB started its activity in 1992 and recommended itself as a higher educational institution that prepares highly skilled specialists. Students of DITB study 90 disciplines that are necessary to administer tourist activity.

In DITB credit based modular learning system is used. Thanks to this system students of DITB have very deep knowledge. Graduates of our Institute are very popular.

Doctors and candidates of sciences present the teaching staff of DITB. Many professors know two or more foreign languages.

In their work the collective of Institute set the next goals:
1) *Providing a high level of knowledge.*
It is confirmed by frequent student's victories on different all Ukrainian Olympiads on economic disciplines, political science, Protection of life and health and foreign languages. Last year is the II place for the best scientific paper in the All Ukrainian competition of student works between national higher educational institutions. Every year specialists and master's graduation dissertations get medal place (I-III place);

2) *Providing foreign languages professional knowledge.*
Every student of DITB studies 3 from 9 foreign languages. Good knowledge of languages is well-confirmed by medal places on the All Ukrainian student Olympiads, for example, in 2010 they got the second place on French, the third place on English and on the All Ukrainian student Olympiad, the seventh and the tenth places on Spanish and Italian between the linguistic higher educational institutions; the forth place on discipline «Psychology» and «Protection of life and health»; the first and the third place in the second stage of the P.Yacik International competition on Ukrainian;

3) *Teaching informative disciplines is improved*.
In DITB considerable attention is paid to the technical support of educational process. Today Institute has in its command: six computer classes, equipped with the modern computers; local network of structural subdivisions of the Institute; access to the resources of global network on the dedicated line. In computer classes a worldwide system of reserving airline tickets, hotels and cars «Amadeus» is installed. Our Institute got the right from the Ukrainian representative office to teach and give international certificates of this system.

4) *Development of the scientific sphere.*
A two-level structure of scientifically research work is successfully realized in DITB: at the level of departments and a scientific centre.

In a collaboration with Donetsk regional state administration a scientific centre develops a digital multi-layered electronic map which includes 70 thematic vectorial cartographic layers according to the natural, cultural, historical and socio-economic blocks as a part of the geographical informative system of technologies, 15 programmatic complexes are created in as a part of raster and vectorial graphics editors for a creation of own project of the geographical informative system.

In May, 2010 our Institute got an invitation from the Rostov state economic university and Rostov regional state administration (Russia) to present our developments in the field of the geographical informative system of Donetsk region tourist recreational resources. After this presentation Rostov regional state administration proposed to create a cooperative project concerning the geographical informative system of Rostov region tourist recreational resources.

The Institute has a treaty of cooperation with the Moscow physic technical institute for the purpose of creating a model of a unique monument of nature "Stone graves" in the 3D format. By now such models in Ukraine were not created.

Since 2009 the scientific centre of Donetsk institute of tourist business with the Scientific centre of tourism development of the culture and tourism Ministry of Ukraine have taken measures concerning the exposure of tourist resources and organization of the special tourist routes in the Donetsk region. It was prepared for «Euro-2012».

From 1999 the scientific journal «Vestnik DITB» is included by the Higher Attestation commission in the list of professional scientific journals, this year it

passed re-registration and it is the unique professional edition in Ukraine in the area of tourism.

Every year our institute organizes the international conferences of students and teaching staff. This year our students took the first places during international conferences abroad – in Lithuania (Kaunas), Russia (Saint Petersburg), Byelorussia (Minsk), Poland (Kielce), Uzbekistani (Tashkent).

The Institute has treaties of cooperation and successfully cooperates with 38 foreign higher educational institutions.

Every year an exchange of students with other foreign higher educational institutions is realized. This year it was an exchange of students with Tashkent state economic university.

A call-in show was conducted between Donetsk institute of tourist business and Tashkent state economic university within the framework of 12th International Scientific Practical Conference of Students, Aspirants and Young Scientists «Tourism development during the economic crisis». Call-in the call-in show was conducted at a high scientific and technical level. Subsequent to the results of the call-in show it was decided to create a constantly operating working seminar from number scientists, specialists-practical workers, students for the decision of complex issues of development of ecological tourism.

At the personal invitation our students visited a minister of education of Uzbekistan. Rector of DITB, PhD Valentine Daniltchuk and head of the management department, Phd Mariya Turiyanskaya got honorary degree of professor of Tashkent state economic.

Students of DITB have the possibility to improve their knowledge of foreign languages during their summer tour in the USA and European countries. They also have the possibility to have a post-graduate work experience in Spain. Beside that students of DITB have foreign practice where they regularly study the industrial technology of Hospitality of European countries. Every year students visit France, Italy, Spain, Poland, Austria and Slovakia.
French embassy in Ukraine reworded DITB for the organization of foreign practice for students

In an institute international specialists on tourism are annually invited. They are representatives of Higher Expert Service of Germany, Associations «Barcelona Volyuntariya», Swiss business school of hotel and tourist management.

Library of the institute was established together with inauguration of the institute in 1992. Library stock of DITB has more than 47 thousand exemplars; their content is universal, but along with this about 90% of the documents correspond to the profile of specialists training. Library receives more than 110 items of periodicals in Ukrainian, Russian, English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, Hebrew and other languages.

Library of the institute is a participant of the Program of World Tourist Organization publications distribution and receives all the official publications in the language of original; it is also a depository of the rich collection of WTO publications and provides free-of-charge access for the students and teachers to the know-how of the leading world organization in the field of tourism. Special attention is paid to the formation of the library stock in the industry of tourist business. The institute is especially proud of tenth part of the books which are publications made with creativity by the teaching staff of the institute. Methodic works, summaries of lectures, study guides make an important basic addition to the general disciplines and those on specialization.

Annual addition is more than 3 thousand exemplars on all the disciplines.
In 2010 Donetsk institute of tourist business got a prize for an E-learning system development within the framework of the project «Tempus» from Eurocomission. Within the framework of this project our teachers had an internship in Austria in the Viennese economic university.

According to the UNESCO rating during the last three years Donetsk institute of tourist business is included in the list of 200 best higher educational establishments.

DITB as a leading higher educational establishment of tourist industry in Donetsk region created a complex of excursions for participants and fans of youth championship on football «Euro-2009». More than 50 tour guides – students guided excursions in Donbass in Russian, Ukrainian, English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, they worked in informative centres in Donetsk. For a high-quality preparation of volunteers Donetsk institute of tourist business received an order of Badge of Honor. As a part of our Institute a municipal administration is creating an informative tourist centre.

Private Higher Educational Institution "Donetsk Institute of Tourist Business"
Address: Univiversitetska st., 94, Donetsk, 83114, Ukraine;
E-mail:ditb@ditb.donbass.com

BUDAPEST-VIENNA DECLARATION
ON THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

March 12, 2010

1. We, the Ministers responsible for higher education in the countries participating in the Bologna Process, met in Budapest and Vienna on March 11 and 12, 2010 to launch the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), as envisaged in the Bologna Declaration of 1999.

2. Based on our agreed criteria for country membership, we welcome Kazakhstan as new participating country of the European Higher Education Area.

3. The Bologna Declaration in 1999 set out a vision for 2010 of an internationally competitive and attractive European Higher Education Area where higher education institutions, supported by strongly committed staff, can fulfil their diverse missions in the knowledge society; and where students benefiting from mobility with smooth and fair recognition of their qualifications, can find the best suited educational pathways.

4. Since 1999, 47 parties to the European Cultural Convention, have signed up to this vision and have made significant progress towards achieving it. In a unique partnership between public authorities, higher education institutions, students and staff, together with employers, quality assurance agencies, international organisations and European institutions, we have engaged in a series of reforms to build a European Higher Education Area based on trust, cooperation and respect for the diversity of cultures, languages, and higher education systems.

5. The Bologna Process and the resulting European Higher Education Area, being unprecedented examples of regional, cross-border cooperation in higher education, have raised considerable interest in other parts of the world and made European higher education more visible on the global map. We welcome this interest and look forward to intensifying our policy dialogue and cooperation with partners across the world.

6. We have taken note of the independent assessment and the stakeholders' reports. We welcome their affirmation that institutions of higher education, staff and students increasingly identify with the goals of the Bologna Process. While much has been achieved in implementing the Bologna reforms, the reports also illustrate that EHEA action

lines such as degree and curriculum reform, quality assurance, recognition, mobility and the social dimension are implemented to varying degrees. Recent protests in some countries, partly directed against developments and measures not related to the Bologna Process, have reminded us that some of the Bologna aims and reforms have not been properly implemented and explained. We acknowledge and will listen to the critical voices raised among staff and students. We note that adjustments and further work, involving staff and students, are necessary at European, national, and especially institutional levels to achieve the European Higher Education Area as we envisage it.

7. We, the Ministers, are committed to the full and proper implementation of the agreed objectives and the agenda for the next decade set by the Leuven/Louvain-la- Neuve Communiqué. In close cooperation with higher education institutions, staff, students and other stakeholders, we will step up our efforts to accomplish the reforms already underway to enable students and staff to be mobile, to improve teaching and learning in higher education institutions, to enhance graduate employability, and to provide quality higher education for all. At national level, we also strive to improve communication on and understanding of the Bologna Process among all stakeholders and society as a whole.

8. We, the Ministers, recommit to academic freedom as well as autonomy and accountability of higher education institutions as principles of the European Higher Education Area and underline the role the higher education institutions play in fostering peaceful democratic societies and strengthening social cohesion.

9. We acknowledge the key role of the academic community - institutional leaders, teachers, researchers, administrative staff and students - in

making the European Higher Education Area a to acquire knowledge, skills and competences furthering their careers and lives as democratic citizens as well as their personal development. We recognise that a more supportive environment for the staff to fulfil their tasks is needed. We commit ourselves to working towards a more effective inclusion of higher education staff and students in the implementation and further development of the EHEA. We fully support staff and student participation in decision-making structures at European, national and institutional levels.

10. We call upon all actors involved to facilitate an inspiring working and learning environment and to foster student-centred learning as a way of empowering the learner in all forms of education, providing the best solution for sustainable and flexible learning paths. This also requires the cooperation of teachers and researchers in international networks.

11. We, the Ministers, reaffirm that higher education is a public responsibility. We commit ourselves, notwithstanding these difficult economic times, to ensuring that higher education institutions have the necessary resources within a framework established and overseen by public authorities. We are convinced that higher education is a major driver for social and economic development and for innovation in an increasingly knowledge-driven world. We shall therefore increase our efforts on

reality, providing the learners with the opportunity the social dimension in order to provide equal opportunities to quality education, paying particular attention to underrepresented groups.

12. We, the Ministers responsible for the European Higher Education Area, ask the Bologna Follow-up Group to propose measures to facilitate the proper and full implementation of the agreed Bologna principles and action lines across the European Higher Education Area, especially at the national and institutional levels, among others by developing additional working methods, such as peer learning, study visits and other information sharing activities. By continuously developing, enhancing and strengthening the European Higher Education Area and taking further the synergies with the European Research Area, Europe will be able to successfully face the challenges of the next decade.

13. Our next Ministerial Meeting to take stock of progress and to drive the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve agenda forward, will be hosted by Romania in Bucharest on 26-27 April 2012.

http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/Bologna/2010_conference/documents/Budapest-Vienna_Declaration.pdf

BOLOGNA POLICY FORUM STATEMENT

VIENNA, March 12, 2010

1. Today, the European Higher Education Area has officially been launched. In this context, we note that the Bologna Process of creating and further developing this European Higher Education Area has helped redefine higher education in Europe. Countries outside the area will now be able to more effectively foster increased cooperation with Bologna countries.

2. We, the Ministers of Higher Education and heads of delegation of the countries, institutions and organisations participating in the Second Bologna Policy Forum, held a dialogue on systemic and institutional changes in higher education in the developing global knowledge society.

3. We focussed our debate on how higher education systems and institutions respond to growing demands and multiple expectations, discussed mobility of staff and students, including the challenges and opportunities of "brain circulation", and the balance between cooperation and competition in international higher education.

4. To address the great societal challenges, we need more cooperation among the higher education and research systems of the different world regions. While respecting the autonomy of higher education institutions with their diverse missions, we will therefore continue our dialogue and engage in building a community of practice from which all may draw inspiration and to which all can contribute.

5. To facilitate policy debates and exchange of ideas and experience across the European Higher Education Area and between countries, institutions and organisations participating in the Second Bologna Policy Forum, we will each nominate a contact person and inform the Bologna Secretariat by May 31, 2010. These contact persons will also function as liaison points for a better flow of information and joint activities, including the preparation of the next Bologna Policy Forum at ministerial level.

6. We welcome the commitment of the European Bologna Follow-up Group to provide expertise on the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area.

7. We welcome the initiatives of the institutions and organisations participating in the Second Bologna Policy Forum to promote dialogue and cooperation among higher educations institutions, staff and students and other relevant stakeholders across the world. In this context, we especially acknowledge the need to foster global student dialogue.

8. In September 2010 the OECD will be hosting an international conference on how the crisis is affecting higher education and how governments, institutions and other stakeholders can work towards a sustainable future for the sector. In 2011, a seminar on quality assurance will be organised with the support of the European Union.

9. Cooperation based on partnership between governments, higher education institutions, staff, students and other stakeholders is at the core of the European Higher Education Area. This partnership approach should therefore also be reflected in the organisation of the next Bologna Policy Forum at ministerial level in 2012.

http://www.bmwf.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/bolognakonferenz/Vienna_BPF_Statement.pdf

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY:

LAUNCH OF THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP
OF THE BLACK SEA SYNERGY

Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik has opened on March 15th, 2010, the Conference launching the Environment Partnership of the Black Sea Synergy initiative. The Environment Partnership is established to support the efforts of the EU and its partners of the wider Black Sea region to find cooperative approaches to the common challenges that the Black Sea region faces. The Black Sea Synergy initiative is open to all countries of the wider Black Sea region. In his opening speech, Commissioner Potočnik said: 'The Black Sea is not an EU sea. But it is 'our' sea; it belongs to all of us, it is shared by all its countries and neighbours, by all those who live in the region. We share the Black Sea and its challenges; we must share the responsibility to meet them'.

The Black Sea Synergy initiative was proposed by the European Commission in 2007 and subsequently endorsed by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, and supported at several occasions by the European Council.

The sector partnerships reflect the inclusive character of the Black Sea Synergy initiative. They will be open to all partner countries in the wider Black Sea region who want to participate. But it will also include institutions that are active in the region, like the BSEC and the Black Sea Commission.

The EU is a strong proponent of regional, cooperative approaches, for obvious reasons. It is not just what we do, it is what we are. Our initiatives put therefore a strong emphasis on the regional and multilateral objectives of the EU's external policies. The regional component of the ENP is implemented through several initiatives, among which the multilateral elements of the Eastern Partnership, and the Black Sea Synergy. The EU has specific policies and commitments in all sea regions bordering Europe, and the Black Sea is no exception. Seas and their basins are part of our immediate neighbourhood, where the EU and its member States have strong interests.

The EU wants to give reality to this initiative by establishing sector partnerships in three crucial sectors: environment, transport and energy. These sectors have been chosen because they are crucial to the region and improvements in these will have direct effect in the whole wider Black Sea region. Each sector partnership will be organised in a way that maximises its chances of leading to concrete projects. The resources will be used as seed-money, to help preparing the projects, and present them to those who are ready and willing to invest in infrastructure in the Black Sea region. This formula has been successful in other contexts; it will be successful in the Black Sea as well.

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/279&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

CONCLUSIONS ON SIMPLIFIED AND MORE EFFICIENT PROGRAMMES SUPPORTING EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

3016th COMPETITIVENESS Council meeting
Brussels, 26 May 2010

The Council adopted the following conclusions:
THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

"RECALLING

- The Report of the expert panel on the Evaluation of the effectiveness of the New Instruments of Sixth Framework Programme of June 2004 stressing that the portfolio of instruments for collaborative research should be designed and developed to enhance coordination and collaboration with other forms of public and private funding across the European Union.

- The Report "Delivering results with sustained impact. Evaluation of the effectiveness of Information Society Research in the Sixth Framework Programme 2002-2006" of May 2008 which "strongly recommends developing a more trust based approach towards participants at all stages" as well as increasing efforts to simplify and introduce flexibility in the three key phases of the project lifecycle: the application, the evaluation of proposals and the management of funded projects.

- The Report of the Expert Group on the Evaluation of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development 2002-2006 of February 2009**3** which states that "administration of the FP needs radical overhaul" and that radical simplification must be given the highest political priority if the Framework Programmes are to realise their true potential, while the Council and the European Parliament must recognise that there is a collective responsibility towards the issue.

- Council Conclusions of 3 December 2009 on Guidance on future priorities for European research and research-based innovation in post 2010 Lisbon strategy, which, inter alia, underlined the need to make further progress on simplification and more efficient management in order for the EU Framework Programmes to fully contribute to the implementation of a post-2010 EU strategy, and which invited

- the Commission, together with Member States where relevant, to pursue vigorously further reduction of the administrative burden, continuing to implement the recommendations of the Evaluation of the Sixth Framework Programme**.**

- The Review of the European Research Council's Structures and Mechanisms "Towards a world class Frontier Research Organisation" of July 2009, urging the Commission to take every possible measure, legal, financial, procedural and administrative to adapt its rules and procedures to the nature of the European research council's mission.

- Council conclusions of 2 March 2010 on the Review of the European Research Council's Structures and Mechanisms which stressed the need to ensure that the ERC counts with the optimum legal structure, decision making process, adequate management, expert input and administrative procedures to continue carrying out its mission with the highest standards of excellence, efficacy and efficiency; and which called on the Commission, in the overall context of simplification, to make the ERC a pilot case for implementing pragmatic and effective solutions to be extended to the rest of the Framework Programme where applicable;

1. RECOGNISES that there is an urgent need for an in-depth re-thinking of the way the European Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTD&I) programmes are designed and implemented with a view to making them simple, efficient and interoperable to better fulfil their respective objectives in the framework of the new Europe 2020 Strategy, and to respond to the demands of the researchers, research organisations and enterprises as well as the society at large.

2. STRESSES that a serious effort should be made to reduce the complexity of the current landscape of EU programmes and associated instruments and to improve

their design in order to allow for fully exploiting potential synergies of their combined action.

3. ACKNOWLEDGES that the new approach requires actions all along the whole cycle of the programme design and implementation, as well as to critically review the current set of programmes and instruments and the coherence of their rules, in order to strengthen their contribution to the ERA vision and the Europe 2020 strategy.

4. RECOGNISES that progress towards a simplified scenario of the EU support to RTD&I is a process that needs to be carefully deployed to assure a smooth transition from the existing running programmes, where stability plays an important role, and the future programmes, where a new approach should be fully implemented.

5. WELCOMES the Communication of the Commission on "Simplifying the implementation of the Research Framework Programmes" of 27 April 2010**7**, notably its contribution to the diagnosis of the current level of impact of simplification measures implemented in FP7, and the significant scope for improvement, as well as to the identification of options for potential simplification both in the short and the longer term of Research Framework Programmes; at the same time RECOGNISES that simplification of rules and procedures is only a part, although significant, of the broader range of actions needed to make a more efficient use of the public funds in supporting RTD&I actions in Europe.

6. CONSIDERS that with the aim of increasing the efficiency of European support to RTD&I activities and thus their impact on competitiveness, sustainability and social welfare, as well as to attract the best talent from Europe and abroad, from academia and businesses, it is necessary:

- To streamline and speed-up the application, evaluation, negotiation and reporting procedures for the implementation of excellent RTD&I activities

- To increase the accessibility to and transparency of the programmes in support of RTD&I;

- To facilitate the interoperability of the instruments in different

programmes (e.g. FP, Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, Structural Funds) with a view to exploiting further the synergies resulting from their combined use.

7. CONSIDERS that, with a view to help achieving these objectives, the design and implementation of the EU support to RTD&I must be guided by the following principles:

• **Simplicity**: EU programmes supporting RTD&I should, whilst taking into account the different needs of different participants, be governed by a reduced number of rules and instruments, which are clearly defined, transparent and easily accessible, reducing the need for interpretation and for the introduction of exceptions;

• **Consistency**: Whilst acknowledging the need for different instruments to address specific research and innovation activities, there must be a serious attempt to achieve a harmonisation of these instruments, e.g., same rules should apply to address the same aspects of the RTD&I funding cycle in different instruments and programmes and be coherently applied in all cases as much as possible;

• **Stability and legal certainty**: A uniform interpretation and implementation of the rules should be ensured throughout the whole Framework Programme, whatever the entities in charge of their application. This principle will guide particularly the careful introduction of improvements for currently running programmes;

• **Trust-based approach:** It is assumed that beneficiaries of the EU support carry out the funded activity in good faith and with the best possible effort to achieve the expected results, and will not be subject to EU monitoring and control beyond the minimum necessary to safeguard public funds; in this respect, a tolerable level of error and risks should be combined with accountability and sound financial management;

• **Results-oriented** funding: it should be explored as to whether and to what extent RTD&I activities could be funded focussing on output, while preserving excellence, and taking into account the risky nature of research;

• **General acceptance of usual accounting practice** of the participants, avoiding the need for duplicating accounting systems;

• **Interoperability**: suitable design of instruments from different programmes in support to RTD&I to ensure their mutual complementarity and synergistic combination;

• **Flexibility:** beneficiaries should be allowed to choose between different forms of grants in the Framework Programmes. This corresponds to the

need to have more compatibility with the usual accounting practices of the participants.

8. CONSIDERS that the simplification issue should be examined on the basis of the objectives and principles above, the options put forward by the Commission , and without prejudging an in-depth examination of further simplification proposals put forward by the Commission as well as the forthcoming relevant Commission proposals,

AGREES, therefore, on the following general orientations, without prejudging further work on specific measures:

I. Reducing complexity

- ACKNOWLEDGES the Commission's diagnosis that a reduction of the complexity of EU research funding landscape should be a source of simplification and INVITES the Commission to examine critically, with a view to future Programmes, the utility of the existing individual instruments within each programme in order to keep only those that have clear and distinct roles in supporting RTD&I actions; new instruments should be created only after due justification of their added value;
- WELCOMES the Commissions' proposal of limiting the number of rules, while stressing that the FPs should still meet the needs of all beneficiaries;
- WELCOMES the Commissions' proposals related to the optimisation of the structure and timing of calls for proposals and UNDERLINES that those calls which address research priorities should be problem-solving oriented, giving more room for bottom up, trans-disciplinary approaches, also making easier the involvement of industry and SMEs. In this regard, WELCOMES the Commission's suggestion to consider the two stage procedures for calls for proposals when appropriate, but this should not be at the expense of longer 'time to contract/grant' periods.

II. Reducing the need for audit intensity

- INVITES the Commission to focus efforts on improvement in the project cycle management, with a view to reducing to a minimum the negotiation phase and the need for ex-post audits, thus also reducing errors linked to the financial reporting;

- INVITES the Commission, with a view to future Framework Programme, to facilitate a debate on a possible move towards more result-oriented funding, taking into account the risky nature of research, by making an in-depth study of possible models (including negotiated project-specific lump sums / pre-defined lump sums per project / high-trust "award" approach), allowing for differences in costs in Member States;
- INVITES the Commission to put forward suggestions with a view to future new coherent audit strategy taking into account the overriding principles described under point 6 of this conclusions.

III. Improving quality, accessibility, transparency and procedures

- INVITES the Commission to continue strengthening the quality of the data base of experts that could act as potential evaluators, ensuring a diversity of background, disciplines and scholarly thinking, permitting the selection of high quality expert, building upon best practice at national and European level;
- ACKNOWLEDGES the Commission's intention to develop the Research Participant Portal and LOOKS FORWARD for the effective deployment by 2012 of all the announced integrated functionalities; INVITES the Commission to assure that this new system will provide for full electronic information on all aspects of the programme management that should be in place at the beginning of each programme, including a stable calendar for periodic calls, using, whenever possible, similar formats for application, negotiation and reporting;
- INVITES the Commission to speed up the procedures (application, evaluation and negotiation) to shorten the time to contract.
- INVITES the Commission to further ensure that Member States and, and when appropriate countries associated to the FP, receive in real-time communication on disaggregated data of the response to the calls, the evaluation results and on conclusions of agreement with sufficient level of detail, whilst respecting the confidentiality of data.
- STRESSES that the procedures concerning the involvement of Member States in the decision of selection of projects could be significantly improved, notably, by transparent and efficient information tools

facilitating the formal adoption of opinions by the Programme Committees.

- WELCOMES the Commissions' intention to reach a broader acceptance of usual accounting practices including average personnel methodologies.
- INVITES the Commission to present more precise and transparent rules of procedure for the audits.
- INVITES the Commission to examine whether, inter alia, value added tax (where nondeductible) should be considered as an eligible cost item.

IV. Interoperability of programmes and instruments

- STRESSES that, further to the simplification measures and streamlining of procedures, a major potential for increased efficiency and synergies in supporting RTD&I in Europe lays in the appropriate combination of different EU instruments. In this respect, INVITES the Commission, when designing new programmes and instruments, to pay due attention to:
  - o ensure the continuity of already existing instruments, which have proven of value in the research community;
  - o facilitating the interactions among projects and activities to be financed, e.g. looking for the complementary use of EU funding (FP, CIP and Structural Funds);
  - o applying the same rules to all EU programmes supporting RTD&I activities, if appropriate given their respective objectives, when referring to the same aspects of the financial and technical evaluation, IPR, management, reporting and auditing, thus making easier to exploit the synergies and complementarities among them;

In the context of the orientations given above,

9. CONSIDERS of utmost importance that the institutions lead an in-depth discussion on the orientations presented in these conclusions, in particular in view of shaping the future generation of European research and innovation funding.

10. INVITES the Commission to:

- o keep the Council informed on the actions to be taken to address the issues above and in particular on actions to be implemented still in FP7, according to the principles and objectives of these conclusions;
- o take into account these orientations in preparing the future FP8 and other initiatives in support of RTD&I, including Structural Funds, under the new financial period starting in 2014;
- o report regularly to the Council and the European Parliament on the administrative cost of the Framework Programmes, considering the management costs of both the Commission and the participants (as identified in the grant agreements), as well as the cost/benefit ratio of the audits

11. UNDERTAKES to continue the examination of simplifications measures and also INVITES Member States to contribute to simplification, in the realm of their responsibilities, by considering adapting national rules and procedures with a view to facilitating the coordination of national and EU RTD&I funding initiatives."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/114640.pdf

Cultural Diplomacy in Europe: A Forum for Young Leaders (CDE)

(Berlin, 29th July - 5th August 2010)

—

"Nation Branding in a Globalized World:

An International Conference on the Economic, Political, and Cultural Dimensions of Nation Branding"

(Berlin, 29th July - 01st August 2010)

The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, is announcing the details of a forthcoming Weeklong Seminar taking place as part of the ICD's program "Cultural Diplomacy in Europe: A Forum for Young Leaders".

The program is an 8 day program of lectures, panel discussions, seminars, as well as cultural and social activities.

In addition to looking at the history and development of the field of cultural diplomacy in Europe, and its contemporary application, the forthcoming weeklong seminar will analyse the processes of European expansion and integration, explore the concept of nation branding, and assess the impact of nation branding on Europe's regional identity. Participants of the CDE program will participate in the ICD's forthcoming international conference **"Nation Branding in a Globalized World",** (Berlin 29th July-1st August 2010), which will explore the concept of nation branding, its history and consider its impact on the economic, political and cultural relations between countries.

Further details can be found on the website www.culturaldiplomacy.org/cde; www.icd-nationbranding.org

******

Cultural Diplomacy in Europe: A Forum for Young Leaders (CDE)
(Berlin, 29th July - 5th August 2010)

Cultural Diplomacy in Europe: A Forum for Young Leaders (CDE) is a network of young, influential people from across the world, who have an interest in exploring and strengthening relations between the countries within Europe. The program is based on the recognition that the increasing economic and political integration of the European Union must be accompanied by sustained activity to ensure that public opinion and relations between individual member states, and between member-states and non members states, remain positive and constructive at all levels.

"The Future of Europe: National Brands and Regional Integration"

(Berlin, 29th July - 5th August 2010)

The next CDE Weeklong Seminar will take place from 29th July – 5th August and is entitled **"The Future of Europe: National Brands and Regional Integration"**. The recent expansion of the EU and its prospective future enlargement, together with the process of European integration, raise a number of important issues concerning the future of individual nation states within the European Union. "The Future of Europe" will consider the extent to which the strengthening of national brands will influence the generation of regional identity, and the prospect of Europe speaking "with one voice". Participants of the CDE program will participate in the ICD's forthcoming international conference **"Nation Branding in a Globalized World",** (Berlin 29th July-1st August 2010), which will explore the concept of nation branding, its history and consider its impact on the economic, political and cultural relations between countries.

The forthcoming Weeklong Seminar will explore the following issues:
- The expansion of the European Union: New members, future members, and the EU neighbourhood policy.

- The history and development of the concept of nation branding, with a focus on case studies from the European Union.
- The economic, political, and cultural benefits of strengthening a country's reputation abroad.
- The influence of national brands on the process of EU integration.
- The role and responsibility of the EU in tackling climate change and developing green technologies.
- Europe's future position as a global economic and political actor.
- The rise of the far right in EU member states: A national or regional problem?

The forthcoming CDE Weeklong Seminar will pursue the following aims:
- To create a network of young, like-minded individuals and to join these individuals to the existing CDE network.
- To contribute to the growing debate and discussion on European economic, political, and cultural integration and the European Union.
- To provide the participants with a selection of expert perspectives on issues relating to the European Union and Cultural Diplomacy within Europe.
- To explore the history, development, and contemporary application of cultural diplomacy through selected case studies.
- To provide the participants with ideas and support for the development of future programs to strengthen relations within Europe, known as "leadership initiatives".

The Participants

The Seminar is open to applications from academics, diplomatic and political representatives, civil society practitioners, journalists, young professionals and students and other individuals with an interest in international relations, cultural studies, and global politics.

To apply to the Seminar, please visit:
http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/youngleadersforums/index.php?en_forums_cde_application-form

Speakers

The speakers during the Conference will include leading figures and experts from international politics, academia, the diplomatic community, civil society and the private sector, from across the world. These speakers will include a number of individuals from the ICD Advisory Board.

Recent speakers at ICD events include:

Vaira Vike-Freiberga – Former President of Latvia
Bertie Ahern - Former Prime minister of Ireland
Emil Constantinescu - Former President of Romania
Dr. Erkki Tuomioja - Former Finnish Foreign Minister
Sir Malcolm Rifkind – Former British Foreign Secretary
Kjell Magne Bondevik - Former Prime Minister of Norway
Marcia Barrett - Lead Singer of Boney M
Jack McConnell – Former First Minister of Scotland
Segolene Royal – 2007 French Presidential Candidate
Prof. Dr. Rupert Scholz – Former German Minister of Defence

Further information:
http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/youngleadersforums/index.php?en_forums_cde_about

Enquiries: europe@culturaldiplomacy.org

******

Nation Branding in a Globalized World:
The Economic, Political, and Cultural Dimensions of Nation Branding

(Berlin, 29th July – 1st August 2010)

"Nation Branding in a Globalized World" is a 4 day international conference being held by the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy that will explore the concept of nation branding and consider its importance in contemporary international relations. The conference is based on the growing influence of nation brands and the increasing importance placed on such brands by politicians, private sector representatives, and other stakeholders in global politics and economics. The program aims to focus

on the challenges and opportunities of strengthening a country's image abroad, and the impact of such activity on international relations. "Nation Branding in a Globalized World" will consist of 4 complementary components:

What's in a brand?

The program will begin by exploring in detail the history and development of the term "nation brand", its definition, and the extent to which the term is open to interpretation. The opening part of the conference will also address the extent to which a country is able to shape its own brand, and what factors may enable or hinder this process.

New Actors, New Strategies

Having considered the meaning of the term "nation brand", the second part of the program will move to analyse the different actors involved in shaping a country's image abroad - including governments, private sector companies, individuals, and civil society organisations. The interaction between these actors, and the ways in which they can influence a country's brand, will be considered in detail.

Economic, Political, and Cultural Benefits

The penultimate component part of the conference will explore the advantages for a country of having a strong nation brand – with particular reference to economics, politics, and the cultural sector. Case studies from across the world will be considered by an interdisciplinary group of speakers.

Nation Branding in a Globalized World

The final part of the program will consider the complex relationship between the process of globalisation and the generation of nation brands. It will explore the challenge of combining strong nation brands in an increasingly interdependent world, and will develop best practice guidelines for countries seeking to engage in nation branding.

The Participants

The Conference is open to applications from academics, diplomatic and political representatives, civil society practitioners, journalists, young professionals and students and other individuals with an interest in international relations, cultural studies, and global politics.

To apply to the Conference, please visit:
http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/academy/index.php?en_nbiw_application-form

Participant Papers - The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy encourages research and progressive thought into the fields of culture, globalization and international relations. In this regard, the ICD is welcoming participants of the Conference to submit

papers on this subject. The papers can cover any topic within these fields, according to your own particular interests and passions. Participants can submit work that they have completed in the past for other purposes, ongoing research or a paper written specifically for the International Symposium. Groups of students are also allowed to submit collaborative pieces of work.

Further information:
www.icd-nationbranding.org
Enquiries:
europe@culturaldiplomacy.org

******

The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy

The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD - www.culturaldiplomacy.org) is an international, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization with headquarters in Berlin, Germany. The goal of the ICD is to promote global peace and stability through strengthening and supporting intercultural relations at all levels. Over the past decade the ICD has grown to become one of Europe's largest independent cultural exchange organizations, whose programs facilitate interaction between individuals of all cultural, academic, and professional backgrounds, from across the world.

Previous events held by the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy include "A World Without Walls: An International Congress on "Soft Power", Cultural Diplomacy and Interdependence", which marked the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall (www.world-without-walls.org). In February, 2010, the ICD hosted the Berlin

International Economics Congress: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Roles of Global Politics & Civil Society in International Economics (www.biec.de).

Katharina Müller
Managing Director

Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD)
Ku´damm Karree (3rd Floor/Hochhaus)
Kurfürstendamm 207-8 Berlin, Germany-10719
Phone: +49/(0)30 2360 7680
Fax: +49/(0)30 2360 768 11
europe@culturaldiplomacy.org
www.culturaldiplomacy.org

EUA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
DIVERSITIES AND COMMONALITIES – THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE'S UNIVERSITIES

20-23 October 2010, University of Palermo, Italy

Introduction

In response to the multiple demands of to-day's knowledge societies, universities across Europe are moving to sharpen their distinctive institutional profiles while also maintaining their common cultural heritage and shared values.
Universities have a crucial function, not only in creating and disseminating knowledge, but also in reinforcing social cohesion and promoting inter- and multicultural dialogue, not least through involvement in the life of their communities at different levels. They are also increasingly actively engaged in promoting dialogue and building partnerships with a variety of different actors, be it at regional, national or international level.

The Palermo conference will explore the evolving nature of Europe's universities. It will take account of the impact both of external pressures to respond to different demands at system level and of internal developments, examining the complex interplay of factors shaping the modern university.

This includes rapidly evolving legal frameworks and governance structures, covering mergers, partnerships and other arrangements, as well as funding mechanisms and incentives, QA procedures and other accountability requirements, all of which drive convergence or diversity. Similarly the conference will also consider the attitudes and values by the different actors in higher education systems, e.g. policy makers, institutional leaders, academics and external stakeholders, which are also important in shaping the development of Europe's universities.

Goals and Objectives

The Palermo conference will address the various forces pushing for institutional change and in particular for greater diversification in European higher education, how this impact on universities, and what this means in relation to the common values upheld by universities that constitute a unique contribution to our societies.

The key objective is to assist institutional leaders in understanding better and in responding to the different pressures they face, in particular to focus and sharpen their specific institutional profiles.

The Conference will highlight examples of strategies and practices adopted by university leaders in different contexts and designed to enhance specific institutional missions, as well as to attract and retain high quality staff, cater to diverse student profiles, and consider incentives for developing diverse research strategies and research portfolios.

The current economic crisis, increasingly limited financial resources and serious government cutbacks in many countries make consideration of these topics crucial, with many institutions under pressure to make difficult decisions as a result of mergers or other change processes as well as fierce global competition.

The Conference thus seeks to:

- Support university leaders by providing a forum for joint reflection on the pressures they are facing to diversify and sharpen institutional profiles while upholding common academic values, creating and disseminating knowledge and providing service to society
- Show good practice of institutional development and profiling strategies employed by university leaders responsible for running universities with different institutional models, thereby reflecting on diverse missions designed to promote different forms of excellence
- Provide a platform for the exchange of experience on leadership and management strategies that have proved effective in implementing complex change processes while taking into account local and national contexts as well as the pressures of the international environment

- Identify key elements of national policy, support structures and incentives that drive various forms of institutional diversity (and link these to the broader national and European policy objectives for diversity).

Audience

The conference should be of interest to institutional leaders (Rectors, vice rectors, heads of administration, students), as well as other bodies with an interest in higher education policy.

Hosted by: University of Palermo

http://www.eua.be/Palermo.aspx

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE *BS-ERA.NET PILOT JOINT CALL 2010*

The main goal of the BS-ERA.NET is to provide a key-turn ready Black Sea Research Programme (BSRP). BSRP will bring to the EU-BS partnership a useful cooperation tool to be implemented according to the needs of the targeted cooperation. BSRP will act as a frame of cooperation that can be adapted to specific needs: transnational cooperation based on the bilateral and/or regional national programmes or transnational cooperation including intergovernmental structures.

The 1st Black Sea Pilot Joint Call for transnational
projects of the BS-ERA.NET initiative will open on **Autumn 2010**.

Objective of the call
The objective of the Black Sea Pilot Joint Call for proposals for research projects is to promote the European research targeting the Black Sea region taking
a proactive and innovative approach to developing solutions for a sustainable development.

Topic of the 1st Pilot Joint Call
The topics of the BS ERANET Pilot Joint Call will be
selected from two main thematic fields:
- **Environment focused on:**
  - Climate: Determination of pollutant hot spots and sensitive areas in the Black Sea region (e.g. land based sources of pollution);
  - Sustainable management of resources: Water pollution prevention options for coastal zones and tourist areas;
  - Environmental technologies: Development of Environmental Technologies for Sensitive Areas of the Region;
  - □Socioeconomic sciences.
- **Energy focused on:**
  - Renewable energy sources: Hydrogen production from H2S- rich Black Sea Water;
  - CO2 capture and storage technologies for zero emission power generation and Clean

Coal technologies: CO2 capture and storage technologies for zero emission power generation in the Black Sea region;
- Socioeconomic sciences.

Expected projects and project consortia
One type of instrument is foreseen: Joint research projects.
The joint research projects may address mainly applied research but to a certain extend basic research could be addressed too. The project may include also dedicated measures to enhance mobility, exchanges and access to medium /large scale infrastructures).

The project duration is limited up to 3 years.
Project consortia should consist of at least three parties
out of which at least one from an EU and one from a non- EU Black Sea country.

Application procedure
The application procedure will be in one stage.
The Coordinator of the project has to submit online the project proposal, in English, via a centralized web-based call management system which will be available soon.

Expected participating countries
Armenia Italy
Bulgaria Moldova
France Romania
Georgia Turkey
Germany Ukraine
Greece
Additional countries willing to join the PJC are welcome!

The deadline for submitting the project proposals is
the beginning of 2011.
Where to find further information?
For Contact persons details and further information please visit the dedicated PJC page through the BSERA.
NET website: http://www.bs-era.net/

XXII ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAGNA CHARTA UNIVERSITATUM
and
JOINT CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

Bologna, Italy, September 2010

The Magna Charta has been signed by some 600 rectors from all over the world and each year more university commit themselves to the principles laid out in the Magna Charta. The higher education scene has developed significantly since 1988 but the relevance of the Magna Charta has remained unchanged.

On **16th September 2010**, the Magna Charta Observatory organises a conference to commemorate the 22nd anniversary and to discuss on *Making the Magna Charta Values Operational*. The idea is to offer an authoritative input to participants, who will then introduce their own experience, perspectives and suggestions in working groups. This will be followed by the main plenary where moderators of working groups will report, as panellists, to the whole audience.

The participants will have the opportunity to react and intervene in this plenary-panel entitled *The Magna Charta Principles and Values in the Daily Routines of a University*.

On **17th September**, the Magna Charta Observatory, together with the University of Bologna will arrange, as every year, the *academic ceremony* that should allow universities that have not yet signed the Magna Charta to do so.

This year the Magna Charta Observatory is working on a special that will precede the annual ceremony and conference outlined above. The Magna Charta Observatory is collaborating with the University of Bologna and the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research to organize a one-day conference on stocktaking and evaluation of the application of the Bologna Process after the establishment of the European Higher Education Area. This special event is scheduled for the **15th September 2010.**

The conference will be held at **Aula Santa Lucia, Via Castiglione 36 - Bologna**

http://magnacharta.staging.sarrasystems.com/eventDetails.aspx?uid={cf7875f3-fa54-4578-8e7c-eeae80e1579a}

Third Edition
BLACK SEA NGO FORUM
INVESTING IN OUR COMMON FUTURE

9-11 September 2010
Constanta, Romania

The 3rd edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum is approaching. The traditional annual event will take place on **9-11 September** in **Constanta, Romania**. Thus, for the first time at the Forum the Black Sea will be present not only in the minds of the participants, but also in their sights.

This year the theme of the forum is *"Investing in our common future"*. The topics of the forum will include panels dedicated to Democracy and citizen participation, Economic Development and Corporate Social responsibility, Youth movements and Youth Policies, Bridging Divided Communities, and Environment, as well as on tools for strengthening civil society.

The focus will be on the vocation of civil society to lead by example. Good practices in various fields and countries and successful cooperation initiatives in the region will be presented during the Forum. Based on an analysis of the regional dynamics during the last three years of existence of the Forum, a set of recommendations for Governmental actors and civil society in the region will be proposed. The Black Sea NGO Forum was launched in 2008 by the Romanian Federation of Development NGOs and is organized in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation. The Forum aims at increasing the level of dialogue and cooperation among NGOs in the wider Black Sea region, as a means of strengthening NGOs and their capacity to influence regional and national policies.

Since 2008, the event has provided a unique regional forum for debate centered on NGOs as a driving force for positive change in the wider Black sea region. Over 300 participants from **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, European Union member states and other important actors in the wider Black Sea Region**, with different backgrounds (civil society, Governments and international organizations) have been engaged in the Forum's discussions.

Participation to the 3rd edition of the Forum is open to all actors in the region or working in the region, with a vocation for transnational and regional cooperation, interested in sharing good practices, mutual learning and joint mobilization..

For further details please contact us at **forum@BlackSeaNGO.org** (contact person: Valentin Burada, program director).

About the Forum

The Black Sea NGO Forum was launched in 2008 by the Romanian Federation of Development NGOs and its partners throughout the region with support from the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation in the framework of the Black Sea Synergy. It continues in 2009 in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation.

In 2008, the first edition of the Forum gathered over 100 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, other European Union member states and important actors in the wider Black Sea Region.

The Forum aims at increasing the level of dialogue and cooperation among NGOs in the wider Black Sea region, as a means of strengthening NGOs and their capacity to influence regional and national policies.

Our vision, as civil society is that, historically, the Black Sea has been rather a cooperation medium than a barrier. Naturally it has allowed for communication and exchange (either cultural or economic). Non-governmental organizations in the region are very similar, in terms origin, path and challenges they are facing. There are numerous lessons learnt and expertise which are worth sharing. Non-governmental organizations have the vocation to act jointly to bring positive social change for both their countries and for the region as a whole.

The accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the European Union (EU) moved the border of the EU to the Black Sea, thus creating new opportunities

for cooperation. Romania and Bulgaria have joined the 10 New Member States (NMS) of the EU in becoming donor countries and taking responsibilities within the external action of the EU. Similar historical context and problems have lead NMS to be particularly interested and able to share experience and expertise and to contribute with resources to supporting economic, social and political reform in neighbour countries in the wider Black Sea region

The Black Sea NGO Forum is complementary to other regional initiatives (for instance the recently launched Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum). It looks for creating synergies, avoiding overlapping activities and making full use of the civil society potential in the region. There are three main defining elements of this Forum, within the Black Sea Synergy framework:

1. The focus of the Black Sea NGO Forum is on non-governmental organizations as a particular transformative force throughout the region, bearers of democratic values and advocates of open societies, human and social rights, peace and solidarity throughout the region.

2. The Black Sea NGO Forum aims to bring together NGOs from all the countries in the wider Black Sea region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine), as a forum for specialized regional dialogue and cooperation and with other non-governmental organizations and institutions active in the region.

3. The Forum brings around the same table civil society, EU and international donors and officials from the region or involved in the region, thus supporting capacity building for these actors in order to overcome current gaps in access to information and funds, as well as in implementation practices.

The first edition of the Forum acknowledged that within this region, which is extremely complex from a political point of view, cooperation among NGOs from the civil society represents a real potential for stability and prosperity in the wider Black Sea region.

http://www.blackseango.org/pagini/index.php

6th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
ON INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Iasi, Romania
October 7-9, 2010

ECIT 2010 aims to bring together scientists and practitioners from academic, governmental, and industrial institutions to discuss new developments and results in the field of intelligent systems and technologies.

A special emphasis will be on the recent trends and on the interdisciplinary fields, like Artificial Life, Evolvable Systems, Cognitive Systems, Neuro-fuzzy Systems, Data Mining, Chaos Applications, and Hybrid Systems.

The conference is composed of plenary presentations, several symposia, semi-plenary sessions, panel sessions, invited and contributed sessions, demonstration sessions, poster sessions, and other events.

There will be parallel and interactive sessions. They include scientific and applied presentations in Fuzzy Technology, Neural Nets, Genetic Algorithms, Nonlinear Dynamics. Reflecting the scope of the Conference, a consortium of scientific and learned societies, and institutions participate in the organization of the Conference.

The scientific interests of the organizers cover a large range of scientific domains. The Conference will be held in Iasi, Romania, the ancient capital of Moldavia and the oldest academic center in Romania.

The conference will include:

Plenary Sessions

- Symposium on Advances in AI: Soft Computing
- Symposium on Advances in AI: Emerging Topics
- Symposium on Speech, Natural Languages and Cognitive Science
- Symposium on Advances in Intelligent Systems and Applications
- Symposium on Biometrics & Security

Regular Sessions on:

- Artificial Life
- Intelligent Control

- Distributed and Hierarchical Computer Systems
- Man-Machine Interaction
- Decision Support Systems
- Production Planning and Scheduling Robotic Systems
- Chaos and nonlinear dynamics applications
- Intelligent Systems in bio-medical applications

(Nonlimitative list)

- Special Session on Biomedical Signal Processing

Organisers
- Romanian Academy - Iasi Branch
- Institute of Computer Science "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iasi Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technology
- "A.I. Cuza" University of Iasi Faculty of Computer Science

http://www.iit.tuiasi.ro/ecit2010/index.html