

Key Decisions and Action Items

13th Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region BSUN General Assembly

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Agenda:

1. Reports from the Parallel Sessions held on June 18
2. Presentation of the BSUN Activities for the period 2016-2018
3. Adoption of **The Thessaloniki Declaration of the University Rectors From the Black Sea Region**
4. Election of the BSUN President for the 2018-2020 term
5. Election of the members of the BSUN Executive Board
6. Admission of new members
7. Other subjects

Decisions and Action Items confirmed by the BSUN General Assembly:

- Approval of the Activity Report of the BSUN President in-office, Prof. Giga Zedania, and the report of the BSUN International Secretariat, presented by Prof. Eden Mamut, BSUN Secretary General.
- Adoption of **The Thessaloniki Declaration of the University Rectors From the Black Sea Region**
- Adoption of the strategic directions for the period 2018-2020, such as:
 - Enhancing the cooperation between the BSUN members;
 - Increasing the visibility of the Network;
 - Increasing the added value of BSUN membership for the students and faculty;
 - Development of a systemic approach towards the implementation of SDGs in the Black Sea region through the collaboration of the BSUN with governmental and nongovernmental organizations.
- Election of the BSUN President for the 2018-2020 term in the person of Prof. Pericles MITKAS, Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.



- Consent for the BSUN to continue the close cooperation with the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the related bodies.
- Cooperation development between the BSUN and other regional organizations acting in the field of education and research.
- Boosting cooperation among member Universities towards the organization of joint summer schools by using different models of implementation/governance, such as bilateral agreements between two Universities and other similar.
- Enhancing cooperation among member Universities by promoting joint PhD programs and by establishing co-tutorship of PhD students.
- Promotion of a corporate culture within the BSUN by mutual recognition of the contributions and accomplishments of different Universities, scholars or students. In this respect, it was proposed to celebrate, in 2019, the 100th Anniversary of Baku State University as a BSUN Event.
- Promotion of student activities at the level of BSUN, such as: student competitions, student initiatives, joint projects, camps and others. In this respect, it was proposed to promote the competition that is organized by Odessa National Food Technologies University.
- Organization of workshops, conferences, symposia on topics of regional interest, such as: the use of satellite data for the implementation of SDGs, regional cohesion, blue growth initiative, preservation of cultural heritage, the “Silk Road” – One Belt One Road initiative, quality assurance in education, and inter-confessional dialogues.
- Election of the members of the BSUN Executive Board as follows:
 - Albania – Prof. Andrea MALIQARI, Rector of Polytechnic University of Tirana
 - Armenia – Dr. Armen DER KIUREGHIAN, President of American University of Armenia
 - Azerbaijan – Acad. Abel MAHARRAMOV, Rector of Baku State University
 - Bulgaria – Prof. Anastas GERDJIKOV, Rector of Sofia University
 - Georgia – Prof. George SHARVASHIDZE, Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
 - Greece – Prof. Chryssi VITSILAKI, Rector of University of the Aegean
 - Moldova – Prof. Viorel BOSTAN, Rector of Technical University of Moldova
 - Romania – Prof. Mircea DUMITRU, Rector of University of Bucharest
 - Russia – Prof. Vladimir M. FILIPPOV, Rector of Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia
 - Serbia – Prof. Vladimir BUMBASIREVIC, Rector of University of Belgrade
 - Turkey – Prof. Yalçın Karayağız, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University
 - Ukraine – Prof. Sergiy BYELIKOV, Rector of Zaporizhzhya National Technical University

- Admission of the following two Universities as new members:
 1. Mariupol State University, from Ukraine;
 2. Baku Engineering University, from Azerbaijan.
- Decision to hold the next Executive Board Meeting in early October 2018, in Thessaloniki, Greece.