



Black Sea Universities Network Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 24th - 26th, 2018
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Draft Minutes of the Meeting

Wednesday, October 24th, 2018

10:00 – 14:00

BSUN Executive Board Meeting

Senate's Hall, AUTH Administration Building

- Current status of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea Region, an initiative of the European Commission DG MARE.
- The initiative for the establishment of a Regional Network for Quality Management in Higher Education, BSEC Initiative.
- Best practices on twining of universities in the Black Sea Region -the initiative of the Technical University of Varna and "Ovidius" University of Constanta.
- Current status of KNOASEE
- BSUN proposal for supporting the implementation of SDGs
- Establishment of the SDSN Regional Chapter in the Black Sea Region
- Administrative issues
- Miscellaneous

14:00 – 15:00

Lunch

18:30 – 20:00

Honorary Doctorate ceremony for Prof. Jeffrey Sachs

"Alexandros Papanastasiou" Ceremony Hall, located in the Old Building of the Faculty of Philosophy

21:00

Dinner

Thursday, October 25th, 2018

10:30 – 14:00

Launch of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network -SDSN Black Sea Chapter

Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center

14:00 – 15:00

Lunch

Friday, October 26th, 2018

18:30

City of Thessaloniki official celebration ceremony for the feast day of the city's patron saint, Saint Demetrius, as well as the Liberation of the city from the Ottoman rule in 1912, with the presence of the Honorable President of the Hellenic Republic

Reception

Aristotle University Main Ceremony Hall

21:00

Thessaloniki City Symphony Orchestra concert
Thessaloniki Concert Hall

Participants:

- Prof. Armen DER KIUREGHIAN, President of American University of Armenia
- Mrs. Denitsa SACHEVA, Deputy-minister of Education and Science of Bulgaria
- Prof. Anastas GERDJIKOV, Rector, University of Sofia, Bulgaria
- Prof. George SHARVASHIDZE, Rector, Tbilisi State University, Georgia
- Prof. Pericles MITKAS, Rector, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- Prof. Chryssi VITSILAKI, Rector, University of the Aegean, Greece
- Acad. Ioan BOSTAN, Technical University of Moldova
- Prof. Mircea DUMITRU, Rector, University of Bucharest, Romania
- Prof. Süreyya Kayhan ÜLKER, Vicerecator, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Turkey
- Prof. Sergiy BYELIKOV, Rector, Zaporizhzhya National Technical University, Ukraine
- Prof. Eden MAMUT, BSUN Secretary General

Minutes:

1. Prof. Der Kiureghian presented the process of consultations with the Ministry of Education of Armenia and the decision that has been taken to organize the chairmanship of Armenia to BSUN for the mandate 2020-2022. In this way, the distinguished members of the Executive Board took note of the completion of the BSUN Presidential Troika.

2. It has been analysed the current status of the development of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) on the blue growth in the Black Sea Region, coordinated by DG MARE, and it has been decided that in the next period the draft version of the topics proposed for each pillar of the SRIA will be sent to the BSUN member universities in order to ask for their contribution. The collected results will be synthesised by a team of experts coordinated by the University of Bucharest.

Responsible person – Rector Mircea Dumitru - deadline mid-February, 2019

3. Prof. Pericles Mitkas made a detailed presentation of the concept of the regional chapter of SDSN for the Black Sea Region. The document is attached to the minutes.

In the initial phase, the coordination of the SDSN chapter will be done by the members of the BSUN Executive Board and in a later phase they could appoint another person with much more experience in the field, from each country. The major priority for the current phase is to connect the activities of the regional chapter with the activities of the governments of the BSEC Member States on the implementation of the UN 2020 SDGs.

We have attached also a note that we received from BSEC PERMIS.

4. The members of the Executive Board have been informed about the activities that have been carried out for the development of a twining model between Varna Technical University

and “Ovidius” University of Constanta. Recently, Rector Sorin Rugina and Rector Rosen Vasilev have signed a Memorandum of Understanding and the text of the MoU could serve as a model for other twining activities of the BSUN member universities.

At present, there are under development specific joint activities focusing for the beginning on topics like energy and offshore engineering.

5. Acad. Ioan Bostan made a presentation of the initiatives that have been developed in the Republic of Moldova and he emphasised the need for further involvement of the students in the activities of BSUN.

In this respect, there will be collected proposals from the BSUN member universities regarding the organization of different summer schools and conferences and it shall be analysed the possibility to include a round table or a session dedicated to cooperation in the Black Sea Region. At the same time, there will be initiated web meetings involving students from different universities.

6. Rector Sharvashidze underlined the need to put more emphasis on rising the visibility of BSUN. In this respect, the Board decided the followings:

- To send a notification to all the BSUN member universities to kindly invite each university to include on their websites the logo and the connection to the BSUN website, to mention the participation in the BSUN, to include the logo in the promotion documents, leaflets, journals and other publications or internet pages and activities.
- To organize a page of BSUN on Instagram and to put much more emphasis on the involvement of students and professors in the social media channels connecting with the activities of BSUN.
- To develop opportunities to broadcast synchronous or asynchronous on the BSUN TV webpage the most valuable activities of the BSUN member universities like speeches of very well-known personalities, courses, conferences and other similar events.

7. Rector Byelikov presented the existing experience in the Black Sea Region regarding the involvement in TEMPUS, TACIS and ERASMUS programs and suggested to promote on a systemic way the cooperation of BSUN member universities with the Western European universities.

8. Vice-rector Kayhan Ulker, on behalf of Rector Yalçın Karayağız, presented the experience of Mimar Sinan University in developing regional cooperation projects in the Balkans and the Black Sea Region and expressed the availability for organizing an event for the students in the summer of 2019.

9. For addressing the current updates on the initiative dedicated to the “European Universities”, at the BSUN Executive Board Meeting participated as honorary guest Mrs. Denitsa SACHEVA, Deputy-minister of Education and Science of Bulgaria. Mrs. Sacheva

presented the current updates regarding the concept and the terms of reference. Also, Mrs. Sacheva presented the commitment of the Bulgarian Government to support the participation of the Bulgarian universities in this initiative even with budgetary allocations.

10. Rector Mitkas proposed a dedicated meeting with Prof. Gerdjikov and Prof. Dumitru to discuss on this subject. At the same time Prof. Mamut informed about the interest of “Ovidius” University of Constanta and Technical University of Varna on the development of such a proposal.

Administrative issues:

- Prof. Mamut presented the current version of the BSUN Charter that was adopted during the BSUN General Assembly organized in 2012, in Tirana. The members of the Executive Board decided to analyse the articles of the BSUN Charter and in the coming period to evaluate the possibilities of improvement.
- The second item on administrative issues was related to the situation of the BSUN National Secretariats. In this perspective, each member of the BSUN Executive Board shall contact the members from their country and decide upon the further actions that have to be taken in order to finalize the process in all BSUN member countries.
- The members of the BSUN Executive Board appointed the BSUN IPS to contact all the BSUN members and to clarify the situation of the payments of the membership fees for 2018. The deadline is December 1st, 2018.

Responsible person: – Prof. Eden Mamut, BSUN Secretary General.

- The visit of BSUN Presidential Troika in Romania is proposed for 21st of November, 2018. Prof. Mamut presented the tentative agenda and the meetings that will be organized with the Romanian President, Prime-minister, Minister of Education and the Chairman of the Conference of Rectors.
- For the period late January – beginning of February it has been proposed to organize the visit of the BSUN Delegation to Brussels.

The required preparation arrangements will be carried out by the BSUN IPS.

Miscellaneous:

- Prof. Mamut presented the provisions of the BSUN Charter on the position of BSUN Secretary General. The mandate of the Secretary General is ending in 2020. In this respect the distinguished members of the Executive Board decided to analyse the principles and methodology of rotating the position of Secretary General and to prepare a clear procedure for addressing this issue.