



***Resolution of the
14th Conference of Rectors from the
Black Sea Region /
BSUN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
October 15th, 2021, Yerevan, Armenia***

Agenda

- Opening of the General Assembly session
- Keynote: Prof. Luciano Saso, Chair, UNICA Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe
- Reports from the Sessions of the Int. Conference on “*Role of Universities in Solving Complex Challenges*” held on October 14th
- Activity Report of the BSUN President-in-Office, Prof. Pericles A. Mitkas
- Presentation of the BSUN Activities for the period 2018 - 2021 by Prof. Eden Mamut, BSUN Secretary General

Topics:

- BSUN Consortium of Universities on Blue Growth
 - BSUN MOOC
 - BSUN Observatory of Open Science
 - European Institute of Cultural Routes
 - Plan Regional Conference on Cooperation in the Black Sea Region
 - Regional Network of Local University TV station
- Contributions and proposals for the future activities on behalf of the representatives of the member universities
 - Administrative issues
 - Election of the BSUN President-in-Office for the mandate 2021-2022
 - Report of the Committee for the proposal of the future BSUN President for the mandate 2022-2024

- Election of the BSUN Secretary General for the mandate 2021-2024
- Renewal of the mandates of the members of the BSUN Executive Board
- The speech of the BSUN President-in-Office
- Family photo
- Press Conference

Participants:

a. Members of the Executive Board

- Prof. Pericles A. Mitkas, President of the Black Sea Universities Network
- Prof. Sergiy Byelikov, Rector of Zaporizhzhya Polytechnic National University
- Prof. Karin Markides, President of American University of Armenia
- Prof. George Sharvashidze, Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
- Prof. Chryssi Vitsilaki, Rector of University of the Aegean
- Prof. Florinel Dinu, Rector, Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiesti
- Prof. Ion Pana, Vice-Rector, Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiesti
- Prof. Marian Preda, Rector of University of Bucharest (online)
- Prof. Eden Mamut, BSUN Secretary General

b. Invited Guests

- Prof. Luciano Saso, Chair, UNICA Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (online)
- Prof. Liudmila Baeva, Vice-Rector for Research, Astrakhan State University
- Prof. Maryna Mardar, Vice-Rector for Scientific and Pedagogical Work and International Relations, Odessa National Academy of Food Technologies (online)

Minutes of the BSUN General Assembly Session

- ❖ The total number of the BSUN member universities is at present: 110 universities (List is attached as Annex 1)

The voting process

The voting process has been initiated at the BSUN General Assembly and continued online until the 5th of November, 2021 EoW. The results of the voting process are the followings:

- ❖ It has been approved the Report of the BSUN President-in-Office, Prof. Pericles A. Mitkas, for the Mandate 2018-2020 (Note: the mandate was extended due to the exceptional situation of the Covid-19 pandemic until 2021)
- ❖ Prof. Karin Markides, President of American University in Armenia, has been elected as BSUN President-in-Office for the Mandate 2020-2022 (Note: due to the exceptional situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, the mandate will start in 2021)
- ❖ Prof. Marian Preda, Rector of University of Bucharest, has been nominated as the BSUN Future President for the Mandate 2022-2024
- ❖ It has been approved the Administrative Report of BSUN IPS activities for the period 2018-2021
- ❖ Prof. Eden Mamut from "Ovidius" University of Constanta, has been elected as the BSUN Secretary General for the Mandate 2020-2024 (Note: due to the exceptional situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, the mandate will start in 2021)

Decisions and Action Items approved by the BSUN General Assembly:

- ❖ The initiation of a strategic partnership between BSUN and UNICA for developing joint activities on the topic of the transformation pathways of universities to address complex challenges. President Markides and Prof. Saso agreed to start with a dedicated on-line meeting and to prepare a possible meeting in Brussels.

- ❖ The initiation of a priority area of cooperation on the challenges related to the food system change and the impact on natural capital, land use change, hydrology and socio-economical systems.
- ❖ The initiation of a priority area of cooperation on the complexity of factors and impacts related to Artificial Intelligence in all aspects of the society.
- ❖ The extension and consolidation of the inter-university cooperation on Blue Growth that shall follow the accumulated experience and achievements of BSUN up to now and to aim ambitious goals on the following activities:
 - BSUN Consortium of Universities on Blue Growth that is coordinated by Igor Sikorsky National Technical University of Ukraine – to finalize the process of developing the consortium and to prepare the plan of activities for the next year;
 - BSUN MOOC – BSUN IPS has to start the consultations with the member universities and to establish the technical framework;
 - BSUN Observatory of Open Science – following the agreement with EGI, BSUN IPS has to coordinate the participation of member universities in registering the scientific publications and data sources in the <https://bsosc-observatory.eu/> ;
 - Black Sea Literacy – enhanced cooperation between member universities for promoting specific knowledge on Black Sea, the connected rivers, inland waters and wetlands. A special emphasis has to be done on the further development of the repository of learning aids for Blue Growth (<https://bluegrowth.bsun.org/>);
 - Serious Games on Blue Growth – the extension of the experience of developing serious games for the promotion of Blue Growth. At present, there is a pilot project for promoting sustainable tourism based on scuba diving “Diving in Blue” that shall be accommodated on the dedicated website <https://bluejoy.bsun.org/> ;
 - Hackathon for Blue Growth – to extend the existing experience on organizing the hackathons, based on the achievements obtained on the organization of the Blue Growth Hackathon dedicated to the identification of innovative solutions for the Sustainable Development of Hârșova City, organized between 29th and 30th of June, 2021, in Harsova, Romania and the Lake Sevan Hackathon, organized between 14th and 15th of October, 2021, at Lake Sevan, Armenia;

- The Blue Growth Caravan – to replicate the experience gained by the organization of the Blue Growth Caravan to Sfântu Gheorghe Commune - Tulcea County, Romania, in partnership with other BSUN member universities;
 - Art Fair – BSUN IPS shall contact the interested BSUN member universities in order to organize a dedicated consortium of schools of fine arts for developing an appropriate model for an itinerary BSUN Art Fair;
 - Science Fairs – it shall be developed a broad process of consultations in order to identify best practices and to facilitate the access of member universities to the most interesting initiatives.
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- ❖ SDSN Black Sea Chapter: there will be developed activities to promote the resources and the opportunities offered by SDSN for the BSUN member universities.
 - ❖ Regional Conference on Dialogue and Cooperation in the Black Sea Region – it shall be initiated a process of organizing a high-level international conference aiming to identify pathways for re-launching the dialogue and cooperation in the Black Sea region. The conference shall be organized by mid-October, 2022, in Bucharest, Romania, together with the BSUN 2022 Congress.
 - ❖ Regional Network of Local University TV stations – BSUN IPS shall initiate a process of consultation of BSUN member universities to identify interested partners to collaborate to the establishment of a regional inter-university cooperation framework by sharing documentaries and different types of TV production results.
 - ❖ European Institute of Cultural Routes – the BSUN shall strengthen the cooperation with EICR by developing a specific plan of actions involving professors and students in scientific research and regional studies. A specific action shall be dedicated to the establishment of the Istro-Dobro-Pontica Cultural Route.
 - ❖ BSUN Regional Conference on “Sustainable and Affordable Energy in the BSEC Member States” – Prof. Florinel Dinu, Rector of Petroleum-Gas

University of Ploiesti, proposed the organization of an international conference of large impact to address the developments on the implementation of UN 2030 SDG 7. The event shall be organized by the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiesti by mid-April, 2022.

- ❖ The participants have decided to hold the next BSUN Executive Board Meeting by second half of November, 2021, in an online format.

