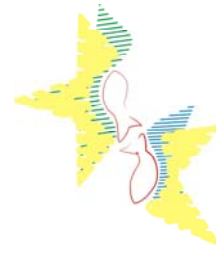




Government of the Republic of Montenegro
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE



ADRIATIC – IONIAN INITIATIVE
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO PRESIDENCY

**JOINT STATEMENT
OF THE 9th ROUND TABLE ON
»EDUCATION AND INTER-UNIVERSITY COOPERATION«
MONTENEGRO, 15-16 NOVEMBER 2004**

We, the delegates and representatives from the Member Countries of the Adriatic - Ionian Initiative, convened at the 9th Round Table on »Education and Inter-University Co-operation« **in Pržno, between 15 and 16 November 2004:**

Reiterate the need to develop greater understanding among the AII Member States for safeguarding, promoting and implementing the ideals and principles of our common heritage;

Welcome activities that are conducive to improving co-operation, synergy and coordination among Adriatic-Ionian countries, particularly in higher education;

Recognize the importance of regional co-operation in the field of education as a major contributor to a successful development of the Region and Europe as a whole;

Oblige ourselves to contribute to fostering of peace and stability in the Adriatic–Ionian region through our cooperation, networking, exchange and mobility of people, ideas and projects in the field of education.

THEREFORE, WE HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The AII Member Countries shall encourage activities leading to co-operation of higher education institutions and authorities in order to enable for smooth mobility of joint projects, exchange of information, good practices and mobility of students, professionals and researchers in the spirit of the Bologna process.
2. The AII Member Countries shall acknowledge the recognition of qualifications concerning HE in compliance with the Lisbon Convention and the supporting documents as the major tool towards contributing to smooth mobility of joint projects, exchange of information, good practices and mobility of students, professionals and researchers.

3. The AII Member Countries shall deem this initiative important and facilitating for furthering the goals of implementation of the Lisbon Convention and the supporting documents.
4. The AII Member Countries shall:
 - Commit themselves to giving incentive to the process of information exchange about HE systems, practices, degrees, diplomas and titles conferred by HE institutions in their countries;
 - Set up appropriate focal points to enable communication and mediation in the process preceding to setting up efficient mechanisms on recognition of HE qualifications between/among countries of the AII;
 - Jointly examine the challenges lying ahead of any cooperation involving recognition process through formal and/or informal communication at any level;
 - Commit themselves to providing information exchange for the purpose of establishing scope of bilateral agreements that are signed;
 - Examine possibilities for funding activities and disseminate all information about funding opportunities so as to enable as many AII countries as possible to benefit from those opportunities;
 - In case agreements are signed commit themselves to publicising information and informing all stakeholders and potential mobility beneficiaries.
5. The AII Member Countries are encouraged to use UniAdriatic Network as a powerful tool to enhance inter-university cooperation in the Adriatic-Ionian Basin.
6. The AII Member Countries strongly recommend the South East European Educational Cooperation Network as a useful tool for information exchange.
7. Round table proceedings shall be disseminated by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Montenegro.
8. The AII Member Countries shall:
 - Examine challenges introduced by the use of new technologies in education and use the results obtained during Slovenian presidency;
 - Share the experience that will be gained by establishing Centres for languages at the University of Primorska, and provide collaboration in developing new teaching modules integrating language instruction with intercultural communication;
 - The AII Member Countries will examine the possibilities of searching for new financing mechanisms and creating new activities and networks;

9. The AII Member States shall give full support to the exploitation of the existing CEEPUS exchange programme and therefore invite all AII countries to join it;
10. The AII Member Countries agree to invite students from all AII countries to take part in future round tables;
11. The Member States support the Montenegrin Presidency proposal »The Way Forward«:
 - To work towards establishing a Liason Office/Small Secreteriat that would provide for a more consistent and continued stream of activities among the Member States and should serve as a primary point of contact within the Initiative for interaction with AII partners, international organizations and NGO-s;
 - To transform Round Tables into Working Groups;
 - To nominate chairmen of the six Working Groups of the AII, in order to preserve the continuity of the work of Working Groups.
12. The AII Member Countries express their compliments to Slovenian presidency of the AII.

In Przno, on 16 November 2004.