



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION  
AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

*Chairmanship  
of the Adriatic – Ionian Initiative*

*Athens, 30 July 2001*

**ROUND TABLE  
EDUCATION AND INTER-UNIVERSITY COOPERATION  
FIRST MEETING OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES  
CORFU, GREECE  
29-30 SEPTEMBER 2001**

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

In the framework of the Greek Presidency of the Adriatic – Ionian Initiative, the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs of Greece is organizing the first Meeting of the national representatives of the Round Table on Education and Inter-university Cooperation. The Meeting will be held on the 29th and 30th September 2001 at the island of Corfu, with the organizational cooperation of the Ionian University and the Region of Ionian Islands.

We enclose the provisional programme of the Meeting together with the draft agenda. We also enclose a practical information sheet, which contains all the necessary information concerning the Greek Presidency and the Corfu Meeting as well, including the registration form. The Meeting language will be English.

The Corfu Meeting is addressed to the national representatives of the countries participating in the Initiative, including Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as to representatives of universities and other higher education and research institutions.

In order to ensure higher efficiency of the overall process, the Greek Presidency will propose to the Committee of Senior Officials the split of the initially unique Fourth Round Table of the Initiative into two separate Round Tables, one for education and inter-university cooperation and one for culture. The first Round Table is chaired by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the second one is chaired by the Ministry of Culture. Hence, issues regarding cultural affairs, except those concerning archives, will be dealt with in this second Round Table.

The Corfu Meeting succeeds the corresponding Meeting, held last May at Split. As stated by the Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Grigoris Niotis at Split, the priorities of the Greek Presidency of the Initiative in the field of education and inter-university cooperation will focus on the realization of the inter-university cooperation, through the clarification of its internal processes and through the practical establishment of the inter-university network, and on the promotion of the effective coordination and implementation of all the thematic actions in the respective area of the Initiative.

The guidelines for the Greek Presidency are those arising from the two ministerial declarations of Ancona and Split, as well as from the conclusions and statements of the respective meetings of the up to now Fourth Round Table. Of course, the Greek Presidency takes also into consideration the declaration adopted at Ravenna by the rectors and representatives of the universities and other higher education institutions of the region for the establishment of the Virtual University UNIADRION in the framework of the inter-university cooperation agreed at Ancona.

The enclosed draft agenda accords with the above priorities and principles. Actually, the major objective of the Greek Presidency is to make our inter-university cooperation more efficient and more effective.

The first item of the draft agenda deals with the factual establishment of the wider inter-university network, which is considered to be the major means for implementing our cooperation. Our intention is to clarify the organizational structure and the internal processes of the network, and, also, to adopt the rules and principles governing our relations and our joint activities in the framework of the network.

The second item deals with the Virtual University UNIADRION. Our intention is to elucidate the landscape and to dissipate any confusion as regards the relation between the Virtual University and the wider inter-university cooperation in the framework of the Adriatic - Ionian Initiative. Undoubtedly, the approval of the Virtual University's charter as well as the construction of its constitutional bodies belongs to the responsibility of the assembly of the partner universities and other higher education institutions, which is a separate event that will follow after the Corfu Meeting. However, the way in which the Virtual University will be covered under the umbrella of the Initiative and incorporated into the wider concept of the conventional inter-university network, which had been approved in Ancona, is an issue to be discussed and clarified during the next meeting of our Round Table at Corfu. In this context, we have to discuss the organizational and structural bonds between the virtual and the conventional networks as well as those thematic priorities of the Virtual Network, which are to be adopted and supported by the Initiative.

The third item of the draft agenda deals with the specific thematic areas adopted in the previous meetings of the former Fourth Round Table. Our intention is to discuss and explore the ways in which we can implement those priority issues. There are up to now a number of proposals for specific actions submitted by the various national delegations. These proposals have to be considered in the light of the internal processes, rules and principles governing our cooperation, which are to be approved in the Corfu Meeting.

In the fourth item of the agenda, the Greek Presidency is going to present its programme of work for the period up to May 2002. This programme of work will be based largely on the decisions to be taken in the first three items of the agenda.

In the fifth item of the agenda, the Greek Presidency is going to present a global approach to the financial dimension of the inter-university cooperation in the framework of the Initiative.

Finally, the sixth item of the agenda deals with the interaction of the inter-university cooperation with the Regions of the participating countries in the framework of the Adriatic - Ionian Initiative. This is a question addressed both to the higher education institutions and to the regional authorities of our countries. We have to explore our common perspectives and to set joint strategies, if possible. This is a necessity for the overall development of our entire geographic area. In this framework, the General Secretary of the Region of Ionian Islands in Greece, Mrs. Anastassia Kanellopoulou, intends to invite her colleagues from the respective Regions of all countries of the area to attend the Corfu Meeting and participate actively in the respective discussions. The discussion of the sixth item of the agenda is scheduled for the morning session of Sunday 30th September.

The Greek Presidency is going to prepare its proposals and disseminate them to all participants by the first week of September. As regards especially the issue of the Virtual University UNIADRION, the representatives of the Universities of Bologna and Ancona have already prepared a proposal for its structure, organization and action plan. This proposal seems to address to the assembly of the partner institutions. However, there are parts of this proposal, which concern the incorporation of the Virtual University into the conventional and wider inter-university network, and which are considered as necessary for our discussion under the second item of the agenda. Therefore, an English version of this proposal, or at least an executive summary in English, has to be prepared by the Italian colleagues and sent to us, so that we can disseminate it to all the participants of the Corfu Meeting by the first week of September as well.

The Greek Presidency looks forward to the next Meeting in Corfu, with the belief that we will have the opportunity to clarify all issues, to set up a clear framework for our cooperation and to exchange our views as regards the prospects of our Initiative and the implementation of our common plans. In this context, the Greek Presidency will wait for the response of the respective national authorities to the above thoughts. Of course, any additional proposals for the agenda of the Corfu Meeting are welcomed, but it is evident that the agenda has to be fixed by the first week of September, when all the respective documentation has to be disseminated to all participants. This means also that the end of August has to be the deadline either for proposals concerning the agenda or for other proposals to be disseminated.

Closing this note, we would like to ask from all national delegations to inform us about the head national representative of each country as well as about the liaison person for the respective organizational contacts.

Yours sincerely

Dionyssis Kladis  
Secretary for Higher Education  
Chairman of the Round Table

Encl.: Provisional programme  
Draft agenda  
Practical information  
Registration form



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**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b><u>Friday 28</u></b>	Afternoon	Arrival of participants
	21.00	Dinner hosted by the Rector of the Ionian University (to be confirmed)
<b><u>Saturday 29</u></b>	09.00	Registration
	09.30	Morning session (first half)
	11.30	Coffee break
	12.00	Morning session (second half)
	14.00	Lunch
	16.00	Afternoon session (first half)
	17.30	Coffee break
	18.00	Afternoon session (second half)
	19.30	End of first day
	21.00	Dinner hosted by the General Secretary of the Region of Ionian Islands (to be confirmed)

**Sunday 30**

10.00	Morning session (first half)
11.30	Coffee break
12.00	Morning session (second half)
13.30	End of the Meeting
13.30	Lunch
15.30	Excursion or social program (optional)



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**DRAFT AGENDA**

1. Inter-university cooperation in the framework of the Adriatic - Ionian Initiative: Organizational structure and internal processes of the wider inter-university network.
2. The Virtual University UNIADRION and the inter-university cooperation in the framework of the Adriatic - Ionian Initiative.
3. Specific thematic areas of inter-university cooperation.
4. Programme of work during the Greek Presidency (until May 2002).
5. Financial support of the inter-university activities.
6. Regional strategies and the inter-university cooperation in the framework of the Adriatic - Ionian Initiative.
7. Other business.



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**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**Greek Presidency: Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs  
Mitropoleos 15, Athens 10185, Greece**

Mr. Dionyssis KLADIS  
Secretary for Higher Education  
Chairman of the Round Table  
phone: +30-10-3246748  
fax: +30-10-3246751  
e-mail: [kladis@ypepth.gr](mailto:kladis@ypepth.gr)

Mrs. Melina PAPADAKI  
Director of International Relations  
phone: +30-10-3229034  
fax: +30-10-3221090

Mrs. Despina BASSAKAROU  
Associate to the Secretariat for Higher Education  
phone: +30-10-3224627

Mr. Andreas KOULOURIS  
Directorate of International Relations  
Liaison person for organizational affairs  
phone: +30-10-3210156  
fax: +30-10-3236567  
e-mail: [des-a@ypepth.gr](mailto:des-a@ypepth.gr)

### **Liaison person**

Mr. Koulouris is the liaison person for any organizational information regarding the Corfu Meeting.

The information that we have asked as regards the head national representative of each country and the liaison person for the respective organizational contacts should be sent to Mr. Koulouris.

Mr. Koulouris is also responsible for collecting the proposals or any other documentation sent by the participants.

### **Registration**

All representatives and experts planning to attend the Meeting are kindly requested to fill the enclosed registration form and send it to Mr. Koulouris by the end of August 2001, so that we can prepare on time the list of participants and proceed to all the necessary organization and accommodation arrangements.

### **Accommodation**

Since the end of September is still high season for the island of Corfu, we have already booked a number of rooms in the Hotel Corfu Holiday Palace. The price per night is 25.000 drachmas (73,37 euros) for the single rooms and 30.000 drachmas (88,04 euros) for the double rooms. Breakfast is included in these prices.

### **Excursion or social programme**

The Meeting is scheduled to end by 13.30 on Sunday 30th September. For the participants planning to leave from Corfu on Monday, an excursion will be arranged for Sunday afternoon, according to the provisional programme. This event is not fixed yet, since we are still discussing several alternatives. However, we need to know how many participants are planning to follow this event on Sunday afternoon. This information should be included in the registration form as well.