

Adriatic-Ionic Initiative

Round Table on Post-Secondary Education

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Trieste, 7-8 May 2003

The participants note with satisfaction that the Virtual University of the Adriatic and Ionian Basin (UNIADRION) has already started its activity in favour of a closer cooperation among the Academic Centres of the Member States. At present the universities which are members of Uniadrion are 25 (Albania: 2; Croatia: 8; Serbia and Montenegro: 4; Greece: 3; Italy: 6; Slovenia: 2). Three new universities have already asked to be associated. The activities which are realized are the following: three Masters are dealing with “Sustainable Agricultural Development”, “Refurbishing and Conservation of the Architectural Heritage”, “Economical Aspects of a Sustainable Development in the sector of Transport”, a course on “Training of Experts for Programming and Managing Cultural Tourism” in the Adriatic-Ionian Area and other two new Research Projects. These results have to be strengthened and developed.

The participants have the common wish to extend this cooperation to other fields of post-secondary education and training, with particular reference to the ICT sector (Information Communication Technology).

The participants acknowledge the high commitment of the Italian Presidency in organising this important Round Table in which the relevance of higher technical training, mainly in the field of ICT, was highlighted and a European approach presented.

Participants are aware of the increasing need of highly skilled workers in their countries and are pleased to be informed on opportunities that allow to meet the demand from the labour market.

In particular the creation of virtual networks seems the best solution so far for improving co-operation between EU Member States, Acceding Countries and other Partner Countries

In these perspective, participants

1. commit themselves to immediately start the analysis at national level in order to define the sectors in which they need to develop a high level post-secondary training as a priority, to identify the national reference point that will bridge the virtual network to the centres of excellence in each sector;
2. are confident that the Italian Ministry of Education will facilitate their access to the existing virtual networks (e.g. those launched within the Leonardo da Vinci Programme) or the future ones;
3. call upon the EU authorities to step up their support to promote Higher Education in the Adriatic-Ionic area, as a means of improved economic growth and well being in the region, enhancement of the links with EU structures and EU countries, and therefore ensuring democracy, peace and stability.