



# UniAdrion

## *Virtual University of the Adriatic-Ionian Basin*

THIRD MEETING OF THE UNIADRION BOARD OF ADVISORS AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2003, IOANNINA-GREECE

### **WORKING AGENDA OF THE BOARD OF ADVISORS:**

- Opening Addresses by the Hosting Representative of the Board of Advisors;
- Report of two years activities carried out during the Presidency of the University of Bologna;
- Proposal and timing for the new UniAdrion Presidency;
- Revision of the UniAdrion Charter: a) new status of the Executive Secretariat of UniAdrion, b) associated Countries and Institutions (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, University of Skopje), c) co-ordination of the new UniAdrion projects;
- Evaluation of the requests submitted by new candidates Universities (Universities of Vlore, University of Zadar, University Ca' Foscari of Venice);
- UniAdrion promotional activities: website and brochure;
- Future Activities and Projects after 2004: Discussion and Proposals;
- Preparation of the Final Statement to be submitted to the General Assembly;
- Any other business.

The proceedings started at 10.00 a.m.

### **Afternoon Session: Meeting of the UniAdrion General Assembly**

The meeting began at 4.15 p.m.

### **WORKING AGENDA OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

- Opening Address by the Hosting President of UniAdrion General Assembly;
- Message by the President of UniAdrion and Presentation of the Final Statement issued by the Board of Advisors;
- Election of the new UniAdrion President;
- Evaluation of the requests of adherence of new Universities, (Universities of Vlore, University of Zadar, University Ca' Foscari of Venice);
- Training Courses Implementation: On-going and Foreseen Activities;
- Any other business.

On the basis of the conclusions of the meeting of the UniAdrion Board of Advisors, (morning session), the General Assembly has elaborated and approved the following Final Statement

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### *Final Statement*

The UniAdrion General Assembly met in December 12th 2003, in Ioannina under the Presidency of Prof. Pier Ugo Calzolari, Rector of the Bologna University.

The first implementation phase of the UniAdrion project (2002-2004) has been properly examined with reference to both the on-going and foreseen activities. A number of items have also been discussed with specific reference to: the revision of the UniAdrion Charter, the admission of new candidate universities and the examination of few organizational related aspects.

The main conclusions can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Eight sub-projects cover the first phase of the UniAdrion project; all of them will be concluded within the end of the year 2004 with a total expense 1.8 Millions €. Financial resources have been assured by the Italian government (80%) with a substantial contribution of the Universities. Up to December 2003 about 50% of the total budget has been spent and the remaining part of the funds will be engaged by the end of the year 2004.
- 2) Results obtained in the period 2002-2003 have been presented and recognized positive also in terms of committed people. About 200 persons have been engaged in different sub-projects: 110 professors/tutors and 80 students. It has to be underlined the well balanced share of the involvement of the different countries: about 50% of the teaching staff is referred to countries other than Italy.
- 3) With reference to the 2004 activities the physical commissioning of the Focal Points (FPs) deserves to be recalled as an aspect of a major importance. Within Spring 2004 the four FP in Belgrade, Rijeka, Sarajevo and Tirana will be operative and, as a consequence, one of the main target of the UniAdrion project will be obtained.
- 4) The UniAdrion Charter has been revised and approved by the Assembly with reference to:
  - Art. 3 (Associated Members): the sentence “-who do not have the legal status of Universities-” has been deleted thus offering also to the Universities to become Associate Members of UniAdrion;
  - Art. 7 (The Board of Advisors): at Point B “validation” is substituted by “validation and approval”;
  - Art. 8 (Executive Secretariat): reference to the CECOB (Centro per l’Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica) has been cancelled.

Should other modifications be proposed by the General Assembly members, formal proposals will be submitted by them to the Board of Advisors through the UniAdrion Executive Secretariat in order to prepare a comprehensive revision of the Charter. The revised documents will be eventually submitted to the 2004 Meeting of General Assembly.

- 5) According to the changes at the article 3 of the Charter, the General Assembly decided to formally accept the St. Cyrill and Methodius University of Skopje as UniAdrion “Associated Members”.
- 6) Three new Universities have been accepted in UniAdrion, namely: University of Ca’ Foscari, Venice; University of Vlore and University of Zadar. With these new entries UniAdrion is now counting 29 Institutions (Universities and related Research Centers).
- 7) Future activities have been preliminary discussed with specific reference to:

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- the Project Proposal “Environmental Education for Sustainable Development” to be implemented through the cooperation between UniAdrion and ROSTE-UNESCO;
- the professional-educational activities implemented by the Institute of Transport and Communication (in Igoumenitsa, Greece) headed by the University of Ioannina; those activities should be connected with training sub-projects implemented by the UniAdrion Network;
- the Project Proposal for the establishing of a virtual programme on both Health and Higher Education Management;
- the Project Proposal focused on implementing a data-base system referred to the cultural, architectural and territorial heritage of the Adriatic-Ionian cities; the starting data-base, already available, can be properly adapted thanks to both specific links and the UniAdrion web-site, as well as through direct agreements with the University of Ancona;
- the idea of connecting the University Centre in Environmental and Sustainable Development (in Prousos-Western Greece), now under construction, to the Bertinoro Centre (Forlì-Cesena) of Bologna University, aiming to establish a first step in the creation of a comprehensive Network among Universities and related Research Centers of the Adriatic-Ionian Basin;

In the General Assembly, however, a common agreement was reached about the importance of a proper conclusion of the all on-going sub-projects within the end of the year 2004.

- 8) The General Assembly underlines the opportunity in establishing proper connections with other Projects/Programmes promoted by different Institutions within the Central Eastern European Region. In particular the TEMPUS programme has been indicated as a clear example of the opportunity of a direct relationship between UniAdrion Universities and other Institutions.
- 9) As a clear and unique reference criterium the General Assembly pointed out that for any future educational development within the UniAdrion Project the different member Universities will participate as autonomous entities and operate according to their own national and institutional rules/regulations.
- 10) According to the temporary rules the General Assembly agreed on the keeping of the current government structure of UniAdrion until the end of the year 2004, thus concluding the first phase of the UniAdrion project implementation. Consequently, Prof. Pier Ugo Calzolari will keep his position as UniAdrion President until that date.

On the basis of the obtained and foreseen results the General Assembly expressed the expectation that a significant mention to UniAdrion will be contained in the final report of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative to be prepared as a conclusion of the Slovenian presidency in 2004.

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