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UNESCO Chair & Network on  
Sustainable Development,  
Management and Education in  
the Mediterranean

**3<sup>rd</sup> Working Meeting**  
**Network of Mediterranean Universities**  
**for Sustainable Development**  
**focusing on Education for Sustainable Development**  
**11 December 2011, Divani Acropolis Palace Hotel, Athens, 18.00 – 20.30**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

**(1)** The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of *the Network of Mediterranean Universities for Sustainable Development focusing on Education for Sustainable Development* that took place in Athens, on December 11, 2011, started with the welcoming of Prof Scoullos and the greeting message by the Vice Rector of the University of Athens, Prof. Thomas Sfikopoulos who emphasized the importance of the Network and reconfirmed the commitment of the new leadership of the University of Athens to it.

**(2)** Following the self-presentation by the participants, Prof Scoullos presented the latest developments of the Network for the last 1 ½ year, and namely:

(a) The establishment of the UNESCO Chair & Network for Sustainable Development, Management and Education in the Mediterranean, having among its basic goals, also, the promotion of the network and the Master on ESD

(b) The Universities Residential Training Workshop on the Sustainable University & the “whole institute approach” (Amfissa-Greece, May 2010) where 48 experts participated from the Baltic and the Mediterranean Networks.

(c) The production of the leaflet of the network (in four languages).

(d) The status of the membership of the network. Several Universities, i.e. the University of Boumerdes (Algeria), the Notre Damme University (Lebanon), the Technical University of Istanbul, the Frederick University of Cyprus, etc. have expressed their interest to participate.

**(3)** It was **agreed** that the network should be open for interested higher education institutes that fulfill the criteria- as described in the MoU - and that are agree to adopt and sign the MoU.

**(4)** Also the rejection of the Akdeniz University (Turkey) of signing the MoU was announced (nevertheless, the current University’s leadership might change in the upcoming elections, and there are good chances for the University to sign and join officially the network).

**(5)** The topic that was discussed in details concerned the proposed alternative models organizing the Master course on ESD. Firstly the participants were introduced with the three main proposed models of function, which are described herewith:

**MODEL A:** The “Originally proposed model” that is based on the “circular mobility” of a considerable number of “visiting” professors in the universities. These initial visiting professors will deliver their lectures in English in close cooperation with “national” professors in each university so that in the next year and the coming years, the “national” professors could continue the teaching onwards- eventually in their own language, and professors’ mobility will be substantially reduced. Of course, there will be provisions so that distance learning and web-learning will complement the teaching and learning processes.

**MODEL B:** The “Training of trainers” that instead of including the circular mobility of professors it is based on the three regional trainings of professors to take place in the preparatory year: One training in Athens (Balkan/European universities), one in a Maghreb country (Maghreb universities), and, one in a Middle East country (Middle East universities). Then, the professors will apply the course and teach the respective subjects in the universities in their countries. Again additional material and distance learning will complement the teaching and learning processes.

**MODEL C:** The BUP model that is followed by the Network of the Baltic Universities (BUP) and is based on the development of the common educational material (“course packages”) by interested universities-members in cooperation with the Secretariat. The course packages may include: textbooks, video material, internet resources & databases, seminars using ICTs, etc. *(the estimated budget of each proposal is included in the separate Excel file attached).*

A lot of discussion took place highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of the three models of function, acknowledging the economic aspects/funding options and the educational efficiency/quality as the very determining factors, in order to decide how to move on. Most participants appreciate the pedagogical value and innovative nature of Model A as well as its increased cost of implementation, at least in the first years (though it is cost-effective, at the end of the day). On the contrary, Model C (BUP model) provides the opportunity to start and go on with limited funds, or even, resources coming from the universities-members. Another option that was discussed, was to use combinations of the three Models, to the various phases of implementation, depending to available resources and funding.

**(6)** Taking into account all the aforementioned the group concluded to the following points:

- i. The network will continue working on the compilation of the basic content of the Master course; that is the Syllabus of all 16 subjects of the course. It is estimated that the “polished” syllabus for all subjects will be ready by the end of February–early in March of 2012 (in e-form) when it will be sent to all members. The members will have some ~ 1-2 months to provide the Secretariat with any comments, amendments, additions, etc.
- ii. The Syllabus will be send to all member-universities in order to be used to approve to accredit the master by their administration. All members will continue further promoting the project to their educational community.
- iii. The Secretariat with the support of the members will try to raise EU funds. If adequate funds are secured, Model A will be favored.
- iv. Those members who will be ready to start applying the master course – irrespectively from securing EU or other funds - will constitute the “core” group. Thus, they may start applying the master in the next year (2012) or the year after (2013) by delivering the lectures and lessons which will be recorded -to be further used by other universities members.
- v. Related material to the Syllabus of the various subjects can be used within the lessons i.e. the material that has been produced in the framework of the trainings of the H2020/Mediterranean Environment Programme/Capacity Building Programme (available at <http://www.webmail.h2020.net>)

- vi. The universities to be in the core group have to be decided soon. The Technical University of Catalonia, the University of Zagreb and the University of Athens have already expressed their will to proceed.
- vii. Another general point that was raised was to enhance the links of the Network with the EMUNI (Euro-Mediterranean University) and seek for opportunities for synergies, common projects, etc.
- viii. Interest was expressed for organization of Mediterranean Master course on Water Management. The UNESCO-IHE, the Universities of Catalonia, Athens and others expressed their keen interest for such course.
- ix. The status of development of the draft Syllabus of the Master course was discussed. The majority of the subjects are ready or almost ready. Only three (3) subjects are still pending and these are:
  - x. (3rd) Introduction to socio-economic systems & interaction with ecosystems
  - xi. (4th) Basics of sustainable management including technologies
  - xii. (11th) ESD, Communication and Public Awareness on SD/ Cooperation of School, Society, University, Industry and ESD
  - xiii. (15th) ESD as a tool of Sustainable Development Policy (MDGs, MSSD, etc.).
- xiv. It was decided to ask the responsible professors of the aforementioned pending courses if they are still interested to develop them; otherwise, the rest of the group will proceed. Prof Scoullou and Prof Koprivanak may elaborate on the 4<sup>th</sup> and if necessary, Prof Scoullou will prepare a draft also for the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>. Prof Valavanides (UoA) offered to contribute in the enrichment of bibliographic references.

(7) The meeting was concluded with the interactions of Prof Mrabet, the President of the University Mohamed V Souissi and other participants expressing their commitment to the work of the network and thanking the organizers for the meeting.