

**Joint Statement
of
Fourth Round Table on Culture, Education and Inter-university Co-operation
Split, 24 May 2001**

We delegates and participants from the Participating States of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative in the 4th Round Table on Culture, Education and Inter-university Co-operation convened in Split at the meeting chaired by Ms Naima Balić, Assistant Minister of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and co-chaired by Prof. Dimitrios Glaros, Vice-rector of the University of Ioannina on 24 May 2001

AWARE of the need for greater understanding among the Participating Countries for the purpose of, *inter alia*, safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are our common heritage;

AIMING AT encouraging synergy, co-ordination and complementarity among the Adriatic and Ionian Participating Countries;

HAVING RECOGNIZED the importance of regional co-operation in the field of science, culture and education for the development of the Region and its contribution to the European integration of the Region;

HAVING RESOLVED to strengthen the co-operation in the fields of science, culture and education by joint projects, which can create a homogeneous, multilateral pattern of co-operation through shared content and objectives;

DETERMINED TO foster peace and security in the Adriatic and Ionian region by promoting the scientific, cultural and educational co-operation and by exploiting the cultural heritage common to the states of Europe

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS

1. The Participating Countries shall encourage development of higher education and research focal points unifying regional projects and promote networks of excellence as well as inter-university and research centers.
2. The Participating Countries shall support the development of the university network UNIADRION sharing the knowledge and experience of all the Participating Countries and improving their co-operation in the higher education and research areas.
3. The Participating Countries shall promote co-operation in the area of health using advanced methodologies and technologies.
4. The inter-university co-operation of Adriatic-Ionian Initiative can benefit by adopting a common credit system and joint diplomas following the spirit of the European universities.

5. The Participating Countries agreed to encourage the research in the field of Archives classifying Adriatic-Ionian issues as a part of the Mediterranean region with a view to new technologies.
The Participating Countries identified as their common objectives publishing the Guide to Historical Sources of the Adriatic and Ionian Region and establishing the UNIADRION Network Archives.
6. The Participating Countries shall take appropriate measures to safeguard and encourage co-operation in the field of cultural heritage through new methodologies of classification of cultural heritage.
7. The Participating Countries shall facilitate research on ancient theatres in the countries of the Adriatic and Ionian region as a part of protection and revitalisation of cultural heritage.
8. Each Participating Country through networks shall develop and implement ecological research and environmental education.
9. The Participating Countries shall work on revitalization of abandoned school-buildings along the coast in order to launch various youth programmes.
10. The Participating Countries shall examine the possibility to promote primary and secondary school-level Centres of excellence with special regards to vocational education, e.g: standards, certification and evaluation indicators.
11. The conclusions, as regards projects proposed within the framework of the 4th Round Table of the Adriatic and Ionian initiative, are as follows:

- *The projects identified for co-operation are to be brought to the attention of the national and international investors and donors active in the area. The working group co-ordinators are to be tasked with looking for institutional investors and donors and proposing every initiative that may be useful for carrying out the identified projects;*
- *The proposed projects are to be submitted to the European Commission for financial support, in the years to come, since the European Commission has shown an outstanding interest in the Adriatic – Ionian Initiative and will carefully consider the proposed projects for eventual funding.*