

RAVENNA DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERUNIVERSITY NETWORK UNIADRION

(IN THE FRAME OF THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN INITIATIVE)

We participants in the International Conference “Culture as a Bridge: Interuniversity Co-operation in the Adriatic-Ionian Basin”, which took place in Ravenna on Dec- 15-16, 2000 ,on the initiative of Bologna and Ancona University, have decided to establish a Virtual University of the Adriatic-Ionian Region, following the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative started in Ancona as a result of the May 19-20, 2000, Conference attended by the Foreign Ministers of the coastal countries.

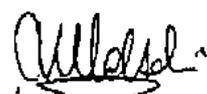
We agree that the Virtual University will be named UNIADRION and will be organised with governing bodies of its own to be later defined and will be situated in Ravenna. UNIADRION and will utilise its own telematic network and carry on common research and training projects aiming to promote regional dialogue and co-operation for well-balanced development, stability and integration, in view of the enlargement of the European Union.

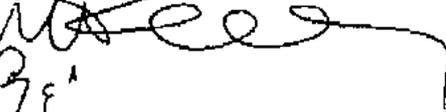
We the participants agree that UNIADRION should be implemented in the near future and identify the following four points on which to focus our commitment in the, way specified below:

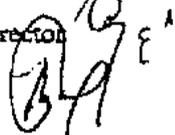
1. UNIADRION necessitates its own bodies which in the transitory phase, while getting underway will be constituted by a Steering Committee consisting of the University Rectors, or their delegates, from the Universities attending the Ravenna Conference and undersigning this document. Since UNIADRION is an open institution, it is possible for other Universities of the Adriatic-Ionian Region to join in if they sign this document within Jan. 31, 2001. The Committee's main task will be to define UNIADRION's governing bodies and start the telematic, network itself. As regards the governing bodies, they will be, defined by Apr. 30. 2001
2. As far as the telematic network Supporting the activities is concerned, we participant commission the techno-scientific group formed within the Ravenna Conference to set up and define a techno-economic feasibility blueprint that will be binding for the undersigning Universities. The blueprint will be presented within Feb. 28, 2001 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of university, Scientific and Technological Research of the Italian Republic as well as to the Government of the Hellenic Democracy in order to obtain appropriate funds. The same group is entrusted with the search for the suitable focal points, at least one in each country.
3. We participants agree on the importance and special visibility of, as well as the unifying common interest in the Adriatic-Ionian Virtual Archive, to be created by reorganising the files and networking the artistic, book and documentary heritage of the enters Region with the contribution of all the scientific and cultural institution involved, requesting also Unesco's support.
4. The participants agree likewise that the projects to set up *UNIADRION* can be picked out among those discussed and defined in the Work Committees at the Conference guided by the ideas specified in the documents presented. In order to put into practice these projects for interuniversity co-operation, we apply to the European Commission for active support on account of the fact that the, *Adriatic-Ionian Initiative* acts in our common interest to strengthen stability and enhance human rights democracy, intellectual and professional growth in view of European integration. Since UNIADRION originates from the idea of co-

ordinating and upgrading an already existing number of multilateral interuniversity activities (didactic projects, master courses, shared research project) that involve countries of the Adriatic-Ionian Region, we participants deem it advisable, to begin by strengthening and widening such activities, especially in their organisation and financing, because they are fertile ground already favouring regional connection. In order not to disperse all this wealth and taking into account the amount of time necessary to plan and evaluate new projects, we participants think that the European Commission should support as from now the existing regional projects through its programmes Tempus, Socrates, Leonardo, Card Interreg III, and through the DG programmes. UNIADRION expresses its interest in developing a strong academic co-operation with similar actions promoted by the European Commission within the framework of the Stability Pact or other University's networks.

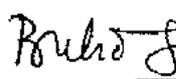
Undersigning this documents are the University rectors, or their delegates, taking part in the Conference and other participants:

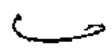
Pier Ugo Calzolari, University of Bologna, Rector 

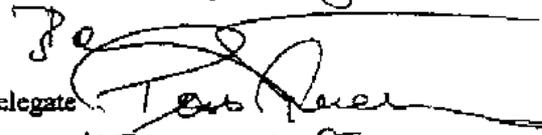
Marco Pacetti, University of Ancona, Rector 

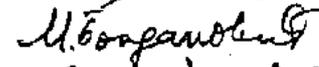
Dimitris Glaros, University of Ioannina, Pro-rector 

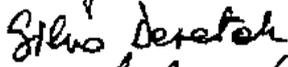
Boris Tih, University of Sarajevo, Rector, 

Susana Bubic, Dzemal Bijedic University, Mostar, Pro-Rector 

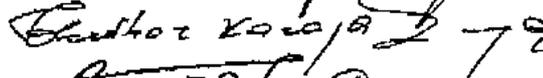
Ivo Babic, University of Split, Rector 

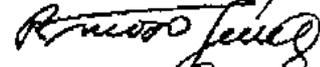
Paolo Inchingolo, University of Trieste, Rector Delegate 

Marija Bogdanovic, University of Belgrade, Rector 

Silvo Devetak, University of Maribor, Rector Delegate 

Milena Dragicevic-Sesic, University of Arts, Belgrade, Rector 

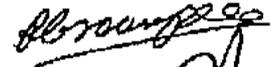
Theodor Karaja, University of Tirana, Rector Delegate 

Radomir Vukasojevic, University of Podgorica, Pro-Rector 

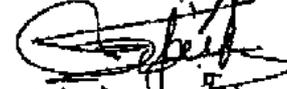
Srbjanka Turajlic, Alternative Academic Educational Network, President 

Damir Grubisa, Institut of International Relations, Zagreb 

Primoz Kerkoc, University Center, Koper 

Petros Groumbos, University of Patras 

Christos Fotopoulos, University of Ioannina - Agrinion 

Michael N. Pisanias, University of Patras 

Pappas Theodoros, Ionian University 

UNIVERSITY OF MOSTAR, (SVEUCILISTE U MOSTARU)
in behalf of rector, Pier Ugo Calzolari

The representatives of governmental agencies/institutions who attended the Conference express their
adhesion and support to the document:

Ethem Ruka, Albanian Minister of Education and Science, Tirana

Davor Butkovic, Deputy Minister for Science and Education, Zagreb

Melina Papadoki, International Relations Department, Ministry of Education, Athens

Loredana Boljun Debeljuh, Vice-President of the Istrian Regional Government

Giovanni Marocco, Ministero degli Esteri, Roma

Stefano Mistretta, Ministero degli Esteri, Roma

Muhamed Mehmedović
Console Generale Bosnia Erzegovina, Milano

Ravenna, 16 of December 2000.