

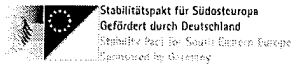
**Higher Education Reform Projects
in South Eastern Europe**
HRK Commitment 1999-2006

Beiträge zur Hochschulpolitik 6/2007

This publication contains presentations of higher education projects and funding possibilities, which were given in a South Eastern European Seminar in Kotor, Montenegro, in September 2006. Most of the presented projects result from the active support of higher education development in South Eastern Europe carried out by the HRK and its partner institutions over the period 1999-2006.

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Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje on the road to the EHEA

Prof. Dr. Boris Krstev

University of Skopje, Macedonia

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje was founded in 1949 and today it consists of 23 different faculties and 11 research institutes. The language of instruction is Macedonian, however some courses are taught in the minority languages and English language for some postgraduate courses. The University organizes postgraduate studies on 17 different faculties and two research institutes with total of 148 disciplines. During the academic 2005-2006 the university has enrolled about 40 000 students.

Bologna

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje is actively following the Bologna Process, accepting the Bologna Declaration as platform for integrating in European higher education area with the following priorities:

- Development and securing the *academic autonomy*
- Introducing *Credit Transfer System*
- Harmonization and *compatibility of the study programs* with the EU model of university
- System of Quality assurance with *evaluation and accreditation* of the higher education institutions and study programs
- Student and academic staff *mobility*
- *Competitiveness* at home and abroad

TEMPUS Assistance for compatibility development of education

Since the PHARE program establishment in the Republic of Macedonia in 1996, the European Commission supports an intensive cooperation between the higher education institutions in EU member states and Central and South Eastern Europe.

In that context, the TEMPUS program should be highlighted as the most powerful instrument for the support of the higher education institutions

which should play an active role in the creation of the European Higher Education Area in accordance with the Bologna Declaration as a founding document and a strategy for Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. The mobility promotion and students' participation strengthening in the intensive East-West and West-East mobility is immanent to the TEMPUS activities.

Within the TEMPUS program on a national level the cooperation has been realized by 74 Joint European Projects and 20 Compact and Structural Measures. About 330 grants have been awarded for mobility of the academic and administrative staff.

The overall financial support of the European Commission within the TEMPUS program amounts to 27.3 million euros.

UNIVERSITY NETWORKS

The University is actively participating in the following networks:

- Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje has become a member of **UNICA-Network of Universities of the Capitals of Europe**. This is a network of 41 European universities and it stands for capacity of 131 000 teachers and 1.5 million students.
- Our University has maintained the cooperation with the **Inter-university Center CIRCEOS** located in Bari, Italy in the field of filology and culture.
- The University is the founding member of the **Balkan Academic Network** which was established in April 2006 and will be administered by the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece.
- **Central Eastern University Network** in the field of business management, macroeconomics, education and culture, international politics and security, EU studies
- The University **Mobility Network MIREES** within the INTERREG III program with Bologna University in Italy
- **CEI Uni Net** – Network of the Universities of the member countries of the Central European initiative promoting interuniversity cooperation in the countries of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe by supporting academic mobility and introducing joint programs such as PhD and Master studies in English.