

14 POINTS: YEREVAN DECLARATION OF PARTNER UNIVERSITIES ON THE PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Preamble

Education is a universal value, which contributes to a deeper interpersonal, confessional and international understanding, improves the quality of life and creates sustainable benefits for present and future generations.

Education, based on the use of new communication and innovative technologies, cooperation and intercultural dialogue, creates unprecedented opportunities and poses a challenge for science society.

Today, when it is already possible to envisage the future academic achievement, there is a need for active discussion on the working out and the use of new approaches to the development of higher education and the elaboration of new institutional strategies in the field of education and science.

We, the participants of the Rectors' Conference, who have met in Yerevan, Armenia, November 16, 2010, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Yerevan State Linguistic University "Bryusov"

Taking into account

- the fact that in the XXI century education should become public knowledge for the benefit of all peoples;
- the urgent need to improve the scientific potential of universities and their integration into the international creative economy;

- recommendations and conditions of the Bologna, Lisbon Conferences, the Declaration of the "Universities of Europe after 2010" (2005), the European Charter of Universities (2008), Prague Declaration (2009), and the Declarations of Graz (2003, 2010) about the call to improve the overall management of universities, develop adequate educational programs and meet the needs of a dynamic market;
- the need to establish a new relationship between education, science and society to address global challenges;
- that information and communication technologies provide an opportunity for greater collaboration and integration of existing resources;

Proclaim the following

1. Universities perform a pivotal role in the implementation of innovative tasks in order to create a common area through training, based on the results of fundamental research. Strategies for the next decade must be revised and developed to enhance the role of education and science within the new context of globalization processes.
2. Considering the development of partnerships between the universities it is necessary to put a new impetus to inter-university cooperation by continuing the further development of joint training programs, as well as by working out new structures and strategies of international exchange at university, national and international levels.
3. The work on the development of scientific potential of the universities should be based on the regional and international cooperation, first of all, carried out by long-term joint projects. The use of information and communication technologies through the establishment of networks should be expanded as a means of promoting the free dissemination of knowledge.
4. The improvement of the structure and the content of training programs, the opening of new directions for the preparation of staffing needs of a knowledge society, the development of lifelong education, expansion of the structure of innovative

development and training, support and comprehensive development of the leading scientific and pedagogical schools as the foundation of high-quality university education at all levels requires close and constructive cooperation between universities in order to successfully complete the initiated reforms and provide favorable conditions for the new projects.

5. A new worldview experience associated with contemporary processes of globalization and internationalization puts the cultural meanings and symbols of all ages and peoples into a state of permanent intercultural polylogue, ensuring mutual understanding and social solidarity among peoples. Intensification of intercultural dialogue contributes to the inter-ethnic cohesion, enhances the role of language learning and the spread of multilingualism. The expansion of intercultural communication determines the leading role of higher education in the development of cultural, social and economic relations between countries, nations and peoples.

6. The core of the modern humanitarian education is to foster shaping of civic identity, which is characterized by the interaction of universal and national components in a multicultural mechanism of value perception of the world, knowledge and understanding of intercultural communicative aspects of the language which ensure successful communication and social adaptation.

7. The development of a common approach to quality assurance and improvement of language education in all types of higher education institutions, harmonization of training programs are a key factor in developing a unified European Higher Education Area.

8. Development of innovative trends in linguistics has a unique humanitarian-applied value and ensures the formation of a new humanitarian thinking and social behavior. The concentration of research capability on the language and culture is a prerequisite for intellectual breakthrough in understanding the socio-political, cultural and confessional processes, and it fosters the formation of new patterns of development of countries and communities. The change in human needs and interests leads to the

construction of a new model of the world that is inevitably reflected in the language and in its specialized professional subsystems.

9. The paradigm of learning "the language through culture and culture through the language" opens up new prospects of understanding of modern social processes, the awareness of the role of common values of human civilization, as well as national and regional cultures. The multidimensional nature of the relation of language and culture, their relationship and interaction actualize the problem of understanding in the intercultural dialogue. The necessity of creating global peace attaches special importance to education and creates new opportunities for the actualization of interdisciplinary and intercultural relations which open new prospects for the development of language and humanistic education.

10. Universities should integrate and develop the research component at all levels of education, which allows forming a new generation of people capable of thinking and a multilateral response to the challenges of a changing world. In this regard, the mission of the partner universities is to promote further development of joint research strategies and their initiated policies.

11. Development of joint programs for quality control of university programs and their implementation, the formation of inter-university committees on quality audit in higher education will form the basis of mutual trust and closer cooperation between the partner universities.

12. Development and expansion of links between universities through the exchange of students and training will enhance long-term relationships, sharing experiences and information between the partner universities.

13. Attracting students to the elaboration of new approaches in higher education promotes their critical thinking and active participation in educational processes. The establishment of inter-university services, associations of students' support is one of the most important areas of strengthening the partnership between the universities.

14. We, the participants of Rectors' Conference - representatives of partner-universities, different cultures and civilizations of the East and the West, Europe and Asia, with different cultural and historical traditions, believe that

- higher education has common goals and objectives and does not admit any division or discrimination,
- the declaration is a practical expression of the new commitment to strengthening the inter-university relations and may in the years serve as a strategic guide for partnership within the framework of cooperation between the partner universities – the participants of the Conference. It is open to accession by all the universities that share the above-mentioned principles.

Yerevan, 16 November, 2010

Yerevan State Linguistic University "Bryusov"

