

**REPORT OF ACTIVITY**  
**July 2000- September 2002**

The Congress that we already have closed has been initiated and prepared since two years, and represents a milestone in the future development of our Network. We have agreed that quality management is a crucial issue for the future development of our cooperative academic programs. This activity will be continued on a regular basis at the BSUN Center ACADEMICON, which was established at Middle East Technical University and I am in charge with the coordination of it. I had the opportunity to meet here in Baku specialists whom I consider extremely valuable, and I shall invite to join the International Steering Committee of ACADEMICON Center. The Committee will be invite in Ankara in the first decade of December 2002 and we shall prepare our program and the system of procedures. My plan is to initiate the process of quality assessment of programs proposed by the BSUN member Universities. This process will be initiated as Quality Price starting with 2003. I could say that the contacts I had and the activities in the last two years led me towards this goal. A detailed report of my activity has been prepared in extenso and will be published together with the documents of the Congress. Please allow me now just to make a summary of it and to share with you some of my impressions.

In 2000 at the BSUN Congress when I was elected as the BSUN President, I was very excited. I was coming after two mandates as the Rector of the Middle East Technical University. METU is a university with a special status in the Turkish Higher Education. It was developed based on the American model of Universities. From the structure of the Programs and curricula, to staff selection, administration and management, everything is following the most advanced models in the world. For me it was very challenging to compare my experience with the variety of the systems existing in the Black Sea Region.

The first thing I did was to ask the permission of the METU Senate for two years of sabbaticals in order to dedicate most of my time to the BSUN problems. I would like to present my gratitude to the Members of the Senate for their understanding.

To prepare the future strategy, the first visit was to Bucharest. Romania is the country that had initiated the BSUN and I was very interested to understand

their vision and expectations. Also, Romania had many benefits of the contacts with the Russian Universities and science but followed the classical European model of Universities. In February 2001, I invited some members of the Executive Board in Bucharest and had meetings with rectors of Universities, members of the Romanian Parliament, the Minister of Education and Research and The President of Romania, Mr. Ion Iliescu. It was very instructive and during the rest of my mandate I have tried to take into consideration most of the suggestions.

During the proceedings of the Executive Board meeting in Rhodes, organized by Prof. Kaila and hosted by University of the Aegean, there was adopted the Framework Program orienting the BSUN activity towards the University – Community Partnership. Under this program, a first project was initiated with Koc Group on Technology Parks in the Black Sea Region. In this respect, on April 2001, the first meeting between the BSUN Rectors and the Business Community was organized in Constantza. After these debates Mr. Rahmi Koc, accepted to promote this project under the SECI programs.

I consider that the Turkish and Greek Universities could and should be one of the main cooperation engines of BSUN. We have too many things in common. I would like to express my gratitude to Prof Kaila and to the rectors of the Greek universities for their openness. In this way it was possible to initiate graduate programs and exchange programs of students and academic staff. Step by step this process will develop a cooperation stream that will involve other universities of the region.

The Executive Board Meeting in Odessa, organized by Prof. Pritula and hosted by Odessa State Academy of Refrigeration had as a major output the initiation of the BSUN Project for a Report on Higher Education in the Black Sea Region. 11 teams mainly from the Ministries of Education and BSUN members, have prepared country reports. All this work was organized and followed by our International Permanent Secretariat in Constantza and in this way it was possible to obtain the reports and gather them in Taganrog. I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts made by the national teams and Country Rapporteurs for preparing these reports. Prof. Karkishchenko and his team assembled the reports and transferred the final report to Prof. Melnichyuk and Prof Samotokin at Zhitomir in Ukraine to be printed. With the support of the Azerbaijan Embassy in Kiev the Report will be transferred to Baku to be launched during the BSUN Congress. I was not thinking that an operation like this works. But, it worked and this has two meanings. On one side this means that we have very valuable colleagues and we could trust them to start major projects and on the other side this means that in Constantza we have a strong and effective team operating at regional level.

By joint efforts of Prof. Karkishchenko and Prof. Yefremov, as a cooperation between Taganrog State University of Radio Engineering and Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, the Executive Board Meeting was organized in Sochi under outstanding conditions. We agreed on the basic principles of the Statute and defined the program of BSUN Congress.

A very happy surprise came from Kiev. In June 2002, Prof. Pavlenko invited me to the foundation of the first BSUN Consortium. The Consortium of Universities in Economics initiated by the Kiev National University of Economics in cooperation with other universities of the region, prepares the future structuring of our network activity based on common interests and also establish a partnership with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation as an equal member of this family.

At the end of my mandate, allow me to present my gratitude to all rectors of the member universities, their collaborators, members of the Executive Board and to many other professors and students that shared with me the joy I feel as part of this community.

A special word I have for professor Bavaru, the former President of BSUN for his support, ideas and efforts in helping me. We worked as a team and we became close friends.

I would like to assure you and the Executive Board Members of all my support for the future activities, and let us hope that the steps we did will be continued in the future.

Prof. Suha Sevuk, BSUN President