

THE FIRST BSUN FRAMEWORK PROGRAM 1999-2000

The Executive Board held a Meeting on December 11, 1998, in Bucharest in order to establish a systemic approach for the development of the Black Sea Universities Network, and decided to organize the activity on framework-programs covering two or three years. Based on the aim and objectives of the Black Sea Universities Network, the framework-program has to be structured on a set of priorities, and establish some specific targets. At the same meeting, the following components of the 1st Framework Program were approved:

1. Regional sustainable development.
2. Compatibility and communications improvement within the Network.
3. Academic co-operation.

Component 1 REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The results of the research that has been done concerning the future of the academic institutions point to the fact that the University should be better integrated into the community life and should play an active part in solving the major problems of the region. Although each country has its specific problems, there are, however, common regional characteristics - such as:

- insufficient resources;
- obsolete technology;
- polluted environment;
- inadequate economic structures and general outdated mentalities.

For the reasons mentioned above, the concept that seems the most appropriate for the future development of the region is – as generally acknowledged at the moment – the concept of *sustainable development*.

The concept of sustainable development is based on the principle that the economy of a country or a region is more than the arithmetic sum of its components and the changes that occur in the subsystem could generate significant and some times dramatic changes in the whole system due to the dynamic relations between the components of the system. Starting from the main driving forces that influence the development process (population, natural resources and environment, agriculture, industry, pollution) the strategy of sustainable development tries to find the most appropriate optimization criteria for the relation between needs and resources, targets and required means, based on the mutual compatibility in time and space. In this way, the concept of an economic environment is defined which is in a dynamic compatibility with natural environment by its inputs and outputs, and at the same time, is compatible with the needs and interests of present and future generations.

This concept relies on a detailed study of the problems in a region in order to identify the relations between many different factors. All these relations are also studied in connection with their impact on the environment. Sustainable development shifts its attention from high return rate development to long range development, from profit-oriented businesses to environmental protection-oriented businesses.

The projects that have been included in this component of the Program are:

1. Energy consumption and environmental protection;
2. Environmental impact of industrial processes.
3. Intermodal transportation.
4. Development of partnership between the university and the business community.
5. Environmental management of hotels and restaurants
6. Regional stock and commodities exchange
7. Development of the SME sector.

1. Energy consumption and environmental protection

In 1998, "Ovidius" University together with Duke University, USA organized the NATO Advanced Study Institute "Thermodynamics and Optimization of the Complex Energy Systems". The Institute gathered 100 participants from NATO and partner countries, who reviewed the principles of Energy Systems and the methods of analysis and optimization of complex energy systems, which had been developed in NATO countries and in NATO partner countries.

New and valuable achievements that could improve the efficiency of complex energy systems were outlined. To this effect, "Ovidius" University, Constantza decided to set up a Center for Advanced Thermal Engineering, which will focus on:

- analysis and optimization methods;
- reliability of thermo-mechanical systems;
- thermo-economics;
- environmental impact of complex energy systems.

Among the activities planned for 1999, mention should be made of:

- 1.1. A two-week short certificate course on "Exergy Analysis" conducted by Professor Eugene Iantovski from Aachen University, Aachen, Germany.
- 1.2. A course on "The Restructuring of Energy Production and Distribution Companies", jointly organized with the Bavarian Center for East-West Management Training, Germany;
- 1.3. A study on the reduction of pollutant emissions by car engines jointly organized with the Technical University of Baku, Azerbaijan.
- 1.4. A one week workshop on: "Power generation for the 21st Century: efficient, cheap, clean " with Professor Phillippe Mathieu from University of Liege, Belgium;
- 1.5. A Summer School on " Energy accounting" organized by Professor Faruk Arinc from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.

2. Environmental impact of industrial processes

In 1996, "Ovidius" University organized the International Symposium on *the Co-operation in Marine Industry and Marine Environment Protection*.

Held annually, the Symposium gathered specialists from universities, research institutes, and industry. The Symposium was conceived as an opportunity to report results, initiate contacts and collaborations, and provide a 'think tank' for related governmental bodies.

Activities planned for 1999:

- 2.1. Studies on the environmental impact of industrial processes in shipyards. The studies are initiated in collaboration with Southampton Institute.
- 2.2. The fourth edition of the Symposium *Co-operation in Marine Industry and Marine Environmental Protection*, that will be organized this year together with the Technical University of Varna;
- 2.3. Summer School on "The Engineering of Vibration Isolation" jointly organized with Istanbul Technical University, Turkey and University "Dunarea de Jos" of Galatzi, Romania.

3. Intermodal transportation

The Black Sea Area will be included, in the future, in a multimodal transportation network. For this reason, it is very important to undertake studies and research on developing facilities and potentials to connect maritime, road, railroad, pipelines and air transportation.

The first contacts for the study were made with Old Dominion University of Norfolk and it was agreed that as soon as funds are available, a consortium with the institutions in the Black Sea Area would be set up.

Activities planned for 1999:

- 3.1. Autumn School on "Intermodal Transportation" with Southampton Institute, U.K. and Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands;

4. The development of the partnership between the university and the business community

"Ovidius" University is a member of the Strategic Alliance of Business Associations. In this respect, in the last two years OUC organized workshops, seminars and trade missions together with the members of the business community.

At the same time, two series of TV programs were prepared by OUC in 1997 to present the achievements and the problems of the business community.

Activities planned for 1999:

- 4.1. Training activities in entrepreneurial management together with the Bavarian Center for East- West Management Training and Brest Urban Community.
- 4.2. Planned INTERNET connection among business communities through virtual trade missions, video conferences and other INTERNET tools organized with The Global Enterprise Group from Chevy Chase, Maryland.
- 4.3. Partnership with the World Bank Group. In 1998 a representative of OUC was invited by the World Bank Group to participate in a training session on the structures and programs of the World Bank so as an Information Office about the World Bank Programs could be set up at "Ovidius" University, Constantza.

5. Environmental management of hotels and restaurants

In 1997, OUC initiated a project for the development of an Information Center for the Black Sea Coast Tourism Services. The project was granted by EU PHARE Program and will end this year after having set up the INFOLITORAL Network of offices and constructed a web site.

In 1998, OUC was selected for the implementation of a course development unit under the United Nations *Train Sea Coast* Program.

A representative of the OUC was trained as a course developer and now, a team of OUC and Black Sea University Foundation staff are working for the first course on *Environment and Tourism for Hotel Managers*.

Activities planned for 1999:

- 5.1 In March, a course on "Methods and Procedures for Environmental Management for Hotels in the Coastal Area" is scheduled with the support of the United Nations.
- 5.2 Research on tourism development and on the environmental impact in the Black Sea Area is organized with the Bavarian Centre for East-West Management Training.

6. Regional stock and commodities exchange

A very well known problem of the Black Sea Region is the weakness of financial resources. The countries of the Region, excepting Turkey and Greece are classified as emerging and pre-emerging markets. The main reason is being their undeveloped economy, investment environment and lack of knowledge and regulation. Together with Istanbul University it was agreed to start a special program of short courses and internships for undergraduate and graduate students.

Activities planned for 1999:

- 6.1. A short certificate course on "Portfolio Analyses in Emerging and Pre-emerging Markets" with Professor Mehmet Sukru Tekbas from Istanbul University, Turkey and Senator Viorel Pana, President of Bucharest Stock Exchange, Romania;
- 6.2. A series of internships at Istanbul Stock Exchange.

7. The development of the SME sector

"Ovidius" University has been involved in many activities to support the SMEs. Most of them were counseling activities at the Management Counseling Centre in Business, or training sessions, trade missions and studies.

At the moment, OUC's strategy to support SMEs will focus on the following directions:

- the improvement of the counseling services with implementation of a quality assurance system;
- the development of a training modular program tailored on SME;
- the development of a technological platform that will support SMEs;
- a systemic action plan to encourage the exports of SMEs.

Planned activities:

- 7.1. A package of training modules in entrepreneurship and management of SMEs.
- 7.2. Virtual trade missions and business contacts via the INTERNET.
- 7.3. The development of an IT Platform for SMEs.
- 7.4. A workshop on SMEs Sector in the Black Sea Region with Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey and Konrad Adenauer Shiftung, Germany.

7.5. An INTERNET Club of Black Sea Region Entrepreneurs

Component 2 COMPATIBILITY AND COMMUNICATIONS IMPROVEMENT WITHIN THE NETWORK

In order to set up the communication infrastructure of the Network, each country must have a focal point and a person responsible for the contacts within the Network. The projects that are included in this component are the following:

1. A system of regular meetings of the responsible persons from focal points;
2. The BSUN web-site;
3. A guideline for the communication procedures.

1. A system of regular meetings of the responsible persons from focal points

On a trimestrial basis, by rotation, each focal point will organize a regular meeting of responsible persons. The reason for these meetings is the necessity of sharing information and updates.

2. The BSUN web-site

The BSUN web-site will be operational at the end of January 1999. For this purpose, the persons responsible for each focal point have to send the required information.

3. A guideline for the communication procedures

An appointed team will have to design the procedures for the communication among the member universities.

Component 3 ACADEMIC CO-OPERATION

Academic co-operation will be, in the end, the major achievement for the member universities. We believe that high-priority activities are:

1. A multilateral agreement between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation countries on mutual diploma recognition.
2. Improving compatibility in terms of universities' curricula.
3. The development of a pilot project for a "School Laboratory".
4. A program of Summer Schools that should have in the end a system of recording transferable credits.
5. Setting up three Master of Science programs.

1. A multilateral agreement between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation countries on mutual diploma recognition

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation has recommended to the member countries to sign a multi-sided agreement on Diploma recognition. The discussions that Professor Bavaru had in Istanbul with Vassil Baytchev came to the conclusion that everything is prepared for such an agreement. Professor Andrei Marga Romanian Minister of Education participating at the works of the Executive Board Meeting has presented the latest updates regarding the Mutual Agreements on Diploma Recognition in the Region and the plans of the Romanian Ministry of Education for further steps.

2. Improving compatibility in terms of universities' curricula

Based on the major areas of interests, the member universities have to decide on certain areas of specialization where they should exchange information about their curricula in order to favor student and staff mobility.

3. The development of a pilot project for a "School Laboratory"

As the participants in the second Conference of the BSUN Rectors had been informed, the University Of Northern Iowa proposed to start a project on the development of a "School Laboratory"

4. A program of Summer Schools that should have in the end a system of recording transferable credits

Each member university will propose a number of Summer Schools that will be included in the Program of the Network.

Activities planned for 1999:

- A. A summer course in "American Literature" with University of Northern Iowa and with City University of New York;
- B. A summer course in "Romanian Culture and Civilization".

5. Setting up three Master of Science programs

The discussions with Middle East Technical University have shown that it is possible to start a Master of Science Program in Energy and Environment. Also, with Bosphorus University the possibilities have been discussed for a Master Program in Sustainable Development.

The Executive Board has appointed the International Permanent Secretariat to contact all the member universities and to look for proposals in order to complete the present program till the meeting of May 1999. At the same time, the International Permanent Secretariat has to prepare a detailed description of the activities, responsible persons and funding resources.

The proposal of Professor Suha Sevuk to organize a Black Sea Forum of University Students had been approved. So, Middle East Technical University will organize in 2000 a three day Forum of Students of the Black Sea Countries with the participation of a group of 5 students and one professor from each country.