

The following is the list of signatories of the present **DECLARATION**:

1	Agricultural University of Tirana	Albania
2	University of Elbasan	Albania
3	Graz University of Technology	Austria
4	University of Banja Luka	Bosnia and Herzegovina
5	University 'Džemal Bijedić' Mostar	Bosnia and Herzegovina
6	University of Mostar	Bosnia and Herzegovina
7	University of Split	Croatia
8	University of Zadar	Croatia
9	Juraj Dobrila University of Pula	Croatia
10	Technological Educational Institute of Epirus	Greece
11	University of Ioannina	Greece
12	Ionian University	Greece
13	University of Patras	Greece
14	University of Bologna	Italy
15	University of Camerino	Italy
16	Technical University of Marche	Italy
17	University of Trieste	Italy
18	University of Udine	Italy
19	University of Urbino	Italy
20	University of Campania	Italy
21	University of Genua	Italy
22	University of Foggia	Italy
23	University of Insubria	Italy
24	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Italy
25	University of Naples	Italy
26	University of Piemonte Orientale	Italy
27	University of Teramo	Italy
28	University of Palermo	Italy
29	University of Milano-Bicocca	Italy
30	University of Tuscia	Italy
31	University of Venice Ca' Foscari	Italy
32	International School for Advanced Studies	Italy
33	L'Orientale University of Naples	Italy
34	IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca	Italy
35	University of Montenegro	Montenegro
36	University of Oradea	Romania
37	University Politehnica of Bucharest	Romania
38	West University of Timisoara	Romania
39	University of Arts in Belgrade	Serbia
40	University of Belgrade	Serbia
41	University of Niš	Serbia
42	University of Novi Sad	Serbia
43	Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín	Slovakia
44	Comenius University in Bratislava	Slovakia
45	University of Maribor	Slovenia
46	University of Primorska	Slovenia
47	University of Nova Gorica	Slovenia

# TRIESTE DECLARATION

Youth Forum 11~12 July, Trieste, ITALY

The undersigned share the belief in the importance of their role as bridges of transnational dialogue, cooperation and peace by promoting higher education, research and wider social engagement.

The signatories believe:

- they are powerful leverage for advancing and enhancing the process of democratization, the culture of deliberation and tolerance. They foster European Integration in the interest of South East Europe, as well as of the EU;
- they play a key role in support of civil society. With their broader educational activities, they encourage young generations to produce innovation, develop critical thinking, acquire transversal skills as global citizens and competences in democratic practice;
- they strongly contribute to impacting on personal and public welfare, as well as on the job market, whether it be public, private or nongovernmental.

Moreover, the signatories recognize:

- they promote regional cooperation in a variety of forms, through the mobility of students, lecturers and staff; through joint programs; summer and winter schools; through the transfer of know-how and best practices;
- the relevance of an EU inclusive strategy.

Consequently, the signatories advocate for two specific actions expressly designed for South East Europe, based on positive discrimination and a more intense focus on non-EU countries.

#### 1. An Erasmus+ program specifically designed for this region:

- The governments of the Berlin process should fully endorse, in addition to existing financial tools and the Erasmus+ program, the establishment of specific funds aimed at stimulating inter-regional cooperation in PhD courses, higher education and joint research.
- The establishment of an SEE Erasmus program for inter-regional mobility is vitally important to facilitate not only the predominant

current mobility along the East-West axis, but also within the SEE region. This double dimension of cooperation will be valuable for improving mutual interaction, knowledge and empathy; at the same time, it will be helpful to introduce new methodologies to the benefit of high quality doctoral programs with internationally recognized professors and appropriate infrastructures.

- Double mobility at EU and regional levels will have additional positive effects where mutual recognition of diplomas and sequences (semesters) of HE is implemented. Whenever this is not (yet) the case, these processes will be pushed forward to open mutual diploma recognition.

#### 2. Programs that assist multidirectional networking of the Universities:

- Consistent with the previous approach, investments in programs that assist networking between Universities will reinforce opportunities for cooperation within the SEE. This is equally true of cooperation within Uniadriion (which refers to the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region), the DRC (which refers to the HE institutions of the Danubian macro-region), and the Universities of the Berlin Process countries.
- The aim is also to strengthen cohesion between University networks and the networks with both cities and enterprises. This would enhance joint actions for long-distance LLL and a more intense interdisciplinary effectiveness between the hard sciences, social sciences, and humanities.
- These activities might become the core of a successful HE contribution to the development of social and cultural dialogue, social inclusion and cohesion. This would be perfectly in keeping with the ideas of the EU founding fathers and would foster the education of modern, democratic and socially responsible new generations.

In conclusion, the signatories call for:

- an intensive regional collaboration strategy involving universities
- the establishment of a specific Erasmus program specifically designed for the Berlin process countries
- support to programs assisting multidirectional networking of the Universities in the region.