

DECLARATION
17th ACRU Annual Conference
Chernivtsi, Ukraine
2 July, 2010

The 17th ACRU Annual Conference took place on July 2nd 2010, at Bukovinian State Medical University of Chernivtsi, Ukraine. The main topic of the meeting was "Changing priorities: ACRU to become a significant network in the Carpathian Region and worldwide".

The conference began at 10:00 on 2 July, 2010.

The welcome speech was delivered by Professor Taras Boychuk, Acting Rector of the Bukovinian State Medical University of Chernivtsi.

Then Prof. Dr. Paul-Şerban Agachi, President of the ACRU, opened the Annual Conference and stated that ACRU has already 16 years of age and it started with 16 universities. Now there are 24 universities, but unfortunately they are not very active. One of the roles of the conference today is to find new ways to encourage the institutions to be more participative. The President expressed his hope that the Association will become representative for the region being more active in the regional context. Furthermore he proposed ACRU to undertake a mission of deep involvement in the regional development by stipulating strongly the regional commitment.

The President suggested that ACRU should be represented by the representative of ACRU from the Bukovinian State Medical University in Chernivtsi in the upcoming conference of the European Training Foundation (ETF) dedicated to the Analysis of the Labour Market, which will take place on October 21, 2010 in Odessa. This could help to involve more the Ukrainian universities in the community development programme.

The President also stated that, unfortunately, very few of the goals we have aimed at this year, have been achieved. The reasons are the following: the withdrawal of the Technical University of Kosice, announced in June, 2009, shortly after the Executive Committee (EC) meeting and the lack of communication among the ACRU Members. The President asked more implication from the Member universities stating that only together, with united forces, we can make this Association function and manage ACRU to become a significant network in the Carpathian Region and worldwide. He also asked the EC Members to verify the contact persons for ACRU and make a revised list with the ACRU representatives of the Member Universities from their respective countries.

Next the President, Prof. Dr. Paul-Şerban Agachi, presented the Activity Report and the Financial Report of ACRU (both enclosed in the annex to the declaration).

In the Activity Report some aspects of the 16th ACRU Annual Conference, which took place on March 27, 2009, were presented to the participants. Prof. Agachi mentioned that he was elected as the President of ACRU. The Vice-President's and the Secretary General's election took place at the same time, thus the EC was formed. The members

of the EC are from different countries. Shortly after the Annual Conference, in May 2009, in order to implement his future view of the ACRU activities, he organized the 1st Executive Committee Meeting in Kosice, which was held for the first time since the Association was founded. Out of the five EC members, four were present, Prof. Dr. Oleksandr Ivaschuk, the Vice-president's absence being justified. At this meeting there were discussions about the activity plan to be realized in the 2009-2010 academic year. Three working groups and their responsible leaders were appointed: 1) Research working group – responsible: Prof. Dr. Mihály Dobroka, Vice-President of ACRU from the University of Miskolc, 2) Education working group – responsible: Prof. JUDr. Alexander Brössl, Secretary General of ACRU from the Pavol Jozef Safarik University in Kosice and 3) Funding and International Relations working group – responsible: Prof. Dr. Paul-Şerban Agachi, President of the ACRU.

The President also stressed out the importance of participations in the EUA meetings and he suggested that ACRU should be represented by a delegate person in the upcoming EUA Annual Conference: Diversities and Commonalities - the changing face of Europe's universities, hosted by University of Palermo, Italy between 20 – 23 October 2010.

Out of 25 ACRU Member Universities 14 university's representatives were present. The General Council was deemed to be constituted, since according to Article 10, paragraph 5 of the Constitution, at least half of the Rectors or Presidents or their designated delegates need to be present.

There were discussions about the President's Agenda, a document made by the President of the Association, comprising administrative issues and proposed activities within the Association:

- a) Increasing the visibility of the ACRU website, start using it as a common platform for exchange of academic information on activities, workshops, and projects organized by the ACRU Member universities. Prof. Dr. Paul-Şerban Agachi proposed to move the website to the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Kosice. Prof. Emil Pilipčinec, the Rector of this University, had no objections and accepted the proposal, stating that they can assure the necessary technical support. Rector Emil Pilipčinec also suggested to move the administrative office of ACRU to his University in order to facilitate and to improve communication. The participating ACRU representatives also agreed to place a link to the ACRU website on the website of their respective universities;
- b) International Ranking Expert Group (IREG) conferences: the President of ACRU held a Conference, New Global University Rankings. The way it may influence ACRU visibility, and proposed to initiate a series of conferences on this topic in order to increase the visibility of the region.
- c) Cooperation with the European Training Foundation (ETF) to explore programmes and the possibility of attracting funds for universities from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova;
- d) Starting student mobility (BA, MA, and PhD level), as well teaching and administrative staff mobility, among ACRU Universities within the already existing educational programmes and Summer Schools. The

representatives decided that students from ACRU Member Universities be granted with a scholarship to study/research within the Member University for 1-3 months, in the case of Summer Schools for shorter periods. The Universities will make the selections among their applicants then the nominees need the approval of the EC. The person participating in the mobility has to go to another Member University from a different country than the country of origin. The participants agreed, by unanimous vote, to grant 400 euro/month/student, amount that is to decrease proportionally with the period of study.

- c) Joint research activity: the participants agreed that ACRU offers a good platform for bilateral and multilateral research activities. The ACRU representatives suggested to restructure the ACRU website and include a point with Research Activity, besides other restructuring;
- f) Ukrainian public universities can not pay the membership fee, they are restricted by law. The President asked the participants to offer a solution for this problem. Vice-Rector Professor Oleksandr Ivashchuk, the Vice-President of ACRU from the Bukovinian State Medical University, suggested to open a bank account of ACRU at his University, the Ukrainian members than could transfer the payments there and the money to be used in ACRU purposes. For instance: granting scholarships for students coming from abroad to Ukrainian universities, financing business travels for ACRU representatives in the scope of ACRU mobility actions;
- g) In order to improve common research, three thematic groups were formed and their coordinators were named: 1) Group of Medical Sciences with the coordination of Professor Oleksandr Ivashchuk, the Vice-Rector from the Bukovinian State Medical University 2) Group of Social and Economic Sciences under the coordination of Professor Aleksander Bobko, the Vice-Rector from the University of Rzeszow, Poland, and 3) Group of Hard Sciences and Technology under the supervision of Prof. dr hab. Jerzy Lis, the Vice-Rector at AGH University of Science and Technology, Poland. The Executive Committee is waiting for concrete proposals of action in the mainframe of the three groups;
- h) Prof. dr. ing. Marian Gheorghe, the Vice-Rector for International Relations and Partnership from the University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania, was designated responsible of the coordination of the TEMPUS Project under the supervision of the Secretary General, Vice-Rector Professor Jana Mojžišová, who is responsible for the Education Working Group. The Executive Committee is waiting for concrete proposals of action in the mainframe of the Education Working Group;
- i) Several universities from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova participated in the Conference aiming to become members in ACRU. Those Universities that were there but did not present their institutions to the General Council will send an intention letter and a presentation of their universities to the ACRU Presidency, which will be forwarded to the ACRU representatives via e-mail in order to vote by e-voting about their

accession into the Association.

As a consequence of the withdrawal from the ACRU of the Technical University of Kosice, which has been the legal seat of the Association, ACRU had to be moved to another University. In this respect, the voting regarding the moving of the official seat of ACRU took place. The President emphasized that the official seat of ACRU should remain in the Slovak Republic, since ACRU is an NGO founded there and obeying the Slovak laws. Prof. MVDr., PhD. Emil Pilipčinec, the Rector of the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Kosice expressed his willingness and readiness to take over the seat of the Association. The representatives of the ACRU Member universities accepted by unanimous vote the moving of the legal seat of ACRU to the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Kosice with the address: Komenského 73, 041 81 Košice, Slovak Republic.

Next the election of the Secretary General took place. Prof. Paul-Şerban Agachi stated that the actual Secretary General of ACRU, Professor Alexander Bröstl, from the Pavol Jozef Safarik University in Kosice, didn't accomplish his responsibilities regarding the management of the ACRU activities and was not in liaison with the President. In this respect, the President recommended to dismiss Prof. Alexander Bröstl from this position. The General Council voted unanimously regarding this issue. The President proposed for the position of the Secretary General a Vice-Rector from the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Kosice. Prof. Dr. Jana Mojžišová, Vice-Rector for Education from the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Kosice accepted to take over this position. The resolution was taken up by unanimous vote.

The representative of Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University – Prof. Mykhaylo Bagmet, the Vice-Rector on Development – expressed the wish to organise the next ACRU Annual Meeting in Yalta, a city in Crimea, Ukraine, on the north coast of the Black Sea, in June 2011. The resolution approving the proposal was taken up in unanimous vote of the present members.

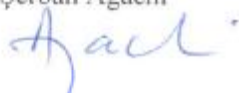
The participants expressed their appreciation to Professor Taras Boychuk, the Acting Rector of Bukovinian State Medical University of Chernivtsi, and Prof. Dr. Oleksandr Ivashchuk, the Vice-Rector on Scientific Work and International Relations of the host university, as well as to their colleagues for organization of the ACRU Annual Conference 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:00 on 2 July, 2010.

Chernivtsi, 2 July, 2010

Prof. univ. dr. Paul-Şerban Agachi

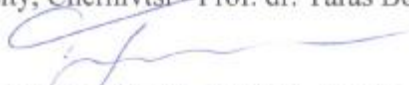


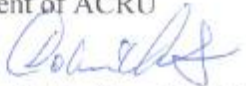
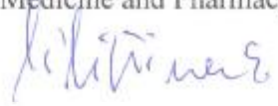

ACRU President



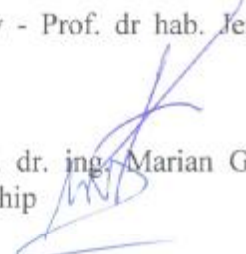
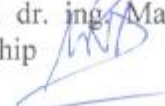

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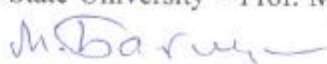
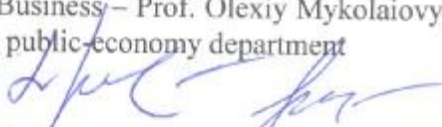
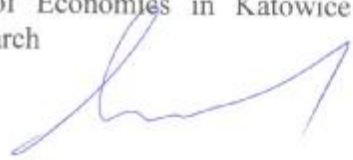
Chernivtsi, Ukraine, July 2, 2010

Present ACRU universities and their representatives:

1. Bukovinian State Medical University, Chernivtsi - Prof. dr. Taras Boychuk, Rector

2. Bukovinian State Medical University, Chernivtsi - Prof. dr. Oleksandr Ivashchuk, Vice-Rector on Scientific Work and International Relations, Vice-President of ACRU

3. Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca - Prof. univ. dr. Paul-Şerban Agachi - President of the Academic Council, President of ACRU

4. University of Miskolc - Prof. Dr. Mihály Dobroka, Vice-Rector for Scientific Affairs and International Relations, Vice-President of ACRU

5. University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice - Emil Pilipčinec Prof. MVDr., PhD., Rector

6. University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice - Mojžišová Jana Prof. MVDr., PhD., Vice-Rector

7. University of Rzeszow - Prof. dr. hab. Aleksander Bobko, Vice-Rector for International Relations

8. Rzeszow University of Technology - Prof. dr hab. inż. Feliks Stachowicz, Vice-Rector for General Affairs

9. AGH University of Science and Technology - Prof. dr hab. Jerzy Lis, Vice-Rector for Cooperation and Development

10. University Politehnica of Bucharest - Prof. dr. ing. Marian Gheorghe, Vice-Rector for International Relations and Partnership

11. Vasile Goldis Western University of Arad - Lect. dr. George Ciprian Pribac, General Chancellor of the Faculty of General Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry


12. University of Oradea - Adrian Popoviciu, Rector's Advisor on Developing Regional and Transborder Cooperation

13. Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University – Prof. Mykhaylo Bagmet, Vice-Rector on Development

14. Berdyansk University of Management and Business – Prof. Olexiy Mykolaiovych Sukhomlynov, Dean of the polish-ukrainian public-economy department

15. Berdyansk University of Management and Business – Prof. Jurii Sopin, Dean of Information Systems and Technology Department
16. Berdyansk State Pedagogical University - Prof. Vasyl V. Kryzhko Ph.D., Rector
17. Karol Adamiecki University of Economies in Katowice – Prof. Krzysztof Marcinek, Vice-Rector for Research


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