

Statement from the Dubrovnik Meeting of University Rectors of Southeast European Countries

Rectors from over twenty universities of Southeast European countries, gathered at the invitation of the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik at a regional rectors' conference, confirm the responsibility of their institutions for the socioeconomic and intellectual development of the local societies and the region, especially in regard to the unsatisfactory condition of the younger generations.

As a result, they appeal to the European institutions immediately to admit the regional universities within the Erasmus and Socrates programs, i.e., to facilitate the mobility and exchange of students and faculty from the region within already existing EU programs. At the same time they ask that scholarly and scientific literature be made available to the region, especially via Internet.

The participants agreed:

- (1) for the sake of overview of academic life in the region, to organize the Dubrovnik Conference of University Rectors of Southeast European countries, as well as to hold an annual meeting within the IUC on every succeeding year during the last week in August. This meeting would be open not only to the rectors, but also to the other notable intellectuals, not necessarily from the region.
- (2) to organize two working groups entrusted with the preparation of reports on the following important issues: (a) curriculum reform, (b) mutual recognition of periods of study and diplomas within and outside the region.
- (3) to make possible through the IUC website the widest exchange of information on the academic life in the region, thereby creating conditions for better mutual perception.
- (4) to consider the possibility of founding and organizing a regional postgraduate college within the framework of IUC activities.