

Increasing the Power of Academic Research through the Institutional Research and Innovation Development on Macroregione Adriatico-Ioniana

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Abstract

The aim of this paper was to explore and present the impact of the academic collaboration in the progress of Science and Innovation in Italy and Albania as an important part of the MacroRegion Adriatico-Ioniana. We conducted an explorative and meta-analytic research based on Educational Policies and comprehensive estimations by different countries of the European Union Academic Institutions, the methods applied, the criteria used and the qualitative increase of scientific research. We focused on two factors: the impact of educational policies in the trend of research and the impact of the present collaboration in the academic growth. First, we found a high variation in the studies through institutional settings which reflected the trends of the foreign academic researchers into European Institutions in the few last years. Second, we observed a qualitative change of trends in Albanian and Italian researchers towards scientific development. Finally, we demonstrated that the higher the scientific exchange collaboration, the more we might gain strength regarding educational policies and researching development.

Keywords: Scientific Research, Collaboration, Innovation Development, Educational Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 What is the Adriatic – Ionian Macroregion project?

Speaking about the Macro Regional Adriatic and Ionian Project certainly assumes a variety of primary sections that focus on the educational exchange and achievement.

The MacroRegion Adriatic-Ionian consists of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro and the Italian regions of Abruzzo, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Marche, Molise, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria and Sicily.

The process for the recognition of Adriatic – Ionian Macroregion, is generally understood as a functional area with autonomous and innovative ways of promoting and implementation of territorial cooperation at the interregional, transnational and institutional levels. The model is based on the previous partnerships in the Macroregion of Baltics and Danubian countries. On 11 October 2011, with the initiative of the Regional Committees meeting in Brussels for the "Territorial Cooperation in the Mediterranean line through the Macroregion Adriatic-Ionian", were constituted this regional card of collaboration between parties recognized in every land hall.

We could recall here citation from the "Forum of the Adriatic and Ionic Cities" at Ancona: "... the engagement to

develop in the appropriate locations, in the local, interregional and international, between social and productive parties, in the reality of the of associalization, through citizens, through various active Networks in the area (Commerce Rooms, Universities, Adriatic Euroregions and Cultural and Contextual links), all the suitable initiatives of the recognition of Macroregion Adriatic-Ionian at the European Union"(the 13th Plenary Session in the constitution of the Macroregion articles 14-16, 2011, Ancona Italy.).

Thus, Cities and Communes established the foresight of the local communities so that the overall contribution would be able to engage the roots of many networks and links, citizens, associations and social forces which make their territories more feasible for the growth opportunities of wide range of people. That is why on the first meetings of the Macroregion, there were a union of various professors, students, principals, headmayors and local administrators from each country which created the Macroregion Adriatic-Ionian for the field of education, scientific research and youth!

Participants of the mentioned countries discussed of the strength of relation between the Government and one of the strategic -economic sectors for every unique area. In the area of inter -exchange, hospitality and social inclusion, juvenile mobility and facilities, continuing education, at the fight against racism and xenophobia, cultural and religious pluralism, institutional twinning etc.

2. The implementation of the Macroregion Adriatic-Ionian in the field of Educational and Scientific Research.

The field of Educational and Scientific Research is certainly one of the most delicate to be treated for every country and project. Thus, each state has its own policies and viewpoints in the implementation of Adriatic-Ionian card. On 2004 and later reviewed on 2012, it was founded the Adriatic-Ionian Network of Universities (UNIADRION), with 36 universities from the nine project countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. UNIADRION is a network created to establish a permanent bridge between the universities and research centres of the Adriatic-Ionian region and to strengthen inter-university cooperation and collaboration.

It is of crucial significance in the project improving academic curricula with the updates and directions of the card from which we could build potentialities for a capable professionalism and skills in coping with challenges of globalization, economic changes e the decentralization of the academic area and the richness of their autonomy.

In the actual prospect, the objectives which we could process for a further prospect might be:

1. Contribution to the improvement of the quality and efficiency of the education system and training of citizens as shown in the European LLP - Longlife Learning Programme for the academic education;
2. Promotion of the equity, social cohesion and active participation o citizens and intercultural exchanges;
3. Providing equal opportunities to the youth;
4. Foster creativity, scientific research, innovation, including entrepreneurship at all levels of process of continuing education and training, in the same line with the local and international development strategies;
5. Realization of a unique, opened, integrative and dynamical System of Education between every state of the Macroregion.

The beginning of the project was stipulated when the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Zagreb and the Aristotel University of Thessaloniki made the first exchange of researchers in the field of medicine and informatics, on September 2012.

In the mid 2012, the European Commission for Education and Training adapted many of the proposals of the Macroregion for the increasment of financial funds, constitution of interships exchange, the development of Institutions in every Adriatic-Ionian country responsible for the implementation of the card.

Another important aim of the Educational Card is the Harmonization of the Learning Inter-System from which:

- a. dynamic confront of viewpoints between the various organizational patterns and structures of the Educational System;
- b. an identification of the
- c. a unique definition of disciplines in the trasversal mode including cultural and environmental education;
- d. arguments for the specific territorial evaluation within Adriatic-Ionian and the suitable economic development;
- e. implementation of the professional education for a renew pattern between school and entrepreneurship;
- f. supporting the creation and realization of innovative strategies and policies in the permant learning cycle;
- g. monitoration and coordination qualification diplomas to a recognised Educational System as a EU;
- h. identification of new professional skills and competencies in the sincronization of the economical sustainable strategies;
- i. formalization of degrees and an european portofoglio for every single strategy;

- j. supporting European programmes of trainings such as Erasmus +, Horizon 2020 and Comenius towards students and juvenile orientation programmes;
- k. recognition and free accessment to accademic mobility of extra communities countries;
- l. creation of the Engagment and Educational Card for the Macroregion system of education within aderent countries.

3. The MacroRegion as an opportunity of Juvenile Education between Italy and Albania

Both our institutions are opened to new prospective collaborations and opportunities for the academic growth and scientific research innovation. The Urniversity of Urbino, as a 5 centuries university have provided unlimited generations of wisdom, science and professionals. 5 centuries of engagment and involvement for the prosperity of Education. Albanian Univerisity in Tirana is surely younger than the 500 years experienced but, with the foresight and eagerness of betterment and progress, for taking and giving, for learning and lecturing withi. We could gently recall that the milestone of our educational policies and similarity is a postulate Mandela gave to the overall humanity: *"Education is the most powerfull weapon which WE can use to change the world"*(N. Mandela, 1993).

Working as a unique Team brings things easier to everyone of us for the fulfillment of our educational prospective. Our mutual collaboration will consist in the improvement of the bilateral relationships our two countries have and on the distribution of Education as a Science for Citiziens!

Since the 2011, Italy recognised the Educational Card which included either European adherences as Albania. The Albanian Univerisity is probably the first academic source which will give voice to the new educational ammendments that entered into force in the begining of 2015.

What we aim from this collaboration is :

- a. to work together in the spirit of equality, trasparence and scientific engagment regarding professional, academic and research increase;
- b. promote the mutual scientific activities and cultural exchange for the raise of human competencies such as didactical activities, lectures, seminars and workshops, academic symposiums and conferences and other common interests ;
- c. encourage the applicability of higher standard researches, ethical issues and integrity in the field of scientific research;
- d. academic exchange between lectures, professionals and/or students within academic profiles and periods ;
- e. promoting policies in behalf of the mutual collaboration and MacroRegion applicability;
- f. support and supervision of the PhD researchers, post-doctoral and fellows on the mutual institutions;
- g. cooperation in the academic writing field, publication in the research journal centre and enhancement of masters/doctoral level researchers;
- h. financial funding projects in the fulfillment of research field;
- i. enhancement of social and integrity organization towards global issues for research and prospects interests.

These objectives relates the institutional cooperation and collaboration in the line of the MacroRegion recommendations and our governmental policies and institutional strategies. Promoting innovative research and scientific progress let us build bridges and paint prospects. Realization of the "Engagment Card" and our academic agreement and cooperation, will contribute to the strengthen approaches of a unique system for the economic, political, cultural and institutional growth ring science to improve itself for the betterment of human lives.

4. Conclusions

At the end of this reflections we would like to emphasis some concluding remarks:

First, the development of mutual collaboration between Italy and Albania will certainly help in the substantial change and improvement in the field of scientific research, human relationships and citiziens education. It is of significant remark to remember that each of our institutions will contribute and engage in the fulfillment and realization of the Education Card.

Second, participating in the MacroRegion assesses the potentialities of our countries and institutions to the improvement of the Educational Policies as UNIADRION and other engagements of youth in the scientific process.

Third, the primary relationship of the academic science is to bring in innovation and qualitative research for the human contextual progress. Being within the MacroRegion will therefore help in the empowerment and increase of potentialities for the academic and citizenship raise.

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