

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Higher Education: Quality, Leadership, Innovation

### The Bucharest Consensus Autumn 2010\*\*

*Eliot Sorel, Editor\**

- *Quality, 21<sup>st</sup> century higher education is transdisciplinary, systemic, systematic, and integrative. These defining qualities are a rich source of leadership, innovation, human capital development, and humane values that contribute to sustainable development and the progress of society.*
- *Moreover, quality higher education—its leadership and human capital development—is a powerful growth engine as well as a strong foundation for future prosperity, enhanced global understanding and cooperation.*
- *Promoting higher education, innovation, and human capital development should be one of the pillars of national, regional and global policies for international cooperation.*
- *High-profile transnational economic projects may provide future incentives as well as additional financial resources for the enhancement of cooperation in the field of higher education, innovation, and human capital development.*
- *Human capital development and innovation are interdependent, the first being the factor enhancing the second. Competitive, high quality universities systems—inspired by the best international practices and a reformed tertiary and secondary, high school education—are indispensable to pursue long-term robust results in any country, wherever in the world, and certainly most relevant to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea area.*
- *To the financial resources allocated to human capital investments by governments and private sector in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area, international partnerships would bring added value to further high quality and competitive human capital development. Increasing investment in higher education, human capital and research development would enhance global economic performance. South Korea, Malaysia, Turkey, China, Chile and India are illustrative examples of such rewarding and results, outcomes driven initiatives.*

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**The Bucharest Consensus Autumn 2010, continued\*\***

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- *The Bologna Process, an international educational convention of high educational standards is led by Romania between 2010 and 2012. Furthermore, Romania will be the Bologna Process Ministerial Conference convener of 2012. The convergence of the Bologna Process with the transatlantic dimension of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area Studies and Network partnership launched at the Bucharest meeting in July 2010, represent a tangible asset for the universities in the region, open to all BSCSA universities willing to join the network and contribute to its success, in the spirit of the Bucharest Consensus*
- *Sustainable growth of a state's economy can be seen as proportional to the rate of investments in human capital development. Consequently, the best result from long term development strategies is achieved by integrating investment in the development of information technology with an expanding business environment and human capital formation*
- *“Green growth” and environmentally sustainable economic progress are of critical importance to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area and for the countries in the region on their way to sustainable development.*
- *Promote the Double-Degree Diploma projects to encompass all Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area universities willing to join the network.*
- *Appoint a BSCSASN work group on a Black Sea and Caspian Sea area universities' higher education accreditation agency to develop Bologna Process consistent criteria for such diplomas, across the sciences and the humanities*
- *Stimulate higher education, innovation, leadership, human capital development, sharing of experiences and the free flow of people, ideas, goods and services across borders and between the Black Sea & Caspian Sea Network countries, their Euro-Atlantic and other global partners*

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\*\* *The Bucharest Consensus* was developed by University leaders from Azerbaijan, France, Italy, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania and the United States meeting at the *Black Sea & Caspian Sea Area Studies Conference* convened by Professors Eliot Sorel & Adrian Curaj at the Grand Hotel Continental, in Bucharest, July 10-12, 2010. This final version was edited by Professor Sorel.

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