

Welcoming speech of Prof. Margret Wintermantel, President of the HRK

UNESCO-CEPES, the Institute for higher education of UNESCO for Europe, located in Bukarest, and the German Rectors' Conference have already at several occasions successfully collaborated. This concerned in particular joint efforts to help South Eastern European/Balkan universities in their difficult development. The HRK is also happy about the fact that we were able to bring the topic of "entrepreneurship training" to the attention of UNESCO-CEPES - an issue which is now high on the European agenda.

The workshop continues this cooperation and is aimed at contributing to the European and - hopefully – transatlantic discussion on the future of the third cycle of the Bologna process or – even better - on the future of doctoral training. The European University Association (EUA) has been charged by the Bologna Follow Up Group acting on behalf of the 45 Bologna ministers to prepare a report under the responsibility of the Follow-up Group on the further development of the basic principles for doctoral programmes, to be presented to the ministers in London in May 2007.

Of course we are all interested and willing to contribute to this enormous work that EUA has to shoulder to reach a joint European university position. We are happy that the General Secretary of EUA, Mrs. Lesley Wilson, is here with us and can feed in our thoughts into the process. In the German context the just finished first round of the university competition in research the so-called "Excellence initiative" makes this seminar even more timely. We will be presented with some models of winners in that part of the competition designated for "Graduate Schools".

For the thematic preparation of the conference Dr. Gerhard Duda from HRK and Prof. Lazar Vlasceanu from UNESCO CEPES are responsible. We are grateful to the Hertie Foundation in Frankfurt

as non-profit organisation represented here by Prof. Madeja that it co-funds this workshop.

Last, but not least we are thankful to the Frankfurt University who generously was prepared to host this international meeting in the impressive premises of the Campus Westend.

I wish the workshop a full success.