



Regional Platform for Benchmarking and Cooperation
in Higher Education and Research

Meeting of the Platform Executive Board

Time and Venue: Feb 8, 2019, University of Mostar

In attendance (members of the Executive Board):

- prof. Damir Boras, Rector, University of Zagreb and Chairperson of the Executive Board
- prof. Ivan Svetlik, President of the Platform Council
- prof. Ladislav Novak, Coordinator of the Platform

Apologies (members of the Executive Board):

- Prof. Vladimir Popovic, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbia and Vice-President of the Platform Council
- Prof. Stanislav Pejovnik, former President of the Platform Council and member of the Executive Board

Invited guests (listed in order of appearance of respective cities):

- Prof. Ivanka Popovic, Rector, University of Belgrade
- Prof. Igor Papic, Rector, University of Ljubljana
- Prof. Dejan Jaksic, Rector, University of Novi Sad

Agenda:

1. Organisation of the next meeting of the Platform Council - a pending activity
2. Election of President of the Platform Council, Chairperson of the Executive Board and Platform Coordinator - a pending activity
3. Invitation of a number of universities to join Platform as affiliates
4. Regional Ministerial Conference on Benchmarking and Cooperation in Higher Education in Ljubljana - a pending activity from the 2015-2018 Action plan
5. Completion of an embryo of expert's data base and embryo of date base of capital equipment (University of Belgrade, University of Ljubljana, University of Novi Sad and University of Zagreb - listed in order of appearance of respective cities) - a pending activity from the 2015-2018 Action plan

Participants agreed on the following

Conclusions:

Ad 1. Organisation of the next meeting of the Platform Council: The meeting of the Platform Council originally scheduled for June 2018 and collocated with the Regional Ministerial Conference has been postponed to an undefined date because the Regional Ministerial Conference was postponed. Therefore new date has to be set.

Conclusion 1: Participants, including members and guests of the Executive Board, agreed to set next meeting of the Platform Council for the spring 2019 and to offer organisation of this event to the University of Belgrade and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbia. Formal invitation to the members of Platform Council for this Belgrade meeting shall be sent jointly by the President of the Platform Council, the Vice-President of the Platform Council and the Rector of the University of Belgrade, as the host institution.

Ad 2a. Election of President of the Platform Council: According to the Article 4.1.4 President holds office for four years with the possibility to be re-elected for one further term.

Election history: Prof. Stanislav Pejovnik was elected as the first President of the Platform Council in June 2014, at the first meeting of the Platform Council. He was supposed to hold this position in principle until June 2018. However, on the Fourth meeting of the Platform Council, which took place in March 2017, Prof. Pejovnik announced that he unfortunately cannot remain at the present position due to some new heavily demanded obligation (representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the Executive Board of UNESCO). At the same event prof. Pejovnik invited prof. Ivan Svetlik to step-in and take the position of the President of the Platform Council for the period until next regular elections in 2018. Prof. Svetlik agreed with this proposal and Platform Council has approved prof. Ivan Svetlik as the new President of the Platform Council.

Conclusion 2a: Participants, including members and guests of the Executive Board, agreed at Mostar meeting, to nominate prof. Ivan Svetlik to be re-elected for the next term at the position of the President of the Platform Council.

Ad 2b. Election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board: According to the Article 4.2.5 Chairperson of the Executive Board shall be appointed by the Council, to hold the office for four years with the possibility to be re-elected for one further term. Chairperson of the Executive Board shall be a person who is holding or has held a senior university position.

Election history: Prof. Damir Boras, rector of the University of Zagreb has been elected as new Chairperson of the Executive Board at the Third meeting of the Platform Council in October 2015.

Conclusion 2b: Participants, including members and guests of the Executive Board, agreed at Mostar meeting, to nominate prof. Damir Boras to be re-elected for the next term at the position of the Chairperson of the Executive Board.

Ad 2c. Election of the Platform Coordinator: According to the Article 4.3.4 Coordinator of the Platform shall be appointed by the Council to hold the office for four years with the possibility to be re-elected for one further term.

Election history: Prof. Ladislav Novak was elected as the first Platform Coordinator in June 2014, at the first meeting of the Platform Council, to hold this position in principle until June 2018. During the academic 2016/2017 year prof. Novak was absent from the Region, as he got visiting professor position in USA. It was agreed that in the meanwhile, during this academic year, prof. Zivoslav Tesic, Vice-Rector of the University of Belgrade shall temporarily act as Deputy Coordinator.

Conclusion 2c: Participants, including members and guests of the Executive Board, agreed at Mostar meeting, to nominate prof. Ladislav Novak to be re-elected for the next term at the position of Platform Coordinator.

Ad 3. Invitation of a number of universities to join Platform as affiliates: According to the Article 3.3 Executive Board of the Platform may at its discretion grant the status of affiliate, without voting rights, to an organisation, authority or institution. The status of an affiliate is formally confirmed after provision of signed individual letter of affiliation confirmation.

Conclusion 3: Participants, including members and guests of the Executive Board, agreed at Mostar meeting, to invite University of Graz, University of Maribor, University of Mostar, University of Rijeka, University of Sarajevo, University of Skopje (listed in order of appearance of respective cities), to join the Platform as affiliated members. The status of an affiliate is formally confirmed after provision of signed letter of confirmation for affiliation.

Ad 4. Regional Ministerial Conference on Benchmarking and Cooperation in Higher Education in Ljubljana: In June 2015, at the Andrevlje meeting of the Platform Council, the representatives of the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport has offered to the Council to consider possibility of organising a Regional Ministerial Conference on Benchmarking and Cooperation in Higher Education in Ljubljana in 2016. This proposal was included in the Platform plan for 2015-2018 as Activity 6 and has been formally adopted at Zagreb meeting in October 2015. Unfortunately, because of some irregular changes of Slovenian government, Ministerial Conference is still a pending activity. However, in the meantime, Slovenian ministry kindly offered financial support for some Platform activities which has been fully realised in 2018.

Conclusion 4: Participants, including members and guests of the Executive Board, agreed at Mostar meeting, to reaffirm Activity 6 and to explore whether the new leadership of the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is willing/in position to put forward the organisation of Regional Ministerial Conference in 2019 in cooperation with the Regional Ministerial Conference on Benchmarking and Cooperation in Higher Education.

Ad 5. Completion of an embryo of expert's data base and embryo of date base of capital equipment: Concerning the completion of an embryo of expert's data base and embryo of date base of capital equipment, Slovenian members of the Platform Council (University of Ljubljana and Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) made it possible for Platform to use information infrastructural service of the Institute of Information Science (IZUM) which is a public institution established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

Conclusion 5: Participants, including present representatives of the University of Belgrade, the University of Ljubljana, the University of Novi Sad and the University of Zagreb (listed in order of appearance of respective cities) agreed at Mostar meeting, to boost the process of completion of embryo of expert's data base and embryo of date base of capital equipment, as a pending activity of the 2015-2018 Action plan.