



ROMANIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
Minister's Cabinet

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Bucharest, 24 December 2008

Ms. Marlies Leegwater
Head
Benelux Bologna Secretariat

Dear Madam,

The Bologna Process is now approaching the deadline agreed by our ministers in 1999. The objectives established then are in process to be implemented and we all agree that our cooperation in taking forward the goal of a European Higher Education Area is still necessary to ensure the success of the Process.

In 1999, Romania, together with other 28 countries signed the Bologna Declaration. For Romania, as for many European countries, the Bologna Declaration is the fundamental charter of change in higher education. The activities we have developed under the umbrella of the Bologna process are witnesses of the spirit of mutual respect, diversity and support for capacity building processes in our countries and represent a model of cooperation for other parts of the world. We believe that this spirit should go beyond 2010.

These days we are facing global economic challenges and our educational institutions are asked to contribute to the development of strategies and policies able to face and solve the economic and social problems. Universities have a key role in our society and we should be ready to support them in taking forward the reforms initiated in this period.

The Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation has the honour to express its interest and commitment to host the Bologna Ministerial meeting in April 2012 in Bucharest, as a sign of our commitment to the spirit of Bologna process and of our conviction that what we have started ten years ago has all the premises to be accomplished.

Our proposal has also a symbolic value. Romania has now one of the largest higher education systems in the Eastern Europe. Since 1989, Romanian universities faced a series of reforms which began to show their results. Bologna was an inspiration for all and it succeeded greatly in opening our system to the world. We enjoyed all this time sharing the same vision with you and we consider it is time to show and discover the whole potential of what we have succeeded to now.

We propose Bucharest as the host of the Ministerial Conference in 2012 as one of the biggest and oldest university centres in South Eastern Europe, with 34 higher education institutions and more than 250.000 registered students. The history of higher education in Bucharest started in 1694 with the establishment of the Royal Academy Saint Sava, the University of Bucharest being its legal successor since 1864.

The conference will be taking place in the International Centre of Conferences in the Palace of Parliament which has a capacity of hosting of 600 persons.

The Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation understands to include in its offer the charge of the Bologna Secretariat. We are aware that the previous secretariats were extremely successful and our aim is to ensure the same standards and the coherence of the agreed activities. Our vision is to maintain the international character of the secretariat, by involving in the same time a small team of three to five national experts, with international experience and expertise in the field, to manage all the activities, including the development of the Bologna website. We are ready to establish a significant budget to support its activities. In the same time, the Secretariat will be backed by the International Relations Department within the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation with a significant experience in organising international events and by the General Directorate for Higher Education.

Our main aim is to make universities feel as equal partners in the process. Bologna is an intergovernmental process but the main action is to be carried out by the universities. In the period 2010-2012 we consider involving the main universities of Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi and Timisoara in the events and working groups included in the agenda of the Bologna Follow up Process, allotting a budget in this respect.

Should you still have questions on this application, please feel free to contact our representative in the Bologna Follow-up Group who will be glad to provide you with additional information.

On behalf of the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation I would like to wish success to the organisers of the ministerial conference in Leuven and looking forward to meeting you all there.

Assuring you of our full commitment for proposal to host the 2012 ministerial conference in Bucharest,

Yours sincerely,

Ecaterina Andronescu
Minister

