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Editor: Sabina HUSEYNOVA; General Coordinator
Istanbul, Turkey, 2020 sabina@euras-edu.org
Dear Esteemed Members, Partners, Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to meet you once again, this time through our semiannual activity report.

To ensure that we stay in touch with our esteemed members and partners, we started launching EURAS Annual and Semiannual Reports, which summarize the union’s achievements in the past months, starting with the success of EURIE 2020 Summit and the series of EURAS E-Talks and EURAS webinars delivered by valuable professors from different parts of the world. Despite the sudden change in our daily life and the challenges we now face, we remain resolutely focused on our core goals; to promote sustainable peace and advanced technology worldwide through the development of culture and new educational systems; to open the borders of education to the public and to favor the exchange of knowledge and best practices among higher education institutions from the entire Eurasian region.

I extend my gratitude for your effective and active participation on our previous EURAS Activities, and I hope you enjoyed and benefited from them as much as we did. I also encourage those who did not have the chance to join the previous online activities to register and participate on the upcoming ones.

As always, we aim to provide services and support for all our members and will continue to do so in the following years as well with all your contributions.

Assoc. Prof. Mustafa AYDIN
President
2020 overview

INTRODUCTION

Dear Members, Partners and Colleagues,

We are glad to share our Annual Report regarding our activities developments that took place between January 2020 and January 2021.

This report covers activities and major developments the year. The highlight for this period was EURIE 2020 – Eurasia Higher Education Summit that took place in Istanbul on 19- 21 February 2020. This period was also marked by intense activity to develop cooperation within EURAS Members Institutions. A successful EURAS Executive Board Members Meeting was held in Istanbul on 19 February, and effective EURAS Forum was held on 20 February 2020.

As with many other sectors, higher education sector has been deeply affected by the global pandemic. We aim to increase our online activities, our members’ contributions in order to increase the synergy and thus achieving significant results for all the engaged members even during challenging times.

The accomplishments and events we held in the first half of the year can be credited to the dedication and enthusiasm of EURAS Team, EURAS members and partners and Board. We would like to thank our Guest Speakers for their incredible contributions during EURAS Webinars and EURAS E-Talks projects.

As EURAS, we will be delighted to support your activities and promote your institution and we are ready to collaborate and welcome any other proposal.

We would like to invite you to our online events such as EURAS Webinars, EURAS Online Conferences, and of course to our annual conference - EURIE 2021 Summit on 3 -5 March, 2021.

Sabina HUSEYNOVA
General Coordinator
EURAS & EURIE
EVENTS

In this comprehensive annually report for January, 2020- January 2021 we provide information on our association’s achievements during the last year.

EURIE 2020 - Eurasia Higher Education Summit

EURIE 2020 Summit was successfully organized and hosted more than 2,700 participants from 65 countries. EURIE Summit is the annual Conference and Expo of EURAS, which is the signature event of Eurasia and Turkey. Vice- Chancellors, Chancellors, University Representatives, Government Representatives, industry representatives, members of the innovation community, international education professionals and media attended in EURIE Summit. EURIE 2020 Summit conference theme was “Uniting for International Education”. All participants had the chance to generate new partnerships with each other and to discuss current challenges of higher Education sector.

Special Thanks to EURAS members & partners and all of our participants from various higher education institutions. We succeeded to have a very successful EURIE Summit in Istanbul on 19- 21 February, 2020.

Once again we appreciate our network for their support and valued participation and invite the entire EURAS network to EURIE 2021 - Eurasia Higher Education Summit to be held in Istanbul on 03 – 05 March 2021.
3 days of Live Virtual Summit

19 Collaborative Partners

1180 Attendees

57 Countries Represented

5 Sponsors

312 Participant Institutions

92 Exhibitors in the Virtual Exhibition Area

IMAGINE TOMORROW
International Entrepreneurship and Innovation Event

142 Speakers

48 Panels, Plenaries and Roundtable Sessions

100 Young entrepreneurs joining pitch competition, panels and networking activities
EURAS Executive Board Members Meeting

We organized our Executive Board Members meeting on 19th of February, 2020. During the meeting, EURAS President, Assoc. Prof. Mustafa AYDIN gave the opening speech. EURAS & EURIE General Coordinator, gave detailed information about the activities of the year of 2019, new members- partners as well as the future events. After the presentation of our General Coordinator, Board Members evaluated our works, determined future strategies and made decisions that will create a difference, such as stronger communication, cooperation, quality and EURAS Academy events that will be hosted by our Member Universities. Thereof the possibility came out to review and discuss past, current, and future issues related to EURAS within all the aspects.

Due to an evaluation of the year of 2019 and opening speech made by our President, it was started to be discussed what and how to collaborate in the future via the members and partners of EURAS. The latest services and projects were also properly reviewed by Board Members.

Following the successful completion of EURAS Executive Board Members Meeting, it was the time for EURIE Gala Dinner. The venue of the dinner was specially selected with an amazing historical Basilica Cistern for the valued representatives of EURAS network.
Turkish- Malaysian Universities Networking meeting

A networking meeting was organized for future collaboration between Turkish and Malaysian Universities, on February 21, 2020, within EURIE 2020 Eurasia Higher Education Summit.

The closing speech was given by Prof. Dr. Zeliha Tufan Koçak regarding the importance of academic cooperation for the future.

EURAS Annual Forum

EURAS Annual Forum was held successfully on February 20, 2020 within EURIE 2020 Summit. EURAS Member and Partner Universities’ representatives attended in EURAS Forum. EURAS & EURIE General Coordinator gave a presentation about EURAS regarding the latest news and developments of our Union. During EURAS Forum, we hosted two special guest speakers from our partner organizations. Prof. Hamid Ben Aziza, General Secretary of UNIMED talked about “Universities Facing the Challenge of Digital Revolution” and Prof. Rossana Silva, President of Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities, made a presentation about their network and Brazilian Universities.
Our President, Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Aydın gave the closing remarks and shared our future goals and strategies and stressed the importance of cooperation and synergy in higher education and in the global academy community, underlining that EURAS members should cooperate in more fields and increase their synergies with other universities, as well as they need to intensify their common academic studies. He has also expressed that EURAS Members should develop cooperation and carry out joint projects with non-governmental organizations such as the United Nations, UNICEF and the World Health Organization. At the end of the meeting, Our President and Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities President Rosanna Silva signed a cooperation agreement, which implies that the two associations will cooperate in the field of student and academic exchange and develop joint projects & events. Ultimately, we would like to note that we have been highly honored to host many attendees from several members and partners who powerfully contribute to EURAS through their own fields of activities, networking capability, regional advantages and all that.

Imagine Tomorrow 2020 – International Innovation and Entrepreneurship Event

Imagine Tomorrow 2020 – International Innovation and Entrepreneurship Event, a sub event of EURIE – Eurasia Higher Education Summit, was held on 19-20 February 2020 in Istanbul, Turkey, hosted incubator firms in science parks and individual entrepreneurs working in alliance with higher education institutions.

Over 350 applications have been received for this event from around the world. These high quality applications were evaluated by at least 2 different external evaluators. The 50 most innovative initiatives are identified and invited to Imagine Tomorrow event. For the Young Entrepreneurship category, 20 most innovative entrepreneurs, projects, business ideas have been identified among the valuable applications.

The event hosted 70 entrepreneurs from 8 different countries, 18 panelists, 30 jury members and over 600 participants. The Jury made it possible to find the owners of over 30 awards at the end of 2 days of intense labor. During the event, entrepreneurs had the chance to showcase their startups at the Poster Area and network with the other players in the ecosystem, EURIE 2020 Summit University Partners and some institution’s Technology Transfer Offices also exhibited with their stands at Imagine Tomorrow area.
Executive Board Members Online Meeting

We organized our Executive Board Members online meeting on 05. 06. 2020 on Zoom. During the meeting, EURAS President, Assoc. Prof. Mustafa AYDIN gave the opening speech. EURAS & EURIE General Coordinator gave information about the current and future activities of the year of 2020. After the presentation of our General Coordinator, Board Members evaluated our works, determined future strategies and made decisions on EURAS Academic Journals, EURAS Members Web Forum, and EURAS Online Summer School. Also it was discussed and agreed on giving more support in increasing the number of EURAS Board Members and announcing EURAS activities through their networks.

EURAS Webinar Series

EURAS Webinar - I

As EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union, we were pleased to launch EURAS Webinar Series. Our first free webinar was organized on “COVID 19: Economic Continuity and Dynamics for Change” on 28 April 2020 on Zoom.

During the webinar, Our Guest Speaker, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Sedat AYBAR gave his insights on bio- economic crisis, we face nowadays, and that will lead to fundamental changes in our life by having profound impact on globalization, poverty and environmental arrangements. We refer to global power game, role of international institutions and dynamics of technological revolution. During our first webinar, we tried to answer the question, “Whether the world governance structures will continue business as usual”.

EURAS Webinar 1 recording is shared on EURAS YouTube account, find out more about COVID 19: Economic Continuity and Dynamics for Change by copying this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLKk0A13SLE&t=14s
EURAS Webinar - II

Our 2nd webinar was organized on “Snapshot Surveys: International Office Best practices during COVID-19” by Dr. Ivor Emmanuel on 12 May 2020 on Zoom.

Dr. Emmanuel has served as the Director of the Berkeley International Office since 2003. Our Guest Speaker gave his insights and made a presentation covered a snapshot survey of international students at the University of California, Berkeley and what measures are being put in place to support that community.

EURAS Webinar II recording is shared on EURAS YouTube account, find out more about Snapshot Surveys: International Office Best practices during COVID-19 by copying this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJYFnFRt0d0&t=23s
EURAS Webinar - III

Our 3rd webinar was organized on “Higher Education Post-COVID-19” by Dr. Osman Ozturgut on 21 May 2020 on Zoom.

Dr. Osman Özturgut is the Dean of Extended University and Associate Vice President for International Programs at California State University-Channel Islands (CSUCI). Our Guest Speaker gave his insights and during the webinar, participants were able to explore the new trends in higher education and the impact of COVID 19 on higher education institutions’ strategic planning.

EURAS Webinar III recording is shared on EURAS YouTube account, find out more about Higher Education Post-COVID 19 by copying this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp4JdCp62pU&t=3s

EURAS Webinar - IV

As EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union, were pleased to organize our 3rd EURAS Webinar on “Is it a Panacea? Quality in Higher Education” on 15th of September on Zoom with Prof. Dr. Muzaffer Elmas; President, Higher Education Quality Council of Turkey ; Maria Kelo Director, European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)

https://youtu.be/c9JFzmjq4NI
EURAS Webinar - V

We were pleased to launch EURAS Regional Webinars and host EURAS Webinar on Higher Education in Asia on 22nd of October, 2021 on Zoom. Here we were trying to explore the new trends in higher education in Asia and the impact of COVID-19 on higher education institutions’ planning.

Guest Speakers were:

Dr. Ching-Pu Chen, CGO, Global Affairs Office, Yuan Ze University
Presentation Title: Taiwan Higher Education under COVID-19

Prof. Dr. Nor Haniza Sarmin, Associate Director, Global Strategy and Engagement, UTM - University Technology Malaysia, Malaysia
Presentation Title: Tackling the Paradigm Shift in Higher Learning – The UTM Experience

Mr. Syed Raihan-Ul-Islam, Assistant Director of International Affairs, Daffodil International University, Bangladesh
Presentation Title: Digital Best Practices & Transformation for Sustainability: DIU Story

https://youtu.be/ZAI3OU0eLQk

EURAS Webinar - VI

EURAS Regional Webinar – America

As EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union launched EURAS Regional Webinars and host EURAS Webinar on Higher Education in Americas on 10th of December 2020 on Zoom. This webinar will explore the new trends in higher education in America and the impact of education in America and the impact of COVID-19 on higher education institutions’ planning. We will host three country representatives’ from Canada, Mexico and USA.

https://youtu.be/Fdx-CODGdSc
EURAS online workshop on BLOCKCHAIN

As EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union, we are pleased to host an online workshop on “Blockchain and New Technologies in Africa” on 25th of September 2020 on Zoom.

The Content of this Workshop was about: New technologies are ever so rapidly entering our lives, changing entire psychology and social fabric of human life. Digital transformations are also introducing new opportunities for further innovations and entrepreneurships.

Blockchain technologies introduce one such digitalization that opens up new horizons around which traditional set-up is challenged. These developments are not sparing any individual, society, region or geography. Hence, the continent of Africa is no exception. Probably it is experiencing exceptionally rapid adaptation to these new developments while opening up to new avenues for development and progress. It is this webinar’s task to explore what is involved with such radical technological change to answer the unknowns about blockchain, to explain what changes it brings, to uncover how in the African set-up the most innovative and entrepreneurial minds are putting these developments into their use, to discover what holds for the future of blockchain technologies and what that means for the continent.

Our Workshop Academic Partners were: Istanbul Aydin University Africa Research Center, Turkey; The Hague University of Applied Sciences, Den Haag, Netherlands; Accra Technical University, Ghana; Blockchainarmy, London, UK; IAU Blockchain Center, Turkey

As a Guest Speakers: Moderator: Prof. Dr. Sedat AYBAR Opening Remarks: Mr. Philippe van PUYMBROECK- Director of the Academy, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Assoc. Prof. Mustafa AYDIN President, EURAS

As a Speakers: Dr. Ernest Christian WINFUL, Dean, Directorate of International Programs and Institutional Cooperation, Accra Technical University; Mr. Irene DONDJIO, Senior Lecturer, The Hague University of Applied Sciences; Mr. Frank Frimpong OPUNI, Senior Lecturer, Accra Technical University Mr. Erol USER, CEO, Blockchain army.
EURAS E-Talks

As EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union, we are pleased to launch EURAS E-Talks series for International Office Teams and Students.

Our Guest Speaker, Edward Peters is a qualified Performance Coach and Practitioner of NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming). University International Office staff find themselves in a situation where their core activity, student recruitment, can’t happen. Performance Coach Edward Peters, from GE Coaching, considers what can be done to support current and potential students, using his model of recognizing, reassuring, reframing, reminding and re-engaging. A university that steps up to the challenge now will enhance its future reputation for student well-being significantly.

He talked about two major issues within higher education during COVID-19 pandemic. These topics are how to stay focused and in control, even when we cannot predict the future of student mobility for International Office Teams and how to take back control, even in uncertain times for students.

EURAS E-Talks recordings are shared on EURAS YouTube account:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jv0DkXzy538&t=4s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM8zn8IDxtk&t=82s

For more information on EURAS E-Talks Series can be found on EURAS website: https://euras-edu.org/euras-e-talks/

EURAS Member web Forum

We were pleased to organize EURAS Members Web Forum on “The effects of the Pandemic in the Eurasia: Future of Higher Education” on 11 June 2020 on Zoom.

EURAS continues to closely monitor an outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact on higher education system all over the world. Therefore, EURAS has decided to organize a Members Web Forum in order to create a pathway for the new era of Higher Education (HE) for EURAS Members. Forum will mainly focus on the future of HE at the post pandemic transition within discussions on exchange of experiences, innovative ideas and best practices among participating members.
EURAS E-Academy

EURAS E-Academy for EURAS Member Universities

Fireside chat with Coursera – Digital Transformation of Universities in the EMEA region

We were pleased to organize EURAS E-Academy for EURAS Member Universities on “Fireside chat with Coursera – Digital Transformation of Universities in the EMEA region” on 05 November 2020 on zoom. Mike Damiano and Kerry Houchen from Coursera, talked about how universities in the EMEA region are moving towards hybrid and blended learning, the skills they need to consider when adapting their graduates to the new workplace and the 4th industrial revolution, and how Coursera is supporting higher education institutions in the path towards digital transformation.

EURAS COVID-19 Survey

While all levels of education are facing serious challenges in times of COVID-19 pandemic, it was noticed that the impact of COVID-19 on higher education should be discussed more.

Thus, Eurasian Universities Union - EURAS has launched a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education. The questions are related to student and staff mobility; overseas marketing strategies, international student admissions, access to campus, academic calendar and online teaching/learning activities. The objective of EURAS survey is to gather data, monitor how higher education worldwide is impacted, to learn about responses to combat COVID-19 and its domino effects.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1uJ8HTvAoOQd-4KHsW9COh-flAP5oHXpyzOLwqk3wb-v05a2Q/viewform
EURAS has 3 academic journals;

• EURAS Journal of Social Sciences – EJOSS
• Eurasian Journal of Health - EJOH
• EURAS Journal of Engineering and Applied Sciences – EJEAS

EURAS Journal of Engineering and Applied Sciences (EJEAS)

Eurasian Journal of Engineering and Applied Sciences (EJEAS) aims that creating a source for academics and scientists who are doing research in the engineering and applied sciences that feature formally well-written quality works. In addition, EJEAS also aims that creating a source that will contribute and help develop the fields of study. EJEAS only accepts articles from engineering and applied science. Accordingly, EJEAS’s intentions are on publishing articles and scientific works which are guided by a scientific quality sensibility. In this context, EJEAS is qualified as an “international peer-reviewed journal”. It is a peer-reviewed international journal published two times a year. EJEAS will bring together academics and professionals coming from different disciplines to discuss their differing points of views on these questions related to “engineering and applied sciences”.

Main Topics of EJEAS
• Artificial Intelligence
• Cyber Security
• Environmental Sciences
• Food and food safety
• Bio-technology
• Material science and composites
• Nano technology
• Energy Technologies
• Electronics
• Robotics
• Thermal Sciences
• Earthquake – Structures – Foundation
• Earth Sciences
EURAS Journal of Social Sciences (EJOSS) is a new open access double blind peer reviewed academic journal published by EURAS (Eurasian Universities Union).

EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union has decided to issue three new academic journals, among them one devoted to social sciences, especially to the fields present in the panels SH1 and SH2 of the ERC classification. We aim at collecting and publishing scientific papers in English concerning Eurasia, its past, its present, its future, and especially the connections between the European and Asian continents. We hope to receive many papers from scholars of the universities members of EURAS but our call is open to all the scholars of all the institutions in the world. Moreover, we will be happy to receive and publish papers from young scholars.

Thanks to our international profile, we aim at attaining the highest standards of peer review and quality and at getting national and international accreditations as soon as possible. The works published will be provided with a DOI number. EJOSS will be provided with a dedicated webpage included in the EURAS website.

EJOSS will include a section on EURAS life. Despite pandemic, EURAS has not stopped its activities. We hope to give account of an increasing number of events and common tasks. Thanks a lot to the brave hearts who have founded and are managing EURAS and this Journal!
Eurasian Journal of Health (EJOH) is a peer-reviewed international scientific open access periodical published in accordance with independent, unbiased, and double blind peer-review principles. It publishes two issues per year. The publication language of the journal is English. The journal is the official publication of the Eurasian Universities Union (EURAS). EJOH aims to contribute to the literature by publishing manuscripts of highest scientific level in all fields of health including medicine with clinical and basic fields, nursing, physiotherapy, audiology, nutrition and dietetics, dentistry, public health, epidemiology, and all relevant disciplines.

The journal targets all healthcare professionals in all health disciplines and publishes original experimental and clinical research articles, case reports, reviews of experts in a specific field, letters to the editors and brief reports on new methods or techniques or preliminary results of original studies. The journal conforms to the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing.

The publication processes of the journal are run in accordance with the guidelines of the International Council of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), the Council of Science Editors (CSE), the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), and National Information Standards Organization (NISO).

EURAS was proud to collaborate with Istanbul Aydin University on Delightful Istanbul Online Summer program for International Students this year. The two-week program took place in July 2020. 54 students from 16 countries participated. 27 students from EURAS member universities joined Delightful Istanbul. Students took one online course with ECTS credits and also completed an Intercultural Learning Certificate program.

EURAS is honored to support International Social Business Virtual Program organized by Daffodil International University, which will be held on 20-25 July with the theme of ‘New Minds for New World’. Besides learning about Social Business for Sustainable Development and entrepreneurship, students will also explore new networking opportunities among participants and resource persons. Participants will have an exclusive e-Master Class with Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, Father of Social Business & Micro-credit.
EURAS, in collaboration with several partners and Members, is pleased to offer a series of free webinars on the Future of Higher Education and International Education. As EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union, we are pleased to launch EURAS Regional Webinars. Take a look at the online calendar on EURAS Website: https://euras-edu.org/webinars/webinar-calendar/
EURAS Annual Conference: Eurasia Higher Education Summit

We would like to kindly present our invitation for EURIE 2021 - Eurasia Higher Education Summit to be held in Istanbul on 3 - 5 March 2021. It will be our highest honor to host you at this summit.

EURIE, the largest higher education expo and summit in Eurasia is endorsed by Eurasian Universities Union - EURAS.

You are invited to submit panel and presentation proposals to share best practices and innovative approaches on the following subthemes:

- Access and Inclusion in International Education
- Trends in International Student Mobility
- Globally/Regionally Engaged Universities
- Sustainability in International Education
- Educational Technologies and Online Learning

Furthermore, this year for the third time, the International Entrepreneurship and Innovation Event Imagine Tomorrow supported by EURAS will take place as a sub-event of EURIE Summit.
We published the new edition of EURAS Catalogue, which plays an important role in giving detailed information about our Union, last year’s activities, list of the members and partners, publications, information regarding upcoming events and future goals and projects.

https://euras-edu.org/dosyalar/EURAS%20Catalog-March%202020.pdf

We were glad to share our Annual Report regarding our activities and several positive developments that took place throughout the last year, which can be found on our website


As we are always keen on updating information regarding EURAS, we published our new brochure with a quick glance about our union, updated list of members and partners and EURAS future goals and projects. In our brochure. You can also follow the timeline of EURAS meetings, conferences, trainings and academies.

About EURAS

Launched in 2008, EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union is a non-profit international education association, promoting cooperation among over 120 member universities and partner institutions from all around the world and working for the global advancement of educational standards in the Eurasian region.

EURAS, the main supporter and endorser of EURIE Summit, is the largest and strongest higher education association of the region, focuses on improving the international collaborations and cooperative activities via unique networking and sharing the latest trends on innovation, globalization and quality assurance.

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