



EURIE 2024

Report on EURAS Members Forum

29 February 2024

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- Opening speech by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa AYDIN**, President of EURAS & EURIE
- Welcome **Message by Muzaffer BACA**, General Secretary of EURAS

The specific points highlighted in his speech were as follows:

a. Project Ideas: “One crucial area that warrants our immediate attention is the empowerment of women through education, particularly in remote regions such as Afghanistan. It is imperative that we allocate greater funding and resources towards initiatives aimed at advancing educational opportunities for women in these underserved areas”

b. Addressing Critical Issues: “The challenges faced by nations like Ukraine and Gaza demand our proactive engagement and support. It is disheartening to note the lack of assistance extended to these regions. Therefore, I advocate for a concerted effort to address issues of peace and poverty comprehensively. I propose that member universities demonstrate heightened commitment towards resolving these pressing matters”

c. Proposals for Action: “In light of the ongoing global circumstances, I suggest the organization of virtual conferences as a viable means to foster collaboration among our partners and universities. While virtual platforms may not entirely replicate the experience of in-person gatherings, they offer a valuable opportunity to address regional challenges effectively. I propose the organization of region-specific conferences that focus not only on educational matters but also on broader regional issues”

In conclusion, he made the call to all members of EURAS to actively participate in shaping our collective endeavors. Together, let us strive to make meaningful contributions towards fostering education, peace, and prosperity across borders.

- Welcome Address and Greetings by the EURAS General Coordinator, **Sabina HUSEYNOVA**
- Brainstorming Session Moderated by **Prof. Dr. Funda Sivrikaya ŞERİFOĞLU**

The recently concluded brainstorming session, expertly moderated by Prof. Dr. Funda Sivrikaya Şerifoğlu, facilitated dynamic discussions among EURAS members on critical strategic matters concerning the institutional identity of EURAS. The session encompassed the exploration of a slogan, delineation of core values, establishment of strategic objectives, and identification of potential new platforms within EURAS.

Prior to the conference, a brief survey was disseminated, eliciting responses from less than 15% of the membership. Nevertheless, the valuable insights provided by participants yielded a rich tapestry of ideas, enhancing the depth of discussion.

Prof. Dr. Funda Sivrikaya Şerifoğlu initiated the session by revisiting EURAS's mission and vision statements, setting the stage for productive deliberations. Subsequently, the survey results were presented and deliberated upon by attendees. Active engagement from members led to the emergence of additional suggestions, all of which have been meticulously integrated into the ensuing report.

Slogan for EURAS:

Survey results;

Higher Education Bridge over Continents (top rated)

The Interconnected Voice of Universities in Europe, Asia, and Beyond (top rated)

Other suggestions from the audience:

“Eurasian Future Voice”

Values for EURAS

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Networking (top rated)* | Support |
| Cooperations (top rated)* | Educational values |
| Mobility (top rated)* | Opportunities |
| Innovation (top rated)* | Expansion |
| Sustainability | Diversity |
| Sustainability and social responsibility | Advancement |
| Community involvement | Collaboration |
| Resources and research exchange | Evolution |
| Knowledge exchange | Improvement |
| Lifelong learning | Leadership |
| Quality education | |

Additional Suggestions from the Audience:

“A fundamental aspect that significantly impacts participation is fostering cooperation and intercultural understanding. Establishing genuine connections with individuals from diverse backgrounds can further enhance participation rates. Flexibility is also paramount, as is fostering a culture of open communication. By embracing these principles, we can collectively converge towards common objectives. Moreover, creating an environment that values idea-sharing can substantially bolster participation.”

“It is imperative to contextualize proposals for enhancing participation within the operational framework and realities of EURAS. Emphasizing innovation alongside a commitment to quality education is essential for driving progress.”

“Policy developments should be incorporated into our considerations.” (This matter was subsequently discussed during the session.)

Strategic Objectives

Survey results;

- ✓ Building collaborations to enhance educational standards in member institutions for global competitive advantage (top rated)*
- ✓ Developing policy suggestions to improve higher education in quality (top rated) *
- ✓ Building collaborations to exchange best practices & mobility among member institutions (top rated)*
- ✓ Joint projects and academic exchange
- ✓ Facilitating joint projects for innovative results
- ✓ Suggested ones are enough objectives for future development
- ✓ Trying to find and provide funding for joint research and student mobility
- ✓ Building collaborations to enhance educational standards
- ✓ Creating policy recommendations to enhance higher education quality and quantity
- ✓ Promoting mobility among member institutions
- ✓ Create alumni networking
- ✓ Providing field trips to member institutions to build stronger relations
- ✓ Encouraging member institutions to hold joint conferences, webinars, workshops
- ✓ Supporting the development and professionalization of education
- ✓ Studying the culture of countries to improve communication skills between members and students
- ✓ Encourages mobility among member institutions.
- ✓ Bulding cooperative activities for widening innovations in education

Audience Suggestions:

“It is imperative to establish region-wide education standards to facilitate mobility exchange. Without such standards, navigating educational transitions could prove challenging. Therefore, creating a level playing field is essential.”

“We must actively foster collaborations with a wider array of academic journals. Encouraging scholars across various disciplines to contribute articles to EURAS’s three journals—Journal of Science and Technology, Journal of Medicine, and Journal of Social Science—is paramount. Regrettably, the current submission rates do not reflect the potential for broader engagement.”

“Following on from the previous point, the accreditation of journals holds significant importance. Presently, the absence of timely and high-quality issues impedes our accreditation efforts, highlighting the need for strategic interventions in this regard.”

Two New Platforms

EURAS Student Platform - NEXTGEN and Quality for Sustainability Platform

Suggestion:

NEXTGEN

- Functions as an advisory board
- Each member university is represented by 2 students, male and female
- Governed by Executive Board of 11 members
- Secretarial team: 3 members from different countries
- Meets
- online in September each year
- face to face @ EURIE

QUALITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY PLATFORM

The platform is intended to organize the following activities and more:

- Seminars on quality
- Best practice workshops
- Quality mentors
- Peer reviews
- Sustainability projects
- Including sustainability in curricula

Additional Audience Suggestions:

The proposal for the establishment of a student platform received overwhelming support and approval from nearly all members and partnering universities.

Additional Audience Suggestions:

- ✔ Representative from Superior University: “Sharing our collaborative and individual practices is essential for collective progress. Openly exchanging experiences and strategies can greatly contribute to our advancement.”

- ✔ “Student platforms are widely embraced, and the term ‘student’ could be broadened to encompass a broader demographic, such as ‘youth.’ A youth platform for peace aligns with our commitment to sustainability, which hinges on our universities’ efforts in combating poverty and crime. Prioritizing education funding within governmental budgets is paramount, as it lays the foundation for peace-building initiatives.”

- ✔ “Direct student involvement should be a central goal for the upcoming three years, fostering active participation and engagement.”

- ✔ “Our primary objective is to cultivate financial independence among our students, evidenced by our institution’s remarkable 98.5% employment rate. Graduation requirements focus on practical experience, either through entrepreneurial endeavors with thesis projects or internships within industries, emphasizing employment readiness.”

- ✔ “Digitalization and the transformative impact of AI on the job market are key considerations that must be factored into our initiatives.”

- ✔ Based on the deliberations, it is evident that EURAS-NEXTGEN should be designated as the Youth Platform. Additionally, there is a clear demand for smaller gatherings to facilitate the sharing of best practices among members.

Establishment of a Committee:

All members will be informed about the committee to be formed by the Board of Directors and its follow-up activities.

EURAS Headquarters

Adress: **Besyol Mah. Inonu Cad. No: 38 Istanbul – Turkey**

Phone: **+90 (212) 411 61 68** Email: **euras@euras-edu.or**



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