



Prof. D-r Zlatko Zoglev,
Rector of University "St. Kliment Ohridski" -Bitola

TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

The contemporary education and science represent the main link of the global world which we exist in. The knowledge itself bridges the scholars of all nations, professions, cultures and civilizations and they become a part of the actual globalization.

A new chapter has already commenced in the history of modern higher education i.e. of modern universities.

They are really confronted with the question of redefining their traditional role and integrating a new developing vision.

In this stadium of complete social evolution, in this new time approaching, more than ever in their history will universities have to take into consideration the societies, which are in a process of huge ideological, technological and other changes and face a galloping globalization.

This will inevitably be a task of the University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Bitola. The developing strategies that the University will adopt and realize, will verify the educational, scientific, research and cultural heritage, at the same time accepting the challenges that higher education institutions are about to face in the following decades regardless to whether the context of their activity is local, regional, national or even international.

The agenda includes new, but key forms of future action, realized through different, more modern terminology in university communication. It will deal with issues such as: quality and competitiveness, creation of new types of education, horizontal and vertical mobility, relationship university-commerce, relationship university-external surrounding, concentration and development of scientific and research resources as an inseparable part of the university function, assessment of academic offer and the scientific-research work on national level as one of the key factors for scientific promotions of the country.

In the future, the University "St. Kliment Ohridski" should present and promote innovative forms of educational offer in the sphere of graduate, postgraduate, vocational and life-long learning. Therefore, the close link between the academic and social-economic subjects will be a key factor for successful defining of educational goals, for the new types of education and their direction.

Also the University should provide favorable climate for establishing interdisciplinary approach, that is, a dialogue, intervening of disciplines rather than confusion. This will enable to differentiate clear fields with a possibility for adaptability and integration in active life.

The University bears a full responsibility in creating new curricula, which will be designed in such a way as to enable the cadres that are being educated to professionally respond to the needs and requirement of economic, social and cultural to the growing unemployment trend. The driving forces of the social and economic world should be additionally mobilized in order to facilitate the process of emerging of new occupations, new competencies. In this correlation the university should be innovative enough to create new educational offers, to evaluate the current ones in order to provide young people with a possibility to find work, and at the same time to develop the permanent learning so that it integrates new knowledge and skills in professional life.

The University is faced with a process of integrating of new technologies, especially the multimedia networks, which will give students the chance to access all kinds of information and communication. Thanks to NIT, each student will literally be in the focus of academic attention: led by the teacher around the labyrinth of knowledge, the student will have to choose what to learn having in mind the sensibility, needs and intellectual curiosity.

The new society, at the beginning of the third millennium, will be a society entirely based on knowledge. The knowledge will be increasingly horizontal and disciplined.

The selection will be done having the general knowledge as criteria. The basic cultural knowledge will be more inevitable than ever. Culture and science will come closer and will not be regarded as two separate entities. At the same time, and this is also a significant change of academic mentality, the curricula offered to students at the University, will take into consideration the usage of fundamental knowledge in what is applied and professional.

Fewer boundaries in knowledge will result with decreasing of university boundaries. Restrictions will change their borderline. Europe and globalization knock at our door. Scientific and research work led by international teams, issuing of joint diplomas, co-mentor process in realizing the doctoral thesis, participation in joint projects, mobility of cadres and students, all this is only, a prelude in what universities of tomorrow will have to do.

Globalization is not only an economic category: the university should overcome its consequences in its own environment. If education changes the boundaries in space, it will do the same in time: university will increasingly acquire a mission to realize lifelong learning.

It is this notion of continuity and stability that may help in determining the position of the universities of tomorrow. The balance will be fragile: stability, continuity of university values, but also a constant change, incorporation, integration of that university in a society that is constantly changing and fluctuating.

This situation will soon become our everyday life. The University should be ready to face the same thing that stronger and older universities will deal with...It will have to change, adapt, and at the same time to function and resist the changes, to exist...

The task that the University "St.Kliment Ohridski" – Bitola has as a heir of a ten-century long culture in this region, that is the further civilization past, as well as this 30 year- long development during which despite all the rises and falls, pressure and tensions, but new ideas, initiatives and projects, this University showed its institutional power and capacity to be elastic and flexible towards changes, all this represents a sufficient potential in dealing the challenges to come.

Zlatko Zoglev