

# **THE BLACK SEA AND CASPIAN SEA AREA STUDIES NETWORK**

**Eliot Sorel, M.D., D.L.F.A.P.A.  
and**

**Adrian Curaj, Eng., E.M.B.A., Ph.D.**

**Convenors**

**Celebrating 130th Anniversary of  
Romanian-American Diplomatic Relations  
1880-2010**

**The Continental Hotel  
Bucharest, Romania  
8-10 July 2010**



# **21<sup>st</sup> Century Higher Education**

## ***Quality, Innovation, Leadership, Human Capital Development Workshop***

Eliot Sorel, M.D., D.L.F.A.P.A.  
Adrian Curaj, Eng., E.M.B.A, Ph.D.  
Convenors

**Continental Hotel  
Bucharest, ROMANIA  
8-10 July, 2010**

# **Black Sea & Caspian Sea Area Studies Network**

## *Highlights*

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# FOREWORD

**Eliot Sorel, M.D., D.L.F.A.P.A.**

The Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area Studies Network, a Euro-Atlantic, Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area universities' partnership, was launched under the aegis of the Romanian Presidency in Bucharest, Romania, on July 8, 2010.

We are grateful for the invaluable support, received from many sources, for this historic and unprecedented initiative. Those sources include Ambassadors Richard E. Hoagland (U.S. Embassy, Astana, Kazakhstan), Mark H. Gitenstein (U.S. Embassy, Bucharest, Romania), Adrian Vierita (Romanian Embassy, Washington, D.C.), and their staffs; George Washington University President Steven Knapp and staff; the Rectors, Vice-Rectors, and participating professors from the E.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University of Kazakhstan, the Kazakhstan School of Public Health, Almaty; Khazar University of Azerbaijan; the Carol Davila Medical University, the Romanian Academy, the Polytechnic University, the New Europe College, all of Romania; Cergy-Pontoise University, France; La Sapienza University and Tor-Vergata University, both of Italy; “Nicolae Testemitanu” University of the Republic of Moldova; and, the George Washington University, U.S.A.

Our ground-breaking initiative, based on the concept paper – *Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area Studies* – would not have been possible without the superb dedication and support of the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth, and Sport, Adrian Curaj, Eng., E.M.B.A., Ph.D., the International Projects Coordinator of the Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research Funding, and his gifted staff.

It is our distinct pleasure and privilege to share with you the content, process, and the immediate outcomes of the first meeting of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area Studies Network, as well as the envisioned next steps. They are in the “*think big, can-do*” spirit of the Marshall Plan and our Euro-Atlantic traditions, in tandem with our Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area partners, a symbolic gift celebrating, this year, the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Romanian-American diplomatic relations.

# **The Black Sea & Caspian Sea Area Studies**

## A Euro-Atlantic, Black Sea, Caspian Sea Universities' Partnership

Eliot Sorel, M.D.\*  
The George Washington University

### **Background**

The Black and Caspian Seas are located in a most crucial geopolitical area of the world. This region has an abundant diversity of cultures and traditions, natural and human resources. In addition, it contains one of the main energy sources and corridors of energy transport to the European Union, the U.S.A., and to Asia's new emerging economic powers—China and India—critical for sustainable development. The region is bound by E.U. members states—Romania and Bulgaria; several aspiring E.U. members such as Turkey and the Caucasus; the so-called “GUAM” states—Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova—and by Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Two energy transport initiatives are now being considered in this region: *South Stream* (initiated by Russia) and *Nabucco* (initiated by the European Union). Either or both of them may traverse the territories of Turkey, Bulgaria, and Romania. The region is also located near major areas of unresolved conflicts. Moreover, the world is now experiencing a major financial crisis, significantly reinforcing global economic instability gaps.

### **The project**

Knowledge of and familiarity with the dynamic Black Sea and Caspian Sea regions is limited in the European Union as well as in the United States, both in professional and policy circles as well as, and especially, among the general public. Young people of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea areas are eager to know more about the E.U. and the U.S.A., and aspire to study and develop their professional skills in either the E.U. and/or the U.S.A. The region is facing similar challenges as the rest of the world, given the current state of global affairs.

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\* Editor, *The Marshall Plan: Lessons Learned for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, OECD, Paris, France, 2008. This concept paper presents the ideas and perspectives of the author alone, and not necessarily those of the institutions with which he is affiliated.

A *Black Sea & Caspian Sea Area Studies multidisciplinary project*, initiated by a group of European, American, Black Sea and Caspian Sea public/private universities partners, is being proposed hereby to stimulate *knowledge generation, innovation, research, human capital development*; to close the development gap between the region and the rest of the world; and open up new major opportunities for collaboration among students, scholars, policymakers and professionals across disciplines and continents, with several starting foci:

- *History, cultures and traditions;*
- *Knowledge, innovation, human capital development;*
- *Energy and ecology;*
- *Science, innovation, measuring societies' progress;*
- *Public health and health systems strengthening;*
- *Technology, green growth, and sustainable development;*
- *Security studies; and*
- *Promotion of democracy, the rule of law, and the role of media in democratic societies.*

### **Partners**

Startup partners of this historic and unprecedented, public/private universities' partnership, inspired by the Marshall Plan, would include the George Washington University, French, Romanian, Kazakh, and Azeri universities. As the project matures, other American, European, Black Sea and Caspian Sea universities will be included.

### **Cooperation agreement: meeting and workshop**

A meeting to develop a cooperation agreement letter, to identify projects' priorities and the human and financial resources necessary for their launching and successful outcomes, in tandem with a workshop on *Higher Education, Science & Innovation: Their Roles in Human Capital Development in the Black Sea & Caspian Sea Regions*, will take place in Bucharest, Romania, July 8-10, 2010. Projects' launch is anticipated in 2011.

### **Financing**

Human and financial resources will be obtained from public and private institutions, governments, foundations and individual donors.

## **Anticipated outcomes**

The projects will promote and reinforce multilateral collaborations on:

- History, cultures, and traditions of the areas;
- Knowledge generation and human capital development;
- Energy and ecology;
- Science, innovation, public health/health systems' strengthening;
- Technology, green growth, and sustainable development;
- Measuring societies' progress;
- Security studies applying the lessons learned from the *Marshall Plan*;
- Promote democracy, the rule of law, and the catalytic role of a free press in the region;
- Enhance educational and scholarly research opportunities for young people and senior scholars of the region with each other and with their counterparts in the E.U. and U.S.A.;
- Close the knowledge, understanding and action gaps between the Black Sea & Caspian Sea areas people and those of the United States and the European Union;
- Deliver innovation, education, research projects and policies of mutual benefit; and
- Leading to a free, peaceful and prosperous flow of people, ideas and goods.

## **Evaluation**

Transparent evaluations—qualitative and quantitative—of the educational, research and innovation projects will take place on an annual basis, accompanied by a public progress report, recommendations and follow up actions. Each project's annual report, in the English language as well as in the language(s) of our partners, will be posted on a timely and regular basis on all the university partners' websites.





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7 April, 2010

*RE: The Black Sea & Caspian Sea Area Studies  
Higher Education, Science & Innovation:  
Their Roles in Human Capital Development in the Black & Caspian Sea Regions*

Dear Professor Sorel,

We reviewed with great interest your *Black Sea & Caspian Sea Area Studies* concept paper. We found it to be very timely and relevant for the Black Sea & Caspian Sea Regions as well as for Romania. It is very much in line with the Mutual Learning Workshops (MLW) we organize in the framework of "Quality and Leadership for Higher Education" Project ( [www.edu2025.ro](http://www.edu2025.ro) ).

We are particularly pleased to notice your paper's systemic, systematic & integrative design, its multilateral approach inspired by the *Marshall Plan*, involving the Black Sea & Caspian Sea as well as European Union and American universities.

We also have appreciated very much your willingness to work with us in developing a joint meeting, a MLW, this year in Romania involving key French, American, Romanian, Kazakh and Azeri Universities to:

- review together the concept paper,
- develop a *Cooperation Agreement* setting priorities on
  - the hierarchy of joint projects,
  - identify human and financial resources necessary for their implementation and
- do a Mutual Learning Workshop on *Higher Education, Science & Innovation: Their Roles on Human Capital Development in the Black Sea & Caspian Sea Region*.

The Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research Funding from Romania is ready and willing to work with you, Romanian Universities, and French, American, Kazakh & Azeri Research Funding Authorities and University partners to begin organizing this historic meeting inviting the President of respective universities and one or two faculty members to join us in a formal two and a half days meeting in Bucharest to address this visionary agenda.

We are also prepared to provide the necessary resources for the meeting and for travel and accommodation of all participants according to the financial arrangements we use for the Mutual



Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport  
Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research Funding



Learning Workshops that are organized by the Quality and Leadership for Higher Education Project ([www.edu2025.ro](http://www.edu2025.ro)).

We envision approximately twelve overseas participants and an equal number of Romanian colleagues.

We would like to organize this first *Black Sea & Caspian Sea Area Studies* meeting and workshop, at a mutually convenient time, in Bucharest this July, 2010. Please confirm your agreement to serve, along with me, as one of this historic event's conveners.

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# 21st Century Higher Education: Leadership, Innovation and Human Capital Development – Euro-Atlantic, Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area Studies

*Bucharest, 8-10 July 2010*

## ***Projects proposals:***

### **- youth democracy forum**

National competition of high school students to restore the patrimony

- project launch (fall 2010)
- write a composition (deadline: April 2011)
- jury select 40 winners
- summer 2011: southern Transylvania patrimony
- digitize heritage
- working space: International

### **- certificate for Black Sea & Caspian Sea area studies**

GWU – Baku University -> Certificate for BS & CS area studies

- Prof. Eliot Sorel, Prof. Henry Hale and Prof. Hamlet Isaxanli
- A name for the group: Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area Studies Network (in collaboration with Euro-Atlantic area)
- Partners: US, Azerbaijan

### **- Black Sea & Caspian Sea accreditation agency**

### **- centre for medical research**

### **- control diseases & health system strengths**

### **- health & life science**

### **- Health Systems Strengthening, ICT technology for primary care**

- Home personal care: cardio-vascular, other NCD -> online transfer of symptoms to the doctor who diagnoses
- Partners: Romania, Moldova, Kazakhstan (Almaty & Astana)

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- **curricula reform & accreditation**
  - o e-university environment (e-learning across disciplines) -> infrastructure for online collaborative working: e-university development
  - o System of accreditation -> tertiary & university reform in BS & CS area (uniform accreditation criteria in the region): small group working on Bologna process consistency
  - o Coordinator: Romania
  - o Life long learning
- MA with focus on ICT
- Long life learning
- e-learning 2.0
- human capital development
- how to foster the usage & impact of research infrastructure (the future role of diffusion of technology & communication ICT -> infrastructure R&D)
- open university
- support of government in innovation policy
- **How to measure the progress of society**
  - o Special program of OECD
  - o Forum for progress & development
  - o Partners: BSCSASN, OECD, Romanian Academy
- **green growth development**
  - o Green regional development: Black Sea & Caspian Sea green growth
  - o Connected with the Danube Delta project
  - o Partners: GWU, Italy, Azerbaijan
- **linkage between theory & practice**
  - o knowledge applying skills
- **volunteer mobility**
  - o not only students mobility, but also a mobility of professors
- **internship programs for the high school graduates**
  - o internship for bachelor





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## ***Name: Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area Studies Network***

### ***Selected projects:***

- ➔ Youth democracy forum
- ➔ E-university: BSCS certificate & the Bologna process, accreditation process
- ➔ Knowledge generating skills
- ➔ Health systems strengthening, ICT in primary care
- ➔ BSCS green growth, measuring society progress
- ➔ Scholars mobility in the BSCS area: grants & funding
- ➔ Policy & innovation

### ***Summary, consensus statement*** (one page):

- What we did
- Future steps
- Conclusions
- How to implement
- Next meeting: Baku

### ***Financial support for implementation:***

- FOGARTY International Center (US) – Prof. Sorel
- Black Sea Joint Operational Program – Ministry of Regional Development in Romania - BSCSIF
- Neighbour policy – Prof. Dominese
- Eurasian – Prof. Dominese
- ENI Foundation for Environment (Italy) –Prof. Dominese
- BOSCH Foundation – Prof. Dominese
- UNICREDIT, INTESA SANPAOLO – GARANTI, SOCIETE GENERALE, DEUTCHE BANK (Norbert) – Prof. Dominese
- BOLASCHAK Foundation – Ministry of Education Kazakhstan – Prof. Abdiraiym
- World Genesis Foundation – University of New Mexico – Adrian Lala (UMF Bucharest)
- NORAD Norway – Prof. Dominese
- USAID – Prof. Sorel

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- World Bank Institute – Prof. Sorel
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland – BSCSIF

### ***Communication:***

- Web page + forum: Prof. Tapus
- Journals: debates, presentations, questions
- Monograph of the event: GWU, SiMarc Foundation + BSCSIF

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Higher Education: Quality, Leadership, Innovation

### The Bucharest Consensus Autumn 2010\*\*

*Eliot Sorel, Editor\**

- *Quality, 21<sup>st</sup> century higher education is transdisciplinary, systemic, systematic, and integrative. These defining qualities are a rich source of leadership, innovation, human capital development, and humane values that contribute to sustainable development and the progress of society.*
- *Moreover, quality higher education—its leadership and human capital development—is a powerful growth engine as well as a strong foundation for future prosperity, enhanced global understanding and cooperation.*
- *Promoting higher education, innovation, and human capital development should be one of the pillars of national, regional and global policies for international cooperation.*
- *High-profile transnational economic projects may provide future incentives as well as additional financial resources for the enhancement of cooperation in the field of higher education, innovation, and human capital development.*
- *Human capital development and innovation are interdependent, the first being the factor enhancing the second. Competitive, high quality universities systems—inspired by the best international practices and a reformed tertiary high school education—are indispensable to pursue long-term robust results in any country, wherever in the world, and certainly most relevant to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea area.*
- *To the financial resources allocated to human capital investments by governments and private sector in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area, international partnerships would bring added value to further high quality and competitive human capital development. Increasing investment in higher education, human capital and research development would enhance global economic performance. South Korea, Malaysia, Turkey, China, and India are illustrative examples of such rewarding and results, outcomes driven initiatives.*

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\*Eliot Sorel, M.D., is an internationally recognized medical leader, educator, health systems expert and practicing physician. He holds professorial appointments in the School of Medicine and the School of Public Health of George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He was awarded the *Doctor Honoris Causa* by Carol Davila Medical University in Bucharest in 2009 and the *Star of Romania Order of Commander* in 2004.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Higher Education: Quality, Leadership & Innovation

### The Bucharest Consensus Autumn 2010, continued\*\*

*Eliot Sorel, Editor*

- *The Bologna Process, an international educational convention of high educational standards is led by Romania between 2010 and 2012. Furthermore, Romania will be the Bologna Process Ministerial Conference convener of 2012. The convergence of the Bologna Process with the transatlantic dimension of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area Studies and Network partnership launched at the Bucharest meeting in July 2010, represent a tangible asset for the universities in the region, open to all BSCSA universities willing to join the network and contribute to its success, in the spirit of the Bucharest Consensus*
- *Sustainable growth of a state's economy can be seen as proportional to the rate of investments in human capital development. Consequently, the best result from long term development strategies is achieved by integrating investment in the development of information technology with an expanding business environment and human capital formation*
- *“Green growth” and environmentally sustainable economic progress are of critical importance to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area and for the countries in the region on their way to sustainable development.*
- *Promote the Double-Degree Diploma projects to encompass all Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area universities willing to join the network.*
- *Appoint a BSCSASN work group on a Black Sea and Caspian Sea area universities' higher education accreditation agency to develop Bologna Process consistent criteria for such diplomas, across the sciences and the humanities*
- *Stimulate higher education, innovation, leadership, human capital development, sharing of experiences and the free flow of people, ideas, goods and services across borders and between the Black Sea & Caspian Sea Network countries, their Euro-Atlantic and other global partners*

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\*\* *The Bucharest Consensus* was developed by University leaders from Azerbaijan, France, Italy, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania and the United States meeting at the *Black Sea & Caspian Sea Area Studies Conference* convened by Professors Eliot Sorel & Adrian Curaj at the Grand Hotel Continental, in Bucharest, July 10-12, 2010. This final version was edited by Professor Sorel.

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# 21st Century Higher Education: Leadership, Innovation and Human Capital Development – Euro-Atlantic, Black Sea and Caspian Sea Area Studies

*Grand Hotel Continental, Grigorescu Conference Hall*

*Bucharest, 8-10 July 2010*

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