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FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

**Higher  
Education  
in Europe**

In this issue:

**Emergence of Universities: New Higher Education Institutions  
and Their Role in Local and Regional Development**

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# Higher Education in Europe

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### **From the Editors**

Like the previous issue of **Higher Education in Europe** (No. 2, 2001), this issue also publishes papers that were presented at a recently-held international conference. This conference was the "International Seminar on 'Emergence of Universities: New Higher Education Institutions and their Role in Local and Regional Development'" that was held in Zielona Góra, Poland, from 12 to 13 May 2001. It was a collaborative event organized by the European Institute for Regional and Local Development (EUROREG) of the University of Warsaw, the UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair, attached to EUROREG, on Sustainable Development, UNESCO-CEPES, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, and the Local Governing Councils of the City of Zielona Góra and of the Lubuskie Voivodship of which the city is a part.

Some forty participants attended the Seminar, mostly academics and local officials, plus media representatives, students, and teachers from the region. Although the Polish presence was predominant, participants also came from Germany, Spain (Catalonia), Finland, and Romania. The Director and the Senior Editor of UNESCO-CEPES attended. Altogether, fifteen participants made presentations that were distributed among four sessions devoted to the following topics: *(i)* The University and the Region; *(ii)* The Process and Conditions for the Emergence of a University: Idea, Blueprint, Design, and Implementation; *(iii)* [The] University and [the] Cultural Diversity of the Region; *(iv)* Public and Private Partnerships in Higher Education; *(v)* The Emerging Universities: A Foresight Look [at the] Challenges Facing Higher Education. These were preceded by an Opening Session that included addresses by Dr. Jan Sadlak, the Director of UNESCO-CEPES, Dr. Wojciech Falkowski, the Secretary General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, Mr. Andrzej Bochenski, President of the Voivodship Executive Council, Mr. Zygmunt Listowski, Mayor of Zielona Góra, and Professor Grzegorz Gorzelak, Director of EUROREG. The presence of the local officials bore witness to the importance attached by the town and the region to the occasion that indeed marked the final steps in the merging of two local public higher education institutions, the Zielona Góra Polytechnic and the Higher School of Pedagogy of Zielona Góra, to form the University of Zielona Góra. The decision to bring about this merger had already been approved by the Sejm, the Polish Parliament.

As the first article appearing below, the Rapporteur's report, introduces the various presenter/authors as well as some of the other participants, these will not be further mentioned in this "From the Editor" piece.

Suffice it to say that the idea of holding this Seminar had a twin inspiration: There was first-of-all the interest of the Director of UNESCO-CEPES, Dr. Jan Sadlak, as to the particular set of social, economic, and political forces that lead to the founding of a university or other kind of higher education institution at a given place and time. His interest increased - the question took on new urgency - following the political changes of 1989 in Central and Eastern Europe, when private higher education institutions, 858 of them by 1999, sprung up all over the region, where almost none had existed before 1989.

The second source of inspiration was the interest in the subject of the European Institute for Regional and Local Development (EUROREG) and the UNESCO Chair located within it, especially when viewed from the vantage point of "local and regional development", a subject to which particular attention was drawn in the deliberations and the documents emerging from the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education of 1998. The subject of universities and local development had already been examined elsewhere in Poland. Notably, in June 1996, a Polish organization, the Educational Enterprise Foundation, collaborated with the Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education of OECD and with the Warsaw School of Economics to organize an international conference in Łódź, Poland, on the "Role of Universities in [the] Development of Local Communities". Four years later in the same Polish city, the Educational Enterprise Foundation sponsored another conference on a related topic, "The Role of Higher Education Institutions in Regional Social and Economic Development". Many of the contributors to this issue of **Higher Education in Europe** participated in both conferences.

Because of the number and the length of the articles in this issue, we are unable to include either the usual "Tribune" or the "Book Reviews and Studies" sections. The very informative study of four books that we had planned for this issue will be transferred to the next issue, No. 4, 2001, that is dedicated to ["Virtual versus Classical Universities: Conflict or Collaboration?"](#).