

European University Association
Brussels, 30 october 2006

Dear colleagues,

On the occasion of the 2nd European Conference on Higher Education of National Minorities, the European University Association is pleased to add its support to this event and to wish you all every success in your discussions on this important subject.

EUA aspires towards a European Higher Education Area which creates opportunities for all citizens to benefit from higher education. We share the European ambition to develop higher education systems where the student body both entering and completing higher education reflects the diversity of our populations. To work towards these ambitious goals, it is crucial that policy issues related to education and higher education provision for national minorities are tackled openly and seriously, taking account of the complex cultural and linguistic environments around Europe.

This Conference could therefore not be held in a more appropriate setting. Given the importance of the issues that you are addressing, I regret very much that I am unable to join you. However, I would like to assure you that EUA will do everything within our power to promote good practice in this area, and to build upon the work that you are now undertaking.

I wish you a fruitful conference and look forward to learning about the outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Georg Winckler
President