



DEED OF FOUNDATION

Title: *Research University Network of the "Visegrad Plus" Group*
Secretary: Pázmány Péter Catholic University
Budapest, H-1088, Szentkirályi u. 28.

1. Abstract of Mission Statement

A major reason why the "Visegrad Plus" Group – enlarged by Croatia – has a special intellectual heritage:

- a) One reason why there is a fundamental misunderstanding in academia, in politics and economic affairs within the EU is that for 45 years the history, the life and the life experience of people in the "Visegrad Plus" Group were so dramatically different compared to democratic countries that even some fundamental notions were different. These are reflected in intellectual levels as well. The proposed group of Universities might reflect, analyze, publish and manifest these historical differences thereby contributing to a better understanding of the current history and a convergence of mindset in the young generation.
- b) In order to promote this understanding and protect the lasting national and regional culture of Central Europe the fostering, teaching and the high level research of the history, literature and languages of these countries are reciprocally necessary in institutionalized form. This goal is based on that mutual knowledge and appreciation of each language and culture of this region which already have valuable historical tradition.
- c) Beside the special intellectual and cultural heritage, to contribute into the research of leading and most developing field of sciences, i.e. the research and instruction of bionic technologies.

2. Committees and Councils

2.1. *Steering Committee*: the Presidents (Rectors) of the Founding Universities. The Chairman is one of the Members of the Steering Committee who is elected by the mentioned committee members for four years. The election happens by simple majority. The reelection is possible for one more term. The first Chairman is the President of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University.

2.2. *Members of Plenary Committee*: each President of the universities which have membership.

2.3. *Scientific Advisory Council*: Senior members in academia from high prestige universities, i.e. Ludwig Maximilian University (Munich), Technical University of Munich, Katolieke Univesiteit Leuven, ETH Zurich, Politecnico di Torino, Sacro Cuore University (Milan) [incl. the Gemelli Clinic], University of Notre Dame (Ind. USA). One member is delegated from each indicated university.

2.4. *Executive Council*: An administrative staff is composed from delegated contact persons or officials in charge by the member universities for realizing the decisions and coordinating the programs, projects, meetings, etc.

3. Essential fields of research and instruction:

- a) History;
- b) Literature (with especial regard to translations of sources, belles-lettres of the member countries);
- c) Language (mutually promoting the teaching and research of one another in each indicted country);
- d) Bionic technology (at the crossroads of biology and electronics, an emerging technology);
- f) The Steering Committee with the agreement of the Plenary Committee can supply with other fields the above listed research and instructional activities.

4. The quality and characteristics of the University which can apply for membership of the Research University Network of the "Visegrad Plus" Group:

- a) Teaching and research on all levels (BA/BSc, MA/Msc, PhD) and on all major fields of sciences (philosophy or theology, humanities (in particular: history, literature and linguistics, social sciences, some high technology and natural sciences);
- b) Some activities that bridge the gap between different fields (Institute of Advanced Studies or similar);
- c) Stable, ongoing research and teaching collaboration with noted international partner universities in all major fields, joint research and student exchange;
- d) Local and foreign research grants;
- e) Experimental laboratories in science and technology;
- f) Publication facility (University Press);
- g) Some original research directions in all major fields.

5. Competence of the Scientific Advisory Council:

5.1. Continuous monitoring of research and instructional activities of the member universities; elaborate strategic report in each year based on the collected information for new research programs, themes, projects, collaboration, etc.; listing the weaknesses and strength of the institutes and on this basis giving advice to them.

5.2. Analysis of the application of new universities which are intending to join membership. Two-thirds majority of their votes is necessary for the valid advice for membership to the Steering Committee.

6. Competence of the Steering Committee:

6.1. Consulting with representatives of the academic and cultural life in order to prepare proposals concerning the aims and preferences for a given university.

6.2. Seek for state, EU and other financial projects and grants which can support to fulfill the aforementioned aims.

6.3. Making decisions by simple majority concerning those universities which are approved by the Scientific Advisory Board.

6.4. Making detailed yearly strategic schedule for the Executive Council in order to promote the organization of meetings, consultations, decisions, etc.

7. Plenary Committee:

7.1. Introducing new – more strict – principles into the evaluation indicator system.

7.2. Accepting by simple majority the proposals of the Steering Committee and also the strategic reports and advices of the Scientific Advisory Council.

8. The Secretary works at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University. It gives administrative support of the Research University Network. The Secretary is appointed by the Chairman. The Secretary – which works in close relation with the Executive Council – is responsible for collecting, organizing and disseminating of information about every research and instructional activity of the member universities, including compiling and updating of the Network's homepage.

9. The Steering Committee is in session at least two times per year and the Chairman has the right to convoke them. The Scientific Advisory Council is in session when it is necessary, at least one time per year when they summarize the information which is in their competence, moreover, when they come together to analyze the new applicant university's possible membership. The Plenary Committee is in session one time per year, convoking by the Chairman of the Steering Committee. The Secretary is in continuous interaction with the Executive Council, focusing on the running projects and the fulfilling of every already defined event.

10. New Membership: for the application to join membership of new universities which have residence in the "Visegrad Plus" Group Territory is recommended to fulfill the above indicated instructional, research, and quality conditions. The Research University Network of the "Visegrad Plus" Group particularly welcomes to the V/4 Region Christian Universities.

~~Trnava University~~ Trnava

Trnava

~~Pázmány Péter~~ Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest

Budapest