



Innovation Initiative of Universities in the context of the Oder- / Odra Partnership

Minutes of the meeting on May 27th, 2010

Participants (contact details attached):

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg **Steinbach**, President of the TU Berlin
Marshal Władysław **Husejko**, Marshal of the West Pomeranian Region
Jacek **Baraniecki**, Director for Regional Policy at the Marshal's Office
Julity **Miłosz**, Director for International Cooperation at the Marshal's Office
Katarzyna **Kida-Makarewicz**, International Cooperation at the Marshal's Office
Krzysztof **Barczyk**, International Cooperation at the Marshal's Office
Maria-Luise **Löper**, Senate of Berlin - Chancellery
Mark **Rackles**, Senate of Berlin - Chancellery
Barbara **Staib**, Senate of Berlin – Department for Economics, Technology and Women's Issues
Prof. Dr. Ryszard **Kaleńczuk**, Vice Rector of the West Pomeranian University of Technology
Prof. Dr. Tadeusz **Kuczyński**, Deputy Rector of the University of Zielona Gora
Prof. Dr. Janina **Kopietz-Unger**, Professor for Regional Planning at the University of Zielona Gora
Prof. Dr. Michal **Jasiulewicz**, Professor for Economics at the Koszalin University of Technology
Prof. Dr. Stefan **Trzcielinski**, Vice-Rector for Education of the Poznan University of Technology
Prof. Dr. Marek **Dutkowski**, Professor for Natural Sciences at the University of Szczecin
Dr. Andrzej **Moczko**, Commissioner for International Affairs at the Wrocław University of Technology
Prof. Dr. Walther Ch. **Zimmerli**, President of the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus
Bernhard **Chesneau**, International Office of the TU Dresden
Prof. Dr. Iryna **Smetanska**, Professor at the TU Berlin
Prof. Dr. Markus **Hecht**, Professor at the TU Berlin
Harald **Ermel**, Head of Foreign Relations of the TU Berlin
Barabara **Stark**, Head of the Research Department of the TU Berlin
Senta **Maltschew**, Foreign Relations of the TU Berlin
Eckhard **Behrendt**, Berlin Partner GmbH

Initiative of the Universities

1) Introduction (Prof. Steinbach, President of the TU Berlin)

After a short introduction of the TU Berlin, Prof. Steinbach informed all participants about the previous steps in the context of the Initiative of Universities in the Oder- / Odra Partnership.

In a first step Marshal Husejko had asked Prof. Kutzler, former President of the TU Berlin to explore the possibilities and interest of universities on both sides to establish a network that would help developing science-based economies in the area of the Odra river. In this first stage only selected universities were invited to participate in order to keep the initiative focused. The enlargement of the network and involvement of other institutions shall be discussed at a later stage.

The kick-off meeting in Berlin aims to set a foundation for future cooperation and to prepare possible ideas for the political meeting in Stettin in October 2010.

2) The objectives (Marshal Husejko, Marshal of the West Pomeranian Region)

Marshal Husejko underlined the importance of the Innovation Initiative of Universities in the Oder- / Odra Partnership and described the kick-off meeting as a historical step. With its scientific focus the university network can contribute to furthering innovations, supporting start up companies and spin offs, and can help developing science based economies in the area of the Odra river. The already existing branches of economy should be supported and strengthened and new sectors of economy, which fit the structures of the region, should be developed. The motto is "Borders divide, the Oder / Odra connects".

For the implementation of joint research projects the Marshal suggested that a declaration will be signed during the political meeting in October in Stettin. After that stage the political and the scientific level should be separated.

Marshal Husejko continued with the presentation of first results from the questionnaire that was sent out in April to more than 130 institutions on the Polish and more than 140 institutions on the German side. A full evaluation of the questionnaire will be sent out to all interested institutions.

3) Discussion on potential activities in regards to education, student exchange, seminars (Prof. Steinbach, President of the TU Berlin)

President Steinbach suggested focusing the student exchange on Master and PhD programs. Short-term events like summer schools and block seminars should be enhanced.

4) Preliminary ideas for potential key areas for future cooperation and contribution to innovation within the Oder-/ Odra Partnership (Harald Ermel, Director of Foreign Relations)

After initial research at the TU Berlin by Dr. Günther (Research Controlling of the TU Berlin) 4 main areas were identified as preliminary ideas for further discussion:

1. Food Science, Biotechnology and Agro-Biology
2. Mechanical Engineering and Transportation Technologies
3. Electrical Engineering Energy Management
4. Computer Science, Information Technology and Telecommunication

Responses of the participating institutions:

- Koszalin University of Technology: Food Science
- University of Szczecin: none of the above mentioned areas
- West Pomeranian University of Technology: Food Science, Mechanical Engineering, Transportation, Renewable Energy, IT
- Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus: Energy, Environment (current cooperation with Zielona Gora)
- TU Dresden: Food Science, Mechanical Engineering, Transportation, Electrical Engineering, IT
- Poznan University of Technology: all areas suggested except Food Science
- University of Zielona Gora: Energy in connection with Construction and Environment
- Wroclaw University of Technology: Water-, Air-, Soil-Protection, Transportation, Architectural Heritage; all areas suggested except Food Science, student exchange suggested for short periods up to 2 semesters, development of double degrees to be enhanced

Representatives of the Senate of Berlin and Berlin Partner GmbH added the following areas: Biotech, Design Industry

5) Examples for possible cooperation with the TU Berlin

- Food Technology at the TU Berlin (Prof. Smetanska) – see presentation attached
- Cooperation in Railway Engineering (Prof. Hecht currently cooperating with the TU Poznan)

6) Possible funding

- by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Ms. Stark, Director of the Research Department at the TU Berlin) – see presentation attached
- by the EU (Mr. Behrendt, Berlin Partner GmbH) – see presentation attached

7) Conclusions and Wrap up

Next steps at the universities:

1. Two areas out of the first 4 proposals will be subject of joint workshops in September 2010:
 - Workshop on “Energy” at the Zielona Gora University (Prof. Kuczyński)
 - Workshop on “Food Technology” at the TU Berlin (Prof. Smetanska)
2. Rectors Meeting in September at the Westpomeranian University
 - with a possible suggestion for the next 2 subjects for workshops in 2011

The above mentioned activities serve as a preparation for the political meeting on October 26th / 27th, 2010 in Szczecin where an agreement will be signed.

Tasks for establishing direct contact between scientists:

- All university representatives send an overview of their existing cooperation within the Oder- / Odra-Region to the Marshal's office and the Senate of Berlin (kkidamakarewicz@wzp.pl; Mark.Rackles@senatskanzlei.berlin.de)
- All university representatives send their relevant contact details for Food Technology to the TU Berlin (Senta.Maltschew@tu-berlin.de)
- All university representatives send their relevant contact details for the field of Energy to Zielona Gora (T.Kuczynski@iis.uz.zgora.pl)
- Those universities with architectural heritage communicate their contacts to Dr. Andrzej Moczko (andrzej.moczko@pwr.wroc.pl)

Berlin, May 27th, 2010
Senta Maltschew