

REPORT
on organizational and administrative issues for ASECU-NAER
May 28th, 2013

Setting up the Network for Applied Economic Research (NAER), along with the realization of ASECU Youth, is probably the most promising initiative since the last General Assembly of our Association. NAER will first of all strengthen the interrelations between the staff of ASECU member institutions contributing thereby to collegiality. Moreover it will improve the academic and scientific recognition of the Association and its members. Finally, it will provide scientific conclusions that will support the collaboration and the socioeconomic development of our countries.

Following the decision of the last General Assembly, a team of colleagues from different universities proceeded with an essay that defined the scope and the scientific areas of interest of NAER. This essay has been already submitted to and accepted by the Board of Governors. Yet, in order to proceed with setting up the Network, it is necessary to provide two additional reports with more details, one for the existing databases in the regions of participating institutions and another, the present one, for the organizational structure and the administration of ASECU-NAER.

We propose the following points as the basic cornerstones:

1. Keep NAER as division of ASECU. Note that ASECU (as an association) can participate in EU-funding schemes, so this should not be a problem for using future calls of HORIZON or similar frameworks in order to finance activities of ASECU-NAER.
2. In the next General Assembly, members can decide if we have to establish a new legal entity (e.g., in the form of a public organization). Even in that case, it is important to ensure the relation to ASECU. Therefore, even if we decide to propose a new legal entity, ASECU should be the main, if not the only, founding "shareholder", who legitimizes the administration of ASECU-NAER.
3. Creation of regional nodes (branches) of ASECU-NAER at each participating university. A regional node will consist of a leader-researcher, appointed internally, and a declared team of colleagues in each university. Besides responding to the research activities of ASECU-NAER, regional nodes could have a degree of autonomy: they can conduct researches on regional level as well, if there is such an inquiry from any local company and/or authority.
4. Administration of ASECU-NAER:
 - 4.1. A Governing Body (GB) that should be flexible and short, with 3 members. Head of NAER Governing Body should be the President of ASECU. The representatives of the

universities that have regional nodes and participate in ASECUNAEER propose nominees for the other two positions in the GB and the General Assembly of ASECUNAEER has to elect the two, among them. The Head of the GB will hold the legal representation of ASECUNAEER. GB will be responsible to decide for any organizational and administrative issues, as well as for the financial management of the EU- and other funds that may be acquired.

4.2. A Scientific Council (SC) consisting of the "leader-researches" from each regional node (branch) in the participating universities. Head of the Scientific Council should be the Scientific Co-ordinator, propose who can be appointed by the GB.

The above have been discussed in the meeting of and decided by the Board of Governors of ASECUNAEER, which took place in Skopje on 29/05/2013.

This report is the outcome of a distanced but well structured cooperation of representatives from seven ASECUNAEER members¹ decided to define the overall topic of ASECUNAEER as “*Regional International Competitiveness and Development*”.

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