

**BUA Meeting Opening Speech of the Rector Prof Dr Yener YÖRÜK,
11th of September, 2014**

Esteemed Rectors, Presidents, Vice Rectors, Academicians and Guests

As the Rector of Trakya University, I have an honour to welcome you to Universities Association BUA, at Trakya University in Edirne.

I am sure that meeting within the Balkans, talking about common concerns will create continues cooperation among us.

It is my hope that our meeting will open the door for collaboration in the Balkans. As a small but concrete step (*concrete is the best word I like to use in Balkans languages*) is Balkan Libraries Union which was established in 2009 with 51 Institutions in 9 different countries.

Before the sessions I would like to mention about our common history: academia.

Academia is the name of the garden in the Western Thrace in which Platon thought to his students is not very far away to all Academicians in the Balkans. Knowledge rises from Academia to all Balkans.

Our Orchestra also reflects the common soul of the Balkans. I think Orpheus climbed down Rhodopes to listen to the Balkan Symphony Orchestra.

The first reflection as an institute is Zadar University which is the oldest University in the Balkans: established in 1396.

Other reflection is the Complex of Sultan Bayezid II with the impact of the common history of the Balkans in Edirne.

Medicine Faculty and Hospital Department of Complex of Sultan Bayezid II were established by the River Tunca in 1484 and came into service in 1488. It is a multidimensional hospital in its foundation with treatments by using music, water ripple, aromatherapy and occupational therapy.

The primary aim of Balkan Universities Association (BUA) is to determine a leading vision for the future through the universities, the libraries, the research centres in Balkan region on the base of common global values by considering the necessities of the time.

Thus, the aim to come together within a meeting is to discuss on working principles of the association, administration units, rules etc.

I would like to state that each university in the first meeting of BUA will be attributed as the “founding university”. Only the Universities in Balkan countries can be the member of the association.

The Universities other than Balkan Countries Universities can be the observer member of the association.

Academies of Sciences and Arts and Associations in Balkans in the meeting will be attributed as “Advisory Board”, which observes the activities of the BUA and officiate as advisory at these activities.

To work on Balkan Universities Association and have a rest during your tour to the Balkans, here is the “twin-planes kiosk” for the secretary of BUA.

With all these reflections of the Balkans, BUA can begin with this logo:

This is the mountain: Bistra, Dinara, Zlatibor, Sharr, Vitosha, Hymettus, Rhodopes, Pirin, Karpats. It is the Olympus.

This is the river: Danube, Sava, Kupa, Vardar, Maritsa/Evros, Tunca, Arda, Struma, Neretva, Drin

This sun rises from the Balkans as a science and wisdom.

This bridge is the network, connection, cooperation, common sense

Thank you for your attendance and effort for the association!