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ECSAC-a European Vision - Emphasis on Central Europe

XVI International Conference on Science, Art and Culture, Veli
Lošinj, Croatia, 2016, 29th August to September 2.

Last project of Paolo Budinich

Paolo Budinich founded or contributed essentially to the creation of a long list of institutions such as: The International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), The International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA), The Third World Academy (TWA) ...

Birthday conference (85) in Veli Lošinj

- Finally, in his last years he decided to start another project – The European Centre for Science, Art and Culture (ECSAC) in his native town of Veli Lošinj on Lošinj island in Croatia.
- In fact, his colleagues wanted to organize a conference to celebrate his 85th birthday. He accepted under the condition that the conference be organized in his native town Veli Lošinj.

Proposal ECSAC

- During the conference (2001) Paolo Budinich presented the idea of ECSAC. The idea was supported by a group of scientists from Trieste, Croatia but also from the surrounding region of Central Europe .
- Aim of the ECSAC initiative:
To create a multidisciplinary institution in Veli Lošinj, Croatia, “ECSAC”, the “European Center for Science Art and Culture”. Although the center has a European vocation, it should be established within the cooperation of Croatia with Italy and with particular emphasis on collaboration with other central-European countries and international bodies and finally function as a European institution.

Objectives of the Centre

- To provide a place where a number of cultural activities, such as Conferences, Workshops and Schools can take place, in a natural surrounding of great beauty, and in isolation from every-day's research and academic activities.
- The place has to provide accomodation and infrastructure for a limited number of scientists who choose that solution to carry small meetings, books and paper writing, etc.
- It could be a natural place for out-door activities of surrounding and nearby universities of Central Europe (e.g. north of Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Hungary ,Bavaria...) but of course not limited to them.

Activities being considered

- Outstanding scientists in the mainstream of research can be invited to lecture about the research activities and opportunities in their respective fields to the benefit of students who just obtained their BS (or are about to obtain their BS) and plan to continue their studies for a Master or a PhD. Each scientist should give a 1 or 2 hour presentation of his field of research, and then spend 2 more hours to answer questions and discuss with the students. One week should be enough to go through the various fields.

Interdisciplinary Meetings

New fields of research have been opened up recently, or are about being created. Usually, they bring together people from different and sometimes distant fields. This can only be the result of interdisciplinary discussions and interdisciplinary meetings. Concrete possibilities are:

Science and Philosophy
Science and Religion
Origin of Ethics
Astroparticles
Weather Forecast
Physics and Medicine
Sea Archeology
Linguistic and Brain
Cognitive Sciences
Genetics

- Without precluding the possibility to organize topical meetings, if there is enough interest from the proponents, the Center would give a preference for the multidisciplinary activities as mentioned above.

Specialized workshops plus tutorial

- It seems interesting to couple a high-level meeting, either multi-multidisciplinary, or topical, with a few days tutorial to the benefit of students. The tutorial could either precede, or follow, the specialized talks, and should be given by the same speakers, who will thus be invited to stay longer and tutor the students.

Meetings on subjects of particular interest to the host country

Lošinj has a solid and long standing tradition on sailing and navigation in general. The Nautical school is still a legend. Topics on:

Naval engineering

The Adriatic sea

Sailing

Satellite navigation

Touristic navigation

- could very well be proposed for advanced workshops and/or standing activities.
- Indeed Interdisciplinary Meetings: activity were continuously performed from 2001 till the present conference.

Remarks on role of Central Europe in Budinich projects

- From the beginning of Budinich initiatives e.g. creation of ICTP he gave particular importance to the scientific connections to surrounding region of central Europe. It was important in his view in order to strengthen the quality of Trieste science but also to contribute to dialogue of various nations of Central Europe. Here are his own words taken from P.B.: “L arcipelago delle meraviglie”
- In presence of inevitable nationalistic tensions, generated by iron curtain a good university is a safeguard. High culture is natural ennemy of nationalism and easily expands across frontiers.....But how to do it?
- We have been in a corner of Italy without university tradition: So first I asked help of big sister universities Padova, Bologna, Roma....Then I thought despite that if it was true that we have been situated in the extreme corner of Italy we have been in central position in Europe. For this reason I immediately established contacts with friends in Vienna (where came back Walter Thirring) but also with universities of Prague, Graz, Ljubljana, Budapest and Zagreb. (p38)

Unesco initiative (failed)

And again“ I had to exploit the geographical position of Trieste so central in Europe so I organized frequent meetings and seminars with friends in Vienna(Thirring ,Budapest(Marx),Ljubljana(Osredkar),Zagreb(Supek,Alaga,Glaser).With them we have formulated the project of founding in Central Europe a network of institutions of scientific reserch with Trieste a coordination place“.Initiative was processed through Unesco and it seemed that it will be accepted.However contrary to expectations Budinich and others have been infomally informed that Soviet Union in this part of Europe does not allow multilateral collaborations(even not cultural and scientific) where its satellites are participating.

- However the idea of collaboration of this region was present in new ways. In that spirit together with other centraleuropean physicists the so called triangle colaboration was created (Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava, Prag, Graz, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Trieste.) After this program ended with retirement of Herbert Pietshcman in Vienna a new program started in 2005.

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Central European Joint Programme of Doctoral Studies in Theoretical Physics (<http://cepgc.phy.hr/>):

It included:

- Comenius University Bratislava
- Eotvos University Budapest
- University of Ljubljana
- University of Padua
- Charles University Prague
- International School for Advanced Studies(SISSA),Trieste
- University of Vienna(Faculty of Physics)
- University of Zagreb

CEPGC continuation

- It included several events in each year starting from 2005 . The events included a yearly Vienna Central European Seminar on Particle Physics and Quantum Field Theory, workshops summer schools and intensive courses. Another activity have been intensive courses. The idea was that for a particular topic would be interested for just few student in a particular university and so one could collect them in one place. As ECSAC and Losinj could be beautiful nearby outdoor place for all of these universities it could be a natural place for this program..

International Journal Encyclopedia Moderna

- One idea of Paolo Budinich connected to the Central European Collaboration and as possible task for ECSAC was resurrection of International Journal Encyclopedia Moderna.
- Encyclopedia Moderna was an interdisciplinary journal founded by Ivan Supek in Zagreb in 1968.
- First inspiration:
- In Dubrovnik Pugwash annual convention of 1963. decided to start a journal that would treat questions of disarmament, political tensions, peaceful coexistence, development, ecology as well as the roles of science and humanism. In 1968 in those footsteps was founded international Journal Encyclopedia whose aim was to open rationale dialogue on problems of eastern and central europe in the time of „iron curtain“ but also boost dialogue between intellectuals in various republics of Yugoslavia.

Realisation

- The journal indeed started in 1968 and profited of a liberal political wind then present (it lasted three years till 71) and „was the first period
- ical of the kind in Yugoslavia and maybe in Eastern Europe It promoted universal features of all arts and sciences' and political pluralism' When democratisation came to full swing Encyclopaedia Moderna moderate and rational presentations facilitated discussions of taboo topics. (Years 1968 to 71) The Encyclopedia Moderna has been started with a wish that upon its pages people of diverse education, professions, views, and approaches should, in a sincere and creative manner, write of all aspects of human knowledge, skill, arts and science in our country and worldwide. Let there be but one condition: our attitude should be tolerant and striving for a complex and thoughtful solution to global problems, without personal attacks” (quotation from the editorial)

Suppression and revival

- The events of December 1971 set in motion another period of bolshevization in former Yugoslavia and *Encyclopedia Moderna* a multidisciplinary and plurastic quarterly was suppressed.
- The journal was revived in 1998 and the last sentence is the quotation from the editorial of the new journal which lasted again only for few years.

Paolo Budinich was fond of the idea of this journal and also friend of its founder Ivan Supek and thought that the idea of the topics of the journal was too important to allow to the journal to die .

So in 2006 he proposed the revival of *Encyclopedia Moderna* as one of activities of ECSAC. The journal could be again a multidisciplinary journal devoted in particular to problems of the east and south east Europe and the process of integration in European Union.

ECSAC and the Mediterranean

- Another proposal promoted by P.B. was that ECSAC takes a role in promoting EU involvement in collaboration of Mediterranean
 - countries.
- In particular ECSAC is the member of UNIADRION an association of universities of Adriatic and Ionian universities.
- Paolo Budinich was thinking of orienting some of ECSAC activities to topics relevant for Africa what would be compatible with larger political initiative of EU:

Union for the Mediterranean

Interdisciplinary meetings (again)

.....have been continuously performed from 2001 til the present conference. After the first conference in honour of the the 85 birthday of Paolo Budinich in 2001 folowed others:

II(2002) „Predictability in natural sciences“ 2002

III(2003) „The role of mathematics in natural sciences „2003

IV (2004)„Nanosciences and nanotechnologies „2004

V(2005)“ Are there Quantum Jumps?On the present status of Quantum mechanics“ 2005

V(2006)“The Cultural Heritage and its diversity at the origin of creativity“ 2006

VcII.(2007)“Science for Cultural Heritage“, Technological Innovation and Case Studies in Marine and Land Archaeology in the Adriatic Region and Inland

VIII (2008) „Black Holes in General Relativity and String Theory

IX.(2009)“Grid Computing: a new tools for Science and Innovation“

X (2010).“Sustainable Energy: „Challenges and Opportunities“

XI(2011) „Transversity 2011-Third International Workshop on Transverse Polarization Phenomena in Hard Scattering“

XII(2012) „Climate Change:marine and mountain ecosystems in the Mediteranean region „

XIII(2013) „ 2nd Mediteranean Conference on Classical and Quantum Gravity“

XIV(2014) „Geothermal Energy:Status and Future in the adriatic region“

XV (2015) „A path toward TMD extraction-TMDe2015 „

These conferences gave unique opportunity to various people to meet.One nice anecdote:

Coming back to present day we have the conference:

XVI (2016) „International Conference on SESAME-in honour of Paolo Budinich“

and with that I conclude