

## RESOLUTION

### ON DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN ALIGNMENT WITH LABOUR MARKET NEEDS

**The Baltic Assembly,**

**noting and acknowledging** that well-developed education system is the main prerequisite for contributing to the competitiveness of a country and development of knowledge-based economies in the Baltic States;

**underlining** that the development of education, science and research system must be among the priorities for the countries even during severe economic crisis;

**understanding** that education system and labour market have strong reciprocal relations, **calls on** the parliaments and governments of the Baltic States and the Baltic Council of Ministers:

**with regard to cooperation and integration among the Baltic States**

- facilitate the formation of networks of universities and research institutions, and to promote their cooperation in developing joint study and research programmes;
- coordinate the policies for research infrastructure development;
- coordinate joint efforts for applying to the EU funds;
- work together in research and development sector, to strengthen links among funding agencies and research councils, to exchange peers for scientific evaluation;
- forge research and business links, to identify partnership opportunities for collaborative research and business projects, to identify areas for joint research and development projects;
- develop joint student and doctoral student exchange programmes, by exchanging experts to evaluate study programmes and higher educational establishments and by developing exchange programmes for academicians and researchers;
- support and promote joint initiatives in the European Research Area;
- share the expertise and supporting reform agendas;

**with regard to vocational education** – initiate reforms in order to make the system of vocational education responsive to labour market needs;

**with regard to business studies** – include study programmes that are related to business competence in the curricula of professional education, and to develop approach to promote business thinking and motivation to take up business activities;

**with regard to innovation, science and research**

– attract knowledge and talent to the Baltic States in order to create a harmonised and target-oriented policy of intervention;

– develop new joint activities in the system of education and research, thus facilitating the development of innovations in the Baltic States;

– involve enterprises in the work of trans-national knowledge or excellence centres and facilitate participation of enterprises in international research and technology development projects and technology transfer;

– identify and initiate joint activities to stimulate knowledge and talent attraction to the region by the use of Baltic Sea region higher education system quality;

– establish a joint cluster, an international centre or a counselling centre for the purpose of attracting foreign students from Asia thus joining efforts in the area to develop education as the market for export;

– promote training of high level specialists in other regional higher educational establishments, regularly attract guest professors, facilitate the mobility of researchers, professors and students;

– minimize brain-drain,

– find the right balance between higher education, non-university higher education and vocational training.

Vilnius, 28 November 2009