**MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE EuroCASE PLATFORM**

**ENGINEERING EDUCATION**

The scheduled 1st meeting of the reestablished EuroCASE platform Engineering Education organized by the Engineering Academy of the Czech Republic was in Prague on November 20, 2013 at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague.

* **Members of the Core Group of the Platform:**

Prof.Ing. Petr Zuna EACR

Ing.Ivan Šiman EACR

Prof. Dr. Janesz Možina IAS

Dr. Hügli Rolf SATW

Dr. Janosz Ginsztler HAE

Prof. Michael Matlosa NATF

The Platform should be completed with representatives of engineering academies from Norway, Spain, UK, Germany, Sweden. The academies were addressed, however up till now no representatives have been nominated. The platform is open to other academies.

* **Standardization in education**

Contacts were established in this field with CEN-CENELEC. However their field of interest is education **about** standardization and not standardization **of** education. In spite of this we will seek fields of mutual interest which could be advantageous to both partners. More details on the CEN-CENELEC programmes can be found on website: <http://www.cencenelec.eu/standards/Education/JointWorkingGroup/Pages/default.aspx>

The programme of the meeting was as follows:

1. Welcome of participants by project head Prof.Petr Zuna (EACR)
2. Introductory presentation by Prof.Zuna postulating issues the platform is expected to deal with – i.e. continuing in still topical issues dealt with by the former platform and identifying new topical issues.
3. Presentation by the platform secretary Ivan Šiman MSc., PhD. on “Innovation of Engineering Education – Why?-When?-How?“ giving a survey of various aspects of innovations in this field:
* Key issues
* Accelerators of innovations
* What can be improved by teachers themselves
* Hitherto identified issues in the proces of transformation of engineering education
* What changes should be made
* What are the obstacles to such changes
* How can accreditation authorities help

**4. Discussion**

Both presentations were a basis for a wide discussion with the following conclusions drawn:

* Cooperation with industry must be enhanced. At present it is not always and not everywhere recognized by the academic sphere.
* The level of publications as a measure of excellence must be moderate and not excessive. In Sweden e.g. it is a criterion of priority.
* In the field of standadization three types of universities are expected: learning, research and only Bachelor.
* Unified ranking of universities is very difficult.
* University studies should be free of charge. Access examinations should be tough thus assuring quality. Funding of universitites according to the number of students is counterproductive from the viewpoint of quality.
* “Best Practice“ should continue enhancing interest in engineering studies.
* Ways must be found how to make engineering studies more attractive to female students.
* Ways should be found how to evaluate “Excellence“.
* Limits should be set in individual issues.

***Topics the Platform will be engaged in :***

* "Conversion table" of existing titles of graduates. A comparison should be made of graduate titles in Europe and their general recognition. This should be considered as an approach to standardization.
* "Best practice" – method of the support of interest of young people in techical education. Determine differences and similarities in the approach to education of mathematics as a basic subject in technical education (and also physics, etc.) in primary and secondary schools for further successful study both of engineering and natural sciences.
* Foster cooperation with industry in all relevant fields.
* Find ways how to make engineering studies more attractive to female students.
* Find ways how to motivate the state, media and parents.

The meeting was closed at 13:00 and followed by an informal lunch of the participants of the meeting.

***The next meeting of the Platform will be in spring 2014 (March-April) in Prague.*** *Until then the Platfrom should be "stabilized". We expext further proposals from individual academies.*

Prague, November 21, 2013

Drawn by : Ivan Šiman, MSc.,PhD.