

## **BPU11 Roundtable 5: *Models of Studying Physics in European Universities - specificities in Balkan Countries***

**Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, 11:00-12:30, SASA - Main Hall**

### **REPORT ON THE MEETING**

The Round-table “Models of Studying Physics in European Universities - specificities in Balkan Countries” was held on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, in the Main Hall of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. It was one of the events included in the program of the 11th International Conference of the Balkan Physical Union, held in Belgrade (Serbia), from August 28 to September 1, 2022.

The meeting started with some presentations focused on the following four topics related to the higher education in Physics: (i) the structure of the Physics Programs (no. years/credits/main disciplines), (ii) the specializations that the graduates could obtain after finishing the study program, (iii) opportunities for the Physics graduates to be integrated on the job market, (iv) how attractive the Physics programs are for the high school graduates and how they are promoted at the local level.

The first presentation was given by Madalin Bunoiu (Romania), who highlighted the main characteristics of the Physics programs in various countries in Europe: duration of the study programs, application of the ECTS, connection between the offered qualifications and the job market.

The next presentations focused on the situation of Physics higher education programs in countries from the Balkan region:

- Klaudio Peqini - Physics higher education in Albania;
- Radoslav Rashkov - Physics higher education in Bulgaria;
- Panos Argyrakis - Physics higher education in Greece;
- Predrag Miranovic - Physics higher education in Montenegro;
- Danica Krstovska - Physics higher education in North Macedonia;
- Mihai Girtu - Physics higher education in Romania;
- Zorica Popovic - Physics higher education in Serbia.

How Physics education is organized in universities from Germany and Switzerland was presented by Georg Duechs and Gertrud Zwignagl (for Germany), respectively by Philippe Jetzer (for Switzerland).

Open discussions on the present situation of the Physics higher education in Europe, on the possible steps for strengthening the interest for Physics and for careers in this scientific field followed. The main conclusions of these discussions were:

- Almost all European countries are facing a decline in young people's interest in Physics and in choosing careers in this field.
- It is of vital importance that university Physics programs follow the needs of the labor market. They must be attractive, flexible and offer as many opportunities as possible.
- Although they face somewhat similar problems, the universities of the Balkan countries do not cooperate sufficiently at the regional level and the educational offer in the field of Physics suffers from the perspective of the international dimension.

The participants concluded that the discussions on how the Physics education is done at the university level is very important, and any idea or proposal concerning the improvement of the present situation is benefic. BPU will continue to organize meetings on these topics, putting the people of the region in contact and generating synergies between the training systems of the physicists in the member countries. The full list of participants and panelists is given below.

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