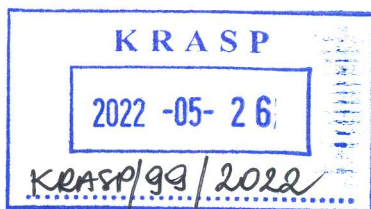




SLOVENSKÁ REKTORSKÁ KONFERENCIA



Prof. dr hab. inż. Arkadiusz Mężyk
President
Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in
Poland
University of Warsaw
Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28
PL- 00-927 Warsaw

Bratislava 16 May 2022

Dear Mr President,

I feel honoured to be invited to celebrate with the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (KRASP) its 25th anniversary. But I must express my profound apologies to you and to Polish rectors as I cannot take part in them. The Slovak Rectors' Conference will be represented by Professor Tomáš Lengyelfalussy, SRC Vice-president who is looking forward to meet you in person.

In the light of the upcoming celebration that is marking 25 years of active service of the KRASP to Polish academia I want to express in the name of Slovak Rectors our warm greetings and congratulations. We value common cooperation of Polish and Slovak universities and colleges as well as individual academics. Pedagogical, Research or Artistic cooperation, academic mobility and regional ties of our institutions are fruitful and mutually beneficial.

Polish higher educational sector has an important position in its domestic country, but as well within Visegrad Group and the European Union. The influence of the Polish universities is undeniable not only due to its size but also due to its quality. And this could have been reached also thanks to 25 years of KRASP service, dedication of its statutory bodies and members and hard work of its staff to common goal.

Looking back is always a lesson, but your proposal to discuss current challenges, that higher education sector and research are facing, is even more important. From a broader perspective we feel that we must cooperate and support each other to safeguard academia. We feel that to safeguard traditional academic values, including professional ethics, responsibility and the constitutional principle of institutional autonomy is our common goal. More issues appear now to be of our common interest with the war in Ukraine. Our countries, our people and our universities feel the need to help our common neighbour in his defence of independence and territorial integrity. Our principles, positions and activities on the matter are identical. But from a middle and long-time perspective we could come with common actions to help Ukrainian academia. We could also discuss a mechanism of mutual cooperation in times of crisis and insecurity and other incentives could be of our common interest. We are open to continue a debate on the raised and open issues on bilateral level or on the premises of the European University Association.

In the name of Slovak rectors, I congratulate the KRASP for twenty-five fruitful years and I wish the organisation, its representatives, members and staff to succeed in their missions for the good of Polish higher education systems and society.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. h. c. prof. Ing. Rudolf Kropil, PhD.
President
Slovak Rectors' Conference