

**Most esteemed rector of Lomonosov Moscow State University, Professor
Viktor Antonovich Sadovnichy,**

Respected rectors, vice-rectors, distinguished colleagues from the universities,

It is my pleasure to greet you on behalf of the rector of the University of Montenegro, prof. dr Vladimir Božović, and on my own behalf, and wish the successful work of the 15th Congress of the Eurasian Association of Universities at Lomonosov Moscow State University.

The University of Montenegro was founded in 1974 in Podgorica and is the oldest institution of higher education in Montenegro. It comprises 19 faculties and three institutes, with an academic community of about 20,000 students at all levels of study, and slightly more than 1,000 academic, professional and other staff. Since 2004, the organization of classes and exams has been carried out in accordance with the principles of the Bologna Declaration. The university is organized according to the model of modern European universities, with headquarters in Podgorica and organizational units and study programs located in 9 locations where classes are held. The University of Montenegro is a member of the European University Association (EUA).

Today, the **UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO** is an intellectual development of Montenegro - the center of scientific research, cultural, artistic and innovative creativity. It is the oldest and at the same time the only state university in Montenegro. It is the most comprehensive higher education institution that provides education in the fields of social sciences, humanities, as well as technological, natural and medical sciences. Classes are organized in accordance with the curricula of reputable universities in the European Higher Education Area, which, along with numerous agreements and programs, enables unhindered mobility for students, teachers and administrative staff. The studies are realized in three cycles, undergraduate, master and doctoral studies. The model according to which they are realized is 3 + 2 + 3, which means that basic studies last for three academic years, with the exception of regulated professions and teacher education that lasts for five or six years. Postgraduate master studies last two, and doctoral three academic years. In undergraduate and master studies, candidates are enrolled at the expense of the State Budget. The University of Montenegro is also a leading scientific research institution in

the country, which strengthens its position through international cooperation and project activities aimed at supporting scientific research capacities. In addition to a very strong research activity in organizational units, the University also has three scientific institutes, the Institute of History, the Institute of Marine Biology and the Institute of Advanced Studies. As a central institution of science, culture and art, it continuously strengthens ties with the economic, social and international environment, through productive cooperation with business and the public sector. The University of Montenegro is a member of prestigious international organizations such as:

- EUA (*The European University Association*)
- Magna Charta Universitatum
- AUF (*The Francophone University Association*)
- Uniadriion (*The University Network of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative*)
- NUSCT (Network of Universities of Small Countries and Territories)
- BUA (*The Balkan University Association*)

Today, the University strives to have a large network of partners in the field of education, research, public sector and industry from around the world. The first international agreement was signed in 1975 with the State University of Florida, and today UMNE has more than 80 bilateral agreements with universities in Europe and Asia and more than 150 inter-institutional agreements for credit mobility within the ERASMUS + program. Within the mobility programs Erasmus +, CEEPUS, Mevlana and bilateral cooperation programs, students, researchers and academic staff have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and skills at international level. Following both global trends in higher education and the needs of the labor market, the University of Montenegro seeks to modernize the institutional and functional settings of the University, as well as to continuously improve curriculum, technical resources and spatial capacity of the institution.

I have already mentioned the commitment of the University of Montenegro to fostering good cooperation with prestigious universities on all continents, but on this occasion I would like to emphasize the particularly fruitful cooperation we have with the Moscow State University M. V. Lomonosov, where a large number of our professors have acquired significant scientific education, and in addition to you, we have excellent cooperation with other Russian universities:

- Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics of RAS (<https://www.keldysh.ru/>)
- European Institute JUSTO, Moscow (<https://ejusto.ru/>)
- Tula State University (<http://tsu.tula.ru/>)
- Saint Petersburg State Polytechnical University (<http://www.spbstu.ru/>)
- Moscow Architectural Institute (State Academy) - MArchI (<http://www.marhi.ru/>)
- Ryazan State Radio Engineering University (<http://www.rsreu.ru/en/>)
- Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics, and Informatics (<http://www.mesi.ru>)
- ММ (<http://www.bstu.ru/>)
- Russian New University (<http://rosnou.ru/>) ...

The University of Montenegro has a key role and responsibility to create and disseminate knowledge through excellence in education, science and creativity; to promote international cooperation; to create successful and socially responsible academic citizens; and to promote democratic and sustainable development of the society and the state of Montenegro.

The University of Montenegro has been highly committed to internationalization and continuously works on: increasing the number of subjects taught in English, accreditation of new study programs in English, increasing the number of joint study programs with foreign partner institutions, strengthening scientific and artistic cooperation with individuals and research institutions from abroad, promoting the internationalization of doctoral research and increasing the international visibility of the scientific research and artistic potential of the University of Montenegro.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you most warmly for the invitation and wish that the cooperation between the University of Montenegro and the Moscow State University M. V. Lomonosov to continue its upward trajectory, but also to expand the network of signed memorandums of cooperation to other Eurasian universities.

With respect,

Prof. Dr. Veselin Mićanović

Vice-Rector for Education at the University of Montenegro

Moscow, March 2, 2023