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It is my great honor and pleasure to address the readers in the chapter Education, as a rector of the second state university in Macedonia according to its size, and the university which this year marked modest, however very significant ten years of its existence. I hope that in the publication Business Directory of Macedonia 2017, in my opinion, in one of the most influential chapters – Education, I will give an overview of my viewpoint on higher education in the Republic of Macedonia through the current conditions, and what they should be in order to position higher education really high on the pedestal. The university has a historical assignment to be a source of thought-out living, that is, to be a community of the ones who are aware that the wellbeing of a country does not depend so much on the amount of its total revenue, or the so called GDP, or the beauty of the various structures, as much as it depends on the number of educated young people, on their knowledge, the character they carry along with them, that is, the intellectual potential. Our care should be the professional career of each of our students, and especially of the ones who are yet to start this career, that is, yet to become students. As a university community, that is, as an academy, we are invited to realize such programs and projects wherewith young people will become familiar with the beauty of life by the cognition of the truth and goodness i.e. the human side of life and the world, or in other words, we are invited, more than many others, by living and working, to leave a trace of the truth, a truth without which there is no goodness, nor goodness without truth. The university should develop logical thinking in students, however at the same time it must develop students' creativity and imagination with an increased emphasis. Logics can take us from the Earth to the Moon, and imagination will take us to the other worlds and the other civilizations and cultures in the universe. Education has unique and vital role in the resolution of the challenges we face. The difference in interests, in regard to the general good and personal interests, is exceptionally, that is, unacceptably high. The universities are literally mute for what they owe to the society, and they mostly direct the students to be concentrated only on their personal interests. There is a large gap between an education that provides a lot of opportunities to the individual compared to learning how to build our responsibility to the wider community.

I think that the universities and all schools at all levels of education should teach the students and the pupils to act publically, to teach them about the possibilities and the obligations of every citizen. We need more energetic speakers in the public arena, and young people who have the strength to make decisions, and then to implement them into practice. We forgot the educational system that should teach us how to be ethically, efficiently and intelligently engaged in the society. This is not an issue of sentimentality and enthusiasm, rather it is a matter of how to truly cope with challenges, which on the other hand implies to develop all abilities we have as human beings to the maximum level, such as: ability to think, to perceive and to listen, and not just to blindly and obediently follow what we are told, and not to participate in the events around us. The university must educate the students how to cope in the world that constantly changes and which is not predetermined for you or tailor-made, a world where you must work and cooperate with many people, not only because you need their help, but also because they need to share with you the same vision that what you work makes sense. That is something we lost somewhere, however thanks to education, we can return it. The University's position is to be a global forum for intellectual engagement through the proactive communication of ideas generated at the university, and the openness to new ideas generated at any other place. A large university that not only conveys education created in its community, but is also open to ideas that are generated at any other place. It retains the freedom of the individual and the research groups to choose what they will research, however it also clearly indicates where and how they should be adjusted to the research policies of the university. Dear, I wanted to share with you my viewpoint on the research and the higher education in the Republic of Macedonia, and not only in our country, the matters with the wheel of history are not in the best situation. However, not only that the wheel of history cannot be returned, it cannot be stopped as well. A question is asked whether it can be moved in a different way. By whom and how it will be moved. We are all faced with these questions, all of us at the universities should be faced with these questions, we should have the most valuable treasure which is given to the human, and that is the knowledge and the time where you are free to form the future. What the future will be like – I do not know, I would only like to ask all members of the academic community to take responsibility and an obligation to affect the future. Now is the time when a new history has to be established of importantly different relations between the academy and the country, relations based on the principles of creativity and publicity. Long live the students, long live the professors, long live our academy, the University Goce Delcev in Stip.

Blazo Boev