

KRASP 25-year history

President - Prof. Arkadiusz Mężyk

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PLAN OF PRESENTATION

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- SUMMARY

25 years of KRASP experiences

- *Diverse challenges of each rector demand particular responsibility of KRASP presidents*
- *KRASPs common and greatest achievement within these years is **building a responsible institution representing higher education and science community***
- *Particular value of KRASP is **integrataion of diversified academic community** around superior values*

HISTORY NOTES

- **1981 - Conference of Rectors of HEIs** was established
- **1989 - CRUP** was established during a congress **in Kraków** as effect of Magna Charta Universitatum adoption on 18 September 1988 in Bologna
- **1991 - Conference of Rectors of Pedagogical HEIs** was established **in Kraków**
- **1996 - idea of foundation of a nationwide representation of academic communities** was initiated
- **31 January 1997 - presentation and adoption of a project of the foundation of KRASP** at an informal meeting of Conference of Rectors of Autonomous Universities
- **7 June 1997 - founding meeting of KRASP in Kraków**

HISTORY NOTES

KRASP was founded by rectors of higher education institutions, being members of conferences of rectors of the various types of these institutions, namely universities, technical universities, institutions of agriculture, pedagogy, economics, medicine, and fine arts.

*Group of 73 rectors unanimously voted for the founding of KRASP, adopted first **internal statute** and elected authorities.*

On 20 April 1998 the Plenary Assembly of CRASP resolved to grant the status of CRASP founding members to rectors being the members of the conference of rectors of academies of physical education.

First two years: 1997-1999

- Seeking formula and organization identity
- Formation of organizational structure bases
- Establishment of two permanent committees - for legislation and for finance

First initiatives and KRASP policy publications, e.g.:

- **„Model of the public institution of higher education and its systemic environment - principal course of higher education law amendment” (1998)**

Proposals of changes of laws on higher education and science through:

- introducing common, partial tuition fees
- replacing Committee of Scientific Research with structures of an agency type

New practice of contacts with media and **building relations with European organizations representing HEIs: CRE and CEURC as well as HRK**

Next three years: 1999-2002

- new Statute coming into force: statute compromise!
- establishment of institutional culture rules
- building public and media status of KRASP
- establishing relations with PM and Students' Parliament of the Republic of Poland
- enforcing relations with Polish Academy of Sciences, Supreme Audit Office, Constitutional Tribunal
- special relations with HRK
- contribution to European University Association establishment
- creating contacts with UNESCO - European Center For Higher Education (CEPES)

Establishment of Polish Rectors Foundation and Institute of Knowledge Society, as expert base of KRASP

Think - tank concept was elaborated in the 2000 year within a research project, financed by Leopold Kronenberg Foundation with the support of KRASP and UNESCO - CEPES

2002-2005

- developing the project and leading to the passing of Act - *Law on higher education*
- legal fixation of KRASP
- enforcing relations with President of the Republic of Poland, Commissioner for Human Rights and Public Procurement Office
- starting activity in EUA
- tightening personal relations among rectors
- establishing relations with international rectors

2005-2008

- activities related with new law implementation
- **agreement on strategic partnership with PRF**
- Code of Good Practices developed by PRF
- postulate of tuition fee introduction
- election of KRASP President to EUA Board
- annual EUA conference in Poland (2008)
- active contacts with Polish National Association of Doctoral Candidates
- enforcing relations with Ministry of Regional Development
- program „**Study in Poland**” with Educational Foundation „**Perspektywy**” as a new strategic partner

four years: 2008-2012

- new Statutes adoption; new identity of KRASP, as body representing academic schools
 - permanent headquarters in Warsaw
- establishing Foundation for Quality of Education
- establishing relations with Conference of Rectors of Vocational Schools in Poland (private), KRePSZ (public) and National Council for Science and Higher Education
- establishing new relations with Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and Polish Bank Association
- close cooperation with Students Parliament and Polish National Association of Doctoral Candidates

2012-2016

- preparation for work on guidelines for new law on higher education
- establishing cooperation with numerous new bodies, e.g. trade unions, Employers of Poland as well as conferences of rectors from several countries (Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Spain, Portugal, Czech Republic, Ukraine, France and Germany....)
 - Agreements of cooperation
 - Joint meetings, statements and initiatives
- election of KRASP President to EUA Board
- exceptional media relations and cooperation with business
- participation in EUA projects, e.g. Alfa Puentes

2016-2020

- cooperation on Act - Law on higher education and science
 - including legal guarantees of receiving a Ministry subsidy by KRASP for policy activity supporting development of higher education
 - exceptional constant dialogue within the community and ministry (high percentage incorporation of KRASP proposals)
- activities related with the new law implementation
- idea of communications and social responsibility of KRASP
- continuation of cooperation with Latin America

CURRENT PRESIDENCY

2020-2024

President: Arkadiusz Meżyk

- KRASP coordination of crisis activities
 - COVID-19
 - assistance to academic community and refugees from Ukraine
- implementation and advancement proposals of the law
- research assessment and discussion on its advancement
- activity for raising funds for higher education and science
- guidelines for the code of ethics of an academic teacher and update of the Code of Good Practices
- cooperation with: National Council for HE, Conference of Rectors of Public Professional Universities, Conference of Rectors of Vocational Schools in Poland, Polish National Association of Doctoral Candidates, Academy of Sciences, Foundation for Polish Science, NAWA, PKOl as well as PRF and Perspektywy
- regional initiatives integrating academic schools

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF KRASP

1997 - 1999	creation
1999 - 2002	institutionalization
2002 - 2005	legislation
2005 - 2008	internacionalization
2008 - 2012	consolidation (of community)
2012 - 2016	partnership
2016 - 2020	transformation
2020 - 2024	responsibility and integration

DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

term I: 1997 - 1999	dispute over membership requirements
term II: 1999 - 2002	dispute over legal institutionalization of KRASP and over the influence on legal activity
term III: 2002 - 2005	dispute over KRASP: legislation crisis (Law of the 2005 yr)
term IV: 2005 - 2008	manifestations of dissatisfied rectors (publ./non-publ.)
term V: 2008 - 2012	dispute over Statutes and agreements with students
term VI: 2012 - 2016	creation of divisions among membership universities
term VII: 2016 - 2020	dispute over guidelines for new law: regional HEIs status
term VIII: 2020 - 2024	hot discussions on the character of changes in the law, including research assessment and external crisis situations

KRASP IN THE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

- KRASP values: autonomy, responsibility, representativeness
- formal authorization: institution representing higher education and science community
- organizational structure: statute consensus
- policy activity - strategic partnership with PRF and other institutions of higher education and science
- contribution to legislative achievements and opinion-forming status
- softening/balancing differences of interests, integration of community around superior values
- ethos, practices, informational and developmental activity
- development of internationalization and contacts with European institutions
- crisis activities coordination

SUMMARY

Our aims for the future:

- **Care for autonomy** of universities and freedom of scientific research
- **Superiority of ethos and academic values**
- **Care for quality** of teaching, scientific research and governance
- **Partnership with representative institutions**, scientific institutions and PRF
- **Dissemination of good practices** in HEIs
- **Good cooperation and development** of HEIs
- **Integration of academic communities** and undertaking joint initiatives

*Authority and status of KRASP in the country
as well as international recognition*