



The Baltic University Programme NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, 28 March 2018

Issue #54

Introduction

Dear BUP colleagues,

We are happy to welcome you to a new year 2018. We would like to thank Lithuanian National Centre and Linas Kliučininkas at Kaunas University of Technology for holding BUP Presidency last term, and welcome the German National Centre at the University of Zittau/Görlitz which will lead the BUP activities under the German Precedency in spring 2018. The first undertaking will be BUP National meeting in Germany (at the University of Hamburg) on the 19th of March. It will be combined with the Strategy Workshop where BUP will meet Hoch-N Germany which is a national SD network, initiated on research for conceptional and strategic sustainable campus development. The aim of the meeting is to identify common fields of interest in order to develop project proposals and collaboration, i.e. joint meetings/events (Summer Schools) or joint modules as well as joint research approaches.



The most important event to mention is the Fifth Baltic University Programme Rectors' Conference which was organized on the 24-26 January 2018 and gathered almost 130 participants from over 60 universities and 12 countries. This time this unique event was held in Turku, Finland hosted by the Åbo Akademi University, which celebrates its 100-year anniversary this year. We would like to thank the BUP Associated Secretariat in Finland led by Paula Lindroos for great organization and the Rector of Åbo Akademi University Mikko Hupa for hospitality.

During the conference participants had possibilities to discuss long-term goals and strategies for the Baltic University Programme, searching for the ways to contribute to deepen cooperation within BUP Universities. The outcomes of the workshops and panel discussions were focused on various issues such as updating of the materials and/or development of new (probably MOOC) courses; creating the network for potential examiner/opponents and matchmaking of the competences as well as platform for sharing teachers' experience; granting ECTS credits for participation in BUP activities. During Rector's panel the Rectors were mostly concerned about international exchange of students. While students during their panel pointed out the necessity of updating and innovation and questioned sustainability literacy of the universities. They also called for wider involvement of students both in BUP activities and strategic planning.

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Editor of this issue:

[Christian Andersson](#)

Contributions, ideas, suggestions
and even criticisms are welcome!
Please contact the editor.

ISSN: 2001-8320





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An internal BUP Board and Centre Directors meeting, organized back- to back to the main event in Turku, focused on the issues concerning BUP organization and functioning. During the Rector's conference as well as during preparatory meeting in Uppsala last year, Coordinating Secretariat has received many comments and suggestion. That is why it has been decided to revise existing documents and regulations and take some measure in order to improve BUP internal structure and operation, not least work of BUP National Centres.

Once again we would like to draw you attention to a lot of interesting research on sustainable development which is going on in the Baltic Sea region. In January we published the first issue of **BUP Research Notes Letter** (please see [Research Notes Letter no. 1.](#)) The next issue we plan to publish in April. I want to take the opportunity to remind you of the importance of Your contribution in the realization of Research Notes – we need you to submit your research findings. We welcome scientific publications from year 2015 and forward: peer review articles, book chapters, conference proceedings, and dissertations regarding the following Themes: Climate Change, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Food Production & Consumption, Sustainable Water Resources, Urban-Rural development, Sustainable Transport, Green Economy and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The aim with the Research Notes Letter is to spread research findings and to get the knowledge on researchers and research groups in the Baltic Sea region as a service to BUP Member universities, participating universities and different stakeholders in society.

You are very welcome to submit your contribution using this form: [BUP Research Notes](#).

And also have a look at the [BUP Themes](#)

The idea is to develop each Theme as an information bank where BUP colleagues can collect material and also submit material useful to both research and education. Please use the [BUP Themes Form](#) when submitting material.

*"If you want to go fast,
go alone.
if you want to go far,
go together".*

Madeleine Granvik
Director, Associate Professor
The Baltic University Programme

New email Addresses

The email addresses to the staff at the BUP Coordinating Secretariat in Uppsala have changed. The addresses now reads as: **firstname.lastname@balticuniv.uu.se**. The former e-mail address is still working but will eventually be phased out. An example: christian.andersson@csduppsala.uu.se is now christian.andersson@balticuniv.uu.se.





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SAIL 2018

SAIL 2018 (Sustainability Applied in International Learning) consist this year of one ship, two cruises and three calls.

The ship is the Polish sailing ship [STS Fryderyk Chopin](#). She is a brig, i.e. has three mast whereof two with yard sails.

The two cruises are:

- [SAIL for Students](#) 4—18 September while sailing from Szczecin via Visby to Stavanger.
- [SAIL for Teachers](#) 4—11 July between Gothenburg and Sunderland.

The three calls are:

- [Call for teachers to SAIL for Students](#). Deadline for applications: 18 March, 2018
- [Call for teachers to SAIL for Teachers](#). Deadline for applications: 3 April, 2018
- [Call for students to SAIL for Students](#). Deadline for applications: 3 April, 2018

For further information and application forms please see the [SAIL section](#) of the BUP web site.



Upcoming Events

March

19 BUP National Centre Germany - Strategy Workshop, Hamburg, Germany

April

10—11 BSN Partner Meeting, Gdansk / Sopot, Poland

May

28 May—1 June Students Conference, Großschönau / Zittau, Germany

June

4—6 EUSBSR Annual Forum, Tallinn, Estonia

July

4—11 SAIL for Teachers, Gothenburg—Sunderland

September

4—18 SAIL for Students, Szczecin – Visby – Stavanger
11—13 Teachers Conference, Poznan, Poland.

Note: The dates for the events may change.

For further and latest information on upcoming events please see the [BUP Calendar of Events](#).

Programs, presentations and other materials from some BUP events are possible to download from the [Courses and Conferences](#) section in the BUP Archive.



NEWSLETTER

A Bright Start of 2018 The BUP Rectors' Conference in Finland

Cecilia Lundberg, Åbo Akademi University, Finland

Do we really have the skills for sustainability?

That essential question and many others of the same dignity were raised and commented upon during the 5th BUP Rectors' Conference.

This time the meeting took place at Åbo Akademi University in Turku/Åbo, Finland during the 24-26 January 2018. After a long period of preparation, it was grateful to welcome almost 130 participants from over 60 universities and 12 countries.

The program was planned to include something of everything: promotion of the BUP network, keynotes by expertise to highlight relevant fields of interest, and opportunities of active involvement in form of workshop and assembly. During the panel sessions both the rectors and the students had the possibility to speak out.

The Rectors' Conference as a whole, but especially the presentations that introduced the BUP as a flagship showed a vital and strong network. BUP is diverse and offers a multidisciplinary pallet of courses for both students and teachers every year. The methods are creative and modern. Traditionally, BUP has had the focus on education, but now we also want to put emphasis on research. The aim is to act as a platform for spreading publications and finding networks in the field of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region.

The four keynotes, the consultant and adviser Alan At-Kisson and the three professors Elina Pirjatanniemi, Erik Bonsdorff and Markku Wilenius all showed the importance of sustainable development in today's world. How to transform towards sustainability. How the Baltic Sea has suffered from unsustainability. How you regard sustainability through the glasses of a lawyer. Last but not least: which lessons can be learned from maximizing innovation and creativity.

As BUP is a part of the EU-project the Baltic Science Network, a cooperation was more than natural. Therefore, the Baltic Science Network was invited to arrange their Baltic Science Day of 2018 as a part of the BUP Rectors' Conference. That meant presentations concerning mobility and research cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region and an active involvement in the organization of the workshops during Thursday afternoon.

The General Assembly on Friday morning was divided into four parts with focus on students, research, organization and teachers, respectively. Many important insights were brought up to light: improvements in information and communication, better and more regular contacts with the EU, call for new thinking concerning the enlargement of the research network and introduction of new learning methods. With other words: a bunch of challenges for the BUP secretariat and national centers to work with and develop further until the next Rectors' Conference.



Welcome to Turku and to the 5th BUP Rectors' Conference! Reception with speak of Mikko Hupa, the Rector of Åbo Akademi University. Followed by a mini concert of the Academic Orchestra in Turku.
Photo: Sylwester Nagorka



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Overall, I am quite sure that the students' panel received the highest applause. Deservedly. In the diverse program, the five students showed a fresh angel of the forthcoming BUP. The students raised important, relevant and clear focused questions into light. The whole network should be proud of having these young forces in our organization!

Lastly, on the behalf of the organizing committee in Turku/Åbo, I will once more thank all the participants for taking part in the meeting. Many thanks for making the outcome of the days as good as they get! The weather during these three days was not on our side - wet snow chaos that in the worst cases delayed and even cancelled flights, turned over to heavy rains - but the spirit inside was high. I hope the memory of the meeting is painted in positive colors and that the results will be seen in the BUP network during the coming years.

See you!



The Students' Panel chaired by Sylwester Nagórka, which also is the students' representative at the BUP Board.
Photo: Cecilia Lundberg.

The program and presentations from the Rectors' Conference is available at:
<http://www.bup.fi/rectors-meeting/index.php>

New Member Universities

Since the last Newsletter we have had the pleasure to welcome the following universities as new BUP Member Universities:

- University of Greifswald, Germany
- AGH University of Science and Technology, Cracow, Poland
- University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
- Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, Latvia
- University of Szczecin, Poland
- Kaliningrad State Technical University, Russia
- International University MITSO, Minsk, Belarus

Member universities have signed an **Agreement on Cooperation within the Framework of the Baltic University Programme** and pay an annual fee of 1,000 EUR. Researchers, teachers, and students from a Member University have priority to take part in BUP activities that are free of charge for the them. By BUP activities we mean the activities agreed, planned, and organized by (or in cooperation with) the BUP coordinating secretariat.

The total number of BUP Member Universities is now 82.



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BUP Themes

The aim with the [BUP Themes](#) is to develop each Theme as an information bank where BUP colleagues can collect material and also submit material useful both research and education.

We start with the following Themes:

- Climate Change
- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).
- Circular Economy
- Urban-Rural Development
- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Food Production & Consumption
- Sustainable Transport
- Sustainable Water Resources



We hope that this will lead to more visibility and cooperation among researchers, teachers, and students regarding exchange/mobility, common projects, and more success in funding and publications.

Researchers, teachers, and students please send your contribution using the [BUP Themes Form](#). Teachers may also register their BUP courses on the [BUP Course Registration Form](#) for publication on the web site.

BUP Research Notes

A lot of interesting research on sustainable development is going on at the universities in the BUP network. Thus, we have started to publish **Research Notes – “Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Baltic Sea Region”** on the BUP website on the [Research Notes](#) page. The aim with the Research Notes is to spread research findings and to get to know researchers and research groups in the Baltic Sea region. This is a service not only to BUP Member universities and participating universities but also for different stakeholders in the society at large.

We encourage you to contribute with your research findings. This is an opportunity to both contribute to the development of BUP research efforts and co-operations. It is also a way for you to spread your research findings and information on you as a researcher and your research group. Submit your contribution using the [Research Notes Form](#).

Scientific publications from year 2015 and forward are welcome. Preferably peer review articles, book chapters, proceedings, and dissertations in the BUP Themes, i.e.: Climate Change, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Circular Economy and Urban-Rural Development, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Food Production & Consumption, Sustainable Transport and, Sustainable Water Resources.

The Research Notes are also collected in a **Research Notes Letter** that is disseminated to member universities, participating universities and other stakeholders in society. The first **Research Notes Letter** is now available for [download](#) (pdf-file). We plan to publish new issues of the Research Notes Letter twice a year. You may subscribe to the Research Notes Letter using the [Research Notes Letter Subscription Form](#).





NEWSLETTER

Baltic Research and Publications Office (BUPRaP)

Prof. Walter Leal, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

The Baltic Research and Publications Office (BUPRaP) is a research and publications infra-structure whose aim is to support the Baltic University Programme members to foster their research activities and enhance their publications output and profile. BUPRaP operates in two main areas:

1. Research

BUPRaP gathers and makes available information on open calls for funding programmes, both from the European Union (e.g. Horizon 2020, ERASMUS+, Europe-AID, INTERREG, etc.) and from other grant-awarding bodies such as CBSS, Foundations and other donors. Representatives from the member universities interested in particular calls may contact the BURaP team, and discuss their possible participation.

2. Publishing

BUPRaP coordinates publications on matters related to environment, sustainable development and climate change in referred journals. Preference is given to journals with impact factors, since the participant scientists may use them for the purposes of career development, and when applying for future research grants.

In order to optimise its activities, BURaP will set-up and maintain a dedicated members list, so that it can be in close contact with the stakeholders interested in its activities.

How does it work?

BUPRaP works by means of a "pull and push" approach. By means of "push" it will contact its members and inform them about opportunities for research bids and publications, hence opening up an opportunity for their participation. By means of the "pull" approach, staff at member universities may contact the BUPRaP office to inform about their own plans, and have the search for suitable partners be supported by our team. Research teams (for project proposals) and authors' teams (for scientific papers in journals) will be set-up based on their suitability and skills, and the submission work may be coordinated by the BURaP team in Hamburg. Details on specific inputs and of the responsibilities of the different scientists will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

The BUPRaP Office

BUPRaP is hosted by the Research and Transfer Centre "Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management" at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany, which is also a BUP Associate Secretariat. The BUPRaP office works in close contact with the BUP team in Uppsala, with the other Associate Secretariats in Turku and Lodz, as well as with BUP National Centres. The office is coordinated by Professor Walter Leal and managed by Ms Jennifer Pohlmann.

First activities of the BUPRaP Office

Call for Papers:

Book "International Business, Trade and Environmental Sustainability: International Business as a positive driver of environmental sustainability"

Editors: Walter Leal (Hamburg University of Applied Science, Germany) and Paulo R. Borges





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de Brito (Colorado State University, USA)

The Baltic University Research and Publications Office (BUPRaP) is happy to announce the next round of calls for European Research Council Grants, to open on 15th May. This is a very good opportunity for cutting-edge and innovative research projects. Individual researchers are very welcome to submit their ideas directly. If the proposed ideas are on sustainable development and climate issues, BUPRaP may perhaps offer support. In case of interest, please contact [the BURaP team](#) to explore the possibilities.



European Research Council

The details are here: <https://erc.europa.eu/funding/advanced-grants>

Contact and further information

If you are interested to cooperate with BURaP and need further information, please contact the team in Hamburg. The contact details are:

[Jennifer Pohlmann](#)

Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Research and Transfer Centre "Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management"

[Baltic Research and Publications Office](#) (BUPRaP)

Ulmenliet 20

D-21033 Hamburg

Germany



Jennifer Louise Pohlmann and Walter Leal



NEWSLETTER

BUP Presidency - Lithuania

Autumn 2017

Prof. Linas Kliučininkas, Kaunas University of Technology

The period was marked with two major events:

- *BUP Teachers' Conference Innovations for Sustainable Development* combined with the BUP teachers course Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education, held Kaunas (Lithuania) on October 22-26, 2017; and
- *5th PhD Students Training Interdisciplinary-Multicultural-International*, held in Rogow (Poland) on November 27 – December 1, 2017.

The Conference *Innovations for Sustainable Development* was arranged by the BUP Lithuanian Centre at Kaunas University of Technology and the BUP Associate Secretariat at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, in cooperation with BUP Secretariat at Uppsala University. The conference was attended by 40 participants from Belarus, Czech Republic, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Sweden and Japan.

The conference addressed innovative approaches in teaching & learning as well as achievements and trends in science & technology towards sustainable development of our societies. It encompassed lectures, workshops as well as study visits.

The EDU_Lab team at Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) introduced the system of development of modern didactic competences. The EDU_Lab team presented design thinking approach in teaching and learning. Research groups at Santaka Valley (KTU) presented science & technology streamlines in the following areas: education, functional nanomaterials and related laser technologies, solar energy harvesting. The authors of the book *Green European* shared insights on environmental behaviour and attitudes in Europe in a historical and cross-cultural comparative perspective. The theoretical knowledge was supplemented by study visits to the advanced research labs.

The objective of the 5th PhD Students Training *Interdisciplinary-Multicultural-International* was to give PhD students from the BUP network's countries the possibility to meet and discuss scientific problems with focus on sustainable development in an interdisciplinary, international, multicultural, and regional context. In this way, students also got the opportunity to become acquainted with other universities and their scientific traditions. The training program was based on an interdisciplinary approach. Interdisciplinary training at the PhD-level is essential for creating an understanding between scientists and researchers with different backgrounds (Western and Eastern European cultures), and for their future collaboration for a sustainable future.

28 PhD-students were offered training (Engineering – 13, Social sciences and humanities – 9, Life sciences – 6) and the guidance of an international group of experts composed of senior scientists working on interdisciplinary research, benefiting from the interaction with them. The training was arranged as cooperation among the BUP Centre for Lithuania and BUP's Associated Secretariat at the Lodz University of Technology, with Prof. Ireneusz Zbicinski as the main organizer.





NEWSLETTER

BUP Teachers Course on ESD

Sinikka Suomalainen, Åbo Akademi University, Finland

On 24-26 February this year 21 participants from BUP member universities in 8 countries, gathered in Riga, Latvia for the second and final workshop of the BUP Teachers course on ESD in Higher Education. The course started in September 2017 with an e-learning part in Moodle. A first workshop was held in October 2017 at KTU in Kaunas, Lithuania. Between the workshops the communication between the participants was carried out via Moodle. The aim of the course is to support university teachers to integrate sustainable development priorities into their teaching and learning. Participants develop a change project on integrating ESD in their activities. The planning and implementation of the change project is the main outcome of the course.

On this closing workshop the participants from different disciplines and subjects presented their developed change projects in relation to the global sustainable development goals. The change projects focused on existing and new courses, programmes, curricula and administration. Participants worked with the change projects in



Assoc. Prof Džineta Dimante (University of Latvia) leading circular economy session on the BUP Teachers course in Riga.
Photo: Sinikka Suomalainen.

thematic groups via Moodle and in the workshops, acting as critical friends to each other. Some participants already used some activating methods which were presented during the course. Dr Shepherd Urenje, SWEDESD, Uppsala University, was leading the change project process and workshops. The possibility for collaboration and interaction between participants was highly appreciated. Meeting colleagues gave also gave ideas for further cooperation.

This course is arranged by the BUP Associate Secretariat at Åbo Akademi University, Finland in cooperation with SWEDESD, Sweden. We are very thankful for the kind and professional help of Prof. Tatjana Tambovceva (Riga Technical University) who made the arrangement possible in Riga.

The plan is to arrange this course again in September 2018 – March 2019.



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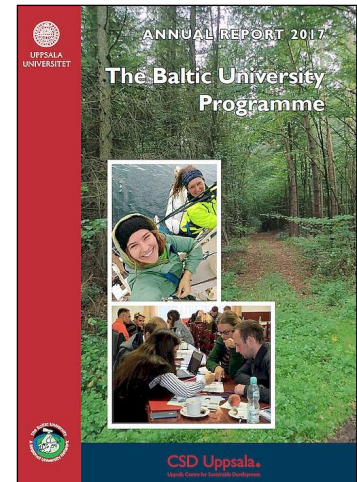
Short News

BUP Annual Report 2017

In the [BUP Annual Report](#) (pdf-file) for 2017 you may read about:

- Baltic University Programme in 2017
- Current Baltic University Members
- Adventure and Education under SAIL
- PhD Award and and BUP Mobility Research Grant
- The 8th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR
- Student Conference in Ukraine
- And much more...

Earlier BUP Annual Reports are found on this [link](#).



Baltic Science Network Publications

The latest publications by the Baltic Science Network include:

- [Researcher mobility tools for the Baltic Sea Region](#)
by Susanna Sepponen, Solveig Roschier, Marika Bröckl, Jenni Mikkola and Mari Hjelt.
- [Drivers for participation in transnational research cooperation and recommendations for increasing participation of low performing countries/regions in transnational research activities](#)
Compiled by the Ministry of Education and Research of Republic of Estonia, Research Policy Department.
- [Scientific Excellence: Joint Potentials in the Baltic Sea Region – an explorative study](#)
by Kazimierz Musiał and Tom Schumacher.
- [Baltic Science Network Brings the Baltic Sea Region Towards Enhanced Functional Proximity and Inclusive Excellence](#)



BSN Newsletter #5 (Winter 2018)

Baltic Science Network has also published issue no. 5 of the [BSN Newsletter](#). The newsletter has the latest news from the transnational forum for higher education, science and research cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region





NEWSLETTER

The BUP Newsletter

The BUP Newsletter publishes materials on the BUP, BUP activities, and on sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. The newsletter is published four times per year and distributed by e-mail through the BUP mailing-list. Comments, contributions, hints, tips, and ideas are as always most welcome, please contact the editor: [Christian Andersson](mailto:Christian.Andersson@bup.uu.se).

The next issue of this newsletter is planned for June 2018.

All previous issues of the [BUP Newsletter](#) are available online.

The BUP Mailing-list

The BUP mailing-list has more than 2,000 subscribers and is a moderated list, i.e. all contributions will be approved by a moderator before being published.

To send a message to the list write an email to the address: balticuniversity@lists.uu.se. If the message is approved it will be sent to all subscribers. If the message is rejected by the moderators it will not be sent.

How to subscribe or unsubscribe to the BUP Newsletter

If you want to un-subscribe from the BUP mailing-list send an email to sympa@lists.uu.se with an empty body. In the subject line you write: **SIGNOFF balticuniversity**.

If you want to subscribe to the BUP mailing-list send an email to sympa@lists.uu.se with an empty body. In the subject line you write: **SIGNON balticuniversity**.

Or contact [Magnus Lehman](mailto:Magnus.Lehman@bup.uu.se) at the BUP secretariat and he will help you.

The BUP Web Sites

Do not forget to visit our web sites every now and then for the latest updates:

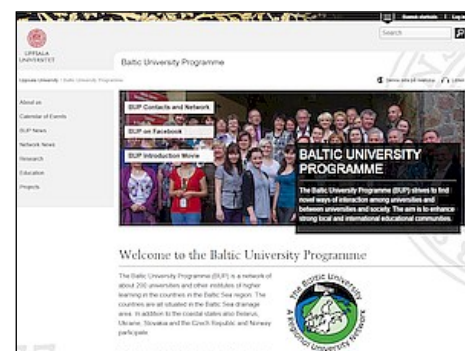
[BUP on facebook](#)
[BUP in Finland](#)
[BUP on LinkedIn](#)

Please see also the associated web sites:

[The Baltic Science Network](#)
[The Swedish Aral Sea Society](#)

Revamped web site

Early this year the BUP website got a new look and content. At the same time the old site was moved to another, temporary, address: <http://www2.balticuniv.uu.se/>. The old site is no longer updated but all content published until January 2018 is still there and will be for at least another 6 month.





NEWSLETTER

BUP Map

Cities with BUP universities in February 2018. The green line denotes the Baltic Sea drainage area. Graphics by Magnus Lehman.

