



# The Baltic University Programme

## Newsletter

Issue #62, June 2020

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# An on-line welcome

Summer is approaching and the end of this academic year is coming closer. This semester with extra ordinary conditions has given us new experiences that have influenced the way we work and think. The most of the BUP activities during spring were cancelled and decided to be postponed to fall or later on, who knows. But still some activities and the co-operation with and between colleagues at Member Universities is in full action, as the ongoing project Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Curriculum with 30 researchers from nine BUP countries cooperating to develop a new BUP course module with the focus on Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region, as well as the planning for the BUP Research Forum in August. More than a year now, we have planned the BUP Symposium 2020, the first BUP symposium ever! It has been exciting and hard work. And it has really paid off! The symposium attracted a lot of attention. When the restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic obliged us to cancel the planned physical meeting in Visby, we decided to have the BUP Research Forum and the 5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities online. The idea and work with the symposium has given us a push forward in building networks of BUP researchers. We are soon reaching 100 researchers that have shown an interest in one or more of the ten BUP Themes. We have also noticed that more and more researchers do contribute with their new published papers to the BUP Research Notes Letter.

Holding a symposium online is only slightly different from a real life version, it takes significant time and commitment from the participants. For the organization staff, it has been a steep learning curve in on-line events organizing. Perhaps this might lead us to reconnect to online events in the future. I am of course thinking about the BUP history with satellite events. As the first part of the BUP symposium 2020 had to be cancelled altogether, and due to the fact that next year will be the Celebration 30th year of BUP, it has been decided to have a BUP symposium 2021! Already now make a note in your calendar 23rd - 27th of August 2021 and plan to meet in Visby, Sweden. In this issue of the newsletter you find a brief account of the exciting plans. As before, we invite You to contribute! We are first and foremost looking for researchers from our Member Universities who would like to make a 15 minutes presentation on ongoing or recently conducted research findings, so please help us spread the word.

The ten BUP Themes have a great potential being a source of information where it is possible to both collect and submit material to add to the multi-, inter-, and trans disciplinarity and to develop collaborations between researchers, academic teachers and students. Within each BUP Theme, we aim to establish networks of researchers. The research presentations on our web site are one part of this. To join, fill out our [form, accessible via this link](#).

Another part is the BUP Research Notes Letter where we publish current research affiliated to BUP Member Universities. I'm very pleased that we are receiving more and more contributions to disseminate. It is our belief that our readers find the research at the BUP member universities interesting. I would like to take the opportunity to invite you to contribute to our Research Notes via the section on the web site. The aim is to spread both research findings and the knowledge about researchers within the Programme. This is an opportunity to both contribute to the development of BUP research initiatives and co-operations, as well as a way for you to spread research findings and information. Please use [this link when submitting your contribution](#). The publishing is of course free of charge!

All from now, and all the best. Wish you all a fantastic summertime and look forward to see you online in August!



Madeleine Granvik  
Director, Associated Professor

# Update of The BUP Symposium 2020

*For more than one year now, we have planned the BUP Symposium 2020, the first BUP symposium ever! It has been fun and hard work and especially difficult when faced with the Covid-19 pandemic and the following restrictions. But as the one of the aims for BUP is to be a platform for research cooperations and as the interest for the symposium has been awarding, it wasn't a hard desicion to move as much of the program as we could, on-line. Instead of doing the final planning for a physical meeting in Visby, we have rearranged it.*

A BUP ambition during 2020 is to focus on research at our Member Universities. This holds a great potential and we hope that together we will be able to increase co-operation and facilitate internationalization. As this is so central for the BUP, it was important to keep the forum as the planned starting point for the exciting research networks that we wish to support and develop. The interest has been considerable, and we already have several researchers and research coordinators within our BUP Themes!

For the symposium 2020, we have some 120 presenters, that will make their presentation via our on-line platform. Registered participants may listen and take active part and pose questions. Go to the web site [www.bupsymposium2020.se](http://www.bupsymposium2020.se) to see the detailed planning and to register.

## **Link to register as a listener at the BUP Symposium 2020**

With the symposium, we are challenging researchers from different disciplines with an interest in the Baltic Sea Region as an empirical field. Our hope is that our Programme will lead to more visibility and cooperation among researchers, teachers and students. We also hope to foster a greater awareness on sustainable development issues as well as facilitate exchange and mobility. In turn, we believe that this will lead to more common projects and more success in funding and publications. This might especially be true for the Horizon Europe coming up.

The goals with BUP Symposium 2020 are:

- to establish networks of researchers within each of the nine BUP Themes
- to provide an opportunity to meet colleagues
- to provide an opportunity to disseminate and take part of new knowledge
- to provide an arena where to discuss research
- to provide an opportunity to get published and spread research in the BUP network

The Symposium now have two parts:

1. Scientific conference: BUP Research Forum - Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Baltic Sea Region (Tuesday 25th of August - Wednesday 26th of August). This conference will stress the BUP Themes: Climate Change and Renewable Energy, Sustainable Food Systems, Sustainable Water Resources, Urban-Rural Development, Sustainable Mobility, Circular Economy, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Sustainable Tourism and Sustainable Societies
2. Scientific conference: 5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities (WSSD-U-2020) (Thursday 27th of August - Friday 28th of August). The conference is entitled: "Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals", and will contribute to further development of this fast-growing field.



# Welcome to the BUP Symposium 2020: Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Baltic Sea Region

The symposium consists of the following two parts:



1

**BUP Research Forum:  
Research and  
Innovation for a  
Sustainable Baltic Sea  
Region**

*Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> of August  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of August*

This conference stress the following different BUP themes: Climate Change and Renewable Energy, Sustainable Food Systems, Sustainable Water Resources, Urban-Rural Development, Sustainable Mobility, Circular Economy, Sustainable Tourism, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Sustainable Societies.

**Open to registration for listeners  
Free of charge**



2

**5<sup>th</sup> World Symposium  
on Sustainable  
Development at  
Universities**

*Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of August  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of August*

This part is entitled "Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals", and will contribute to the further development of this fast-growing field.



**[www.bupsymposium2020.se](http://www.bupsymposium2020.se)**



**The Baltic University Programme**

# Research profiles for a thriving BUP network

One of the main aims of the The Baltic University Programme is to promote a strong regional multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinarity research community in the fields of sustainable development. We do so in several ways by:

- Building research networks, devoted to our ten research themes.
- Coordinating publications and grant calls, through our BUP Research and Publication Office (BUPRaP).
- Supporting mobility and training for young scholars
- Supporting PhD supervisors through the Supervisor Collegium
- Compiling peer reviewed articles, book chapters and thesis into a Research Notes Letter, that is released three times a year.

Within the Baltic University Programme, there are several researchers associated with the programme. These researchers work at their home universities but cooperate within one or several networks of the programme. As a researcher you are welcome to join the network of **BUP researchers by filling out a form linked here**. This is of course, free of charge!

On the BUP web site we have added some Researcher Presentations according to the BUP Themes. Themes are coordinated by a theme coordinator. You will find all the presentations under the heading Researchers. There is room for many more, so take this opportunity to join the BUP researcher network by filling out the Researcher Presentation Form. A photo of yourself is required, preferably in the jpg-format.



## PhD Supervisor Collegium



*The idea to establish a PhD Supervisor Collegium have been discussed during 2019, and during 2020 we launch it.*

Out from the existing mentorship model in the annual BUP PhD Training, where each PhD student get input from an external mentor during the training, we develop a mentorship during a longer period - formalized supervision. It is our hope that this can even be an opportunity both for PhD students to get a co-supervisor from another university in the Baltic Sea Region, as well as an opportunity for researchers to become co-supervisor, which is an academic merit. The BUP PhD Supervisor Collegium will arrange meetings and seminars for PhD students and also PhD supervisors to exchange knowledge and experience in the role being a good supervisor. Furthermore it will serve as a forum for support, mediation of supervision, and to encourage researchers to take the role being co-supervisor and/or mentor for PhD students at other Member Universities within BUP. As usual, BUP will pay for accommodation and food during the set programs. If you are interested in participating as a Supervisor, please contact the BUP Director Madeleine Granvik.

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# Winners of BUP PhD Thesis Awards

We proudly present the winners of the BUP PhD thesis award. The winners of the PhD Awards receive a prize in the form of a diploma and a sum up to 500 Euro to cover travel costs and/or accommodation for attending a research conference. In addition, BUP will also cover travel costs and accommodation for presenting the research during one of the BUP events. Read their abstracts in our upcoming Research Notes Letter, available in fall via this link: <https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/bup-research/>

## Winner in the category of Social Sciences and Humanities

**Dr. Jolita Ceicyte**, Department of Strategic Management, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Thesis: Implementing Responsible Innovation at the Firm Level



The PhD thesis by Jolita Ceicyte entitled "Implementing Responsible Innovation at the Firm Level" presents research on implementation of the concept Responsible Innovation (RI). RI is aimed at mitigating possible negative consequences of innovation by considering ethical and societal concerns and including a wider range of firm's stakeholders into the innovation implementation. Quantitative research was performed at the Medical Engineering company situated in the Baltic Sea Region. According to the evaluation committee the thesis meets the criteria of interdisciplinary approach, novelty, innovation and importance for sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.

## Winner in the category of Natural Sciences and Engineering

**Dr. Vladislavs Žavtkevics**, Riga Technical University, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Transport and Aeronautics, Institute of Aeronautics, Latvia

Thesis: Use of remotely piloted aircrafts (RPA) for solving the tasks of ecological monitoring of sea aquatoriumbatch reactor with anammox granular biomass



The PhD thesis by Vladislavs Žavtkevics entitled "Use of remotely piloted aircrafts (RPA) for solving the tasks of ecological monitoring of sea aquatorium" presents comprehensive research on development and application of the tools, devices and methods for monitoring the sea area to detect and control oil spills. Novelty elements of the thesis are confined in elaborating of the procedure for optimal flight route of remotely piloted aircraft which allows continuous monitoring of oil spills and development of technology and devices for taking water samples from sea aquatorium by RPA. The thesis meets the criteria for supporting of sustainable development delivering innovative, unmanned aerial platform and methodology for detecting and continuous monitoring of oil pollution of sea aquatorium.

# Winners of BUP Mobility Grant

The main aim with the BUP Mobility Grant for Young Researchers, is to develop and strengthen cooperation among young researchers in the Baltic Sea Region. The grant is intended to support young scholars from BUP Member Universities promoting research within sustainable development. The grant winner will report on the use of the grant afterwards. In 2020 The Baltic University Programme decided to grant two PhD students.

## Winner of the BUP Mobility Grant for Young Researchers

**Liliia Hrytsai, PhD student**, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Department of International Security, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS), Lublin, Poland

In order to develop her research on sustainable urban development and sustainability policies in Gdańsk and Stockholm, she will visit the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. While in Stockholm, she will work on her project under the supervision of Associate Professor Andrew Karvonen (Division of Urban and Regional Studies), collect material, and develop her research networks. Liliia's project – "The Improvement of Sustainable Urban Development of the Baltic Sea Cities" – will also be based on interviews with representatives of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) in Stockholm, and the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) in Gdańsk. The mobility will thus encompass visits not only to the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, but also to the Gdańsk University of Technology. The research project will contribute to our understanding of sustainable development strategies, smart cities, and sustainable urbanization in the Baltic Sea Region.



## Winner of the BUP Mobility Grant for Young Researchers

**Jenna Senecal, PhD student**, Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, Department of Energy and Technology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Uppsala, Sweden

Senecal's project on "Safe Nutrient Recycling of Human Urine" will contribute to research on circular economy, waste water and finite resources, as well as to actual improvements of sustainable everyday life. She has helped developing a technology that concentrates the plant nutrients from human urine into a dry fertilizer that is equivalent to mineral fertilizers. The drying system is installed in the bathroom and connected to a urine-diverting toilet where no extra piping is required. The technology has already been piloted in Sweden, Finland and France, with more implementation planned for fall 2020. In order to further develop her research, Senecal will visit the Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) in Finland.



Note: The timing of the mobility may be changed, due to the trajectory of the Covid-19 in the Baltic Sea Region.

# The Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

*- current BUP presidency university*

In spring of this year Slovakia and the BUP National Centre at SUA holds the six months rotating BUP Presidency. Since October 2018, the Slovak National Center of the BUP has been set up at the Slovak University of Agriculture (SUA) in Nitra. The BUP Centre for Slovakia is located at the Faculty of Horticulture and Landscape Engineering at Tulipánova 7. The Head of the BUP Center is Ing. Barbora Čakovská, PhD. More information on the BUPCenter and its activities can be found on the [SUA website at this link](#).

During a BUP presidency, a number of scientific events are held. This semester with the ongoing pandemic has however made necessary the postponing of some of the planned events. One such event is the BUP Student Conference 2020 on Sustainable Food Production in Conditions of Climate Change. This is now planned to be held the 7th – 10th of October 2020. For more information on this event, stay tuned on the university's own website, or indeed the BUP website/upcoming events: link

The first academic activities that would become the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra began already in 1941. The Slovak University of Agriculture It was formed by a Czechoslovak government decree in 1952. In 1996 the University of Agriculture was renamed to Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (SUA). In 2002 the Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Sciences and in 2004 the Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development were added, and the university now has around 15,000 students. It offers Bachelor's, Engineer's (Master's) and Doctoraldegrees in sixfaculties:

- Faculty of Agrobiology and Food Resources
- Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Sciences
- Faculty of Economics and Management
- Faculty of Agricultural Engineering
- Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development
- Faculty of Horticulture and Landscape Engineering

The university campus, built between 1961 and 1966 according to the project of architects Vladimír Dedeček and Rudolf Minovský, is one of the most important realizations of this kind in Slovakia and at the same time one of the best quality works of domestic post-war modernism. Its architectural qualities, the use of new building and construction technologies make it a unique work of European architecture. The main campus with the mushroom shaped aula became a National Cultural Monument in 2014.



Photo above showing the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. Photo from [unbiag.sk](#)

# Towards a regional climate change education

For more than a year, a group of 30 researchers and university teachers from nine countries and more than 14 academic institutions, have been cooperating to develop a new BUP course module with the focus on Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region.

The project, that goes under the name “Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Curriculum”, is financed by the Swedish Institute and aims to create a holistic and regional material for teaching climate change at the undergraduate level. So far, 15 transdisciplinary lectures on fundamental climate change knowledge is under development. The 30 participants in the project are divided into smaller working groups, focusing on topics according to the participants expertise. Each lecture includes a text, presentation, a teacher’s guide and additional materials, such as exercises, workshop materials and links to additional reading.

During the spring, the project group has met twice online to continue the development of the project. Initially, the aim was to launch the course module at the BUP Symposium 2021 in Visby, Sweden. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, the project hasn’t been able to progress according to plan. With generous support from the project financier Svenska Institutet, instead the launch of the module is postponed until August 2021. All materials will then be published online at the BUP website.

## The following partners have contributed:

- Baranovichi State University, Belarus
- Belarusian State University, Belarus
- EKAPRAEKT NGO, Belarus
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- Hochschule Zittau / Görlitz, Germany
- Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, Russia
- Kaliningrad State Technical University, Russia
- Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania
- Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine
- Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Russia
- University of Greifswald, Germany
- University of Tartu, Estonia
- University of Turku, Finland
- Uppsala University, Sweden
- Vilnius University, Lithuania
- WSB Wroclaw, Poland
- Åbo Akademi University, Finland

**Supported by**  
**Swedish**  
**Institute**



Meeting held on-line with host and Project Leader Pontus Ambros



Material development in Kaunas, November 2019.

# Looking for BUP student ambassadors

*The ambassador program aims to recruit students from BUP Member Universities to promote the programme at their home university and assist the local BUP staff in their work. The idea is to create a network with engaged students, that can support the programme and recruit new students to courses, conferences and other events. In return, ambassadors will receive a travel grant to participate in a BUP activity.*

In the spring of 2020, the BUP originally intended to kick-off the BUP student ambassador program. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the start has been slightly postponed, in part because we cannot have the events where this program was planned to be promoted. Instead, this issue of the BUP newsletter is used as an informal call for students that would like to be a BUP student ambassador. We are looking for passionate BUP students, that has taken part in a BUP event and would be interested in organizing local BUP events.

Would like to be our ambassador? Do you know of any student that would be great as a BUP student ambassador? Contact [Pontus Ambros](#) for more information.

## Launching

# BUP Symposium 2021

We are very happy to announce that The Baltic University Programme will hold a symposium 23rd - 27th of August, 2021! The symposium is planned to take place in Visby, Sweden and will include activities connected to our BUP Themes, a research forum, conferences and networking opportunities. The symposium will be focused on events directed to all of our programme's stakeholders: rectors, academic teachers, researchers and students. The more detailed planning will start soon after the 2020 symposium.

An important event during the Symposium 2021, will be the celebration of BUP 30th anniversary! At this occasion we hope to celebrate together with you!

As before, we invite You to contribute! We are first and foremost looking for researchers from our Member Universities who would like to make a 15 minutes presentation on ongoing or recently conducted research findings, so please help us spread the word.

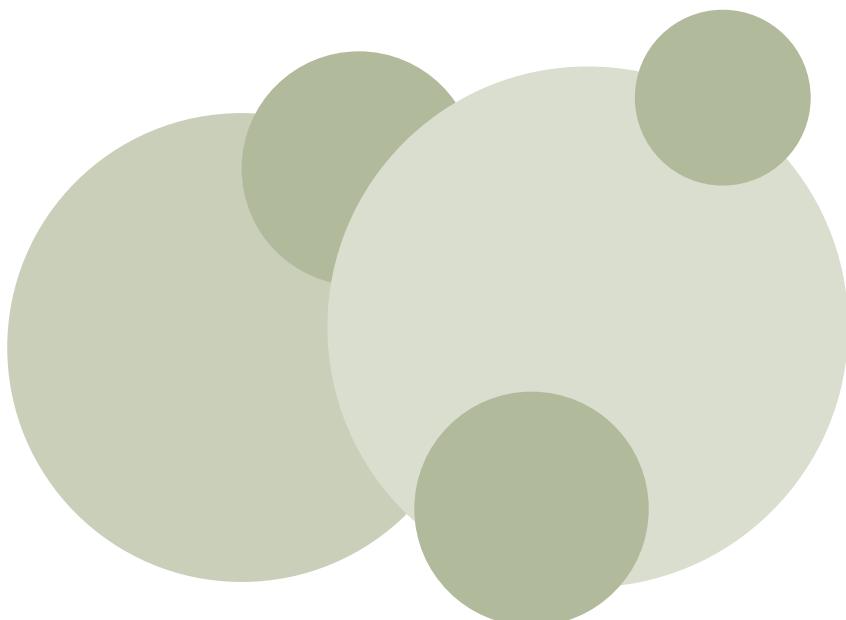
# Successful initiatives

*During 2019 the coordinating office of The Baltic University Programme was approached by member universities to cooperate to help develop locally planned activities. These activities became BUP events and opened them up for participants from universities within the programme.*

The first cooperation was with the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, and the Tatra National Park, around the workshop Sustainable water resources management in high mountains in the Baltic Sea Region. This was held in Zakopane, Poland on 10th – 13th June 2019. It was the 2nd workshop organised by the Jagiellonian university, and BUP was happy to join and cooperate as a partner. In the beautiful surrounding of Tatra mountains, the participants had an opportunity to take part in the lectures about the region, focusing on water resources. They also spent time conducting field work. Altogether 12 students and PhD students from BUP member universities were able to take part of this opportunity to participate in the research event - free of charge. We are grateful to Professor Joanna Pociask-Karteczka for her initiative and hard work.

The other cooperation took place in Minsk, Belarus. The BUP was offered an opportunity to cooperate in the organization of the IXth International Scientific Conference for young scientists, undergraduate and postgraduate students entitled "Actual environmental problems". This is an annual event organized by the International Sakharov Environmental Institute (ISEI) of the Belarusian State University. This year, the event took place the 21- 22 November, and several researches from the network presented articles. The focus in the scientific sessions and the workshops of the conference was on current sustainability and environmental issues in the region. Professor Nadezhda Goncharova, the head of the UNESCO chair " Radiation and environmental management", initiated this cooperation.

We found this type of cooperation very fruitful and would thus like to invite Member Universities to approach us with any inquiries on cooperation within our BUP Themes! In case you have some planned events this year or annual events which your university used to organise, and if you would like to open them for the network- invite participants, speakers etc.- please contact BUP Coordinating Secretariat, project coordinator [Lyudmyla Babak](#), for further discussion.



# Have something to share?

In order to make both the BUP secretariats and news from the BUP Member Universities more visible and easier to access, we have started to send out via e-mail "BUP weekly", a short summary of upcoming events and news about research. The BUP weekly will be sent out two times per month and will include three parts: BUP news, with activities and calls organized by BUP; Network news, with activities and calls from our Member Universities and partners; Call for papers, a list of open calls from BUPRaP or other publication opportunities relevant for the region and the nine BUP Themes.

If you want to share something with the BUP network, it will be included in this bulletin. The BUP Newsletter, will still be published four times per year, but will be focusing on more in depth news and reports from BUP events. In this way, we hope that we can make the information more accessible and reduce the amount of emails sent out on our list. We hope you will enjoy it!

## The BUP Mailing-list

The BUP mailing-list ([balticuniversity@lists.uu.se](mailto:balticuniversity@lists.uu.se)) has about 2,200 subscribers and is a moderated list, i.e. all contributions will be examined and approved by a moderator before being published.

## How to subscribe or unsubscribe to the BUP Newsletter, BUP Weekly and BUP announcements

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

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

# New BUP Member Universities

Since the previous BUP Newsletter, we have had the pleasure to welcome one new Member University into the Baltic University Programme! This institute of higher education is

- Belarusian State Agricultural Academy, Belarus

Belarusian State Agricultural Academy is situated in Horki in eastern Belarus. The academy was established in 1840. Today the academy has about 10.000 students and 10 faculties and is the largest multi-disciplinary institution of higher education in the agro-industrial sector in Belarus.



# The BUP map



Cities with BUP universities as of January 2019. The line denotes the drainage area of the Baltic Sea Region where most BUP Member Universities are situated.

Red dots show the location of one or more Member Universities.

Blue dots show the location of the BUP National Centres.

Yellow dots show the location of Associated Secretariats.

The black dot show the location of the BUP Coordinating Secretariat.

Graphics by Christian Andersson through Google.

## The BUP Newsletter

The BUP Newsletter publishes materials on the BUP, its 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 Balticuniversity e-mailing-list. Comments, contributions, tips, and ideas are as always welcome, please contact Ulrika Klintberg at [ulrika.klintberg@balticuniv.uu.se](mailto:ulrika.klintberg@balticuniv.uu.se).

All previous issues of the BUP Newsletter are available online through our home page: <https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/bup-resources/>

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