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UNIVERSITET

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## The Baltic University Programme



CSD Uppsala.

Uppsala Centre for Sustainable Development



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# The Baltic University Programme in 2014

*Forward with continued support from universities and with new activities in the horizon*



The 4th BUP Rectors' Conference which was organized in October at Uppsala University, Campus Gotland in Visby was again a milestone for the future of the network. In her opening speech, professor Eva Åkesson, Vice Chancellor of Uppsala University, mentioned the important role of universities in their countries, and the importance of preparing today's students for a life of international cooperation and friendship. And referring to the main tasks of universities – research and education – she mentioned the paradox of the mobile researcher and the immobile teacher, referring to the very few international occasions where university teachers discuss academic teaching. Here BUP plays a very important and unique role, bringing teachers together several times each year to learn and discuss about new topics and new ways of teaching. The 4th BUP Rectors' Conference was planned by a pre-conference organized in spring. We had a good representation from the universities in the whole region, and during two days of intensive work many good proposals were brought up. All participants are gratefully acknowledged for giving their time, ideas and willingness to prepare the BUP network for future challenges! These messages were brought to the Rectors' conference, where the Rectors set the long term directions for the BUP network.

The voluntary contributions which were introduced some years ago have opened the opportunity for new and innovative activities for the whole network. The first two to be realized were the BUP PhD Award and the PhD-conferences, and in the pipe-line is one more activity; the BUP grants for students and PhD students. We warmly thank all universities that have contributed, because without Your support we would not be able to develop such new activities for our students and PhD students!

In 2014 we have organized two conferences for students, and two for our teachers. For students we also have the SAIL-course in August, which is a course at Uppsala University, organized on board the sailing ship Frederyk Chopin. You are welcome to find out more about our events in this re-

port. Also this year a student group was invited to the Annual Forum of the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), to represent BUP as one of the Flagship projects of the Strategy. In the final high-level panel discussion, Marek Szponik, brought up the views and visions of the students. He was rather critical to the dominating view of sustainability as purely an economic matter, and afterwards Marek got much support from the audience for reminding about this wider view. And again in November Marek was invited to Tallinn, to another high-level EU-event, where he again had a speech about the students' view on the future.

Among projects that have been running this year we can mention UZWATER (a project under the TEMPUS programme, 2012-15), which aims at creating a masters' programme in environmental science and sustainable development, with focus on water management at eight universities in Uzbekistan. Another project we can mention is the "Assessing the status of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea region: a macro-regional perspective" (2014-15). This project is running in cooperation with the secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Centre for Sustainable Development at Uppsala University. We can expect that the results of this project will be further developed in the future in different areas of sustainability and in different parts of the Baltic Sea region, not the least as part of the work in relation to the upcoming UN Sustainable Development Goals. The UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development came to an end this year, but the work will continue under a Global Action Plan.

Finally I want to thank the BUP international board members, the BUP Centres' directors, and many, many engaged BUP-friends and colleagues in the whole region, for many constructive discussions and your support to the Baltic University Programme!

*Paula Lindroos  
Baltic University Programme Director in 2014*



# Baltic University Rectors Conference 2014

## Visby, Sweden 22-24 October

The 4th Baltic University Programme Rectors' Conference was organized 22-24 October 2014 in Visby, Uppsala University Campus Gotland. The aim of the conference was to further elaborate the goals and strategies for the network cooperation, and to plan for future activities, in support for sustainable universities with excellent education, research and research education. On the 22nd of October 90 participants, university rectors or their representatives, from universities in 13 countries, gathered to two days of intensive work, and at the same time enjoying the charming environment in the city of Visby.

In her welcoming speech prof Eva Åkesson, Vice Chancellor of Uppsala university, under-lined that "first, it is vital that we provide opportunities for today's students and that we prepare them for a life of international cooperation and friendship. Secondly, our universities play an important role in the development of our countries. This is so, not only because we equip young generations with skills and understanding, but also because we develop new knowledge for new circumstances". And she continued "Uppsala University is proud to have initiated and maintained this activity for 23 years. But a programme does not only consist of cultural and intellectual content. It also has value content. One of the values is the will to live in just, peaceful and wellgoverned societies. Development of democracy and international cooperation should be high on our agenda".

These words are much in line with the greetings sent to the conference by prof Ludmila Verbitskaya, president from the State University of St. Petersburg. Prof Verbitskaya has a long experience in international cooperation among institutions of higher education, also in the Baltic Sea Region. One example is the Conference of Baltic University Rectors, CBUR.



In the panel discussion "Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region", Vice Minister Rimantas Vaitkus, Lithuania, emphasized the importance of having a neutral forum for academic discussion on difficult themes. Prof Mykhailo Zgurovskyi, rector of National Technical University of Ukraine, presented a new foresight project for Ukraine, coordinated by his university. And he invited BUP universities to cooperate in this project which will start this autumn.

Many important issues were brought up during the panel discussions and the working groups. There were for example the initiative of having a yearly research conference on sustainable development, to organise seminars for university staff on corporate social responsibility, to secure the quality of BUP materials and activities, to invite also companies to the next Rectors conference.

*Paula Lindroos*  
Director Baltic University Programme



Photos by Christian Andersson.

## Courses

Baltic University Programme has produced educational material for 11 courses: Baltic Sea Environment, A Sustainable Baltic Region, Area Studies, Education for Change, English for Environmental Science, Environmental Management, Environmental Science, Sustainable Water Management, Sustainable Community Development, Sustainability Applied in International Learning, Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Agriculture.

A new course material is now also available online, Sustainable Development. (<http://www.balticuniv.uu.se/sustainabledevelopmentcourse>).

Baltic University educational material is used at the universities according to general course descriptions but also in parts as modules and as supplementary material at existing courses.

Statistical figures from universities in the network are collected from teachers by the Baltic University centres in each country. During the last three years student participation in Baltic University courses averaged about 8,000 students. In addition many students participate in student conferences and in the SAIL and SWM courses.

This long-term cooperation and geographically wide and numerically large membership has developed into a solid platform that provides opportunities for continued cooperation as well as new activities and projects.

### Financial Report 2014

OPERATIONAL REVENUES	2013	2014
	1 983 193	2 450 119
Governments grants	4 114 856	3 920 000
Fees	256 718	660
Compensation from authorities/financiers	807 766	337 117
Other compensations	4 405	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>5 183 745</b>	<b>4 257 777</b>
<b>COSTS</b>		
Salaries	- 2 012 653	- 1 947 277
Travel and representation	-115 501	- 470 203
Other staff costs	- 25 128	-15 205
Education, conference	- 595 677	- 125 556
Local costs	- 171 954	-232 703
Other operating costs, goods	- 117 651	- 74 754
Other operating costs, services	- 106 849	-533 755
Depreciations		
Redistribution common costs	-1 571 407	-1 049 806
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>- 4 716 819</b>	<b>- 4 449 259</b>
Transfers		750 904
<b>OPERATIONAL COSTS</b>	<b>466 926</b>	<b>942 386</b>
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	<b>2 450 119</b>	<b>1 507 733</b>

# BUP Courses

The courses are undergraduate and master's level courses, as well as specialised courses for professionals and teachers. The task of the Baltic University Programme is to create a rich learning environment with books, films, Internet sites and conferences to study the development of the region. The courses are run separately by each university in the network. Students register at their home university, while course material is produced and distributed within the Programme. Student conferences, summer camps as well as the internet, connect the student groups in the network. We also organize several university teachers training courses each year to uphold a good standard of knowledge and to introduce new teachers to our materials and courses. During 2014 there were 7,342 students in a total of 299 course groups at 116 universities all over the Baltic Sea region studying BUP courses and there were 238 academic teachers contributing to delivering the courses.

## *International Education*

Baltic University Programme courses are international, multidisciplinary, problem-oriented, and based on ongoing research at the participating universities. The courses intend to give comprehensive knowledge on education for sustainable development, the environment and of the societies in the Baltic Sea Region. The courses are organized as an international cooperation within the network. In this way, we keep the best standard possible, considering that the topics chosen are so wide that no single university, East or West, has the competence needed to produce such a course on its own. The course groups in the different countries are offered possibilities to get in touch with each other, and to participate in common events, lectures and seminars.

## *Teachers and Students Conferences*

To support the university teachers in the network, seminars and conferences are arranged for various subject areas. Each year we organize at least one large teachers' conference on education for sustainable development and one teacher training course on another subject. In 2013 two conferences/teacher training workshops. Teachers get the opportunity to discuss with colleagues on the BUP educational material, how to cooperate with other universities as well as practitioners, how to build networks and how to address questions of sustainability.

Students are invited to attend summer camps, sailing trips and other events organized by the participating universities and the Baltic University Programme Secretariat. Students' conferences are arranged regularly to promote contacts, international understanding and democracy development. Since 2008 we have held both spring and autumn Students conferences.



## *The Web Page & Course*

The Secretariat web page ([www.balticuniv.uu.se](http://www.balticuniv.uu.se)) is intended to be a resource for both students and teachers. It contains information on the courses and the course material, meetings and conferences, as well as the latest publications from the Baltic University Press.

Comprehensive information on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is found on the Finnish BUP web site [www.bup.fi](http://www.bup.fi).

In 2004, the Sustainable Water Management course (15 ECTS) was launched as the first full distance mode BUP course. All course material, (a total of some 600 pages) can be downloaded as pdf-format documents from the web page. Project tasks, internet links, questions, and study groups, etc. are available or organized over the homepage. See further: [www.balticuniv.uu.se/swm](http://www.balticuniv.uu.se/swm).

A web-based course called Concepts of Sustainability (COS) giving 5 ECTS credit points is offered by the Open

University at Åbo Akademi University. This introductory course is made in the open source learning platform Moodle. A new course entitled Sustainable Development was developed during 2012 by Prof. Lars Rydén. The course material is now available at the BUP website.

SAIL – Sustainability Applied in International Learning (7.5 ECTS) is an international course at Uppsala University on sustainability organised by the Baltic University Programme. 40 students and teachers from all countries within the Baltic Sea drainage area work, study, sail and live together on a sailing ship for 17 days. The education consists of workshops, seminars and group discussions at sea on board. The students also participate as sailors and perform watch duties on the ship around the clock.

# Undergraduate Level

## Environmental Science ES

The ES courses give multidisciplinary overviews of the situation of the environment in the Baltic Sea region and on how to manage and protect it. The courses provide an excellent background for studying the Baltic University courses on sustainable development. The 15 ECTS course can be divided into two modules which can be studied separately:

**Environmental Science** (15 ECTS)

- i. **The Baltic Sea Environment** (7.5 ECTS)
- ii. **Basic Environmental Science** (7.5 ECTS)

## English for Environmental Science EE

This is an intermediate level English language course that develops comprehension, vocabulary and skills of expression. Terminology used in environmental studies is explained and practised.

## The Baltic Sea Region Area Studies AS

The AS courses treat the Baltic Sea region and its societies under eight headings: history, culture, language, democracy, multiculturalism, social conditions, economics and security. The courses deal mostly with the conditions in the region after the systems change in 1989-91. Regional development is in focus with emphasis on democracy, human rights and economics.

**The Baltic Sea Region** (15 ECTS)

- i. **Peoples of the Baltic** (7.5 ECTS)
- ii. **Regional development and the Baltic Sea region** (7.5 ECTS)

## A Sustainable Baltic Region SBR

The course deals with sustainable use and management of natural resources and long-term protection of the environment. Important issues in the course are energy and energy use, material flows, economy and ethics, industry, agriculture, transport and community development. (7.5 ECTS)

## Sustainability Applied in International Learning SAIL

A course at Uppsala University on sustainability organised by the Baltic University Programme. The education consists of workshops, seminars and group discussions on board a sailing ship. (7,5 ECTS)

# Master's Level

## Sustainable Water Management SWM

The SWM courses are master's level courses focusing on issues of sustainable use of water and water resources in the Baltic Sea region. Students should preferably have a background in e.g., hydrology, geology, physical geography, agronomy, soil science, forestry or environmental engineering. The full SWM course consists of three modules, which can be studied separately:

**Sustainable Water Management** (15 ECTS)

- i. **The Baltic Waterscape** (4.5 ECTS)
  - ii. **Water Use & Management** (4.5 ECTS)
  - iii. **River Basin Management** (6 ECTS)
- Sustainable Water Management can also be studied as an internet course at Uppsala University.

## Community Development CD

The CD courses are master's level courses focusing on sustainable community development and urban planning with an emphasis on the Baltic Sea region. The courses are interdisciplinary, problem oriented and preparatory for a professional career. The course Community Development (15 ECTS) includes three modules:

- i. **The City** (4.5 ECTS)
- ii. **Building Sustainable Communities** (4.5 ECTS)
- iii. **Urban Sustainability Management** (6 ECTS)

## Environmental Management EM

The EM courses address management in all kinds of organizations, although industries are in focus. They are well adapted for competence development of professionals. The course consists of four modules:

**Environmental Management** (30 ECTS)

- i. **Policy Instruments for Environmental Management** (7.5 ECTS)
- ii. **Cleaner Production and Technologies** (7.5 ECTS),
- iii. **Product Design & Life Cycle Assessment** (7.5 ECTS)
- iv. **Environmental Management Systems and Certification** (7.5 ECTS).



## Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Agriculture EHSA

The EHSA courses address the field of rural development, sustainable agriculture and animal health pertaining to the Baltic Sea Region and to some degree also the Great Lakes region. The course consists of three modules:

**Environmental Management** (30 ECTS)

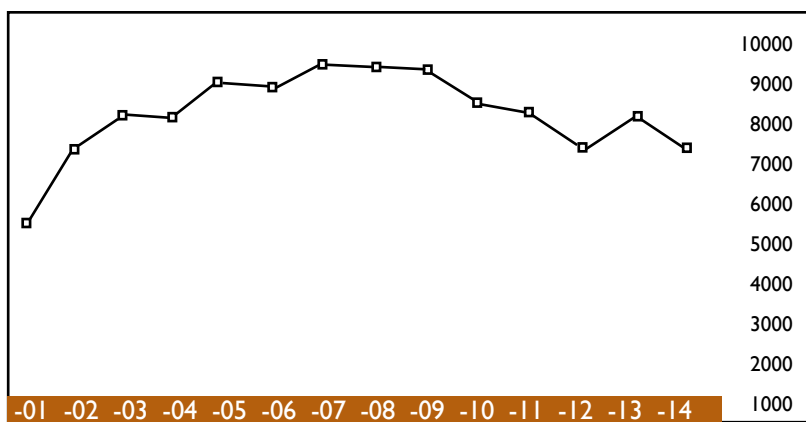
- i. **Sustainable Agriculture** (7.5 ECTS).
- ii. **Ecology and Animal Health** (7.5 ECTS),
- iii. **Rural Development and Land Use** (7.5 ECTS).



# Course Statistics

The yellow column below shows the number of students on the BUP courses, in the different countries.

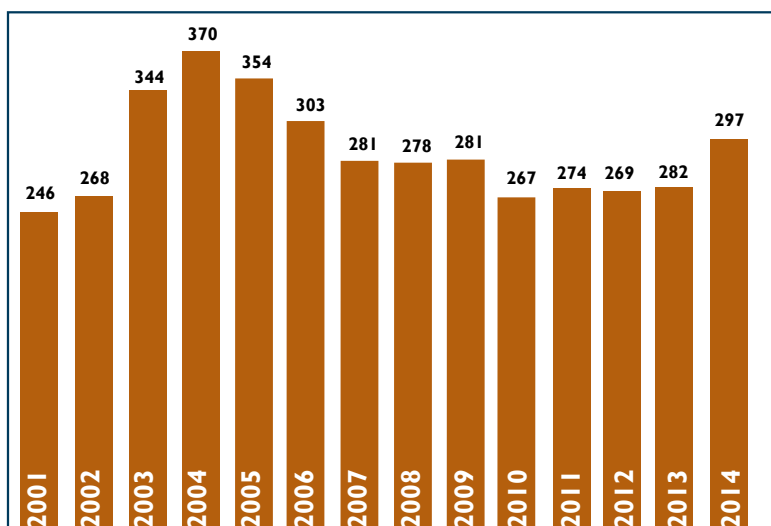
BSE - Baltic Sea Environment/Environmental Science  
 POB - Peoples of the Baltic/Regional Development  
 SBR - A Sustainable Baltic region  
 SWM - Sustainable Water Management  
 SCD - Sustainable Community Development  
 EE - Environmental English  
 EM - Environmental Management  
 EHSA - Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Agriculture  
 Others - number of students in courses using the BUP material as 50% of total course materials



Total amount of students 2001-2013.

Number of students on the different course sectors:

Country	Universities	Teachers	Study groups	Students	BSE	POB	SBR	SWM	SCD	EE	EM	EHSA	Others
Finland	2	3	2	111	0	0	0	62	0	0	0	0	49
Estonia	5	6	28	759	18	28	0	0	13	0	0	0	700
Latvia	7	11	52	1609	81	18	219	106	210	61	255	30	629
Lithuania	11	24	17	455	140	70	192	0	0	0	41	0	12
NW Russia	9	11	16	234	58	57	23	25	16	22	18	0	15
Kaliningrad	3	16	17	485	120	20	103	0	0	0	42	0	200
Belarus	27	41	54	1435	208	91	880	68	0	30	27	20	111
Ukraine	10	28	27	336	0	58	176	13	7	63	19	0	0
Slovak Rep.	3	7	14	336	0	4	15	32	0	0	0	163	122
Czech Rep.	1	9	17	328	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	0	251
Poland	22	56	40	806	161	25	478	0	0	0	15	46	81
Germany	8	17	4	227	75	10	122	0	0	0	2	0	18
Norway	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denmark	4	5	5	90	0	0	0	0	20	0	40	0	30
Sweden	3	3	6	131	0	0	0	24	60	0	0	0	47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>7342</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>2208</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>2265</b>



Total number of BUP study groups from all courses.



### **Green Economy and Greening University** 23—27 April in Rogów, Poland



During April 2014, the students' conference took place in Rogów, Poland with the main topic Green Economy and Greening University. Over 60 students from 12 countries from the region were present. The conference had a balance between practical & engaging workshops which involved all the participants allowing exchange of different opinions and new insight of lectures with relevant topics.

The conference started with welcoming speeches from Dr. Paula Lindros, BUP Director, as well as prof. Ireneusz Zbici ski, BUP Centre for Poland Director, and the organisers presenting the BUP and an introduction of the conference topic with a general view of the Baltic Sea region in terms of the diverse societies of the region and the importance of the role universities & students can take to enrich the sustainability of the region. Followed by a short but educational lecture by Prof. Lars Ryden, Baltic University Programme, introducing green economies with an elementary insight of its relation to sustainable development and the environmental risks.

The second day started with a lecture about ways of greening campuses and sustainable governance in business conducted by Prof. Bernard Delakovitz from University of Applied Sciences in Zittau/Görlitz. Next, was a lecture about life cycle assessment for innovative building façade solutions, by MSc Magda Barecka, Łódz University of Technology. She gave a brief introduction of the new technologies and systems in the architecture fields and described how they contribute to lowering energy consumption. The last lecture was about the ISIS Accelerator which is a collection of tools to implement sustainability in organizations. It was presented by Dr Anna Gust, University of Łódz.

# Conferences

The students then participated in the AMOEBA workshop that included a model for understanding the process of change, as well as a number of planning and analysis tools for working with innovation and change in groups, communities, and organizations.

After lunch, students took part in an Oxford Debate with the topic 'for or against economic growth'. Divided into two groups students were discussing these issues very actively, with a help of Prof. Tomasz Branka, Adam Mickiewicz University, who took care of the debate. The last activity of the day was a poster presentation, when students presented how the sustainability goals are reached by their home universities, municipalities or countries.

The students spent the third day of the conference in Łódź. A lecture was given in Łódź University of Technology, by Assoc. Prof. Kjell-Åke Nordquist, Uppsala University, Sweden. The lecture's topic was on peace researchers' view on the conflict in Ukraine including dialogue workshop in mediation and facilitation that involved an open discussion trying to predict the possible outcomes of the situation by analyzing similar events from the history. The rest of the day was scheduled for non-scientific activities, such as the visits to the Museum of Modern Arts or Museum of the Factory and then free time at Manufaktura – postindustrial revitalised art/shopping/entertainment centre. Arriving back in Rogów, the students had social activities which involved sharing their culture and local food.

The last day was very practical for the students participating in a workshop with rootAbility which is a social business that drives the sustainability transition of the European higher education sector, by establishing and coaching student-driven and staff-supported sustainability units, teams and projects. The students were divided into smaller groups and were asked to brainstorm to come up with an innovative idea concerning their desired field while keeping sustainability in mind as well as practising elevator pitching their ideas learning how to present it in a short efficient way. At the afternoon the Students' Parliament was held, in which all the participants could openly present their proposals or ideas for improvement of BUP activities. The very last procedure of the meeting was the democratic elections of the next BUP students' representative that was finally chosen from four candidates. The closing of the conference was followed by outdoor warm up with bonfire and traditionally Polish food and also disco till very late night hours.

On Sunday all participants travelled back to Warsaw with a lot of theoretical and practical knowledge about sustainable development, green economy, their role as students to implement more sustainable environment within their communities and, what even has greater value, with new friends and connections that will definitely assist with the implementation of this knowledge across the whole Baltic Sea Region through future cooperation.

*Ahmed Mansour*  
Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences

## Turku



### 5:th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

The 2-5 June some 20 BUP students and teachers gathered in Turku, Finland to participate in the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR (EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region).

The Forum was itself a part of a larger event called Turku Baltic Sea Days. The Forum alone attracted about 1,200 people. The speakers list included EU commissioner Johannes Hahn, both the Finnish and Estonian prime ministers, a vice president of Microsoft and the BUP students representative Marek Szponik. The politicians pointed out the good connections and living conditions in the BSR. Craig Shank of Microsoft pointed out that the BSR together with Singapore and Shanghai in the eyes of Microsoft are the three most exciting regions of the world.

Marek Szponik, however, as a representative of BUP and the young generation in general questioned the mainstream view of a bright future for the BSR unless a wider view than that of a strict economical sustainability is taken. The BUP was also mentioned by other speakers a few times as a good example on international and interdisciplinary cooperation for a development towards sustainability.

*Christian Andersson*



# Baltic University PhD Award

The Baltic University Programme award is a distinction given for the Author of the best PhD work defended at Universities from the Baltic University network during the previous calendar year. The award is given in a form of diploma, statue, and a sum of 500 Euro. This year there were 23 applications and three were selected to share this year's award. They are Elena Privalova from Åbo Akademi University, Kira Morachevskaya from St Petersburg State University and Robert Popek from Warsaw University of Life Sciences. In addition Loreta Tauginienė from Mykolas Romeris University International Business School at Vilnius University whose theses Social Responsibility in the Management of University Research Performance was mentioned with esteem.



## Towards novel biogas upgrading processes

Elena I. Privalova, Åbo Akademi University

In this thesis, a fair comparison of the performance of different solvents has been performed in terms of their CO<sub>2</sub> capturing capacity and their applicability and efficiency in biogas upgrading.

Besides frequently used for CO<sub>2</sub> capture aqueous amine solutions and their mixtures the focus of the present study embraced traditional ionic liquids, 'switchable' ionic liquids and poly(ionic liquid)s. The CO<sub>2</sub> capturing efficiency for the most promising solvents achieved values around 50 - 60 L CO<sub>2</sub> / L absorbent. These values are superior to currently widely applied water wash biogas upgrading system.

Moreover, regeneration of the solvent mixtures and viscosity issue, typical for ionic liquids upon CO<sub>2</sub> saturation, were addressed.

The occurrence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) before and after biogas upgrading was studied for biogas produced through anaerobic digestion of waste waters sludge. The ionic liquid [C4mim][OAc] demonstrated its feasibility as a promising scrubbing media and exhibited high efficiency in terms of the removal of VOCs. Upon application of this ionic liquid, the amount of identified VOCs was diminished by around 65 wt %, while the samples treated with the aqueous mixture of 15 wt % N-methyldiethanolamine with addition of 5 wt % piperazine resulted in 32 wt % reduction in the amounts of volatile organic compounds only.

## Estimation of the ability of selected tree and shrub species to phytoremediate particulate matter in urban areas.

Robert Popek, Warsaw University of Life Sciences

An important and dangerous inhaled pollutant of air quality is particulate matter – PM. If pollutants have been emitted to the atmosphere the only possible method to clean the air is via environmental biotechnology – phytoreme-

diation. It involves growing plants on the surface of which PM are deposited where plants can act as biological filters.

52 plant species were tested for their phytoremediation qualities in collecting PM on the leaves. The species *Betula pendula* and *Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin' accumulated the highest amount of PM. It was also shown, that *Tilia cordata* trees growing along the busy road accumulate more PM than in the park.

Increased accumulation of PM on leaves resulted in reduction of efficiency of photosynthetic apparatus manifested by lowered intensity of photosynthesis and parameters of chlorophyll a fluorescence also transpiration rate was reduced.

## Frontier and peripherality as factors of development of border regions with Belarus in Russia

Kira Morachevskaya, St. Petersburg State University

Many populations that reside in border regions experience social benefits associated with the opportunities to buy goods, to study, to work in the neighboring country. However, many districts of the Russian borderland with Belarus decrease in population and economy. The aim of our research was to identify and evaluate the role of frontier position and peripherality in the socio-economic development of border regions with Belarus in Russia.

It was found out that the frequency of cross-border relations in the Russian-Belarusian border area does not depend on the proximity to the border directly, but on the level of peripherality. At the microlevel the intensity of cross-border contacts is also not correlated with the location (distance from the border). The typology of municipal districts of Pskov, Smolensk and Bryansk regions held by the combined effect of two factors – frontier and peripherality – was evaluated in the research. 8 types of municipal districts justify a differentiated approach for the development of regional policies, contributing to overcome the negative effects of peripherality and achieve sustainable development.

# PhD Students Conference

## Personal Being as Being in the World

### *Impressions from the 2nd BUP PhD Students Training Conference*

*Julia Pochynok Ivan Franko National University of Lviv*

It was an amazing experience to compare scientific life with real and very colourful life. We had the best possible five days for working and learning. The main components of this programme are interdisciplinary, multicultural and international. We made this idea come true as all of us came from different countries (Sweden, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and Russia) and with different specializations (Engineering, Life Science and Humanities) and backgrounds.

It was really a good way to understand the difficulties in our fields of science. As for me, I'm a Master of Journalism and Master of Arts. Right now I'm finishing my PhD project about "Ukrainian Experimental Poetry late XX – early XXI century: Text, Context, Intertext". At this training I was the only one from the Department of Literary Theory and Comparative Studies. But it was really good for me to be there, because now I understand that Artistic Science also should have a more concrete subject, main goal, structure, a point of scientific novelty and others.

For example, thanks to the Professor from Poznan I now know that much experimental poetry in Ukraine was done by using the Lady Macbeth effect. Remove letters from how the words are spelled (w\_ \_h, s\_ \_p) and everyone completes the word from his subconscious. That is why, by following the Umberto Eco's theory of the "Open Work", readers will have many different "ends" of a poem or novel. I think that this kind of exchange of experience is important for all fields of science.

It was also interesting to support cross cultural meetings with biographical interviews as a research method. The interactive and intellectual biography is good for understanding each other, before starting to work, especially for experts. We also had an individual workshop with an expert and before this meeting I think the expert should prepare himself for the conversation. That is why the evening with the intellectual biography is so useful for them.

For students that are at the very beginning of their research it is important to have information on how to write scientific papers, and as it was presented here, how to prepare a really bad Power Point Presentation. Also for us it is useful to know how to work with other media and e.g. how to prepare a good Poster. Also it is important to understand the difference between hoax and science, especially their communication challenges

Another useful and interesting point of the meeting was the breaks. We had a excursion to Nagawki to try to make and test ginger bread. We made mice and roses, fishes and hearts, angels and snails, etc. It looked like practicing my idea of experimentalism as a cultural and artistic style of XXI century. Everyone made something and then said: "Its experimental art!" It was amazing...

Then after the cooking workshop we had an excursion to Lodz for a concert with the Modern Talking Band. We celebrated together with Thomas Anders the 30th birthday of this Band. Singing and Dancing the songs of our childhood and perhaps the best songs of our parents youth.



# SAUNET

## Initiatives for Research Capacity-Building



Participants of the workshop in Uppsala. Photo: Genene Mulugeta.

The Sustainable Africa University Network (SAUNET) in partnership with the International Council for Science Regional Office for Africa (ICSU-ROA) is spearheading various initiatives for addressing Africa's sustainability issues, as outlined below.

### Ongoing Activities:

#### (1) Building an interdisciplinary research consortium for reducing disaster risk

The Hazards & disasters consortium is a regional scientific initiative that aims to provide science based solutions to combat the risks posed by hazards and disasters in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA). For sometime now SAUNET in partnership with ICSU-ROA has been facilitating the build-up of a research consortium for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Africa. In order to facilitate the process, a one-day consortium-building workshop was organized on 31 October, 2014 in Uppsala under the theme "Reducing the Risk of Natural and Human-induced Hazards and Disasters for Africa's Sustainability, with sponsorship from the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEESS). Some scientists participating the consortium have submitted abstracts to a joint parallel scientific session with the University of Cape Town, on a proposal entitled: Africa Climate Change Challenges, Adaptation Barriers and Responses at the International Scientific Conference on 'Our Common Future under Climate Change to be held from 7th to 10th July 2015 in Paris.

#### (2) Publication of a book on hazards and disasters

An introductory book on Natural and human-induced hazards and disasters is in press, at the African Institute of South Africa (AISA). The book addresses both the physical impact of disasters on African communities and the vulnerabilities caused by them.

#### (3) Review of the 2007 ICSU-ROA science plan on natural and human-induced hazards and disasters

ICSU-ROA is currently reviewing its 2007 Science Plan. The rationale behind the review process is to inject new

### About SAUNET

The Sustainable Africa University Network (SAUNET) is a network promoting collaborative research for Africa's sustainability. SAUNET's mission is to strengthen regional and local capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa through building multi- and transdisciplinary partnerships with Swedish institutions. The network is affiliated to the Baltic University Programme (BUP) at the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD), Uppsala University, and is coordinated by research associate Genene Mulugeta, who is also chairperson of the ICSU-ROA Science Program on hazards and disasters.

#### Vision

The vision of SAUNET is reducing poverty through building a sustainable Africa.

#### Mission

SAUNET's mission is to strengthen sustainability/vulnerability research in SSA for the benefit of African society. These concern:

- Addressing the challenges of Global Environmental Change and sustainable development (SSA) through providing science based knowledge .
- Promoting the participation of African scientists in the international scientific arena.
- Sharing knowledge and experiences, and facilitating dialogue between African and Swedish/global scientists.
- Facilitating links to other institutions websites that address sustainability/vulnerability issues; news, reports, publications, case studies and research results, focussing on SSA.

ideas and improved focus on the science activities and sustainability issues on the continent. This activity is spearheaded by a committee comprised of African scientists from both the natural and social sciences and representing the different hazard and disaster disciplines. A first physical meeting for the review process was held in Pretoria, S. Africa, from 10-12 June 2015.

#### (4) Africa Future-Earth Initiative?

The Hazards and Disasters consortium is currently engaged in a dialogue to facilitate Africa's participation in the ongoing "Future Earth" Initiative. To kick-start a stronger dialogue, ICSU-ROA in partnership with universities in cote d'ivoire organized a workshop in Abidjan and Yamoussoukro in December 2014.

*G. Mulugeta,  
Coordinator of the SAUNET Programme*



## Dear Students, Teachers and Researchers in the Baltic University Programme

The events in Ukraine over the last few months and especially the last week have made us all very concerned, not so say scared, over possible future developments of the Baltic Sea region. As it touches us more than anywhere else, especially considering our common trouble-some history, we need to reflect, discuss and defend the common ground we have built over more than 20 years together. It is now threatened.

The backbone of the Baltic University Programme is cooperation rather than conflict, friends rather than foes, joining forces for a better future rather than destroying it. It is important that we in the midst of events keep up the good and viable contacts we have with each other. The letter from a group of students, encouraging us to solve the problems together is in this spirit.

As university people we should all have the competence to critically evaluate what we are told. Let us use these skills also when we look at all conflicting reports of the events. The saying "truth is the first victim of war" seems to be more relevant than ever. Some media seem to specialise in fabricating reports, which are advantageous for their owners. Do not let your political leaders decide what is true. Try to find out yourself by using many sources and good analytical thinking. By agreeing on what actually is going on we are already half the way to a constructive dialogue.

Democracy is one of the lead values in the Baltic University Programme. Basic principles of democracy were violated by the former Ukrainian regime by grand scale corruption. Sorry to say the regime of the Russian Federation is not better. Democratic principles are also violated by not respecting the rule of law. This is apparently happening now in Crimea. It is scaring to see thousands of Russian soldiers – anonymously! – occupying the territory. We should protest against this, rather than being silent bystanders. We do not want a future of military aggression or even worse - war. Quoting Desmond Tutu:

*If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.*

The aspect of ethnic conflict, especially in Majdan, is as far as we can judge heavily exaggerated. Demonstrators underline again and again that they fight for a society where human rights and democratic values are respected. Not a society with certain groups or ethnic back-grounds. The conflict has not been, and is not, a conflict between

different groups in Ukraine – it is a conflict between power holders and the civil society. Let us as members of the academic community and thus the civil society join the forces for a future where human rights and democratic values are respected.

*Lars Rydén, Paula Lindroos, Maria Hejna and Christian Andersson*

Baltic University Programme Secretariat  
Uppsala University

## Student statement on ukraine

In response to the recent developments in Ukraine, Baltic University Students stress that the only viable way forward in the region is through unity.

As students of the Baltic Sea region, we are dedicated to reaching the dreams of a common sustainable future. We are gravely concerned about the escalating conflict in Ukraine, which is a great threat to peace and prosperity in the region. The only viable way forward in an interconnected world is through unity.

We therefore stress the following points:

- 1) We are strongly against the use of any violence in the conflict.
- 2) We stand for the democratic values – transparency of governance and respect of human rights with special attention given to the ethnic minorities.
- 3) We need focused international cooperation to overcome common critical challenges in order to reach a more peaceful and sustainable future.

Our region has a long history – it taught us that we can never take peace for granted. What is happening now makes it clear how fragile the dream of a shared future is.

Hence, only by staying together as a region, we have the power to transform the vision of a sustainable and diverse future into reality.

You can support the statement by signing it here:  
[https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Leaders\\_of\\_the\\_Baltic\\_Sea\\_region\\_Call\\_for\\_unity\\_in\\_the\\_Baltic\\_Sea\\_region](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Leaders_of_the_Baltic_Sea_region_Call_for_unity_in_the_Baltic_Sea_region)

Initiators of the statement:

*Caroline Norman*, Sweden (student representative 2012–present) *Marek Szponik*, Poland (student representative 2013–present) *Kirill Zinin*, Estonia (student representative 2012–13) *Anna Ruban*, Ukraine (student, project assistant BUP secretariat 2011–2012) *Pontus Ambros*, Sweden (student representative 2010–12) *Jakob Grandin*, Sweden (student representative

# Conferences, Seminars & Events 2014

The calendar for 2014 below shows an overview of the activities in the BUP network taking place in addition to the courses. These activities include students' conferences, teachers and other professional competence development, meetings and study visits.

## March

13-14 March, Minsk, Vitryssland: BUP national meeting i Belarus

31 March-1 April, Uppsala. The BUP Planning Conference

## April

23-27 April, Rogow, Poland: Student conference. Green Economy and Greening University

27 april, Rogow, Poland: BUP national meeting Poland

## May

4-15 May, Uppsala, Stockholm, Riga: Uzwater meeting: Preparation of the master programme at partner Universities in Uzbekistan

11-17 May, Gdansk, Poland: Joint BUP/CEFO PhD Course, Ecophilosophies and sustainability.

17-24 May SAIL - Teachers Training on board STS Fryderyk Chopin. Baltic Sea, from Gdynia to Visby and back

## June

2-5 June, Turku, Finland: 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR (EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region)

## July

6-25 July, Krakow, Poland: Summer Academy: Challenges of Sustainable Development. Summer course organised by the Sendzimir foundation

## Augusti

18 August-1 September, SAIL course 2014 on board STS Fryderyk Chopin. Started in Gdynia and ended in Szczecin, Poland

## September

30 August-7 September, Tashkent, Samarkand and Buchara, Uzbekistan: Uzwater Visit of EU Partners. Teachers training, opening of master programme courses

17-21 september. Energy Efficiency. Summer course in cooperation with Hamburg University of Applied Science and the University of Applied Sciences Zittau/Görlitz.

## October

22-24 October, Visby: 4th BUP Rectors' Conference

27-30 October, Rogow, Poland: BUP Teachers Training Conference on Education for Sustainability

31 October, Uppsala: ICSU -SAUNET. Africa university network workshop

## November

8-15 November, Tashkent, Urgench and Nukus, Uzbekistan: Uzwater Visit of EU Partners. Teachers training, opening of master programme courses

26-30 November, Rogow, Poland: BUP PhD training workshop

## December

1-3 December, Uppsala: Uzwater 3rd Coordination Meeting

4 December, Uppsala: Uzwater Advisory Board Meeting

12-14 December, Jurmala, Latvia: Conference *Working and learning for sustainability*. Arranged by BUP together with SWEDES and the Swedish embassy in Latvia.



SAIL for Teachers. Director at work. Photo: Anne Ala-Pöllänen.



SAIL for Teachers. On watch. Photo: Anne Ala-Pöllänen.





SAIL for Teachers. Olga Zuin from the Secretariat at the helm. Photo: Anne Ala-Pöllänen



Rectors Conference 2014. Photo: Christian Andersson.



Uzwater project. Green Economy class Urgench. Photo: Linas Kliucininkas.



BUP Planning Conference, March-April 2014. Photo: Christian Andersson.



Rogow Students Conference. Oxford Debate. Photo: Krzysztof Ciesielski.



Rogow Students Conference. Photo: Krzysztof Ciesielski.



SAIL for Students. Bernt Eriksson lecturing. Photo: Anne Ala-Pöllänen.



PhD Conference. Photo: Krzysztof Ciesielski.



Education for Sustainability course in Rogow. Photo: Sinikka Suomalainen.

# Organization

Baltic University is a regional university network in the Baltic Sea region, with about 200 members among institutions of higher learning. The network is coordinated by a Secretariat at the Uppsala Centre for Sustainable Development, Uppsala University. We work to establish education for sustainable development with an interdisciplinary perspective. We do that by organising meetings, conferences, workshops and projects with researchers, teachers and students. Some of the results from this cooperation has developed into an extensive work package on sustainability and regional development. The Baltic University Programme is led by an international board. The task of the board is to develop the contents and long term policy of the Programme, and to support its implementation at the participating universities. The board also works for the financing of the Programme and decides on its plan of activities. The day-to-day activities are coordinated and carried out by the secretariat located at Uppsala University. The secretariat also administers the Programme economy, including applying for financing and contacts with the funding organizations. The 15 centres distribute information on courses and develop Programme activities within their countries. All countries have one national centre, except Russia, which has centres in St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad and Germany, which has centres in Hamburg and Zittau.



## The National Centres 2014

### Belarus

Belarusian State University, Minsk  
Centre Director: Siharei Darozhka, Assoc. Prof.

### Czech Republic

Technical University of Ostrava  
Centre Director: Alena Labodova, Dr.

### Denmark

Aarhus University  
Centre Director: Henrik Knudsen, Assoc. Prof.

### Estonia

Tallinn University of Technology  
Centre Director: Tatyana Polayeva, Prof.

### Finland

Åbo Akademi University  
Centre Director: Ea Maria Blomqvist, MSc

### Germany

Hamburg University of Applied Sciences  
Centre Director: Walter Leal, Prof.

University of Applied Sciences, Zittau/Görlitz,  
Bernd Delakowitz, Prof.

### Latvia

University of Latvia, Riga  
Centre Director: Kristine Abolina, Dr

### Lithuania

Kaunas University of Technology  
Centre Director: Linas Kliucininkas, Assoc. Prof.

### Poland

Technical University of Lodz  
Centre Director: Ireneusz Zbicinski, Prof.

### Russia

Kaliningrad region  
Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University  
Centre Director: Elena Kropinova, Dr

### North-Western region

St Petersburg State University  
Centre Director: Victor Ionov, Prof.

### Slovak Republic

Slovak University of Agriculture, Nitra  
Centre Director: Alexander Feher, Assoc. Prof.

### Sweden

Blekinge University of Technology, Karlskrona  
Centre Director: Lars Emmelin, Prof.

### Ukraine

Ivan Franko National University of Lviv  
Centre Director: Iryna Kriba, Dr

## The Secretariat 2014

**Director:** Paula Lindroos, PhD

**Network Manager:** Maria Hejna, MSc. Econ.,

**Web Master:** Christian Andersson, PhD

**Producer:** Magnus Lehman, MA,

**Project Assistant:** Lyudmyla Babak, MA

**Project Assistant:** Wojciech Szrubka, PhD

**Project Assistant:** Sam Grönholm

**Project Assistant:** Olga Zuin

**Professor Emeritus:** Lars Rydén, Professor

**Project Leader:** Genene Mulugeta, PhD

## The BUP Board 2014

### Chair:

*Roland Roberts*, Professor  
Uppsala University, Sweden

### Members:

*Elisabeth Nihlfors*, Professor, Uppsala University, Sweden

*Matthew Kott*, Professor, Uppsala University, Sweden

*Ian Snowball*, Professor, Uppsala University

*Per G. Berg*, Professor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU, Uppsala, Sweden

*Carl Lindberg*, UNESCO special advisor

*Maria Wetterstrand*, Former chair of the Green Party, Sweden

*Malin Brännback*, Professor, Vice Rector, Åbo Akademi University, Finland

*Ireneusz Zbicinski*, Professor, Vice Rector, Technical University of Lodz, Poland

*Tatyana Polayeva*, Professor, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

*Victor Ionov*, Professor, St Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia

### Student representatives:

*Håkan Emilsson*, Uppsala University, Sweden

*Marek Szponik*, Poznan University of Economics, Poland (to July 2014)

*Ahmed Mansour*, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Finland (from July 2014)

# The BUP Network



