

Annual Report

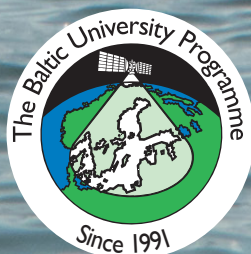
2021



Internationalisation in practice for a sustainable Baltic Sea Region



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET





**One of the worlds largest
university cooperations
for over 30 years**



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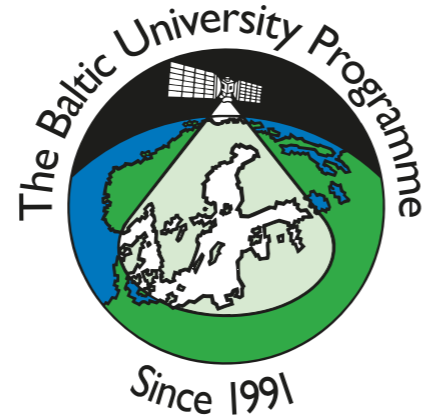
Three decades with The Baltic University Programme (BUP)

Another unique BUP year has passed, which started with celebrating BUP's 30th anniversary! Thirty years have passed and the Programme has developed over time to become one of the largest university co-operations in the world! Since 1991 we have worked to enhance strong regional academic communities and to foster the knowledge of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. Now 30 years later the world looks very different. We have been through a dramatic and revolutionary change and entered the age of communication. The new possibilities of seamless communication are crucial for international cooperation and building bridges.

We had a flying start January 2021 by launching three brand new programs and projects as well as arranging the first modern "space bridge" to celebrate the BUP 30th anniversary. The idea was to commemorate the space bridges used in the childhood of the BUP, to interconnect university teachers, researchers, and students in the Baltic Sea Region. During the year there have been in total 11 space bridges structured according to the 10 BUP Themes and arranged as online seminars, hosted by one of the BUP National Centres. During the year colleagues from participating universities have also submitted their contributions to the celebratory Book of BUP stories. It will portray the history of the Programme and its unique atmosphere through the eyes of enthusiastic colleagues thanks to whom the BUP is thriving.

The past year also marked a new strategic period with the new BUP Strategic Plan for 2021-2025, informed by experience, the vision of the Programme conceived by colleagues across the BUP, and by the current world circumstances and challenges we have recently met. In focus for all work and co-operations in the Programme, previously and current, the BUP working model is the leading star; to co-operate in interdisciplinary and intercultural teams of colleagues from participating universities, representing different disciplines and academic cultures, contributing with their knowledge and experiences in developing common academic activities to foster knowledge on sustainability in a Baltic Sea Region context. The relevance of this way of co-operation is being stressed as never before in this new time period of strategic work for the future of BUP. The BUP working model is the core and signum of BUP!

One of the main new efforts this year was the start of developing a BUP course platform for online courses. BUP strives to offer new courses and modules as well as new forms of teaching related to the 10 BUP Themes. We have been especially reminded of the importance of making materials available in digital form by the current pandemic. There are eight courses in development so far where colleagues contribute according to the *BUP working model*, as well as about 20 students from participating universities assisting with the digitalisation of the course material in their role as E-tutors. The first course to be launched in 2022 is "The Baltic Sea Region



The Baltic University Programme's logotype with the satellite shedding the light of knowledge over our region.

Climate Change Curriculum" with about 15 modules. The development of the course is an excellent example of the *BUP working model* in practice – 30 researchers representing 15 universities in nine countries have co-operated and contributed to the design and content of the course. This represents what BUP is all about!

The aim of the BUP is to support building strong regional educational and research communities and to contribute to a more sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region. The BUP and its mission can hardly be more topical in current society. We achieve this aim by being an open and inclusive organisation, developing and offering university courses, conferences, support multi- and interdisciplinary research co-operations, and by participating in transdisciplinary projects in cooperation with authorities, municipalities and others. We offer research themes intended as a way for researchers to get to know each other and to know about ongoing research, as well as a source of information where BUP colleagues both collect and submit material by themes.

I am truly convinced, that BUP will last for another 30 years, at least. The Student Ambassador program, which started last year with 27 motivated students representing their university and BUP, together with the effort to get to know each other as researchers through the annual Symposium, Research Notes Letters and research profiles, as well as all new courses and projects of different kinds, is a proof of the need that BUP fulfil. The constant development of the program also shows the existing engagement of hundreds of colleagues and students at participating universities, wanted to be a part of the BUP.

As a result of passion for internationalisation and regional co-operations, teaching, research and a hard work of many colleagues and its administrative and strategy-shaping bodies, the BUP is in good hands. Together we learn from each other by Communicating, Cooperating and Contributing to our Common Regional Programme. However unexpected and challenging the situation in the world is, the BUP remains strong.

It is an honour in my role as Director to manage and develop BUP together with each and everyone of our colleagues and students.

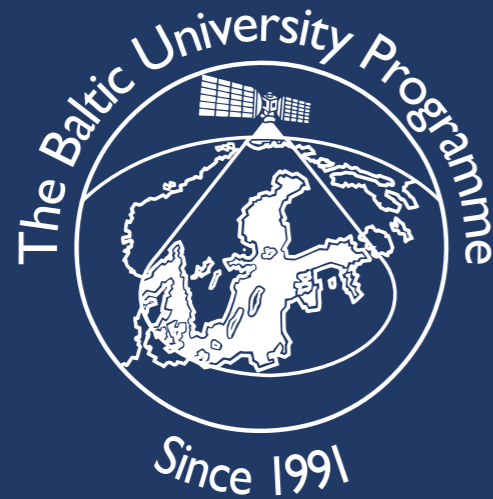
With these words, I want to thank all of you that have contributed to the academic activities in the Programme during 2021. We need to remember that BUP grew to become one of the largest university co-operations in the world, because of our common endeavours.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Madeleine Granvik".

Sincerely yours,
Madeleine Granvik,
Director, Associated Professor



Celebrating 30 years



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Space Bridges 2.0

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Book of BUP stories

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The BUP photo archives

Space Bridges 2.0

In January of 2021 we arranged the first “space bridge” event to commemorate the space bridges used in the early days of the BUP from 1991, to interconnect university teachers, researchers, and students in the Baltic Sea Region.

The concept of Space Bridges, was an early form of telecommunication between two geographic locations, that was implemented between the USA and Soviet Union in the early 1980's. It is much like today's video conferences, with the different being that we now use the internet. The BUP implemented this early telecommunication technology between 1990-1995, when a series of online lectures and seminars were held between different locations in the region. These Space Bridges were one of the main activities in the beginning of the BUP and also inspired our logo, with the Space Bridge satellite shedding the light of knowledge over our region. Last years modern type of space bridge was an updated version consisting of a chain of online seminars during 2021 that was hosted by the BUP National Centres.

Since the start of the Programme we have worked to enhance strong regional academic communities, and to foster knowledge on sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). Now 30 years later the world looks very different. We have been through a dramatic and revolutionary change and entered the age of communication. The new possibilities of seamless communication are crucial for international cooperation and building bridges. All of BUP's participating universities are collectively a strong and needed force in the Baltic Sea Region for the transition to a more sustainable region. This communication era has been developed even further with the covid-19 situation.

Our Space Bridge 2.0 series allowed us to present a range of interesting and uniquely regional perspectives on sustainability in the BSR. Our increasingly adept online skills as a result of the pandemic meant that Space Bridge 2.0 could not have taken place at a more appropriate time.



Perhaps one of the transformations that have taken place in cities across our region in response to climate change? This was the focus during the session “Sustainable Cities: Urban Adaptation to Climate Change”.

Photo:Victor

The BUP Space Bridge between Helsinki University and University of Warsaw, in 1993.

Photo: BUP archive

Sessions

30 years with the Baltic Sea Environment, what has happened and where are we heading?
Hosted by: Södertörn University

Climate change and water change in the Baltic Sea Region: Drivers and Perspectives
Hosted by: Belarusian State University

Interdisciplinary solutions to sustainability issues in the Baltic Sea Region
Hosted by: Kaliningrad State Technical University

European Universities Initiative - The Future of European University Starts Today
Hosted by: Kaunas University of Technology

Moving Baltic Sea Region to carbon neutral mobility – opportunities and challenges
Hosted by: Riga Technical University

Social Sustainability - why and how?
Hosted by: Åbo Akademi University

Urban Green infrastructure and Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Cities
Hosted by: Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

Bridging from fossil based to bio-based plastics: what science says?
Hosted by: Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

Sustainable Cities: Urban Adaptation to Climate Change
Hosted by: Ivan Franko National University of L'viv

Green spaces in times of an increasing urbanization: On the challenges of making sustainable cities
Hosted by: Tallinn University

Democracy as a Prerequisite for Sustainability?
Hosted by: Lodz University of Technology

What has happened with the post-Cold War environmental development of the Baltic Sea? Recent environmental history of the Baltic sea was presented, as well as future prospects.

Climate change and its impacts on the freshwater in the Baltic Sea Region. Drivers and different perspectives on how the water is changing.

Solutions to a wide varieties of sustainability issues in the Baltic Sea Region: renewable energy, marine litter, coastal adaptation and much more.

All three Lithuanian universities within the BUP are partners in three different European University alliances - testing different models of the concept of European Universities. Examination of its potential to transform higher education.

The pathway towards a low carbon mobility can be looked at through many perspectives. This session specifically focused on mobility in a Baltic Sea Region context, with its specific opportunities and challenges.

To explore why and how social sustainability is desired, this seminar used the Timeout method. Timeout is a way to generate and have constructive discussions and suitable for people with different backgrounds.

This seminar focused on sustainable cities, in particular by looking at infrastructure and agriculture from an urban perspective.

In this session, presenters gave a view of bio-based, biodegradable and biopolymer plastics from a European perspective. The project Bio-plastics Europe was represented.

In this session, the presenters explored certain transformations that have been taking place in cities across our region in response to climate change. A number of examples from the BUP region was detailed.

In this session the focus was green spaces in times of an increasing urbanization. It discussed the challenges of making cities more sustainable from a planning and governance perspective.

Our “Space Bridges 2.0” series concluded with an event investigating the relationship between democracy, climate change and sustainability. This question is both important and topical.

Book of BUP stories

To celebrate our Programmes 30 years of existence and work in the area of internationalisation and sustainable development, we will publish the Book of BUP stories during 2022.

Stories have an indisputable potential to enrich our understanding and shape the way we frame complex issues. Storytelling is therefore a perfect tool to use when talking about The Baltic University Programme, sustainable development, and international cooperation. In stories we use the language of values, identities, and cultures, which more often than facts and data influence our behaviour and have the power to trigger change. And we need to change to become even more sustainable.

As an introduction in the book we have documented the history and the development of the BUP during these 30 years. The first decade is written by the previous director Lars Rydén, the second by previous director Paula Lindroos and the third by current director Madeleine Granvik. [Visit the BUP website to read the stories of our first 30 years.](#)

While we wait for the official Book of BUP stories we will share parts of the stories from those that have been a part of the BUP during the last three decades.

Sylwester Nagórka, former BUP Students' Representative

I always say that The Baltic University Programme is about people. It is thanks to them that the Programme has been running for so many years and continues to be a great example of international university cooperation. For me individually, the BUP is extremely important because it has contributed to my personal and career development. Thanks to the honor of being elected by the participants of the Students' Conference as Students' Representative, a new stage in my life had begun, so I had a chance to challenge myself.

Over the next 2 years, I had the opportunity to meet many wonderful people from different countries (some of whom I still keep in touch with today), experience many new things and places, spend hours in discussions, presentations on sustainability and the program itself.

Iryna Kriba, National Centre Director in Ukraine

A true love story starts unexpectedly. You lead a calm and peaceful life of a linguist, knowing nothing about it at all, and all of a sudden, your colleague, a BUP Centre Director, asks you to attend a conference, because somebody who is supposed to go cancels at the last moment. Your task is merely to assist interpreting to a more competent person. You are provided with materials and during the bus journey to Warsaw you try to get into the subject, yet not too successfully. So, on a cold and rainy day in March 1999 you arrive in Ustro, Poland, and it all starts.



Lars Rydén, Former BUP Director

You may remember that Kalmar is on the Baltic Sea coast, in Sweden. After the meeting, three of us, Per-Arne Lindström from Germany, Linas Kliuncinikas from Kaunas, and myself from Uppsala. We were going out to the coast to swim. It was after several weeks of very hot weather. I think it was -92. We were coming there in the late evening, it was already fairly dark.

We jumped into the water. And it, oohh, lighted up. There was this bioluminescence. It was such an extraordinary experience! So, when you were jumping into the water, you were jumping into an explosion of light. And you saw all the fish! Especially the flounders, lying on this rather shallow sand bottom. Just resting. And then they jumped away and you could see where they went. You could almost pick them by hand. I have never been part of such an experience in the Baltic Sea, before or after.

Sinikka Suomalainen, planning officer, BUP Associated Secretariat in Finland

The Baltic University Programme started about the same time when I started working at Åbo Akademi University at the centre, which nowadays is called Centre for lifelong learning. Åbo Akademi University was active in the first steps of BUP. The Finnish national centre was established at Åbo Akademi, and has functioned as the BUP Associated Centre since several years. Lucky me, I became involved in some BUP activities. The first course Baltic Sea Environment was arranged in the autumn 1991 and gathered many interested participants in the auditorium, the lectures delivered by satellite TV being a new technology for us. Further on the arrangements of the Space Bridges were exciting experience.

Different kind of activities have been characteristics for BUP since the beginning. Maybe the most amazing activity is SAIL, Sustainability Applied in International Learning, consisting of seminars and course arranged on a tall ship. SAIL started as course for students, later also for teachers. Åbo Akademi has arranged several Teachers SAILs for university teachers from BUP countries, on the Polish Tall Ship STS Chopin, on the Baltic Sea and going further, as to the North Sea and Biscay. Many teachers have participated in these one-week sailings with seminars and presentations on different sustainability aspects. These have been excellent possibilities for international cooperation on board, getting know colleagues from the Baltic Sea Region, and their research.



The BUP photo archives

Much have happened in the 30 years since the BUP was founded. Here are some photos from the BUP archives to help us reminisce our history.



“Sustainability Applied in International Learning” (SAIL) has been a central part of the BUP for many years. The event has created opportunities for students and teachers from our participating universities to meet, share their knowledge and learn together. Pictured is Pogoria, a tall ship, that has hosted many students and scholars over the years.

Photo: BUP archive



The BUP has always strived towards creating opportunities for cooperation between academic teachers, students and researchers. One way of doing this is by organising events where different participating universities contribute. Scholars and students from all participating universities can then benefit from the resulting event. Pictured are participants at a sustainability course in Borki, Poland, spring 2001.

Photo: BUP archive



Since 1991 BUP has worked to enhance strong regional academic communities and to foster the knowledge of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. It is a priority for the BUP to create opportunities for colleagues from different universities in the Baltic Sea Region to meet and co-operate. At the same time it creates friendships, knowledge and understanding between people and cultures. Pictured are participants at the BUP Rectors Conference in 2011.

Photo: Christian Andersson



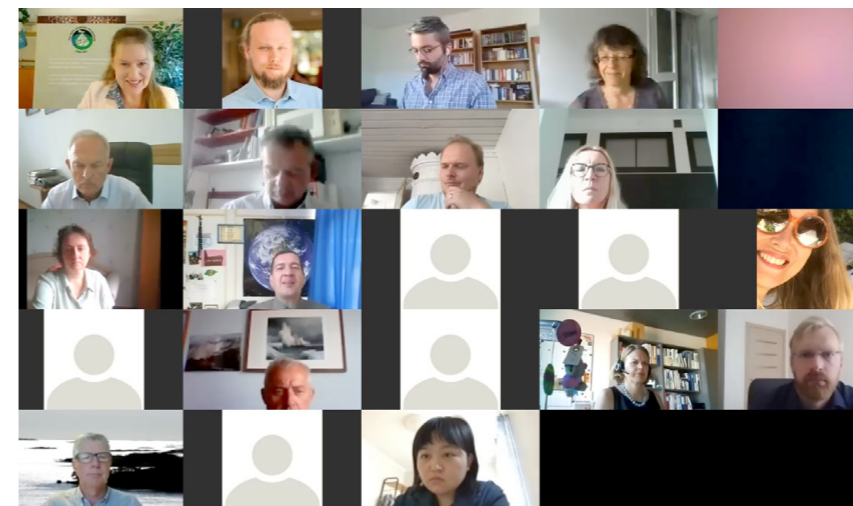
The BUP supports the mobility of academic teachers, students and researchers. One way of doing this is by hosting the annual PhD students training where students meet and discuss scientific problems with focus on sustainable development in an interdisciplinary, international, multicultural, and regional context. Pictured are participants at the 2019 PhD students training.

Photo: Krzysztof Ciesielski



The BUP theme Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has been implemented in the Programme within the BUP Teachers' Course, organised by the Associated Secretariat in Finland. Pictured are participants at the last workshop of the course Education for Sustainable Development for Higher Education that was held in Lviv in 2020.

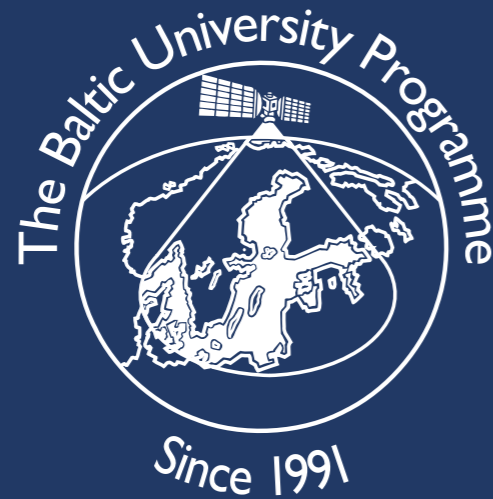
Photo: Cecilia Lundberg



Being able to present your research in front of colleagues from all over the Baltic Sea Region is a unique opportunity. The BUP creates venues not only for research visibility but also promotes multi- and interdisciplinary co-operations within projects and at events. Pictured are some participants at the first online BUP Symposium held in 2020.

Photo: BUP archives

Research



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BUP PhD thesis award

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Research within the BUP

BUP PhD thesis award

This distinction has since 2014 been given to young researchers writing a high quality thesis that promote sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. For 2021 The Baltic University Programme has selected and announced two PhD students that has been given the PhD Award.

Winner in the category of Social Sciences and Humanities

Dr. Huriye Armagan Dogan
Kaunas University of Technology

Name of thesis
The Role of Cultural Memory in the Strategies of Adaptive Re-Use of Built Heritage

Abstract
The aim of this research is to perform analysis to understand the role of cultural memory on the formation of architectural languages and to develop a model to measure perception of people in their assessment of cultural heritage which can be used in adaptive re-use strategies of built heritage. The objects of this research are the built heritage of the Modern Movement in Ankara and Kaunas. Analysing Modern Movement is valuable and at the same time instructive for this research for understanding the assessment of people of cultural heritage. A better understanding of this phenomenon would allow specialists to proceed from a more informed perspective regarding adaptive re-use of built heritage and comprehend the perception of the society towards it. The spirit of the Modern Movement primarily originates from experiments, therefore, using this built heritage as the subject of the experiments also matches with the ideals of the style. The reason for these cities to be selected is related to

Understanding the assessment of people of cultural heritage

the fact that, even though they went through similar process around the same period (Both cities became capital after the WWI), they both embody different cultural and environmental backgrounds. Furthermore, the architectural language of the Modern Movement which was adopted in both cities are not similar. While the language in Kaunas contains more local tendencies and traditional expressions, in Ankara there is a detachment from the elements in architectural language which presents any kind of reference to the pre-republican past. Therefore, focusing on these cities facilitates to understand the formation of different dialects of the Modern Movement in different geographical areas, and furthermore to understand the impact of the traditions and cultural memory on architectural language.



Winner in the category of Natural Sciences and Engineering

Dr. Karina Balina
Riga Technical University

Name of thesis
Baltic Seaweed Biorefinery

Abstract
Seaweeds are one of the world's most underrated biomass resources. They are part of the European Union's 'blue growth' strategy as an alternative resource to meet the growing demand for sustainable biomaterials. The application of the biorefinery concept allows obtaining products with high added value along with the biofuel. The cultivation and use of seaweeds in the Baltic region are in the early stage. In the Thesis, the potential applications of Baltic seaweeds are evaluated by applying the biorefinery concept. During the study, the author develops the research by proposing seaweeds as a feedstock, evaluates the products and technologies potentially applicable in the biorefinery. In order to improve the availability of feedstock, a seaweed cultivation laboratory stand is being set up.

Alternative resource to meet the growing demand for sustainable biomaterials

The aim of this work is to perform integrated research to evaluate the potential application of the biorefinery concept for seaweed species available in Latvia. More specific this Thesis is addressed to identify potential seaweed species, find out the possible amount of biomass and search for the direction for seaweed utilization so that it constitutes part of the national economy and become recognized as a significant type of the biomass.

The Doctoral Thesis is based on seven thematically unified scientific publications published in various scientific journals and are available in scientific information repositories and international databases. The aim of these publications is to identify the seaweed species present in Latvia and to look for the direction for seaweed use.

The introduction of the work introduces with the aim and set tasks, describes the structure of the work and provides an overview of the author's practical and scientific contribution.

The first chapter provides an overview of the scientific literature, previous research and focuses on the properties of seaweed biomass. The obtained results and discussion are given in the third chapter. Conclusions are made at the end of the work.



Research Notes Letter

The Research Notes Letter (RNL) highlights abstracts on recent publications related to the Baltic Sea Region and our ten BUP Themes. The abstracts presented in the Research Notes Letter are accompanied by information on authors, information on their affiliation, abstracts, keywords, citation and most often links to the full paper.

We publish the Research Notes Letter three times per year and disseminate it in the network. Most contributions are from researchers at BUP participating universities since we aim towards promoting research from our participating universities.

The aim is for the Research Notes Letter to reflect the multi- and interdisciplinary science that is central to meet the Sustainable Development Goals indicated by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

If you wish to read the Research Notes Letters from 2021 you can find them on our website:

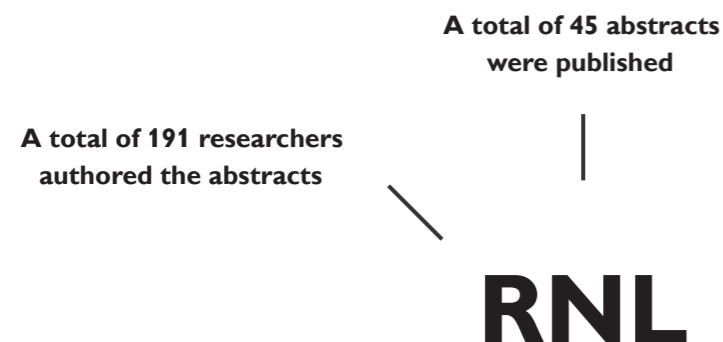
[Read the full Research Notes Letter 1, 2021](#)

[Read the full Research Notes Letter 2, 2021](#)

[Read the full Research Notes Letter 3, 2021](#)

If you have recent research that you wish to share with the whole BUP network the easiest way to do this is to submit your research for the next Research Notes Letter by filling in the form available on our website. [Submit your research to the Research Notes Letter via our form.](#)

Below are some numbers connected to the Research Notes Letter in 2021.



The cover of Volume 4, Issue 2 of the Research Notes Letter.

Selection of scientific abstracts

Microscale socioeconomic inequalities in green space availability in relation to residential segregation: The case study of Lodz, Poland

Edyta Laszkiewicz, Jakub Kronenberg, Szymon Marcinczak
University of Lodz

Implementation challenges for seafarers' social security protection: The case of the European Union

Laura Carballo Piñeiro
World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden

Attuning to a changing ocean

Nils Chr. Stenseth^{1,2}, Mark R. Payne³, Erik Bonsdorff^{3,4}, Dorothy J. Dankel^{5,6}, Joël M. Durant¹, Leif G. Anderson⁷, Claire W. Armstrong⁸, Thorsten Blenckner⁹, Ailin Brakstad^{5,10}, Sam Dupont⁷, Anne M. Eikeset¹, Anders Goksøyr^{5,11}, Steingrímur Jónsson¹², Anna Kuparinen¹³, Kjetil Våge^{5,10}, Henrik Österblom⁹, Øyvind Paasche^{10,14}

1) University of Oslo, Norway, 2) University of Agder, Norway, 3) Technical University of Denmark, Denmark, 4) Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 5) University of Bergen, Norway, 6) Nordic Marine Think Tank, Denmark, 7) University of Gothenburg, Sweden, 8) University of Tromsø, Norway, 9) Stockholm University, Sweden, 10) Bjercknes Centre for Climate Research, Norway, 11) Institute of Marine Research, Norway, 12) University of Akureyri, Iceland, 13) University of Jyväskylä, Finland, 14) Norwegian Research Center AS (NORCE), Norway

A framework for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in university programmes

Walter Leal Filho¹, Fernanda Frankenberger^{2,9}, Amanda Lange Salvia³, Ulisses Azeiteiro⁴, Fatima Alves⁵, Paula Castro⁵, Markus Will⁶, Joost Platjeh⁷, Violeta Orlovic Lovren⁸, Luciana Brandli³, Elizabeth Price¹⁰, Federica Doni¹¹, Mark Mifsud¹², Lucas Veiga Ávilan¹³

1) Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg in Germany, 2) Pontifical Catholic University – PUCPR, Curitiba in Brazil, 3) University of Passo Fundo, Passo Fundo in Brazil, 4) University of Aveiro, Aveiro in Portugal, 5) University of Coimbra, Coimbra in Portugal, 6) University of Applied Sciences Zittau/Goerlitz, Zittau in Germany, 7) WSB University in Wroclaw, Wroclaw in Poland, 8) University of Belgrade, Belgrade in Serbia, 9) Positivo University – UP, Curitiba in Brazil, 10) Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester in UK, 11) University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano in Italy, 12) University of Malta, in Malta, 13) Federal University of Santa Maria – UFSM, Cachoeira do Sul in Brazil



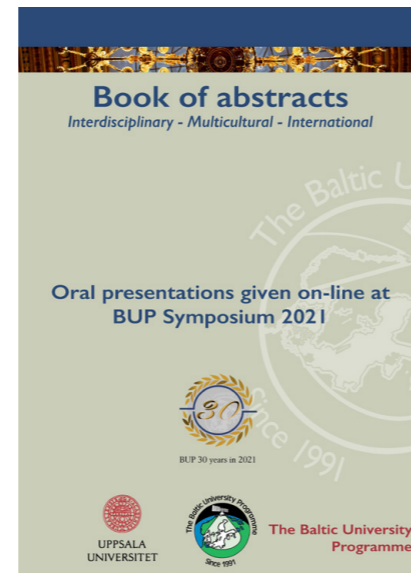
BUP Symposium 2021

The Symposium was held online due to the pandemic and it had the overall theme “networking”, which aligned nicely with the aim of the symposium - to offer a platform where the regional, educational and research communities can get together.

For the second year the BUP arranged a scientific symposium online. This year 2021 it had the overall theme “networking”, which aligned nicely with the aim of the symposium, to offer a platform where the BUP academic community can get together. In total 116 presentations have so far been given by individual researchers as well as research groups and all together around 320 researchers at BUP participating universities have been engaged since we organized the first BUP Symposium 2020.

Learning about current research in the Baltic Sea region, is a way of getting to know colleagues within the Programme better. The Symposium is an example of bringing together scientific knowledge from different disciplines and academic cultures, working together and learning from each other. The presenters demonstrated the multi- and interdisciplinarity that characterises the research in our programme, with diverse academic cultures and a variety of approaches on sustainability research in the Baltic Sea Region. To present research at the Symposium is a way to facilitate future collaborations, an important part of academia. The Symposium resulted in a Book of abstracts as well as full papers published in the special issue “Challenges and Possibilities for Sustainable Development in a Baltic Sea Region Context – Vol.2” in the scientific journal Sustainability.

Our first keynote speaker was Magdalena Budziszewska, PhD, University of Warsaw, who gave a presentation about how climate change is viewed as well as how it is emotionally and behaviourally handled by people. One suggestion presented was to further teach climate change education to create mitigation. Our second keynote speaker was Anna Rutgersson, PhD, Professor at Uppsala University, who gave a presentation that informed us about a meteorological perspective on climate change in the Baltic Sea region. The colleagues listening were given a scientific perspective on what natural hazards and extreme weather events can be expected in the future. Both key notes can be viewed on our [YouTube playlist “BUP symposium 2021”](#).



A Book of abstracts containing abstracts written by a total of 78 colleagues is one of the results of the Symposium. [Read the Book of abstracts on the BUP website.](#)

Special Issues



The BUP Special Issue “Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region”. Deadline for manuscript submissions is 31 December 2023. [Read more about this Special Issue.](#)



The BUP Special Issue “Challenges and Possibilities for Sustainable Development in a Baltic Sea Region Context - Volume 2”. Deadline for manuscript submissions is 29 December 2023. [Read more about this Special Issue.](#)

Keynote speakers



Keynote speaker Magdalena Budziszewska gave a presentation about how climate change is viewed as well as how it is emotionally and behaviourally handled by people. One suggestion presented was to further teach climate change education to create mitigation.



Keynote speaker Anna Rutgersson gave a presentation that informed us about a meteorological perspective on climate change in the Baltic Sea region. The colleagues listening were given a scientific perspective on what natural hazards and extreme weather events can be expected in the future.



Some of the words that the participants used to describe the Symposium.

Research within the BUP

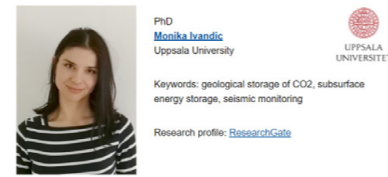
The BUP is an organisation that promotes research and innovation for a sustainable Baltic Sea Region and there are different ways of supporting researchers within the Programme. The research being conducted at the BUP participating universities is an important source of knowledge being used to increase the quality of all our events.

One of the main aims of The Baltic University Programme is to build a strong regional research community by promoting inter-, multi- and transdisciplinary research for a sustainable Baltic Sea Region. The research being conducted at the BUP participating universities is our common source of knowledge, which demonstrates evidence of a variety of approaches on sustainability research in the region and diverse academic cultures. BUP research co-operations is an opportunity to learn about recent research and learn from each other in an inter-disciplinary and inter-cultural context. Knowing ongoing research can facilitate future collaborations, an even more important part of academia. The Baltic University Programme supports research and researchers in the Programme in different ways:

- Building research networks, according to the 10 BUP Themes
- Coordinating publications and grant calls, through the BUP Research and Publication Office (BUPRaP)
- Compiling peer reviewed articles, book chapters and thesis into a Research Notes Letter, that is published three times a year
- On annual basis arrange the BUP Symposium related to the 10 BUP Themes
- On annual basis announce Mobility Research grant for young scholars
- On annual basis arrange BUP PhD Training for young researchers
- Welcome researchers to be a part of the Supervisor Collegium

Publications by BUP researchers since the start of the Programme 1991 include text books and booklets intended for education purposes, but also research presentations and lectures as an outcome of some of the BUP events, as well as full papers in special issues in scientific journals. From 2021 researchers from BUP participating universities are contributing to the development of the BUP online course platform.

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 can submit your research profile to one/several of the 10 BUP themes and be a part of the BUP academic community. Anyone that is conducting research while being employed at one of our participating universities or at a research institute is welcome to add their research profile.



Example of a research profile featured on the BUP website. [Click here to add your research profile to the BUP website.](#)

Baltic University Programme Research and Publication Office (BUPRaP)

The Baltic University Programme Research and Publication Office (BUPRaP) at the BUP Associate Secretariat is located in Hamburg, Germany at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences.

BUPRaP operates in two main areas:

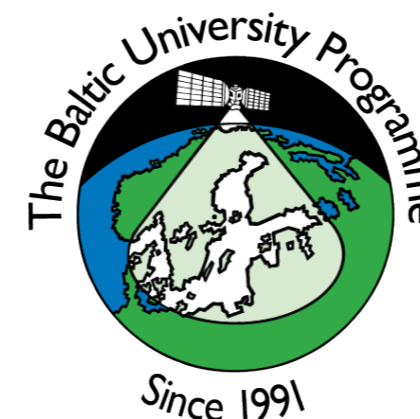
Research

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 participating universities interested in particular calls may contact the BUPRaP team, and discuss their possible participation.

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.

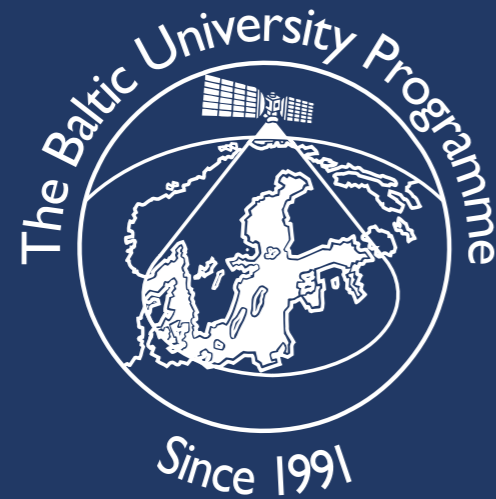
BUPRaP aims to support Research and development (R&D) at BUP participating universities by catalysing their participation in externally funded research initiatives and projects. Furthermore BUPRaP support the publication efforts of BUP colleagues by coordinating the submission of high-quality papers to indexed journals.



Baltic Research and Publication Office

BUPRaP is hosted by the Sustainability and Climate Change Management Research and Transfer Centre at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany.

Education



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BUP course platform

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***Baltic Sea Region Climate
Change Curriculum***

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***Reunion of the BUP
Teachers' Courses***

BUP course platform

One key mission of the BUP is the creation of courses based on interdisciplinary and inter cultural co-operation. The focus is sustainability related to the 10 BUP themes, with different disciplines, perspectives, theoretical approaches and practices. The BUP courses are unique in that they focus on sustainability in a Baltic Sea Region context.

Currently, the BUP is updating the course material as a response to new research, relevance in examples, and the digital development. Focus is on developing course modules connected to the BUP Themes. They are designed and will be offered as massive open online courses (MOOCs). This means that they are accessed independent of time and place, as full distance courses. Students and teachers can take the course whenever, as a self-paced learning course. These are the 8 courses in development so far:

- Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region*
- Sustainable Food Systems in the Baltic Sea Region*
- The Baltic Sea Region in the Period of Global Transition*
- Exploring Sustainability – Definitions, Theories and Perspectives*
- The Baltic Sea Environment – Challenges and Solutions*
- Sustainable Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region*
- Internationalization – virtual exchange*
- Urban-Rural Systems*

In developing the BUP courses, participants work according to the BUP working model, which means to work in inter disciplinary and intercultural teams of co-operation. Colleagues from different participating universities, representing different disciplines and academic cultures, contribute with their knowledge and experiences in developing common BUP course materials. This way of working offers opportunities to learn from each other and different perspectives as well as different academic cultures.

The BUP also see further opportunities with the material developed for each MOOC course. For example, teachers are able to develop more advanced courses, and give the student credits by adding material, assignments, seminars, workshops, essays etc. These initiatives must then be taken locally at a BUP participating university. In this case the BUP will help with the promotion of virtual exchange co-operations between BUP universities that are running credit bearing courses.

The following distance courses, open for BUP students, are contributions from colleagues at German participating universities:

- Students Projects for Climate Protection*
- Hydrology and Climatology*
- Environmental and Energy Law & Policies*
- Life Cycle Assessment*
- Principles in Ecology for Environmental Sciences*
- Transitioning the Energy Systems and their Technical Carbon Cycles*
- Sustainable Approaches in Environmental Management*



The BUP are developing a new course platform where the courses are designed and will be offered as massive open online courses (MOOCs).

Photo: Priscilla Du Preez

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region

The realization of our course platform is already underway. During the 2021 autumn semester the first distance course, 10 credits, developed within the cooperation of the BUP course platform was held at Uppsala University. The course was aimed at anyone needing basic and interdisciplinary knowledge of climate issues in the Baltic Sea region and wanted access to regional networks.

The content focused on regional perspectives, although global issues were also addressed. The course was a collaboration between Uppsala University and fourteen other universities around the Baltic Sea Region, where teachers were sourced from these universities.

The course was taught in the following six steps, (1) explaining the basic climatology, (2) the evidences of a warming climate, (3) the human causes of climate change, (4) the certainties and uncertainties of climate change research, (5) impacts and risks associated with a warming of the climate and (6) interdisciplinary solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Each step was focused upon from both a global as well as a regional perspective, with emphasis on the later.

The content was presented from three perspectives with focus on nature sciences, social sciences, and interdisciplinary approaches. The curriculum integrated concepts from different sciences to help students understand the phenomena of climate change, the justification for these phenomena, and why these phenomena are both scientifically and socially important - why does climate change matter? Theory and practice as well as challenges and solutions was highlighted - what can we do?

The course was focused on climate change from different disciplines and perspectives in a Baltic Sea Region context. It was aimed for new students but also experienced ones that would like to see climate change studies with a more regional focus.



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

The first distance course developed within the cooperation of the BUP course platform was held in 2021 at Uppsala University.

Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Curriculum

Anthropogenic Climate Change is a severe threat to communities around the world and in the Baltic Sea Region. That is why the Baltic University Programme (BUP) back in 2019, launched the project Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Curriculum (BSRCCC).

The BSRCCC project aims to answer the growing need for a regionally based climate change education, created by researchers and climate change experts based in our region. The project has created a climate change teaching material, based on a holistic approach, including both natural science and social science perspectives.

The project received funding from Swedish Institute, along with some internal funding from Uppsala University and ran from 2019 to 2021. It included over 30 climate change experts from 15 academic institutions and organizations, representing Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Jointly, the group developed a curriculum to teach basic climate change to students and civil society, consisting of 16 online lectures, with teaching materials and written text.

The project officially ended in December 2021, with some of the project partners continuing to collaborate on jointly implementing the teaching materials and continually updating the materials. The project has resulted in a database of materials to be used by BUP's participating universities, a credited course at Uppsala University along with a Massive Open Online Course available for all interested students and the general public on the BUP course platform.

The project will partly continue from 2022 and forward, with the aim of improving the existing materials, implementing its content at more universities in the region, as well as completing a textbook based on the course curriculum.

Text: Pontus Ambros, Project Administrator



Participants at the BSRCCC-meeting in Kaunas 2019.

Photo: Pontus Ambros

Reunion of the BUP Teachers' Courses

After three BUP Teachers' Courses and a year with a pandemic, BUP Finland together with Shepherd Urenje from SWEDESD at Uppsala University arranged an online event for the former course participants in March 2021.

The main purpose was to bring together BUP teachers, but we were also curious to know how the Change Projects – the big course task – had been implemented in the teachers' schedules and at their home universities.

We asked all participants for response on the implementation and further outcomes. Of the 40 respondents, most said that they had started to implement their Change Project within their teaching. In the majority of cases the process has been smooth. Some of them have had the opportunity to run the course several times, others were in the starting phase. Almost all also felt that the response and support from their university also had been positive.

The Change Project, or process, has a different focus for different teachers and universities. All strategies are right, the thing that matters is how the model fits the purpose of the teacher. Some reported that they have redesigned the course by adding a module and integrated the SDG better. Others have developed new courses and even changed the educational program. Over all, it seems that inspiration to add more practical work and new teaching tools have gained a positive response in all aspects of learning – both from the students and teachers' perspectives.

It was also grateful for us as course planners and developers to notice that these Change Projects have engaged the participants to collaborate in a new way with their colleagues at their home universities, but also within the BUP network. The outcomes are for example research publications, new project applications, creation of new disciplines and better synergy effects on the university administrative level.

We are very happy with all the positive response and will continue our work in gathering both new and experienced BUP teachers. However, we do not want to be too boastful. We are of course aware that there are the big enthusiasts both in the SDG and ESD fields, but also in terms of new thinking and open mind, that we are meeting on our courses. At the Reunion meeting in spring 2021, part of the discussion concentrated on how the new normal with COVID-19 and distance learning have influenced the progress with the Change Projects and the ESD work.

Text: Cecilia Lundberg, BUP Finland



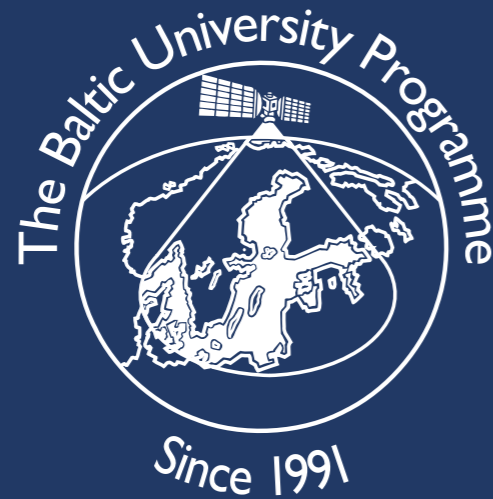
One of the BUP Teachers' Courses was held in Lodz during the autumn of 2017.

Photo: Cecilia Lundberg

“Your course has really been an eye-opener for me. Working with ESD has become one of my research areas now. Together with a colleague I have got seed money to co-operate outside the university”

Quote from the feedback of BUP Teachers' Reunion.

Projects



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Digital at home

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***Implementing
sustainability at
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***Quality Assurance (QA)
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***Strengthening cooperation
within BUP***

Digital at home

In February 2021, we launched the new project “Digital at Home: new steps in internationalization of education”, financed by the Swedish Institute. Internationalisation is one of the key priorities for many universities due to different reasons: for improving international cooperation, increasing international networking, improving graduates’ employability, and even increasing ranking.

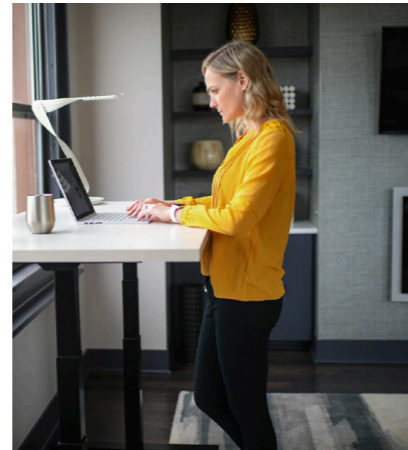
One should think about internationalisation not only in terms of mobility and exchange: internationalisation should rather be integrated: including an international, intercultural or global dimension into courses, degree programmes, and education in general. The importance of “Internationalization at Home” versus “abroad” is a fact that became evident due to limited mobility during the pandemic.

The experience of working with Virtual mobility, Virtual exchange, COIL as practical instruments of internationalization is interesting. Therefore, two webinars, open to the whole network, have been organised and conducted within the project. The webinars raised the question of why internationalisation is important for students and academic staff, who should work with internationalisation, and how it should be done. As a result of the project, a digital resource for on-line internationalised teaching will be created to be spread among BUP participating universities.

As the project has several deliverables to achieve, two teams of the project partners have started joint work at developing materials within two thematic areas: Climate Change and Baltic Sea Regional Studies. The educational material, containing texts, presentations, videos, etc, is planned to be structured in modules and available for all BUP members to use.

Furthermore, project partners will develop and apply a relevant methodology for internationalization and virtualization in the above-mentioned thematic areas. By the next step, the partners will be working jointly to implement virtual exchange components within their teaching. Working in international groups, the teachers will digitalise content for the courses, integrating them into their existing syllabi at universities, and then will pilot virtual exchange between students of the partner universities.

The project is in the process so we are looking forward to the results and common achievements that we will be eager to report.



The resulting educational material, containing for example texts, presentations and videos, is planned to be structured in modules and available for all BUP members to use.

Photo: TheStandingDesk



Print screen from a teamworking-session focusing on Virtual exchange (VE).

Implementing sustainability at Universities

How can we implement sustainability at universities in respect of teaching, research and campus greening? This was asked before the end of 2021 in a survey that was sent to the leadership at participating universities and via another survey targeting BUP students, as well as being discussed when BUP Finland organised the webinar series Implementing sustainability at Universities.

The main target group for the webinar series is teachers in higher education, especially within the BUP, however the webinars are open for everyone interested.

The webinar series was popular, with about a hundred participants in each webinar. There are plans on arranging more webinars in the autumn 2021 related to the same theme, education for sustainable development (ESD). The four webinars discussed how we can implement sustainability at universities in respect of teaching, research and campus greening. The speakers were:

Arjen Wals, Professor Transformative Learning for Socio-ecological Sustainability, Wageningen University, the Netherlands

Shepherd Urenje, Specialist in teacher education at SWEDESD – Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development, Uppsala university, Sweden

Ulrika Persson-Fischier, Manager of Uppsala School of Entrepreneurship and researcher in Sustainable Destination Development, Sweden

David Kronlid, Associate professor of Ethics and senior lecturer in didactics, Uppsala University, Sweden

The whole series can be watched on Baltic University Programme’s youtube channel.

The result from the surveys will be analysed during spring 2022 and decisions regarding how BUP may support participating universities in their sustainability work will be taken based on the results.



The webinars focused on one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

Quality Assurance (QA) project

The Quality Assurance (QA) project was launched in 2021 and it is being led by the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra and Riga Technical University alongside the BUP's coordinating secretariat at Uppsala University. The aim of the project is to result in a platform in QA for our participating universities.

This project is concerned with the Quality Assurance processes within higher education at universities within the Baltic Sea Region. This includes themes such as Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), student and staff engagement, and internalization. The project will lead to a seminar series, trainings and a best practise database. Through international cooperation and knowledge exchange, our partners aim to both investigate current use, as well as, ambitions of QA in the Baltic Sea Region.

Both internal and external QA systems have multiplied worldwide and are an increasing focus at Higher Education Institutions. The BUP hopes to support a development of QA systems as well as aid and provide opportunities for BUP colleagues to learn from and support each other when dealing with QA issues.

This platform has a clear purpose; to promote educational quality cultures, provide opportunities for sharing best practices amongst each other and to increase collaboration relating to quality issues. Higher Education Institutions and universities have an important role to play in promoting and improving quality issues for the benefit of staff, students and the wider society. This enables universities to tackle not only current challenges but also future ones for sustainability.

Much like other BUP projects, which focuses on bringing together the knowledge of colleagues, this platform looks to contribute unique regional perspectives and ideas regarding Quality Assurance. The project is set to continue during 2022.



One way to be able to see results from the QA project is to share knowledge in student-teacher dialogs about Quality Assurance.

Photo: Sylwester Nagórka

Strengthening cooperation within BUP

To make sure that The Baltic University Programme (BUP) is a Programme that benefits as many colleagues and students as possible it is important that each university will get the most out of being a part of the BUP. Therefore, the Coordinating Secretariat has held national meetings with contact persons at BUP participating universities during 2021.

The BUP is one of the largest university cooperation's in the world. To make sure that as many colleagues and students as possible gets the opportunity to contribute and shape the Programme the Coordinating Secretariat has strived towards gathering contact persons at BUP participating universities to understand their specific interests and needs. One of the reasons to hold these meeting have been to enable for more colleagues to meet and better get to know each other, another was for the participating universities and the Coordinating Secretariat to learn more about each other's work with communication.

To make sure that each participating university gets the most out of being a part of the BUP it is important that the information they receive from the BUP is shared within the university and also that the university shares relevant information from their university within the BUP communications channels. By hosting national meetings, the BUP participating universities in each country was given the opportunity to meet one another which is also a way of strengthening cooperation and exchanging experiences both within each country and at regional level.

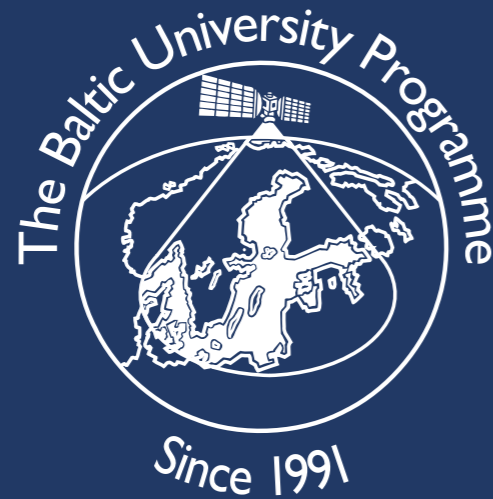
Many of the contact persons are new to the BUP which meant that the national meetings were also a platform to share information and give updates regarding the work that the BUP is doing. Among many things of interest to share were that the BUP has adopted a new strategy and that the BUP course platform is being created.



Being able to meet and discuss the BUP and how to strengthen the Programme is important both for the short- and long-term development.

Photo: Pontus Ambros

Students



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BUP student conference

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BUP PhD training

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Student Ambassadors

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E-tutors

BUP student conference

The BUP's annual student conference was organised by The Baltic University Programme's coordinating secretariat and the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. The aim of the conference was to bring together students from all BUP member countries to gain knowledge about the system of food safety management, as well as nutrition and health claims.

The conference took place as an online event, 4 - 5 May 2021. Over sixty attendees from more than 12 countries participated. The students had the chance to attend the presentations and workshop lead by experts from both academia and the food industry, as well as to discuss their questions related to this topic.

Experts from Slovakia, Sweden and Poland gave presentations on non-traditional, minority and less-known crops, and their use in the food industry. Topics for the presentations included, what to eat in the future, how to produce food in a more sustainable way, the quality of Slovak honey production, how to increase biodiversity in agriculture and production of food with high nutritional value. The student conference also included a workshop titled "From idea to consumer" which was aimed towards creating innovative ideas and new food product development.

Participants had a chance to show their creativity in designing unconventional food products, to transform ideas into a design of food products and product labels and to unlock the secret of marketing strategies in the agri-food sector. Apart from the scientific program, the conference was enhanced by social events and additional online activities to offer participants the possibility of networking and socialising in the online world.

The students taking part in the conference have the chance to make their voices heard and select a new BUP student representative to BUP's international board. All students accepted to the student conference automatically become members of the students' parliament, allowing them to vote, suggest proposals and run as BUP students' representative candidates. The student that got elected in 2021 was Shima Vahedi.



Students that attended the student conference in Estonia 2019, our latest in-person student conference.

Photo: Pontus Ambros

BUP PhD training

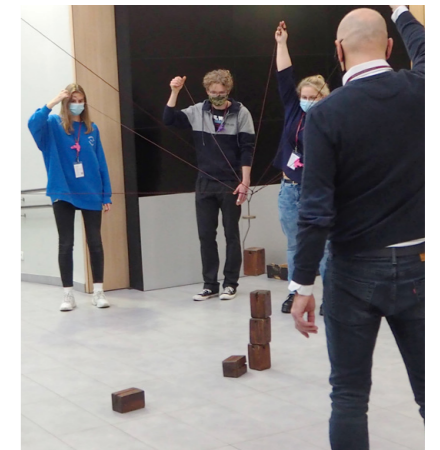
The BUP PhD Students Training is one of the BUP's annual events and it is an opportunity for PhD students to become better acquainted with other academic perspectives. The 2021 PhD Students Training took place 24-28 November 2021 and was hosted by Lodz University of Technology.

The objective is to give PhD students from the BUP member 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 will also get the opportunity to become acquainted with other universities and their scientific traditions.

The interdisciplinary approach setting facilitates the understanding of the numerous overlaps and interfaces that exist between the respective fields, which may result in future collaborations. The training enables participants to become acquainted with other participants research work, but also a chance to look at the own respective through the eyes of other participants – both fellow students and invited experts. The training is a good opportunity testing ground for the application of theories, methods, and arguments.

This international training is a way to enrich the students' own perspectives on sustainable development with experiences and perspectives from other disciplines and other countries. The training will thus serve as a platform for the development of a common understanding of the regional problematic and open avenues for future cooperation on these issues. 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 future collaboration for a sustainable future.

The PhD Students Training has resulted in a Book of abstracts containing 14 oral presentations held at the event. [View the Book of abstracts on the BUP website.](#)



Participants at the PhD Students Training in November 2021 at Lodz University of Technology doing a teamworking exercise.

Photo: Krzysztof Ciesielski



PhD students participating in discussions at the PhD students training in 2018.

Photo: Krzysztof Ciesielski

Student Ambassadors

The student ambassadorship started as an initiative by the students attending the student conference in Estonia 2019. The main goal of the position is to actively promote BUP and its events and to function as a contact person between the Coordinating Secretariat, the National Centers, and the participating universities. The student ambassador programme started in April 2021.

Since the BUP is such a large organisation with the aim of reaching thousands of students it is of great importance that the students themselves are a part of the effort. As local students, the student ambassadors have unique insights about their university; how to best spread information and market the BUP, how to reach potential colleagues and fellow students having interest in certain BUP activities as well as different needs and challenges the university faces when working with sustainability.

During 2021 there were 18 Student Ambassadors from 11 universities, at bachelor-, master and PhD-level, that shared knowledge and worked together via online meetings and local initiatives to promote the BUP and its events. The role is designed so that the ambassadors have the freedom to delve deeper into what they are most interested in working with, some might want to focus on social media, others on planning events or BUP presentations and some on research visibility.

Apart from getting a unique chance to experience working in one of the world's largest academic cooperation's on an international level, and to take part in events focusing on a sustainable Baltic Sea Region, the Student Ambassadors receive an official certificate and a personal letter of recommendation acknowledging their work for the BUP. The ambassadorship extends over one semester at a time but there are possibilities to apply for the position more than once for those that are interested in continuing their work. Read more about the position as Student Ambassador on the BUP website.



As a student ambassador you get the opportunity to collaborate with student ambassadors from other participating universities.

Photo: Sylwester Nagórka



The student parliament at the student conference in Estonia 2019 where the idea of the ambassadorship was born.

Photo: Jozef Pocol

E-tutors

The E-tutor project was created to help with the digitalisation of the BUP course modules. In total there were 15 students from eight different countries that received training which they have since used to assist researchers with creating interactive online teaching material containing short video lectures, exercises, discussion points and virtual teaching aids, among many other things.

When the project started the students, E-tutor assistants, were trained during a week's intensive course, hosted by Magdalena Kitzberger from University of Greifswald. The team of E-tutors are vital in supporting the transition to online education. The courses, modules and content created will be available on the course platform which will be open for everyone. Some of the courses are close to completion and will be launched during the autumn semester.

The first E-tutor assistants were students from Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine. By having students available to assist researchers there is a way of making sure that questions and issues can be solved in person instead of via emails or online meetings.

The course modules are be connected to the BUP themes and they will be offered as massive open online courses (MOOCs). This means that they are accessed independent of time and place, as full distance courses. Students and teachers are able to take the course whenever, as a self-paced learning course.

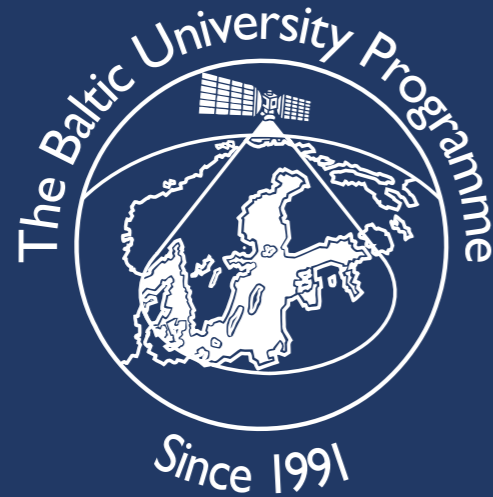
There will be the possibility to use some or all of the material in the course modules when creating, for example, more advanced courses. Universities will have access to material created in collaboration between different participating universities and they will get the opportunity to give their students credits by adding some additional material such as assignments and seminars. There will also be options to promote virtual exchange co-operations between BUP universities when running credit bearing courses.



The E-tutors support the transition to online education with their work with the BUP massive open online courses (MOOCs).

Photo: Pontus Ambros

BUP organisation



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The Secretariats

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The National Centres

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BUP communication

Events in 2021

Implementing sustainability at Universities - seminars
 8 December 2020, online
 12 January 2021, online
 9 February 2021, online
 9 March 2021, online

Digital at home webinars
 12 March, online
 26 March, online

Reunion of the BUP Teachers' Courses
 23–24 March, online

BUP student conference
 4 – 5 May, online

Space Bridges 2.0
 28 January, online
 18 February, online
 18 March, online
 15 April, online
 4 June, online
 16 September, online
 5 October, online
 21 October, online
 18 November, online
 18 November, online
 2 December, online
 9 December, online

BUP workshop at the EUSBSR Annual Forum
 27 September – 1 October, online

Workshop within II International Conference “Ecosystems Without Borders - 2021”
 4 – 9 October, Kaliningrad, Russia

BUP Symposium
 19 – 20 October, online

4th International Scientific Conference “Contemporary challenges in tourism and recreation”
 18 – 19 November, Poznan, Poland

PhD students training
 24 – 28 November, Lodz University of Technology

Organisational events

Board meetings
 1 June, online
 6 December, online

Centre directors meetings
 7 May, online
 18 November, online

National meetings
 Online

Student ambassadors meetings
 Online

The board has met online during 2021, due to the pandemic. In the beginning of the year the board settled on the new BUP Strategy for 2021-2024. During the meetings there were discussions regarding the development of the organisation as well as past and future events.

Meetings were held with the centre directors where the Coordinating Secretariat gave updates regarding the organisation and discussions were held about future events.

During 2021 the Coordinating Secretariat had a national meeting for each of the 12 countries where the BUP had participating universities. The goal was to establish a closer contact with the participating universities and to strengthen the flow of communications with the contact persons at each university.

During 2021 the BUP student ambassador project was initiated. The purpose is that the ambassadors will actively promote the BUP and the upcoming events at their home universities and in their home countries. They also function as an additional contact person between the Coordinating Secretariat and the National Centre as well as the Student Representatives and the local universities. All Student Ambassadors keep in touch and support each other in regular meetings.

BUP annual events

Since we strive towards finding novel ways of interaction among universities and between universities and society we have quite many annual events at the BUP. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our organisation by implementing new events and developing our already existing events even more.

During 2021 we have continued to look for ways of strengthening interaction and cooperation within the Programme even though the pandemic once again meant that much of what we did had to be conducted online.

We saw a high number of attendants during our national meetings as well as during the student conference and during the Symposium. One of the perks of meeting online is that it makes it easier for more people to attend events, you do not have pay for travels and be away from your university for a longer period of time. We are of course always striving towards hosting events where we are able to meet in person but everyone that has attended our online events have shown that there is much to gain from offering both in-person and online events in the future.

Discussions are ongoing regarding how we can develop our annual events and we are also determined to add a Master student training program to give master students from the BUP member countries the possibility to meet and discuss scientific problems with a focus on sustainability in an interdisciplinary, international, multicultural, and regional context.



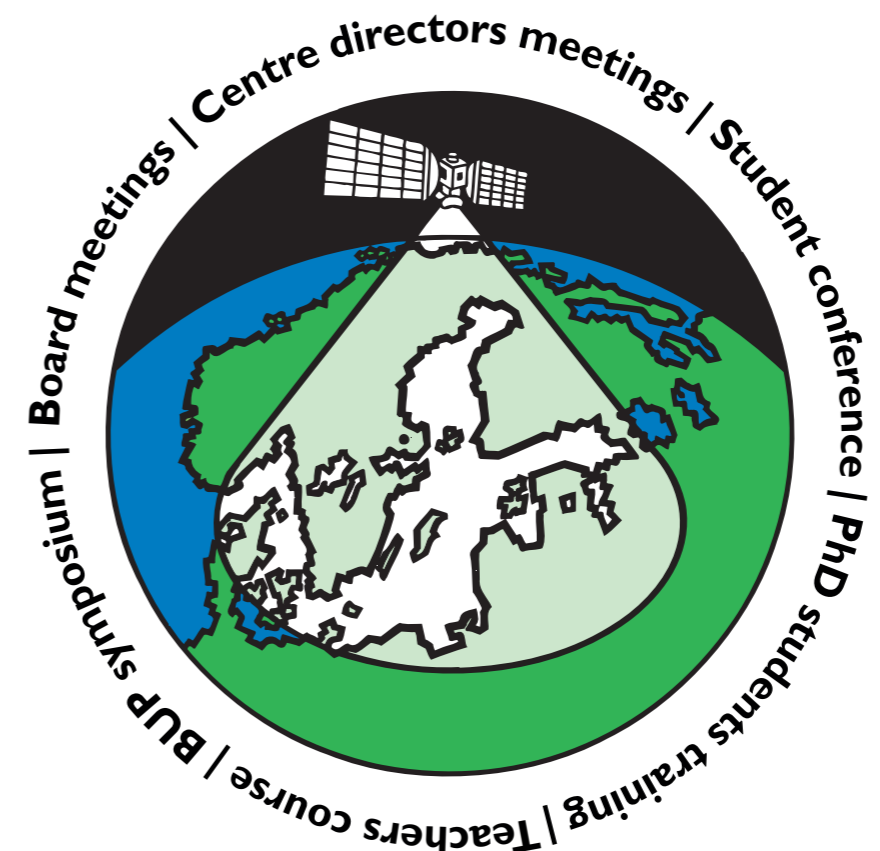
Voting at the student parliament session at the student conference in Estonia 2019, our latest in-person student conference.

Photo: Jozef Pocil



Participants at the centre meeting in Kaliningrad in 2019.

Photo: Pontus Ambros



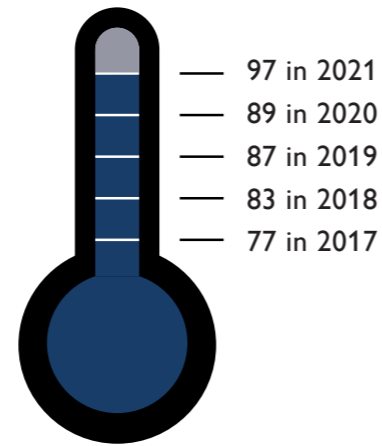
A wheel with BUPs annual events.

Participating universities

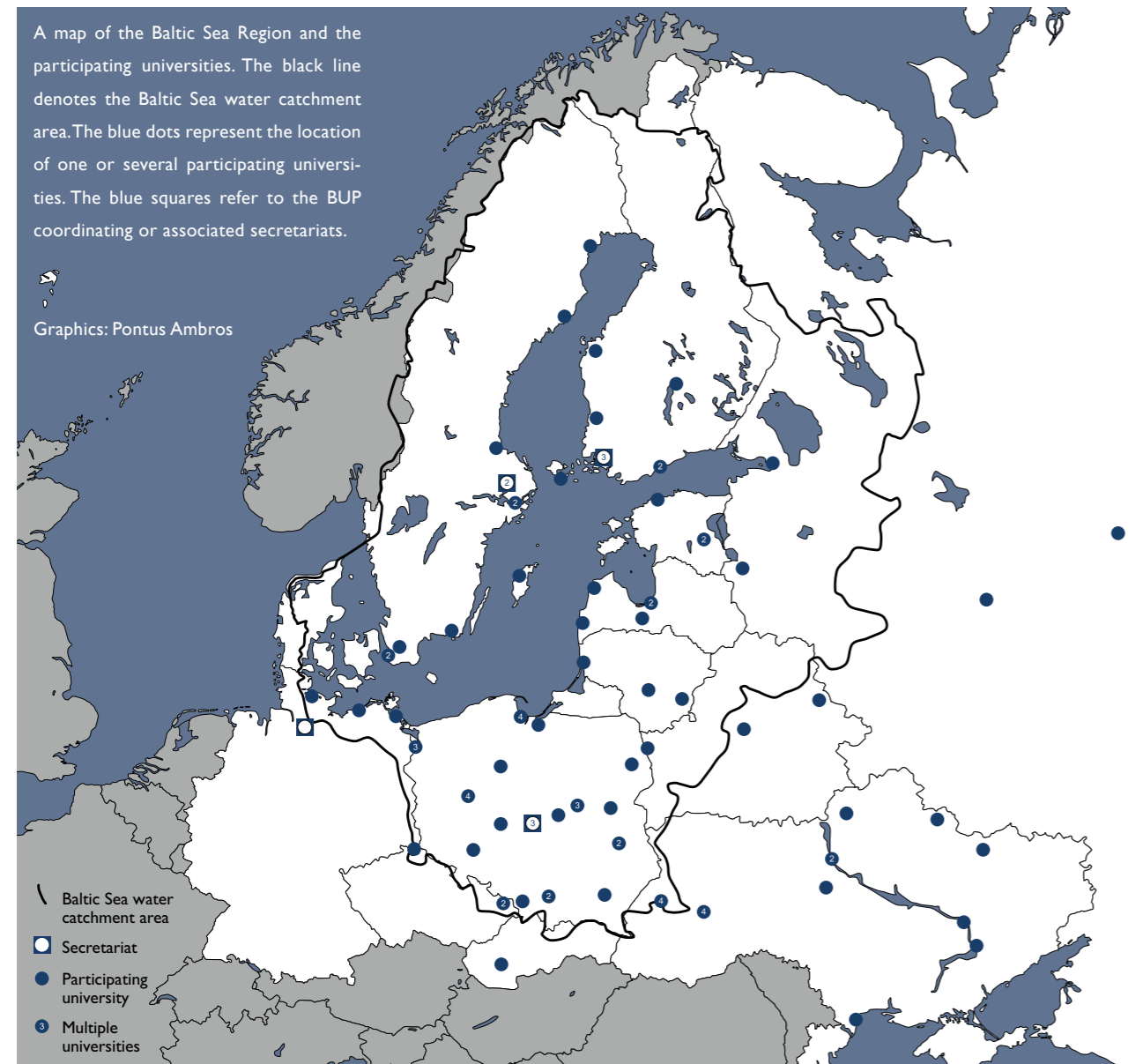
All participating universities have signed an inter-university agreement to be a part of the BUP. At the end of 2021 we had 97 participating universities within the BUP.

Participating universities are an active part of the BUP; together we shape the outline of the Programme as well as its activities and outcome. Our participating universities come together as a part of the BUP to promote internationalisation with a focus on sustainability and democracy.

During 2021 we gained 8 new participating universities. We had the highest number of participating universities in Poland, 29 universities. Poland is also the country where we gained the most new participating universities, 4 in total.



Number of participating universities.



Organisational structure

The extensive network is supported, as for administration, organisation, and strategic planning, by a Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University, Sweden, and three Associated Secretariats situated at Lodz University of Technology (Poland), Åbo Akademi University (Finland), and Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany).

Input regarding strategic decisions and ideas about the overall direction of the BUP comes mainly – but not exclusively – from an International Board and are implemented by the Secretariats. All participating universities are welcome to contribute with their own suggestions. Every country has its own National Centre.

The BUP Board 2021

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Chair of the board
Olle Jansson, Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor
<i>Uppsala University, Sweden</i></p> <p>Vice Chair of the board
Ireneusz Zbicinski, Prof.
<i>Lodz University of Technology, Łodz, Poland</i></p> <p>Tapio Salmi, Prof.
<i>Åbo Akademi University, Finland</i></p> <p>Walter Leal, Prof.
<i>Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany</i></p> <p>Hele Kiimann, Affiliated researcher
<i>IRES, Uppsala University, Sweden</i></p> <p>Magdalena Kuchler, Associate Senior Lecturer
<i>Uppsala University, Sweden</i></p> | <p>Eva Friman, Adjunct Prof.
<i>Director SWEDESD, Uppsala University</i></p> <p>Joakim Ekman, Prof.
<i>Södertörn University, Sweden</i></p> <p>Elena Kropinova
<i>Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, Kaliningrad</i></p> <p>Student representatives</p> <p>Ellen Chkhitadze
<i>Marii Curie Skłodowska University, Poland</i></p> <p>Shima Vahedi
<i>Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania</i></p> |
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The BUP organisational structure.

The Secretariats

The BUP is an extensive organisation which needs a structure involving colleagues in many different countries. This is where the Coordinating- and Associated Secretariats come in.

The Coordinating Secretariat

The BUP requires a central body for an administrative and organisational support as well as for strategic planning. This responsibility lies with the Coordinating Secretariat which is located at Uppsala University, Sweden.

Director of the BUP and head of the Coordinating Secretariat. The main responsibilities are the strategic aspects of the Programme; lead, plan and implement the strategy. The Director also support the Programme at an academic and research level by being part of Scientific Committees, hosting scientific conferences, editing scientific journals, and seeking new ways of strengthening the scientific impact of Programme participants.

Responsible for individual projects, such as Internationalisation in Practice in recent years, and represents a key figure in the practicalities of running the Programme. Welcoming new universities, economic matters, practical arrangement of BUP meetings and events and keeping in touch with the Programme's many contact persons are only some of the Coordinator's responsibilities.

Focuses primarily on designing and executing projects and organising activities aimed at students from participating universities. Pontus is in charge of the BUP student conferences and also focuses on the BUP course platform.

Focuses primarily on coordinating projects, activities and courses together with colleagues from participating universities. Emma is also responsible for the student ambassadors and is co-organising the 2022 BUP student conference together with Pontus.

Maintains the presence of the BUP in social media and, among other things, edits the BUP Newsletter, Research Notes Letter, and Annual Report. Takes care of the issue of informational and promotional materials.



Director
Madeleine
Granvik
PhD, Assoc. Prof.



**Project
Coordinator**
Lyudmyla Babak
MA



**Project
Administrator**
Pontus Ambros
MSc



**Project
Administrator**
Emma
Stockvall Carlsson
MSc



**Communications
Officer**
Ulrika
Jansson Klintberg
BA

The Associated Secretariats

The scope of the BUP activities, projects, and events is wide and ranges from those targeted at students to those aimed at university teachers and researchers. Therefore the BUP has three Associated Secretariats, each in charge of a specific BUP domain. Their budgets are independent of the Coordinating Secretariat and come from local funding.

Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

The German Associated Secretariat deal with research development in the network and they host the BUP Research and Publications Office (BUPRaP), which assists participating universities in fostering their research activities and enhancing their publications output and profile.



**Head of
secretariat**
Walter Leal
Prof.

Lodz University of Technology

The Polish Associated Secretariat deal with the organisation of network wide courses and conferences. It is the main organiser of the PhD Student Training which is held every year. The training has been offered since 2012 and represents an opportunity for PhD students to meet and discuss sustainable development in an interdisciplinary, international, and regional context at once. The training includes lectures and workshops as well as a chance for students to present their PhD work and consult their PhD projects with international experts.



**Head of
secretariat**
Ireneusz Zbicinski
Prof.

Åbo Akademi University

The Finnish Associated Secretariat deal with competence development of BUP teachers, Education for Sustainable Development and various projects. Its core mission is the professional development of university teachers. Equipped with this expertise, it provides the Programme with an efficient and innovative platform for the BUP teachers' professional growth.















**Head of
secretariat**
Cecilia Lundberg
PhD.

The National Centres

National Centres have been a part of the organisational structure of the Programme since the mid 1990's. The Centres are led by Centre Directors who gather at least twice a year to discuss and coordinate their activities as well as offer their suggestions concerning the direction and future plans of the BUP.

The National Centres benefits the Programme in several ways; they make coordination of activities at a local level easier, work as communication hubs between the Secretariats and participating universities in the given country, and, at the same time, students, teachers, and researchers can easily, via National Centres, get in touch with the BUP. They are located at participating universities and always include at least one person with an expertise and academic background in one or several of the BUP Themes.

The BUP National Centre Directors 2021

 <p>Belarus Elena Pilgun <i>Belarusian State University</i></p>	 <p>Czech Republic Jana Kodymová <i>VSB - Technical University of Ostrava</i></p>	 <p>Estonia Helen Sooväli-Sepping <i>Tallin University</i></p>
 <p>Finland Cecilia Lundberg <i>Åbo Akademi University</i></p>	 <p>Germany Jakob Hildebrandt <i>Hochschule Zittau/Görlitz</i></p>	 <p>Latvia Juris Iljins <i>Riga Technical University</i></p>
 <p>Lithuania Visvaldas Varzinskas <i>Kaunas University of Technology</i></p>	 <p>Poland Ireneusz Zbicinski <i>Lodz University of Technology</i></p>	 <p>Russia Pavel Kovalishin <i>Kaliningrad State Technical University</i></p>
 <p>Slovakia Barbora Cakovská <i>Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra</i></p>	 <p>Sweden Joakim Ekman <i>Södertörn University</i></p>	 <p>Ukraine Iryna Kriba <i>Ivan Franko National University of Lviv</i></p>

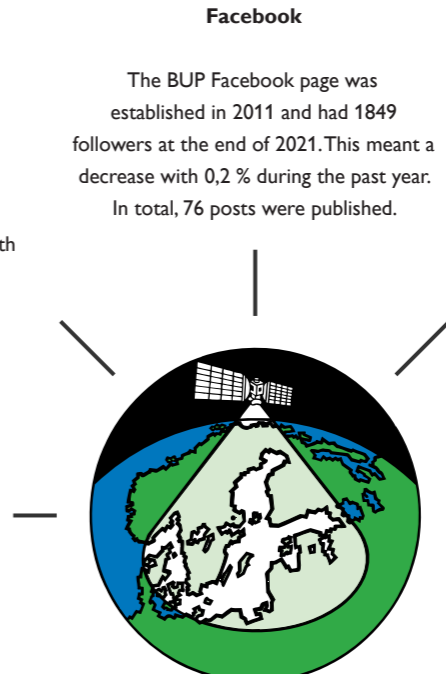
BUP communication

One of the most important traits of the BUP is the ability to communicate and cooperate with a large number of people with diverse backgrounds and facilitate their networking and communication. The Programme's growing impact and reach affirms that we can accomplish great things in relation to the ten BUP Themes and sustainable development in general.

During 2021 we have seen an increasing number of people follow and join our events and activities. The reach of information from The Baltic University Programme is interesting as it tells us something of how many colleagues that are interested in the BUP and what we do. It also indicates the size of an audience for our news, calls and material.

We distribute the BUP Newsletter, Research Notes Letter and BUP Weekly via our mailing lists. We have different lists for contact persons at our participating universities and for a wider spectrum of subscribers – anyone who is interested in the BUP can subscribe and receive news. The contact persons e-mail list has 598 subscribers (an increase with 4% during the past year), and the generic list has 2522 subscribers (an increase with 8% during the past year) at the end of 2021. We never add e-mail addresses to our lists without consent.

Communication material that was published during 2021 comprised of: two issues of the Newsletter, 22 issues of BUP Weekly, three issues of Research Notes Letter, and of course the 2020 Annual Report. The Newsletter included information on past activities, The BUP Weekly included upcoming activities and calls. The Research Notes Letter highlighted recent research by colleagues at our participating universities, within our BUP Themes and the Baltic Sea Region as a context.



Instagram

The channel was established in February 2020, and had 189 followers at the end of 2021. This is an increase with 84% during the past year.

Facebook

The BUP Facebook page was established in 2011 and had 1849 followers at the end of 2021. This meant a decrease with 0,2 % during the past year. In total, 76 posts were published.

LinkedIn

The channel was established in 2016 and had 194 followers at the end of 2021. This is an increase with 69% during the past year.

Website

The total number of visitors during 2021 was 12.592 (compared to 17.787 in 2020). The historical statistics show an increase in website visitors the more BUP activities we have. We had few activities during 2021 compared to previous years because of the pandemic, which could explain the decrease.

YouTube

The channel was established 2008, and had 352 subscribers at the end of 2021. This is an increase with 22% during the past year. 53 new videos were published during 2020, and featured e.g. presentations during the Space Bridges 2.0 seminar series.



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