

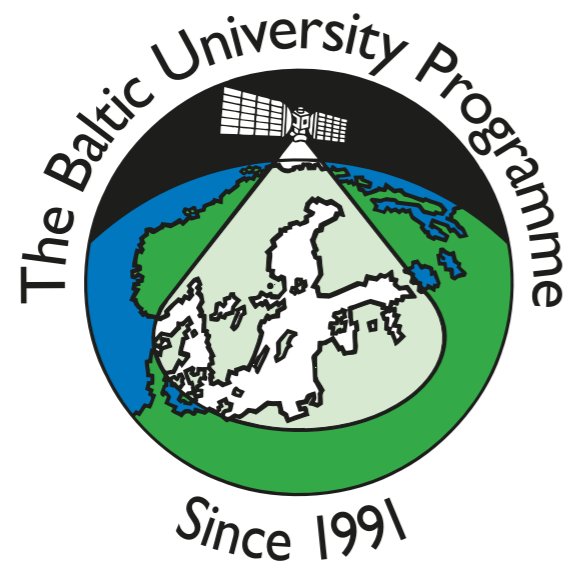
Annual Report

2022

*Internationalisation in
practice for a sustainable
Baltic Sea Region*



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET



**One of the world's largest
university co-operations
for over 30 years**



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The photo on the front page is taken in Helsinki, Finland. Photo by Carlos "Grury" Santos on Unsplash.

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This is The Baltic University Programme (BUP)

The Baltic University Programme (BUP) is one of the largest university co-operations in the world, with more than 90 participating universities in ten countries of the drainage area of the Baltic Sea.

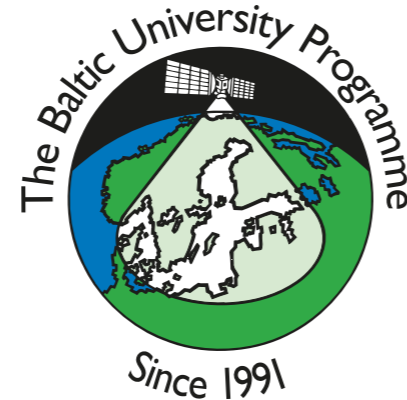
The Programme strives to find novel ways of interaction among universities and between universities and society. The main aim is to enhance strong regional educational and research communities but also to foster a greater awareness of sustainable development, environmental protection, and democracy in the Baltic Sea Region. The BUP supports the key role that universities play in democratic, peaceful and sustainable development.

Our aim is achieved by being an open and inclusive organisation, developing and offering university courses, trainings, conferences, symposiums and projects supporting multi and interdisciplinary academic co-operations, and by participating in transdisciplinary co-operations with other stakeholders in society. We focus on our 10 BUP research themes, which relate to several of the UN sustainable development goals, intended as a source of information where the BUP colleagues can network and exchange knowledge as well as collect and submit material.

The Baltic University Programme is an organisation with participating universities in the Baltic Sea Region. The annual fee of 1000 Euro entitles the participating university to send its scholars and students to BUP activities, courses and conferences. Our participating universities are located in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden and Ukraine. Researchers, teachers and students from a participating university are able to access all of our activities.

The Programme has been around since 1991, throughout the years, thousands of students, teachers, researchers and others have taken part in courses, conferences, projects, exchanges, excursions, sails, seminars, workshops and much more. Activities that are still ongoing today.

During 2022 the BUP introduced new initiatives, events and projects as well as celebrating 30 years of the Programme. Some of the main focuses during the past year have been the call and support for hosting BUP activities, developing and hosting the BUP Master Thesis Training, introducing the projects Quality Assurance at participating universities and Sustainability at participating universities, developing the BUP Student Ambassador program, promoting research visibility, creating and publishing the BUP book *Celebration of three decades* and introducing the first courses on the BUP Course Platform.



The Baltic University Programme's logotype. The logotype shows the earth and a satellite focusing on the Baltic Sea Region. This is our history, reflecting on how the BUP set up satellite TV arrangements in the early 1990's. An innovative approach to teaching and networking is as much part of our legacy as it is how we wish to continue working with our aims in the future.

Co-operation is key in our strong Programme

For 31 years The Baltic University Programme (BUP) has developed peaceful co-operations where all countries in the Baltic Sea Water Catchment Area were included. The tremendous tragedy that started on the 24th of February 2022 changed the scene dramatically. The Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The statutes of The Baltic University Programme list environmental protection, democracy, and sustainable development as our main tasks. The very construction of regional networks includes respect for others, political freedom, and protection of human rights.

The mission of the BUP, to promote and support academic co-operations, can hardly be more topical, in the work for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. Our aim is as always to support the key role that universities play in democratic, peaceful and sustainable development.

It is devastating and tragic that such a development that we now see occurs since major efforts have been made after the end of the Cold War to develop peace, communication, understanding and co-operations in the region. The Baltic University Programme has been a part of these efforts – and still will be. It is a tremendous tragedy that peace within the Baltic Sea Region has not prevailed.

Fuelled by a passion for internationalisation and regional co-operations, teaching, research and the hard work of many colleagues and students, I believe the BUP remains strong, even though much is uncertain in our region. It is very rewarding to see all kinds of inter disciplinary and inter cultural co-operations between colleagues and students that occur within projects, course development, trainings and other academic events. We learn from each other, we develop together. It is an honour in my role as Director to manage and develop the BUP together with the participating universities, you.

With these words, I want to thank all of you that have contributed to the academic activities in the Programme during 2022. We need to remember that the 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, Associate Professor



The war in Ukraine

In February 2022 attacks by Russian forces were reported across Ukraine and as a result many of our colleagues lives will never be the same. Shortly after the start of the war all contracts and contact with Russian and Belarusian universities within the BUP was terminated. Since then the BUP has focused on offering support for our Ukrainian scholars and students.

In the weeks following the Russian aggression many BUP participating universities began offering shelter and assistance for colleagues from Ukrainian universities. Initiatives to support scholars and students were gathered and shared regularly on the BUP website and via the newsletter BUP Weekly.

The BUP Associated Secretariat at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany, started an initiative titled “Baltic Science Bridge”. The initiative has provided support to Ukrainian scholars unable to work due to the war, with an opportunity to live and perform some academic work in a Baltic Sea country which is not part of the conflict.

During spring 2022 the BUP Coordinating Secretariat welcomed Lidiia Hryniv, Doctor of economic sciences, Professor of Ivan Franko Lviv National University to the Secretariat. Lidiia was offered a position as a guest researcher at the BUP Coordinating Secretariat and shortly after arriving she was offered a scholarship from Uppsala University aimed at researchers from Ukraine which allowed her to stay for longer. The BUP also announced an internship for Ukrainian students. Unfortunately the student that was offered an internship at the Secretariat was unable to leave Ukraine and travel to Uppsala due to the war.

All students at BUP participating universities in Ukraine that wished to take part in student events were offered travel grants. Due partly to travel restrictions and difficulties to travel to and from Ukraine few students from Ukraine could apply to take part in our biggest event during spring, the BUP Student Conference. During the autumn there was the opportunity for scholars to present their research at the BUP Symposium where the majority of the presenters were Ukrainian colleagues.

At the end of 2022 The Baltic University Programme received funding from The Swedish Institute for the project RESCUU (Resilience of Education: Sustainability and Co-operation for Ukrainian Universities). Several partners are involved in the project that aims at contributing to the resilience of wartime Ukraine’s educational institutions and will support Ukrainian teachers, students and researchers who remain in Ukraine and work or study at Ukrainian universities. We believe that by participating in events within the framework of the project, teachers and students will receive support from their international peers and colleagues and contacts for collaboration with universities in the Baltic Sea Region will be established. The aim of the project is to help colleagues and students to be prepared to take an active role in post-war reconstruction.



Due to the war BUP participating universities have offered positions, scholarships and other similar opportunities for Ukrainian scholars. Students from Ukraine have similarly been offered support at BUP participating universities, such as the opportunity to study for free and scholarships for studying.



The project RESCUU is led by the BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden. An associated partner is the BUP Associated Secretariat at Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland. Project partners are Uppsala University/Unit for Academic Teaching and Learning, Uppsala, Sweden, The National Technical University of Ukraine ‘Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute’, Kyiv, Ukraine, The National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine and Poznan University of Technology, Poznan, Poland.

Image: Vectonauta via Freepik

BUP Presidency

The presidency was introduced in 2016 in order to decentralise and share responsibilities with the BUP National Centres and by this establish a formal platform for them to influence the organisation in practice. Each BUP National Centre holds the BUP Presidency for six months according to a rotating schedule.

The holder of the BUP Presidency is responsible for the content and arrangement of some of the BUP’s annual events, as well as promotion of the BUP in their own country, along with additional events and activities aimed at strengthening the programme in the country and the region as a whole.

The National Centre in Finland which is located at Åbo Akademi University, held the presidency during autumn 2022. The year 2022 has been turbulent for the whole BUP co-operation, due to Russia’s offensive war in Ukraine. However, something positive is the return to a more normalized situation after the pandemic. Since the Rectors’ Conference took place in Uppsala and there was a face-to-face meeting with the BUP Centre Directors in Uppsala at the end of September, there was no opportunity or need for a meeting at Åbo Akademi.

The main event that was held as a part of the presidency was the Online seminar Sustainable foot- and handprints at Finnish Universities, a two-hour event held on 17 November 2022. During the seminar there were presentations and discussions about what efforts universities in Finland take to reduce their carbon footprint. Questions raised were: Can this be measured? What does carbon and biodiversity handprint mean? All viewpoints came from BUP participating universities in Finland, but the seminar was open for everybody interested.

The seminar was informative and interesting and generated great discussions and further thoughts. Therefore, it is possible to follow up the theme with a new seminar in autumn 2023. In the second seminar it would be interesting to also invite speakers from BUP participating universities outside of Finland.

There were plans and negotiations during the spring for the arrangement of a hackathon event for students on circular economy during the autumn. The arrangements were planned together with the BUP participating universities Novia University of Applied Sciences and Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences. Due to a limited schedule, the co-partners chose to host the event locally for only their own students. However, the discussion has begun, and it is possible to arrange a similar hackathon in the future where all BUP students can be invited.

On the BUP website you can read the full presidency report written by the BUP National Centre in Finland.



Parts of the team at the BUP Finnish National Centre attending the BUP Rectors’ Conference 2022. From the left: Cecilia Lundberg, National Centre Director in Finland, Annina Kainu, Planning Officer, Sinikka Suomalainen, Planning Officer, Tapio Salmi, board member on the BUP International Board and Paula Lindroos, former BUP Director and colleague at the BUP Finnish National Centre.

Photo: Adam Söderberg



The BUP Finnish National Centre is located at Åbo Akademi University in Turku, Finland.

The BUP Rectors' Conference 2022

The Baltic University Programme's Rectors' Conference is a recurring event where all rectors at BUP participating universities are invited to share knowledge and experiences as well as discussing co-operation and long-term directions for the BUP. The main themes were internationalisation, sustainability, quality assurance and democracy.

During 28-29 September 2022 the BUP hosted the 6th Rectors' Conference at Uppsala University in Uppsala. In total close to 90 rectors and rectors' representatives from all ten member countries participated during the conference, both in person and online via Zoom. Opportunity to take part online was given to Ukrainian colleagues that were unable to travel to Uppsala.

During the Rectors' Conference BUP colleagues and Student Representatives from participating universities held presentations and panel discussions where they shared experiences and best practice from their own universities. The BUP Coordinating Secretariat and the BUP Associated Secretariats in Finland, Poland and Germany initially presented the Programme and much of the work that has been done since the last Rectors' Conference in 2018. The presentation themes during the conference were Challenges Ahead – strategic issues to address, Challenges of Internationalization, Sustainability at Universities and Quality Assurance of Higher Education. The conference ended with The Baltic University Programme General Assembly that featured open discussions and suggestions for the future and long-term directions for the BUP.

Via the presentations and panel discussions the participants could identify BUP participating universities that are working with issues closely related to their own universities focus areas. After each presentation as well as during the breaks, lunches and dinners there were many fruitful discussions regarding possible collaborations and ways to develop co-operation within the BUP.

The Rectors' Conference also included the Programmes 30-year celebration held at Uppsala Castle. The opening speech was held by Lars Rydén, the founder and former Director of The Baltic University Programme, who shared stories from the early days of the Programme. During the evening colleagues gave speeches and shared their BUP memories. At the beginning of the evening the BUP Director Madeleine Granvik introduced the BUP book *Celebration of three decades* which was handed out as a gift to the participants and later published on the BUP website. The book presents how it once started and how the Programme has developed during the years. It contains contributions from colleagues that share their memories and stories from these first three decades. Unique narratives from unique persons representing this unique Programme. [Read the event report on the BUP website.](#)



The Rectors' Conference is an opportunity to meet colleagues in person to exchange experiences and share knowledge. Pictured are Madeleine Granvik, Director BUP, and Wolfgang Schareck, Rector at the University of Rostock.

Photo: Adam Söderberg

"I will bring back all of the good contacts that I have made here. I am looking forward to organising joint events together with the BUP. All of the work that the BUP is already doing we are looking forward to being a part of."

Quote from Regina Erlenheim, Vice-rector for Research at Estonian Business School, commenting on what she will bring with her from the conference.



Participants at the 6th BUP Rectors' Conference, standing outside the Uppsala University Main Building.

Photo: Pontus Ambros



Lars Rydén, former BUP Director 1991-2007 and 2015-2016, founder of the Programme, gave a speech during the celebration dinner.

Photo: Adam Söderberg



During the second day of the conference there were panel discussions within different themes of relevance for the Programme. Here is the panel discussing the theme Sustainability at Universities.

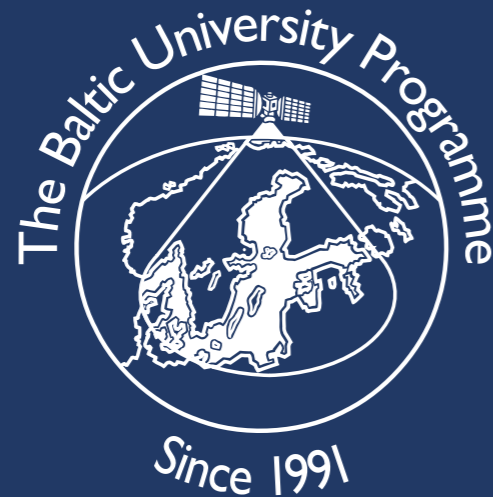
Photo: Pontus Ambros



The front page of the BUP book *Celebration of three decades*. The full book can be found on the BUP website.

Photo: Pontus Ambros

Projects



The Baltic University Programme initiate, coordinate and participate in inter-transdisciplinary projects as a way of supporting the creation of strong educational and research communities in the Baltic Sea Region. During 2022, a couple of projects were led by the BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University and each project had multiple BUP participating universities as project partners.

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Digital at home

This project, financed by the Swedish Institute, was launched in February 2021. Due to the war in Ukraine the project time has been extended to June 2023. One of the main aims during the past year has been the planning and execution of virtual exchange between the students from BUP participating universities from different member countries.

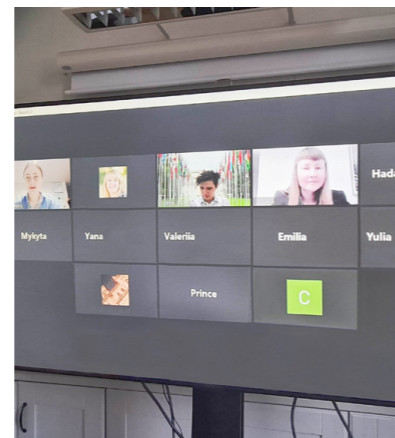
During 2022 the full-scale invasion by Russia against Ukraine has postponed the work within this project. However, during autumn 2022 two Ukrainian universities, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv and Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, together with Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin manage to conduct several classes of virtual exchange. The students from Ukrainian and Polish universities had the possibility to present and discuss various aspects of co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region (peculiarities of regional co-operation, institutional framework of co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region) and also vital topics of international and European security. From the Ukrainian universities both master- and bachelor students in the specialisation of International Relations participated. From Ivan Franko National University of Lviv the students of the master programme in English called “Baltic-Black Sea Regional Studies” participated in three different classes. An additional value of this exchange was the participation of Erasmus students from different countries which represented Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. A number of exchanges were also tested between project partners in Ukraine, Poland, Sweden and Lithuania.

It was a really important and valuable experience both for the students and for the lecturers especially in terms of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The students were able to present their opinions and views on how the war has influenced the security of Europe and particularly the Baltic Sea Region, how effective the institutions functioning in the Baltic Sea Region are, how co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region will develop and much more. These exchange classes were also a great experience in intercultural communication though it was not very easy for the students, but they successfully managed to overcome language difficulties. For the Ukrainian students, this exchange was a new experience and judging from their feedback it was a success. They expressed their wish to have such exchanges in the future and also to participate in a full course held via a virtual exchange with other universities.

For the lecturers it was also a new experience with certain challenges such as coordination of the work of different students from different universities and additional joint preparation for lecturers. Nevertheless, it was a valuable and important experience which at the moment is particularly valuable for the educational process in Ukraine.

[Read more about the Digital at home project on the BUP website.](#)

Text: Marianna Gladysz, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv



Meetings between students from Polish and Ukrainian universities took place online via Zoom. These virtual exchanges took place within classes that all of the students took at the same time.

Photo: Lyudmyla Babak



One of the virtual exchange workshops was organized by Kaunas University of Technology. Even if the classes are given by the BUP participating universities in the Baltic Sea Region the students represent many more places as you can see in this image.

Host a BUP event

During 2022 the BUP opened a special call to host a BUP event. This call aimed towards being an opportunity to give support to colleagues at BUP participating universities to host and organise a BUP academic event that is of interest and relevance to sustainability in a Baltic Sea Region perspective, and that encourages interdisciplinary co-operations.

The hosting university had to be the main organiser, responsible for the program of the event in co-operation with the Coordinating Secretariat, and also had to take care of the practicalities like accommodation, food, and local transportation, as well as assist participants with necessary documentation (invitations, visa support documents, etc). The budget available to apply for was between 5 000 to 20 000 euros.

Three events received funding via this initiative:

- The International Tourism Congress ITC2022
- The International conference “Sustainable Consumption and Production: How to Make it Possible”
- The ESD Science Lab for BUP Teachers

The International Tourism Congress ITC2022 was organised by the Faculty of Geographical Sciences at the University of Lodz (Poland) in co-operation with CiTUR Centre for Tourism Research, Development and Innovation. The title of ITC2022 was “Tourism – Going Back/Forward to Sustainability”. The event was held both online and in person in Lodz, 16-19 November 2022. Participants were from, for instance, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Czech Republic and Ukraine. 181 people participated in the congress in total, including 106 on-site participants, and 75 online. A more in-depth event report is available on the BUP website.

The International conference “Sustainable Consumption and Production: How to Make it Possible” was organised by the Institute of Environmental Engineering (APINI) at Kaunas University of Technology in collaboration with The Baltic University Programme, and the non-profit organisation Vš “Mes Darom”. The conference welcomed participants to Kaunas as well as those who joined online. During the conference there were 90 participants that took part in person, 80 people took part online during day one and 84 people took part online during day two. A more in-depth event report is available on the BUP website.

The project ESD Science Lab for BUP Teachers was organised by Riga Technical University, SWEDES at Uppsala University and BUP Finland at Åbo Akademi University. The ESD Science Lab was mainly aimed for teachers that had participated in the BUP Teachers’ Courses from 2017-2020. The main event of the project was a workshop where 21 teachers participated. A more in-depth event report is available on the BUP website.



Some of the participants at the International Tourism Congress 2022.

Photo: the SPOT project



Participants during a panel discussion at the International conference.

Photo: Justina Šuminaite



Participants in the workshop during the ESD Science Lab for BUP Teachers.

Photo: Cecilia Lundberg

Sustainability at participating universities

This project was begun by the BUP Coordinating Secretariat, in 2021, with initial surveys which were inspired by the question "How can we implement sustainability at universities in respect of teaching, research and campus greening?".

Sustainability is a key issue at universities worldwide. Universities are seen as having a responsibility to promote sustainability and sustainable development through education and wider activities. This is especially key to the future generation who will next enter a society with immense challenges. Universities are also being increasingly ranked by their commitment to sustainability and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Universities can strongly support the realisation of the SDGs through education, innovation and technology. The BUP is placing a focus on sustainability and the associated goals as through investigating practices at our universities, we can contribute to facing the complex challenges that lie ahead. Sustainability challenges are often embedded in different systems with different contexts, scales and locations. In this way, the BUP is uniquely positioned to consider sustainability. The BUP promotes inter, trans and multi-disciplinary co-operation with a focus on sustainability at our member universities. Therefore, the BUP hopes to harness these skills and abilities in investigating and probing how sustainability is being dealt with at BUP universities and how this can be improved.

Sustainability was also discussed when BUP Finland organised the webinar series *Implementing sustainability at Universities*. The main target group for the webinar series was teachers in higher education, especially within the BUP, however the webinars were open for everyone interested.

The webinar series was popular, with about a hundred participants in each webinar. The four webinars discussed how we can implement sustainability at universities in respect of teaching, research and campus greening. The whole series can be watched on The Baltic University Programme's Youtube channel.

As part of this project, the BUP Student Ambassadors have created a Sustainability Report which details enlightening moments and ideas about sustainability at BUP participating universities. Here, BUP Student Ambassadors profile and discuss sustainability at their university and how they are being inspired and motivated.

This report has been created thanks to the inputs of Student Ambassadors from German, Swedish, Slovak and Latvian universities, that have compiled in the form of a booklet, initiatives implemented across the Baltic Sea Region, in a bid to become more sustainable. [Read more about the project and find the Sustainability Report on the BUP website.](#)



Working with sustainability at BUP participating universities connects closely to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For instance, the webinars hosted by BUP Finland focused on the goals Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

Quality Assurance at participating universities

This project began in 2021 and the aim is to result in a platform in Quality Assurance (QA) for BUP participating universities. Both internal and external QA systems have proliferated 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 members to learn from and support each other when dealing with QA issues. This project has received strong impetus from BUP participating universities including the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra and Riga Technical University.

The project begun by the Coordinating Secretariat conducting an initial survey relating to QA amongst BUP participating universities. This revealed how QA is dealt with in the BUP region and potential focus areas. This is currently being followed up with a more in-depth survey that specifically investigates a number of key BUP concepts including Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and internationalisation.

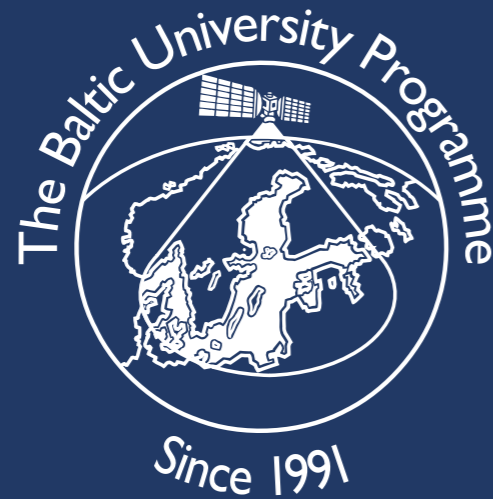
This project is concerned with Quality Assurance processes in higher education at universities within the Baltic Sea Region. This includes themes such as Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), student and staff engagement, and internationalisation. Through international co-operation and knowledge exchange, BUP partners aim to both investigate current use, as well as, ambitions of QA in the Baltic Sea Region. 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. [Read more on the BUP website.](#)



One theme that the project focuses on is student and staff engagement. The project aims towards identifying a few participating universities that can share best practices in connection to Quality Assurance within the BUP.

Photo: Brooke Cagle on Unsplash

Education



One of the key missions of The Baltic University Programme is the creation of educational courses from different academic disciplines with both theoretical and practical focuses. These courses are created by colleagues at BUP participating universities, some of which are available as massive open online courses (MOOCs) on the BUP Course Platform, some as courses where the participants get ECTS credits and some are created for BUP teachers.

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BUP Course Platform

One of the key missions of The Baltic University Programme (BUP) is the creation of courses from different academic disciplines with both theoretical and practical focuses. The BUP Course Platform was launched in September 2022 and all courses focus on sustainability in a Baltic Sea Region context.

The BUP is focusing on developing full courses and course modules connected to the 10 BUP themes. All courses are designed by experts and will be offered as massive open online courses (MOOCs). This means that they can be 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, free of charge. There are multiple courses under development, all will be a part of the BUP Course Platform.

Courses that are under development:

- *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*
- *Energy Systems*

In developing these BUP courses, participants work in 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 courses and course material. This way of working offers opportunities to learn from each other and different perspectives as well as different academic cultures. Colleagues creating material for the Platform have the possibility to gain support from E-tutors, students with experience of recording and digitalising material, when recording material.

First and foremost, these courses are open to all who are interested in them. They are completely free with no previous knowledge or pre-requisites necessary. The BUP therefore welcomes all to take these courses; students, teachers, researchers, administrators and all members of the public. Please note that the level of the courses on the BUP Course Platform are designed at the undergraduate level, however, with teaching from renowned experts across the Baltic Sea Region and vivid examples, the courses should be of interest to all.

There is an additional opportunity too for those that are currently teaching courses at universities; the chance to integrate the lectures, literature and quizzes from the courses into your teaching. The material can be used in whole or as part of a course, for example, there are many example lectures that may prove useful.

The BUP also see further opportunities out from the material developed for each MOOC course. For example, users are able to develop more advanced courses, and to give the student credits by adding material, assignments, seminars etc. These initiatives must then be taken from each BUP participating universities. In this case we will also be able to promote virtual exchange co-operations between BUP participating universities when running credit bearing courses.

During 2022 the first two courses were published on the BUP Course Platform.

Sustainable Food Systems in the Baltic Sea Region

This is an introductory course on the history, social, economic, and ecological aspects of food production in the Baltic Sea Region. The course also focuses on future challenges, such as food security and climate change.

The course consists of four parts.

1. The history of agriculture in the Baltic Sea Region
2. Ecological, economic and social aspects of food systems
3. The challenges of sustainable food systems - now and tomorrow
4. Examples from the region



Photo: Markus Spiske on Unsplash

Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region

During this course, climate change experts from universities in Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Germany and Russia will teach you the basic knowledge about climate change from a Baltic Sea Region perspective. You will be learning about:

1. Basic climatology
2. The evidence 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
6. Interdisciplinary solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change

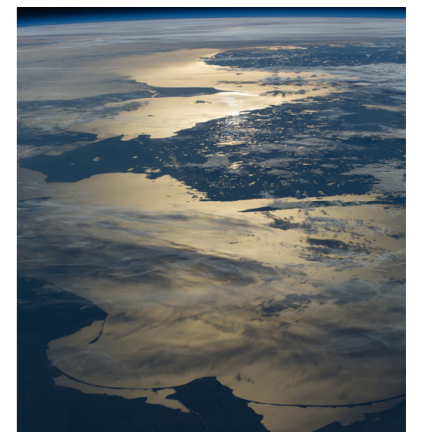
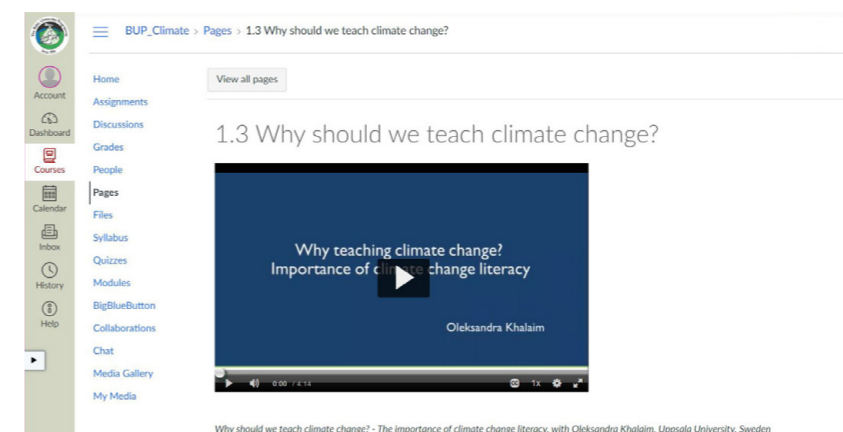


Photo: Alex Gerst via NASA



A print screen of the lecture “Why should we teach climate change?” by Oleksandra Khalaim in the course *Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region* on the BUP Course Platform.

Sustainable foot- and handprints at Finnish Universities

This online seminar was held on 17 November and it was a part of the Finnish BUP Presidency. During the seminar the presentations and discussions focused on what efforts universities in Finland take to reduce their carbon footprint.

The program consisted of three presentations and three shorter comments regarding the actual universities' actions and thoughts about sustainable food- and handprints. All viewpoints came from Finnish BUP universities, but the seminar was open for everybody interested.

The program:

University of Turku: Towards 2025 – Carbon Neutral and Sustainable Campus Life

Jutta Mäkinen,
Sustainable Development Specialist,
University of Turku

Biodiversity Footprint Assessment in Organizations: Case JYU

Sami El Geneidy,
Doctoral Researcher in Corporate Environmental Management,
University of Jyväskylä

JYU's path towards planetary well-being

Ulla Helimo,
Sustainability specialist at division of policy and planning,
University of Jyväskylä

Shorter presentations by:

Sirpa Sandelin, *SAMK – Satakunta University of Applied Sciences*

Tomas Träskman, *Arcada University of Applied Sciences*

Otto Långvik, *Novia University of Applied Sciences*

The seminar was informative and interesting and generated good discussions and further thoughts. There is a possibility to follow up the theme with a new seminar in autumn 2023. In the second seminar it would be interesting to also invite speakers from BUP participating universities outside of Finland.

The online seminar had 23 participants and it is available on the Youtube-channel of the Centre for Lifelong Learning, Åbo Akademi University.

[Read the event report from the seminar on the BUP website.](#)



The BUP Associated Secretariat at Åbo Akademi University organised the seminar as a part of the BUP Presidency.

ESD Science Lab

The opportunity to organise the project ESD Science Lab came through the BUP initiative for hosting a BUP event. The event had to be on an academic level promoting sustainable development and interdisciplinary co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region. The project was organised by Riga Technical University, SWEDESD at Uppsala University and BUP Finland at Åbo Akademi University.

The ESD Science Lab was mainly aimed for teachers that had participated in the BUP Teachers' Courses from 2017-2020. The teacher course encourages the participants to apply the results of the learning outcome with a so-called Change Project (i.e. recreate an already existing course to better corresponds to the Sustainable Development Goals). This Science Lab picked up where the former course ended, by assisting and coaching the teachers interested in publishing their most recent work in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). There were 25 teachers from seven countries selected for the project, 21 participated in the workshop.

The project took place as a platform for joint research focused on ESD methods and as capacity building needed to make research work of high quality. The objective was to strengthen the skills and knowledge of BUP researchers in publishing scientific research findings in peer-reviewed journals. The goal was that before the end of 2022, at least five research manuscripts would be prepared and submitted.

The project consisted of kick-off meetings online, 20–21 June, and a summer school in Riga during 25-26 August. The kick-off meetings consisted of short pitches from all participants (the organisation team included), an introduction to the concept of the Science Lab and a preliminary division of the participants into four working groups according to themes of interest. The smaller groups then had time to continue the first preparations and discussions for either individual manuscripts or joint publication plans during the summer.

The workshop consisted of a mixture of keynotes, work in smaller groups, world café discussions, peer-reviewing of each other's work and evaluation. The keynotes concentrated on academic writing, ethics in research and the theory behind peer-reviewing. The groups worked with the concept, methods, and data mapping. The peer-reviewing and a final short group presentation helped the participants to learn from each other.

The BUP ESD Science Lab had its own subsection at the International Scientific Conference on Economics and Entrepreneurship at Riga Technical University, and eight joint group reports were presented. Later, two scientific articles were published in the International Scientific Journal "Economics and Business". One more manuscript was published in the journal "Marketing and management of innovations". The rest of the teams are still working on their papers. Based on the co-operation from the Science Lab, a team with teachers from Poland, Sweden, Finland and Lithuania are preparing an Interreg project proposal.



Some of the participants in the workshop in Riga, during the session when they were working in smaller groups.

Photo: Cecilia Lundberg

"The plan and intensity were very good: we had both opportunities to work and to learn, my socialization expectations were also fully met."

Quote from feedback given by a workshop participant.

[Read the event report from the ESD Science Lab on the BUP website.](#)

Introduction to ESD

Within the BUP there have been requests for an introductory online course to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) besides the BUP Teachers' Course ESD in Higher Education. To be able to offer 5 study points (ECTS) for the course, BUP Finland has developed this introduction course in co-operation with the Open University at Åbo Akademi University.

In practice this course is administrated by the Open University, and the participants can be a mixture of teachers at a BUP participating university (free of charge), regular students at ÅAU (mainly studying the minor Sustainability studies, also free of charge), and students at the Open University at ÅAU (open for everybody, but with a participation fee of 50 euro/semester).

The learning objectives of the course are the following:

- Understand what ESD is and how it broadens the holistic and interdisciplinary understanding for sustainable development
- Understand how competencies like critical thinking, future scenarios skills and collaborative decision-making are promoted by ESD
- Understand the role of ESD in both formal and informal learning
- Get an insight of the state of ESD at the own, or another, university

The course is built on the study platform Moodle. This is a presentation of the course content in short:

- Short, recorded presentations explaining the core of ESD (what it is, examples of ESD competencies, explanations and examples of formal/non-formal learning, good practices).
- Literature explaining the holistic and interdisciplinary of sustainable development.
- Four modules with assignments done either individually or in smaller groups
- The last, and fifth, module consists of a survey on the state of ESD at the own, or another university or learning institution of own choice. All surveys were reviewed by fellow student and presented at a seminar.

The course is of basic study level and does not require any previous knowledge in sustainability or ESD.

Two rounds of the course were run and finished during the year 2022. Both courses got positive feedback. During the first course, the students appreciated small group discussions with participants from different countries. The first round had 23 students from four different countries, the second round had only students from Finland. However, at both courses there was a mixture of BUP teachers, ÅAU and Open University students. [Read the event report from the online course Introduction to ESD on the BUP website.](#)

BUP Teachers' Day

The BUP Teachers' Day 2022 was dedicated for teachers that have taken part in the BUP Teachers' Courses before. However, all teachers at BUP participating universities within BUP were welcome. The past courses have focused on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the learning methods in Higher Education.

The BUP Teachers' Day took place online during the afternoon of 27 April. The aim was to offer an opportunity for teachers within the BUP to share experience and best practice, network and get new inspiration on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The program included a presentation and an exercise, together with the opportunity for a general discussion. The war in Ukraine was on everybody's mind and it was naturally, the key issue in the discussion. There were 15 participants, many from Ukraine.

The keynote "From a BUP course to Advancing ESD: Assessing UNESCO's Critical Key Competences" is available on the Youtube-channel of the Centre for Lifelong Learning, Åbo Akademi University.

The main points in the program:

From a BUP course to Advancing ESD: Assessing UNESCO's Critical Key Competences

Alice Annelin and Gert-Olof Boström,
Umeå University, Sweden

Creative learning – a small workshop led by Design Thinking 4 Us

Lodz University of Technology, Poland



Many of the teachers that have taken part in the past BUP Teachers' Courses as well as the online event BUP Teachers' Day also participated in the project ESD Science Lab. Pictured are BUP colleagues that took part in the ESD Science Lab workshop in Riga in August 2022.

Photo: Oleksandra Khalaim

Researchers



One of the main aims of The Baltic University Programme is to promote a strong regional research community in the field of sustainability. This is done by building research networks according to the 10 BUP themes, coordinating publications and grant calls through the BUP Research and Publication Office (BUPRaP), publishing the Research Notes Letter and on an annual basis arranging the BUP Symposium related to the 10 BUP themes.

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Research within the BUP

BUP PhD Award

This distinction is given to young researchers that have written a high-quality thesis that promotes sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. The winners receive a prize in the form of a diploma and support of up to a maximum of 1000 Euro for either attending a scientific conference or publishing in a peer-review scientific journal.

Winner in the category of Social Sciences and Humanities

Motivation

In the thesis Igne Stalmokaite in a skillful way takes an interdisciplinary approach to the research problem of big actors' behavior in the realm of sustainable development in the shipping business in the Baltic Sea. With the study Igne contributes to new knowledge, and conducts research meticulously when it comes to connecting the stated research questions to the final conclusions. In adapting different disciplinary methods, Igne undertakes the necessary assessment of the various methodologies. Also, Stalmokaite's work is clearly structured and well readable also for a public outside this specialty. The doctoral dissertation directly addresses the issue of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. Interdisciplinary issues are undertaken, combining the issues of sustainability, strategic management and maritime transportation. The issues raised are new and up to date. An innovative method is used and a coherent connection to the Baltic Sea Region sustainability development is present. This doctoral dissertation is prepared on the basis of a series of three co-authored scientific articles and one manuscript, which distinguishes the work from the others.



PhD Igne Stalmokaite
Södertörn University

Title of thesis

New Tides in Shipping: Studying incumbent firms in maritime energy transitions

Photo: Anna Hartvig

Winner in the category of Natural Sciences and Engineering

Motivation

Krzysztof Piotrowski, in a broad and multidisciplinary approach, justified the use of biological agents in agriculture considering climatic and environmental aspects, biological development of energy crops, physical properties of biomass and economic balance. The reviewer stressed the global importance of the selection of research issues, an innovative approach and novelty of the dissertation regarding an environmentally friendly use of biological agents in modern agriculture instead of fertilizers and synthetic agents. The thesis shows opening for a significant reduction of chemical fertilizers, hazardous to humans and the environment with simultaneous reduction in the production costs of energy crops. The novelty of the doctoral dissertation has also a source in original research methods; methodology of controlling variables related to climatic conditions and parameters for assessing the effects of the impact of biopreparations on the development and yield of plants.

PhD Krzysztof Piotrowski
University of Lodz

Title of thesis

Development of a strategy or the cultivation of energy crops with ecological methods in the conditions of global climate and environmental changes

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 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.

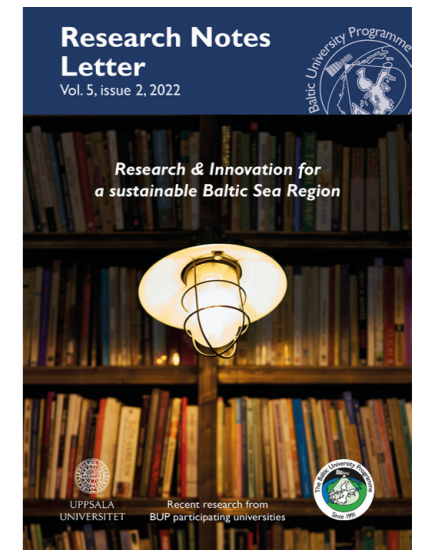
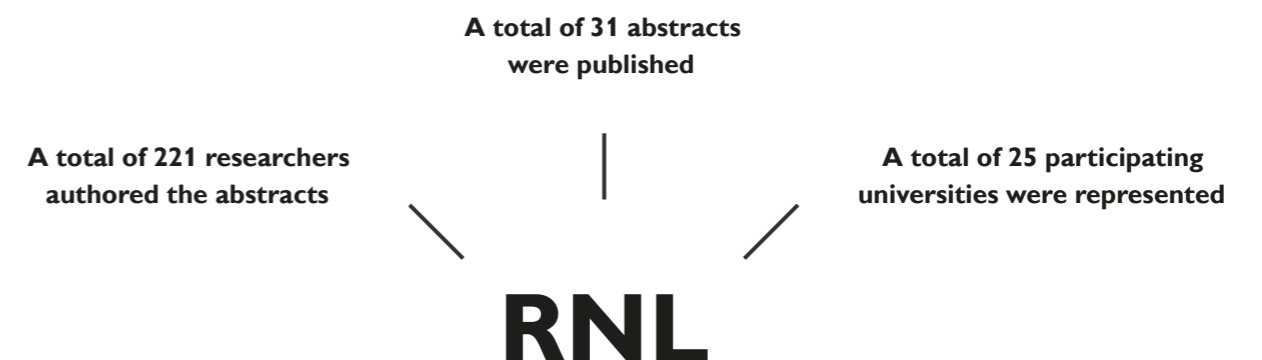
During the autumn of 2022 the BUP Student Ambassadors in the research communication group contributed to the Research Notes Letter by sharing information within their universities as well as collecting abstracts for selection to the Research Notes Letter.

In 2022 there were only two issues of the Research Notes Letter published, partly due to the fact that there were few submissions of abstracts and partly since the BUP Coordinating Secretariat have had a high workload.

[See all of the published Research Notes Letters on the BUP website:](#)

All researcher at our BUP participating universities are welcome to submit their recent research publication to be published in a coming Research Notes Letter. This is a possibility to get to know each other as researchers in the BUP and for researchers to have their research spread among colleagues in the region.

Below are some numbers connected to the Research Notes Letter in 2022.



The cover of Volume 5, Issue 2 of the Research Notes Letter.

BUP Symposium

The Symposium featured oral presentations from researchers from BUP participating universities. Research visibility was a focus during the afternoon session where there was a session that focused on future research collaboration and projects.

The annual BUP Symposium was held for the third time on 8 November 2022. The Symposium is a platform where the regional educational and research communities can get together and get to know their colleagues at participating universities of The Baltic University Programme. The Symposium is an arena where you can disseminate recent research and where new discussions and collaborations can begin.

During the event there were twelve presentations from researchers at BUP participating universities within the BUP themes Climate Change, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Circular Economy, Energy Systems and Urban-Rural Development. In the afternoon session colleagues presented new and upcoming research as well as project ideas. The BUP Symposium ended with a group discussion including how the BUP can improve research visibility as well as research collaboration within the Programme. At most there were 35 colleagues taking part in the BUP Symposium at the same time.

Overall the participants thought that the Symposium was helpful in terms of furthering their research. According to the evaluation of the event the participants were to some or a large extent able to network and find new partners. The participants appreciated the range and diversity of themes and speakers as well as getting the opportunity to meet new colleagues and learn about their research.

The participants would like future Symposiums to be either in-person or online and some thought that a hybrid event (both online and in-person) is of interest.

[Read the event report from the BUP Symposium on the BUP website.](#)

Keynote speaker



Keynote speaker Walter Leal gave the presentation “Advantages of Baltic Research Collaboration: research visibility and grants” which, among many things, introduced publications and funding opportunities.



The Book of Abstracts that contain abstracts written by a total of 28 colleagues is one of the results of the Symposium. The Book of Abstracts is available on the BUP website.

“Every time you see the program of a big event you find many topics on the sessions other than yours but none can manage to listen to them all. This year it was possible and it was a great example of multidisciplinary event.”

Quote from Marharyta Radomska, one of the presenters during the BUP Symposium.

Research within the BUP

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 BUP participating universities is an important source of knowledge being used to increase the quality of all our events.

We strive towards creating opportunities for researchers at BUP participating universities to meet and co-operate with each other. One way of promoting research collaboration is by creating research networks within the ten BUP themes which we present on the BUP website.

Within each BUP theme we have a theme coordinator and by joining a BUP research network you will receive specific information connected to the BUP theme that you are working within. The researchers that are a part of these networks can get the chance to take part in theme meetings, matchmaking events as well as contribute to the BUP Course Platform.

BUPRaP

The Baltic Research and Publications Office (BUPRaP) is a research and publications infrastructure which aims to support the Baltic University Programme (BUP) members in their research activities and enhance their publications output and profile. BUPRaP gathers and makes available information on open calls for funding programmes, coordinates publications on matters related to environment, sustainable development and climate change in referred journals and aims to support Research and development (R&D) at BUP participating universities by catalysing their participation in externally funded research initiatives and projects.

The BUPRaP is currently running the project BALTIPLAST which focuses on Baltic Approaches to Handling Plastic Pollution under a Circular Economy Context. Furthermore, there are plans for symposiums focusing on sustainable development in collaboration with Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Research and Transfer Centre “Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management” (FTZ-NK).

Supervisor Collegium

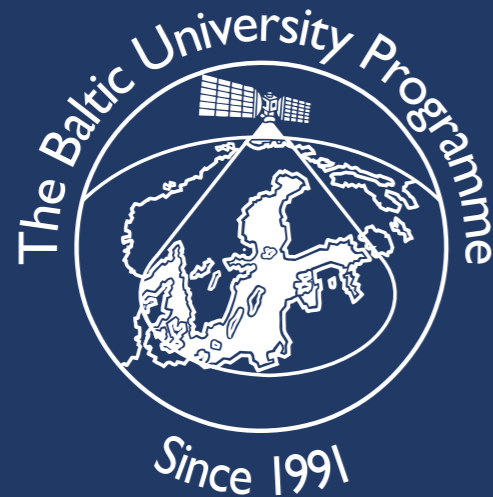
The Supervisor Collegium is an initiative where colleagues contribute with their skills and knowledge to supervise master- and PhD students from participating universities all over the region with their thesis. This is a win-win situation. Both for students who can get a second set of support, but also for supervisors who get to add this experience to their skillset. Following the 2022 Rectors’ Conference, the BUP has placed emphasis on developing the Supervisor Collegium and growing the Collegium into a more dynamic resource.



BUP 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 and it is led by Professor Walter Leal.

Students



The Baltic University Programme organises several events and conferences each year intended for students studying at Bachelor-, Master- and PhD level. Organising is often a joint project between two or several BUP participating universities. All our activities are focusing on one or several of our 10 BUP themes. Events are open for students from BUP participating universities.

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BUP Student Conference

Every spring, The Baltic University Programme holds its annual student conference on a topic connected to one of the ten BUP themes. In 2022, the conference was organised in collaboration between the BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University and Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra and the topic was *Resilient food systems from a Baltic Sea Region perspective*.

The conference took part during 22 - 25 May 2022 at Uppsala University Campus Gotland in the town of Visby, located on the island of Gotland, Sweden. A total of 50 students from 25 of the BUP participating universities in Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czechia and Germany participated in the conference. The conference program consisted of a mixture of lectures, discussions, workshops, a fieldtrip and many social activities.

During the event there were presentations from scholars at Uppsala University, Lund University and Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. The experts had presentations on aquaculture as a food production method, urban agriculture, urban landscapes, adapting land to climate change as well as food and tourism on Gotland. During the conference there was also a workshop that focused on the water cycle in rural areas and how they can adapt to major challenges.

Apart from presentations and a workshop the students also got the opportunity to visit the organic farm Lilla Bjers where they learned more about growing and harvesting food. During the conference the participants also took part in a guided tour of the Medieval Hanseatic city of Visby, which is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

The students accepted to the Student Conference automatically become members of the Students' Parliament. During this part of the BUP student conference they have the chance to make their voices heard and select their new BUP Student Representative to the BUP International Board. All students can suggest proposal and run as a candidate to the position as the BUP Student Representative. Due to the fact that both Student Representatives that were a part of the International Board had resigned before the student conference there was to be an election of two new Student Representatives. The candidates gave presentations of themselves and their thoughts regarding the role as a Student Representative and all participating students voted for their chosen candidates. During the Students' Parliament the students elected Tereza Homolova on a two-year mandate and Seymur Ingilabli on a one-year mandate.

The participating students gave the event a rating of 9.16/10 in their final evaluation. The Students' Parliament also got a high rating on its "democracy and fairness", with an average rating of 9.45/10, where 1 is "not at all democratic and fair" while 10 is "very democratic and fair. This rating was the highest recorded for the BUP's students' parliament. [Read the event report from the Student Conference on the BUP website.](#)



The BUP Student Representatives that were elected at the conference. From the left, Tereza Homolova was elected to be a Student Representative on the BUP International Board for two years and Seymur Ingilabli was elected to be a Student Representative for one year.

Photo: Pontus Ambros

"Having the opportunity to discuss relevant topics and problems with likeminded students is a massive motivation boost to keep on working for a better region."

Quote from Johanna Liisa Järveläinen, one of the students that took part in the conference.



Students, teachers and staff after successfully completing the conference. The photo is taken in the park Almedalen in Visby, Gotland, Sweden.

Photo: Pontus Ambros



lida Pyykkö, together with Leonie Paul, held the presentation Food & tourism on Gotland which was voted the best part of the academic program of the conference.

Photo: Pontus Ambros



Students listening to Margareta Hoas, farmer and owner of Lilla Bjers organic farm outside Visby. The participants took part in guided tour, showing the practical application of an organic and local food production.

Photo: Johanna Liisa Järveläinen / Liis Seenemaa



Former BUP Student Representative Ellen Chkhitadze, who stepped down after an extended mandate of three years due to the pandemic, led the Students' Parliament during the conference.

Photo: Pontus Ambros

BUP Master Thesis Training

For the first time ever, The BUP Coordinating Secretariat hosted the Master Thesis Training in April 2022. The training is an opportunity for master students to receive supervision from an expert. Moreover, it provides an opportunity to get feedback from and build connections with other students in the region and become better acquainted with other academic perspectives in an interdisciplinary and intercultural environment.

The training took place at Uppsala University during 11-14 April 2022. For the Master Thesis Training 13 students were accepted and they received supervision from 6 experts from BUP participating universities. During the planning of the event, the BUP Coordinating Secretariat took inspiration from similar events and focused on creating an interdisciplinary learning experience for the students. The training is aimed toward master's students at participating universities but it can also be an opportunity for the participating supervisors to learn and grow in their roles.

The participating students evaluated the event afterwards and they agreed that the training was helpful in terms of improving their thesis. Many of them truly appreciated the one-on-one time that they had with their supervisor. The possibility to discuss their thesis with students working within the same field was something else that was highly appreciated. The training was an event that helped many of the participating students to clarify and specify their research questions and focuses. Getting to present their work and listen to other master's students presenting their thesis was very helpful for the students.

Some of the students expressed that they would have wanted more time to discuss their work, as well as to ask and answer questions about their thesis. The event could also have been scheduled earlier during the semester according to some students, for others it came at the exact right time. Some students expressed that it could have been beneficial to be sorted into groups where everyone was at the same stage in the thesis work, as the progress level varied between the students.

The students gave the event a 9/10 overall rating and the supervisors gave the event a 9.75/10 overall rating. All of the students thought that the event was helpful in terms of improving their thesis and all of the supervisors were interested in being invited to future BUP events.

[Read the event report from the Master Thesis Training on the BUP website.](#)



Some of the students that took part in the BUP Master Thesis Training. Here pictured in the Linnaean Gardens of Uppsala during an excursion in Uppsala during the event.

Photo: Emma Stockvall Carlsson

”It was a learning opportunity as well as the best environment to get inspired, and exchange ideas and theories. It allowed me to widen my knowledge about recent academic perspectives on sustainability in an interdisciplinary and intercultural setting.”

Quote from Ghada Shaaban, one of the students that took part in the Master Thesis Training.



The students were divided into smaller groups according to the theme of their master thesis. The students and experts held group discussions during the training.

Photo: Emma Stockvall Carlsson



Each student had a one on one session with and received individual feedback on their master thesis from a supervisor from a participating university.

Photo: Emma Stockvall Carlsson



Emma Stockvall Carlsson, former BUP Project Administrator, and Madeleine Granvik, BUP Director, opened the first BUP Master Thesis Training.

Photo: Adam Söderberg



Each master student gave an initial presentation of their master thesis. Pictured is Oscar Brennecke-Dunn, one of the participating master students.

Photo: Emma Stockvall Carlsson

BUP Student Representatives and Student Ambassadors

Within the BUP there are many active students. Two important student roles are the Student Representatives and Student Ambassadors. The Student Representatives are elected by the BUP Students' Parliament and represent the students on the BUP International Board. The Student Ambassadors promote the BUP at their home universities and take part in planning and developing events, communication and research visibility within the BUP.

Student Representatives

The Student Representatives are elected by democratic vote in the Student Parliament, which is held during the student conference. Being a Student Representative is a two-year commitment where one Student Representative is elected during each student conference. During their mandate the representatives are to:

- Attend board meetings representing the BUP students (twice a year)
- Report from the student activities to the BUP International Board
- Attend and take part in the organization of student activities (conferences, summer courses, etc.)
- Actively work to promote the BUP and BUP activities in the region
- Organise the Students' Parliament
- Be a contact person for BUP students
- Actively participate and support the BUP Student Ambassadors program (with the help of the BUP's coordinating secretariat)

Student Ambassadors

All students at BUP participating universities can apply to become a BUP Student Ambassador each semester. The past year was the first full year that the BUP have had Student Ambassadors. The role of the Student Ambassadors is to cooperate with the participating universities to serve as a contact person between their home university and its students and the BUP Coordinating Secretariat in Uppsala as well as the National Centre.

The Baltic University Programme aims to develop its communication and co-operation with each of its participating universities all over the Baltic Sea Region. Our primary communication path beside the BUP contact persons or coordinating staff at each participating university is through our BUP Student Ambassadors.



During the yearly BUP student conference the participating students elect one BUP Student Representative. During the 2022 conference the students also learned more about the role as a BUP Student Ambassador. A few of the Student Ambassadors during autumn 2022 had participated in the student conference.

Photo: Pontus Ambros

There are three different profiles that the students can choose to be engaged in, the social media group, the research communication group, and the event group. In each group the students get to work closer with other students that share their interests and work together in an international context to promote the BUP.

During 2022 the Student Ambassadors have, among many things, contributed to our work with the BUP Research Notes Letter, our event reports, a BUP participating university sustainability report, material for social media such as an introduction video to the BUP as well as ideas and suggestions for improvements to our events.

The Student Ambassadors are an important asset when it comes to contributing before and during events. In 2022 there were Student Ambassadors that documented and reported from the BUP student conference, mainly via the BUP Student Instagram but also by contributing to the event report from the conference. BUP Student Ambassadors were also a vital part of the conference team during the BUP Rectors' Conference 2022, making sure that all parts of the event ran smoothly.



The Students' Parliament during the student conference 2022 was introduced by the former Student Representative Ellen Chkhitadze.

Photo: Johanna Liisa Järveläinen / Liis Seenemaa



The Student Ambassadors in the social media group worked together with the Coordinating Secretariat to create an introduction video that aims towards answering the question "What is The Baltic University Programme?". The video is created to be shared at participating universities and to give scholars and students an introduction to what the BUP work with and can offer them.



The Student Ambassadors in the research communication group worked to gather recent research from BUP participating universities to present in the second issue of the Research Notes Letter published in 2022.

BUP PhD Students Training

The objective of the training is to give PhD students from BUP participating universities the possibility to meet and discuss scientific problems with a focus on sustainable development in an interdisciplinary, international, multicultural, and regional context. The students also get individual consultancy of their PhD work from international experts.

The training was arranged by the BUP National Centre in Poland and BUP's Associated Secretariat at the Lodz University of Technology. The 2022 PhD Students Training took place 23-27 November 2022 at Lodz University of Technology, Lodz in Poland.

This international training aims to enrich the students' own perspectives on sustainable development with experiences and perspectives from other disciplines and other countries. The training serves as a platform for the development of a common understanding of the regional problematic and open avenues for future co-operation 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 training admitted 17 PhD students from ten BUP participating universities in Germany, Poland, Latvia, Estonia and Ukraine. During the event 14 experts participated.

The PhD students appreciated the interactions with other students and the meetings with and feedback from experts. Many of the students will bring with them knowledge regarding how to give a research presentation as well as all the new contacts that they have made.

The experts felt that the students were receptive to feedback and input and that they were able to make a positive contribution to the students work. All of the experts would you like to be invited to take part in future BUP activities.

The PhD students gave the event a 9.8/10 overall rating and the experts gave the event a 9.1/10 overall rating. Regarding possible developments the experts thought that the students should be given more time to interact with each expert and that the students should have more time to interact with each other. Some experts would like to see developments in the PhD Students Training in terms of substance (sustainability), learning for the students and the students' selection process. Some students thought that the event would have been more helpful if they had participated at an earlier stage in their studies

[Read the event report on the BUP website.](#)



Students and experts that took part in the BUP PhD Students Training. Here pictured during the Design Thinking session.

Photo: Krzysztof Ciesielski

”The best part of the training, except for new friendships, was that, even though most the students represented different disciplines, we were able to share our insightful thoughts on each other’s research.”

Quote from Adrian Gaweda, one of the students that took part in the PhD Students Training.

BUP PhD workshop

In this two-day international event 26 PhD candidates from BUP participating universities were given opportunities to learn about research and engage in discussion. The PhD students gathered in the name of the BUP objectives to support the key role that universities play in a democratic, peaceful and sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.

On 6-7 October 2022, The Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEES), Södertörn University, Stockholm, organized and hosted the BUP workshop for Doctoral Students called “Societies, Cultures, Critical Theories”. One of the main aims of the workshop was to support collaboration between BUP participating universities, to underline the important role of humanities and social studies within the BUP objectives, as well as to encourage interdisciplinary discussions.

The event included seven panel sessions with three-four presenters in each panel, followed by comments and questions. At the end of the second day, a session was dedicated to presenting the academic journal *Baltic Worlds* and to discuss publishing possibilities with the Editor in Chief, after which there was a concluding discussion where the participants brainstormed about ideas of strengthening the existing collaborations, as well as building future ones.

Each presenter also acted as a discussant for another presentation in the same panel, given pre-prepared feedback to the assigned presentation. This, more special aspect of the workshop, assured the academically fruitful yet friendly character of the discussions, and, together with socialising evening-events, such as dinner and a walk in downtown Stockholm, created a particularly open and cordial atmosphere during the whole workshop.



During the workshop the PhD students gave presentations of their work, followed by comments and questions.

Drawing: Olena Ronzhos



Some of the students that were unable to travel to Stockholm attended online and gave their presentations that way.

Drawing: Olena Ronzhos



As a part of the workshop the participants brainstormed about ideas of strengthening the existing collaborations, as well as building future ones.

Drawing: Olena Ronzhos

”The array of topics and the range of fields of studies were far beyond my expectations. Together with the other participants I also recognized the value of such multidisciplinary scientific gatherings for the sake of extending our research horizons.”

Quote from Iryna Pinich, one of the students that took part in the PhD workshop.

[Read the event report from the BUP PhD workshop on the BUP website.](#)

BUP organisation



The Baltic University Programme is coordinated by The BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University, Sweden. Moreover, three BUP Associated Secretariats in Finland, Germany and Poland have specialised tasks. The BUP National Centres deal with the network coordination and student interaction in each BUP country. The long term development and the strategy of the BUP is attended to by the BUP International Board.

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Organisational structure

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The National Centres

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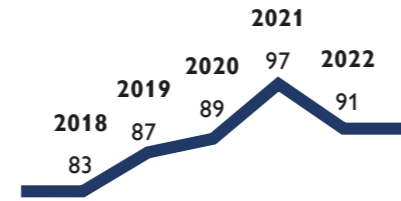
BUP communication

Participating universities

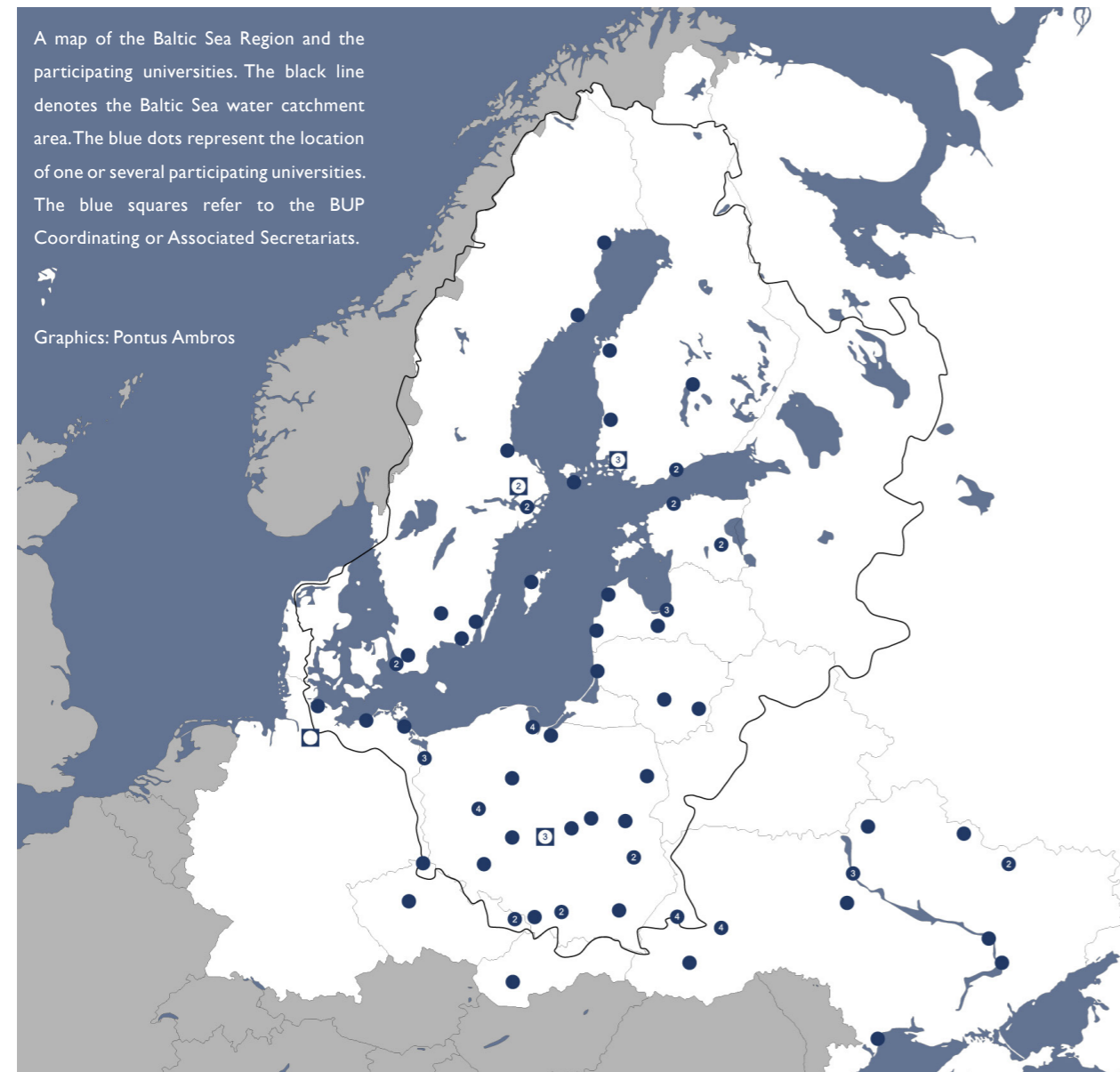
All participating universities have signed an inter-university agreement to be a part of the BUP. At the end of 2021 we had 91 participating universities within the BUP.

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.

Due to the war in Ukraine we no longer have any participating universities in Russia and Belarus. This has led to a decrease of 12 universities in our total number of participating universities. During the rest of 2022 we gained 6 new participating universities. We had the highest number of participating universities in Poland, 29 universities. Ukraine is the country where we gained the most new participating universities, 3 in total.



The drop in the total participating universities came after all contracts and contact with Russian and Belarusian universities was terminated. However, we are already on our way back with 6 new participating universities that joined during 2022.



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).



The BUP organisational structure.

The BUP International Board 2022

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.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Chair of the board
Olle Jansson, Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor
<i>Uppsala University, Sweden</i> | Magdalena Kuchler, Associate Senior Lecturer
<i>Uppsala University, Sweden</i> |
| Vice Chair of the board
Ireneusz Zbicinski, Prof.
<i>Lodz University of Technology, Lodz, Poland</i> | Eva Friman, Adjunct Prof.
<i>Director SWEDESD, Uppsala University</i> |
| Tapio Salmi, Prof.
<i>Åbo Akademi University, Finland</i> | Joakim Ekman, Prof.
<i>Södertörn University, Sweden</i> |
| Walter Leal, Prof.
<i>Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany</i> | Petra Wallberg, community representative
<i>Svenskt Vatten, Sweden</i> |
| Hele Kiimann, Affiliated researcher
<i>IREs, Uppsala University, Sweden</i> | Student representatives
Tereza Homolova
<i>University of Ostrava, Czech Republic</i> |
| | Seymur Ingilabli
<i>University of Lodz, Poland</i> |

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 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 deals 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 deals with the organisation of network wide courses and conferences. It is the main organiser of the BUP PhD Student Training. 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's core mission is the professional development of university teachers and it works mainly within the theme Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). 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 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.

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 and seeks new ways of strengthening the scientific impact of Programme participants.



Director
Madeleine Granvik
PhD, Assoc. Prof.

Responsible for individual projects, such as Digital at Home and RESCUU, and represents a key figure in the practical running of the organisation, which includes inviting and welcoming new universities, economic matters, ensuring networking and strong levels of overall contact with the Programme's participating universities.



Project Coordinator
Lyudmyla Babak
MA

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.



Project Administrator
Pontus Ambros
MSc

Works with coordinating new courses for the BUP Course Platform and with the BUP Master Thesis Training. Responsible for the BUP Student Ambassadors, Supervisor Collegium as well as the projects Quality Assurance at participating universities and Sustainability at participating universities.



Project Administrator
Evan Goss
MSS

Focused primarily on coordinating projects, activities and courses together with colleagues from participating universities. Was also responsible for the Student Ambassadors during spring 2022 and co-organised the 2022 BUP student conference together with Pontus.



Former Project Administrator
Emma Stockvall Carlsson
MSc

Maintains the presence of the BUP in social media and, among other things, edits the newsletter BUP Weekly, Research Notes Letter, Annual Report as well as being responsible for the BUP Student Ambassadors. Takes care of the issue of informational and promotional material.



Communications Officer
Adam Söderberg
BA

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 benefit 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 2022



Czech Republic
Ivana Adamiková
University of
Ostrava



Estonia
Tiina Elvisto
Tallinn University



Finland
Cecilia Lundberg
Åbo Akademi
University



Germany
Jakob Hildebrandt
Zittau/Görlitz
University of
Applied Sciences



Latvia
Juris Iljins
Riga Technical
University



Lithuania
Visvaldas
Varzinskas
Kaunas University
of Technology



Poland
Ireneusz Zbicinski
Lodz University of
Technology



Slovakia
Barbora Cakovská
Slovak University
of Agriculture in
Nitra



Sweden
Joakim Ekman
Södertörn
University



Ukraine
Iryna Kriba
Ivan Franko
National
University of Lviv

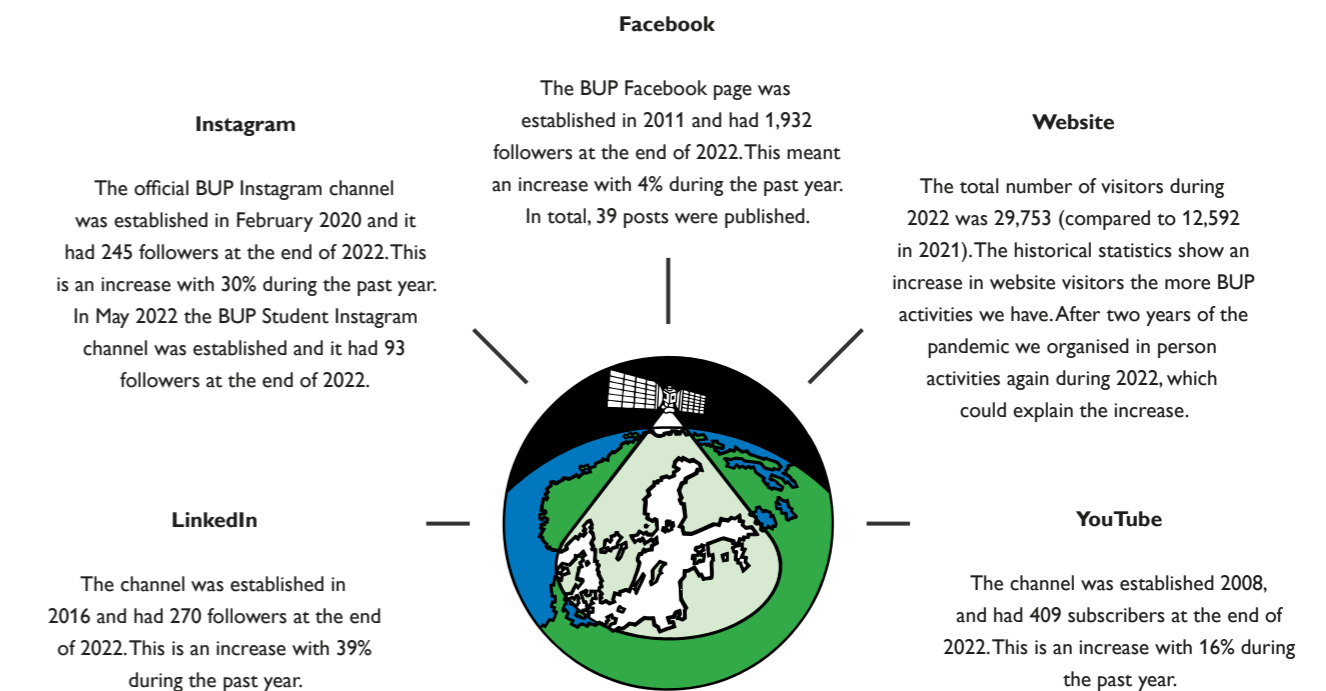
BUP communication

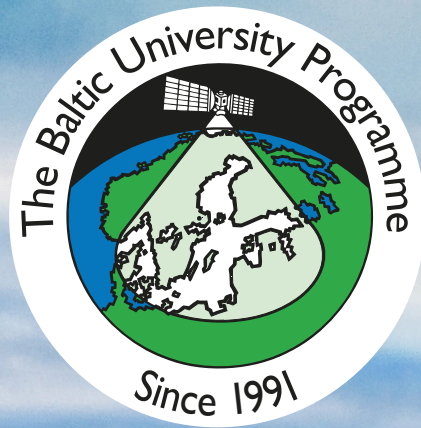
One big advantage of an organisation like the BUP is the possibility to reach and cooperate with a large number of people with diverse backgrounds and facilitate their networking and communication. The Programme's growing impact and reach affirms that we can accomplish great things in relation to the ten BUP themes and sustainable development in general.

In the past year 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, BUP Weekly and our Annual Report 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 603 subscribers (an increase with 1% during the past year), and the generic list has 2620 subscribers (an increase with 4% during the past year) at the end of 2022. We never add e-mail addresses to our lists without consent.

Communication material that was published during 2021 comprised of: 21 issues of the BUP Weekly, two issues of the Research Notes Letter and the 2021 Annual Report. The BUP Weekly included the latest news as well as upcoming activities and calls. The Research Notes Letter highlighted recent research by colleagues at our participating universities, within our 10 BUP themes and the Baltic Sea Region as a context.





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UNIVERSITET