



The Baltic University Programme

Newsletter

Issue #65, October 2021

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2021 – A flying start for the new BUP Strategy 2021-2025

The 30th anniversary of the BUP is drawing to a close, as we approach the end of this year. What a year it has been at the BUP! Our Space Bridge 2.0 series has proved a worthy addition to the BUP calendar and has allowed us to present a range of interesting and uniquely regional perspectives on sustainability in the Baltic Sea region (BSR). No doubt our increasingly adept online skills as a result of the pandemic have boosted their success! The Space Bridge series was one of the main platforms and early successes of the BUP during its infancy and so I hope that we have been able to present relevant and updated topics that have contributed to a continual enhancement of knowledge and research in our region.

The BUP Strategy for 2021-2025 and the Action Plan 2021 have been launched in earnest and contains goals and actions on how to support academic co-operations regarding sustainability at/and between the 96 BUP participating universities in the 12 countries in the Baltic Sea region (BSR). We aim to provide up-to-date information on sustainability and education for sustainable development (ESD) and support activities that promote inter-, multi- and trans disciplinary co-operations in education and research, amongst others. These goals crystallise themselves in the activities that we have included in our Action Plan. This year is an extraordinary year, with several new exciting projects and platforms being under development which are about to be implemented.

Supporting university teachers is one of the key goals in the strategy. At the coordinating secretariat we are busy in developing a new opportunity: The BUP Course/Module Platform. It contains 15 online courses, related to the BUP 10 Themes, which are under development. Our team of E-tutors are supporting the transformation to online education. The courses, modules and content that will be available on the platform will be open for university teachers and students. To mention some of the courses that are under development: 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; Teaching online – Techniques, tools and skills for the online classroom; Internationalization – virtual exchange. We look forward to uploading the first courses with start times in January 2022.

Students can look forward with excitement at the upcoming activities that are planned. Developing different forms of student activities, increasingly involving students in both the preparation of courses and running of conferences as well as further supporting students with mobility and internships are the key ethos of the BUP. Events such as the Students Conference and PhD award will all continue. Student representatives and their parliament is now more dynamic since we launched the BUP Student Ambassadors. We have applied for external grants to be able to run a summer school 2022, Science and Sail. If successful, we will announce this in a coming BUP Weekly and invite students to register. A new project that we are very pleased to launch is the Master's Thesis Training. This event will culminate in a physical inter disciplinary and inter cultural meeting in Riga next year. The main aim is to support Master's students working with their thesis from a sustainability and BSR perspective, by giving them the opportunity for supervision from other staff at BUP participating universities, as well as having feedback from other students in the region.

Continuing the support we give to researchers remains paramount. We are aiming to evolve our network and arrange further scientific events. This includes the BUP Symposium and Space Bridge 2.0 series but also new additional opportunities such as the BUP Supervisor Collegium which is now launched. Co-supervision is interesting in a multi- and inter disciplinary perspective when conducting research in the field of sustainability. PhD students and Master students can benefit from supervision of staff at BUP participating universities. The research output of the BUP is perpetually strong as demonstrated by many interesting articles and posters at the recent and previous BUP Symposium. 2021 Furthermore, we are hosting special issues in scientific journals and books and are welcoming researchers to submit their research papers.

Furthermore, a new BUP platform on Quality Assurance (QA) has begun. Both internal and external quality assurance systems have proliferated globally and ensuring the quality of education is becoming a key priority. In response to this, the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Riga Technical University and the BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University are pleased to launch and begin a BUP platform for Quality Assurance. With this project, we aim to support the development of QA systems, contribute in promoting educational quality cultures and provide opportunities for sharing best practices amongst colleagues at the BUP Participating Universities by offering a seminar series.

As this 30-year anniversary concludes, it is important to look back but also look to the future. The values that were established 30 years ago remain much the same, although the society has changed. Key tenets such as supporting cooperation, fostering internationalisation and providing events and opportunities for students, academic teachers and researchers all remain important focuses for the BUP and they will continue to be. Through these, I truly believe that BUP will continue to be one of the biggest and most sustainable - over time - university co-operations in the world! Current with 96 participating universities. Fantastic!

I truly believe with a new BUP Strategy 2021-2025 and the benefits of our programme at our disposal that the BUP is heading into the upcoming years strongly. The newly planned projects are designed together with and for colleagues and students at our Participating Universities. The BUP is all about internationalisation in *practice*. One of the key issues in realising the *practice*, is the way we work and co-operate. The BUP working model has been developed from the start in 1991. A way of having inter disciplinary and intercultural TEAMS of colleagues from the participating universities to work in co-operation. Colleagues from different disciplines and academic cultures can contribute with their knowledge in developing courses, course material, running projects as well as conducting research - in COOPERATION.

You, as BUP colleagues and students are welcome to contribute with your ideas and knowledge in designing our common BUP future! And do consider to register for one or several of these opportunities, all are possibilities for you to get engaged in the BUP in *practice*:

Research profiles: We invite you to have your research profile information published at the BUP web page: <https://doit.medfarm.uu.se/bin/kurt3/kurt/23389>

Supervisor Collegium: A new BUP initiative to bring together colleagues from our region and allocate them a Master's or PhD student for supervision. A win-win situation. To get involved please contact emma.stockvall@balticuniv.uu.se. More information is available on our web page: <https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/news-new/2021/?tarContentId=974182>

Research Notes Letter: Abstracts and a link to the full paper on recent publications relating to the Baltic Sea region and our ten BUP Themes are published. We promote research from our Participating Universities. You are welcome to submit your contribution in this form: <https://doit.medfarm.uu.se/bin/kurt3/kurt/23144>

Student Ambassador: Are you interested in learning more about or potentially becoming a student ambassador? More information is available on the BUP web page: <https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/news-new/2021/?tarContentId=974182>

Book of BUP stories: In celebrating 30 years of our existence we intend to publish a book of BUP stories. Some stories can already be found on the web page and you are most welcome to contribute with your story. <https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/activities/bup-30-years/Book+of+BUP+stories/examples-of-stories/>

BUP Course/Module Platform: If you are interested in knowing more about this and the possibility to contribute to developing courses and modules, do contact Madeleine.Granvik@balticuniversity.uu.se

Special issue in scientific journal: submit your full paper to the special issue "Challenges and Possibilities for Sustainable Development in a Baltic Sea Region context – 2021" to be published in the journal Sustainability. Detailed information about the special issue on the Sustainability web page.



Madeleine Granvik
Director, Associate Professor

BUP Symposium 2021

The symposium
web page.



With the Baltic Sea region as an empirical starting point, this year's symposium covered many interesting topics within the ten BUP themes. 38 researchers gave oral presentations, and in addition to this, 6 authors of posters presented their findings during the panels. They were all chosen to be included by the scientific committees that read and evaluated the submissions.

Thank you researchers who presented research, and to you who attended as listeners at the Symposium. The presenters demonstrated evidence of 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 region. Research culture is a hazy concept, which includes the way we evaluate, support and reward quality in research as well as how we define quality. The Symposium is an example of the importance of bringing together scientific knowledge from different disciplines and academic cultures, in working together and learning from each other.

Our two keynote speakers began the Symposium with very interesting presentations, offering the audience an insight of their research fields and results in a Baltic Sea region. context Magdalena Budziszewska, PhD, University of Warsaw, gave a presentation where she talked about how climate change is viewed as well as how it is emotionally and behaviourally handled by people. She suggested to further teach climate change education to create mitigation.

Anna Rutgersson, PhD, Professor at Uppsala University, gave a presentation that informed us about a meteorological perspective on climate change in the Baltic Sea region. She gave the listeners a scientific perspective on what natural hazards and extreme weather events can be expected in the future.

Both presentations gave a very good foundation for the remainder of the research presentations in the following theme panels. Both key notes can later be viewed on our youtube playlist "symposium 2021" (to be published in late November). Some of the research presentations are also going to be included in this playlist. The poster session is published on our web page.

In addition to the scientific keynote speeches, the Symposium audience had the opportunity to learn about two scientific networks. The network UniAdron was presented by their secretary General, Andrea Perna. The network ESSSR was presented by Franziska Wolf, their Executive Director. Both networks have thematic work in common with the BUP, but prioritise slightly different geographical areas.

The BUP Symposium 2021 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. In an ordinary "live" conference, this can be done by offering time and space to mingle. In an online conference however, networking and interaction is not as easy to facilitate. To adapt, we decided to leave space in the program for discussions and to encourage everyone involved to be active. When we look at the feedback given to us, this seems to have worked quite well.



Learning about current research in the Baltic Sea region, is a way of getting to

In short

- 19-20 October 2021
- on-line
- theme sessions
- publishing opportunities
- no fee

Digital at home: new steps in internationalization of education

- a BUP project taking shape

The pandemic has thrust education and in particular digital education into the spotlight. These concepts are now more relevant than they ever have been. Evan Goss, intern at the BUP Coordinating Secretariat in Uppsala, sat down with project leader Lyudmyla Babak for an in-depth exploration of this project, its processes and the outcomes.

The pandemic has changed education as we know it. Online and digital education has become especially prominent. The adaptation by both teachers and students has been quick. However, as Lyudmyla comments travel difficulties have influenced international contact and cooperation. Under normal circumstances, only a small number of students and teachers have the opportunity for international exchange through mobility and exchange programs, especially in the countries of the EU Eastern Partnership. Lyudmyla continues:

This exchange has become even more problematic with the limitations resulting from the pandemic. This context provides important purpose for this project, by being able to foster international contact between students by using a Virtual Exchange tool, by which university education can be made evermore international, without the need to travel.

Half-way through the project and working solely online, Lyudmyla remarks that she has found this both interesting and challenging. Our colleagues are always enthusiastic and willing to contribute. "Much work has been done, but much is still ahead". Virtual exchange has been more complicated to achieve than was thought at the beginning. The BUP network though has proved to be invaluable. Much like other BUP projects, it brings in a clear and unique regional perspective that contributes to the project's content and work. Sharing research results, experiences and points of view, have always been a part of the BUP from its inception and it is no different with this project.

In terms of outcomes, Lyudmyla is clear in that she hopes more teachers and students will be able to participate in international exchanges over the Baltic Sea region from their own classrooms. This project will test the Virtual Exchange tool against two different courses on the Baltic Sea - one about climate change and one about the region's social and political development. Developing digitalised content for these courses is a crucial aim and one we hope to realise. Making this available for all BUP Participating Universities is a paramount goal and the BUP aim to deliver on this.

Supported by
SI. Swedish Institute

The partners will develop and apply a relevant methodology for internationalisation and virtualisation on the thematic areas of Climate Change and Baltic Sea Regional Studies. The partners work in international groups and use existing, or develop new digitalised content for the courses. The courses are then to be integrated in existing syllabi at their respective universities. Furthermore, a piloting of two semi-virtual courses and virtual exchange will be done by the partners. The courses will also be included in the BUP course/module platform that is under development. The project will result in a guidebook for on-line internationalised teaching, which will be spread among BUP participating universities.



Student conference 2021

Text by: Barbora Cakovska

The BUP's annual student conference was organised by The Baltic University Programme's coordinating secretariat at Uppsala University and the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. It took place as an online event, 4 - 5 May 2021.

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. Over sixty attendees from more than 12 countries participated in this event. They 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 such as, 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, were all included. The student conference also included a workshop titled "From idea to consumer". The workshop 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. Besides 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.

Each year, the students taking part in the BUP student conference have the chance to make their voices heard and select their new BUP student representatives to BUP's international board. Students accepted to the Student conference 2021, will automatically become members of the students' parliament, allowing them to vote, suggest proposals and run as a candidate as the BUP students' representative to the BUP's international board. The elected student representative is Shima Vahedi



Screenshot of Piotr Prus' lecture at the BUP Student conference 2021

QA Project

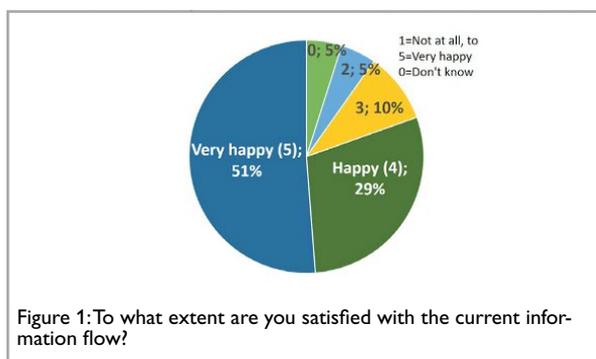
This autumn, the BUP is pleased to launch a new project with a focus on Quality Assurance (QA). This is being led by the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra and Riga Technical University alongside the BUP's coordinating secretariat at Uppsala University. Both internal and external QA systems have 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. To begin our project on QA, we have sent out a survey to all staff members/colleagues who are involved in QA at their respective educational institutions. We are hoping for a fruitful response to this survey.

After the results of the survey are assessed and collated, we are provisionally planning on holding a seminar series in which the results can be shared and discussions can be had amongst colleagues to share information to better improve QA systems. We truly believe that the BUP region can become a successful space for sharing information about QA and one that can foster the increasing development of QA. If you have received our survey, please take the time to complete it. For further information regarding the project, please feel free to email evan.goss@balticuniv.uu.se at the coordinating secretariat in Uppsala.

Report on the 2021 BUP Communication Survey

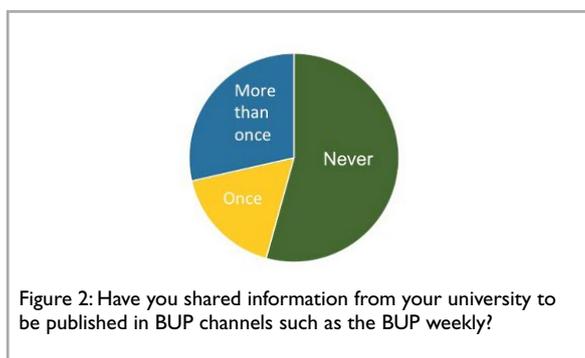
Earlier this year, the BUP Coordinating Secretariat in Uppsala launched a survey to all Participating Universities regarding communication. We were pleased to receive 41 responses from 10 different countries. A wide range of universities participated in the survey.

The purpose behind the survey was to give us a better understanding of how current BUP communication is being perceived, used and how it can be improved. We were most pleased to find out that over 80% of respondents would recommend becoming involved in the BUP to both their students and colleagues. Furthermore, 100% of responses would absolutely or potentially recommend becoming involved. This is a pleasing number, although naturally we will now strive to raise this figure, so that even more respondents would absolutely recommend becoming involved. We believe that the activities offered and strong research focused ethos of the BUP are testament and grounds for a strong recommendation of becoming involved in the BUP.



Moreover, in terms of the communication focused responses, over three quarters of respondents are either very happy or happy with the current information flow. Around 20% of results demonstrated that the current information flow is either satisfactory or less than satisfactory. The pie chart in Figure 1 summarises this. These results and findings are particularly useful for us at the BUP secretariat. This is our first attempt to gauge perceptions of our communication strategy and we are most committed to improving this. At the secretariat we are actively discussing our communication strategy so that more of you can be very happy with our information flow.

The survey was not only focused on communication directly with the BUP secretariat, it also explored the dissemination of BUP information in the channels of our Participating Universities. We were pleased to discover that BUP information is being forwarded more than it is not, although, almost one third of BUP information is either seldom or never being forwarded on. Furthermore, information was clearly being forwarded more to staff than students. This is somewhat disappointing for us to discover, as students are as much part of the BUP network as staff and colleagues. This said, we are completely committed to improving our communication to be more attractive for students so that our



engagement with them can be increased. An important part of this is the work we are doing together with the BUP Student Ambassadors.

A final important point that we would like to highlight, regards sharing information from our Participating Universities in official BUP channels. Over half of responses showed that particular universities have never shared anything in BUP channels. Just over a quarter, had shared information more than once.

The Participating Universities are the heart of the BUP and we are more than happy to share information about your universities. Please, do not hesitate to send us news and information, we want to celebrate and promote your universities! Thanks to all who filled in the survey. We are most thankful for it. The information is most useful for us at the secretariat and we aim to improve our communication strategies from it.

BUP workshop at the EUSBSR Annual Forum

The BUP held a workshop with the title “Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Curriculum” during the annual forum of “The EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region” (EUSBSR). The workshop was an effort to meet the need for educating students and civil society in regards to climate change, risks and solutions.

During the workshop, we presented how the BUP treats this issue and highlighted the BUP project Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Curriculum (BSRCCC) to academicians, decision makers and the broad public. At the same time, this was an opportunity to hear the views of the audience.

The BSRCCC-project has brought together several researchers with different backgrounds and expertise, in order to be able to present pedagogical material that is truly holistic. Assembling the skills of the 30 researchers and teachers involved in the BSRCCC-project, the outcome of the project is now step by step being published. The project partners have developed a scientifically backed and regionally based climate change course module, free for any academic institution, organisation or person to download and use. The workshop at the EUSBSR Annual Forum was another effort to reach out and demonstrate our new material.



Screenshot from the workshop

The workshop included several presentations, Q&A and panel discussion and comments from the audience. Pontus Ambros coordinated the BUP presence at the workshop and tells us that:

- The workshop went very well despite some minor technical difficulties with the online platform at the beginning. It resulted in a very nice dialogue in regards to climate change education in the region and we got to share the results from the BSRCCC project.

Can the readers of the BUP Newsletter take part of the workshop in any way?

- The plan of the organiser is to publish a video from the workshop on their youtube-channel sometime before year ends.

Where can the pedagogical material developed in the BSRCCC-project be found?

- The pedagogical material can be found alongside the other BUP MOOC courses on a special platform. It will soon be made available both via a link on the BUP web page but also directly on the platform. Hopefully it will be published and available around Christmas, so the perfect Christmas gift!

The BUP workshop was held 29 September 2021

Representing the BSRCCC-project were:

- Pontus Ambros, Project Assistant, The Baltic University Programme (presenting “Teaching sustainability and climate change online, an educational format for the pandemic and beyond”)
- Prof. Linas Kliučininkas, Kaunas University of Technology, Kaunas, Lithuania (presenting “The current state of climate change in the Baltic Sea Region”)
- Prof. Aiste Balžekienė, Kaunas University of Technology, Kaunas, Lithuania (presenting “Indifferent observers or agents of change? Public attitudes to climate crisis in Europe and Baltic Sea Region”)
- Prof. Audrone Telesiene, Kaunas University of Technology, Kaunas, Lithuania (presenting “Communicating Climate Change Impacts in the Baltic Sea Region”)

Looking for *more* BUP student ambassadors

The student ambassador program aims to recruit students from BUP Participating Universities to promote the programme at their home university and assist the local BUP staff in their work. The idea is to create a network with engaged students, that support the programme and recruit new students to courses, conferences and other events.

In the spring of 2020, the BUP originally intended to kick-off the BUP student ambassador program. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the start was slightly postponed as, we couldn't have the events where this program was planned to be promoted. Instead, the BUP communication channels such as the BUP Newsletter, the BUP Weekly, social media and web page were used to publish the call for students that would like to be a BUP student ambassador.

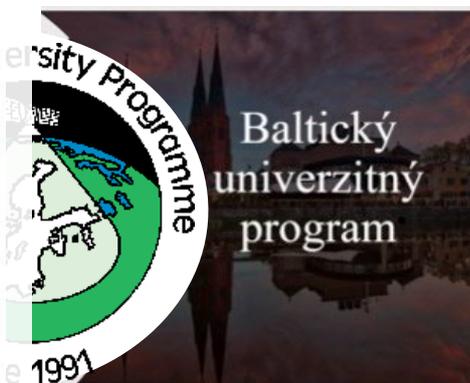
There are currently 16 student ambassadors from 10 BUP Participating Universities. They actively promote the BUP and the upcoming events at their home universities and their home countries. Some students have, for example, started social media channels in order to achieve this task. Below is an example of how the Slovak student representatives work. The Student Ambassadors are also helping in spreading a student survey aimed at collecting the students' values and experiences on sustainability. This way, we hope to reach as many students as possible and to receive many answers and to better understand sustainability at universities from a student perspective. All student ambassadors keep in touch and support each other in regular meetings.

We are looking for passionate BUP students, that would like to become a part of the group and work as a BUP student ambassador. Would like to be our ambassador? Do you know of any student that would be great as a BUP student

We are looking for passionate BUP students, that would be interested in promoting the programme and our events at their home university. Other assignments could include assisting the local BUP staff. The idea is to create a network with engaged students, that can support the programme and recruit new students to courses, conferences and other academic events.

[Link to student survey](#)

Welcome to our new Instagram account!



Ambassadors from the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra – Simona and Marina warmly welcome you on their Instagram profile – @bupslovakia. You can look forward to a lot of new information about Baltic University Programme (BUP) events and activities and many interesting posts regarding the environment and sustainable development. On our IG profile @bupslovakia, you can find the newest updates on Space Bridges, conferences organized by BUP, and general information on the BUP themes, which include relevant information on the circular economy, climate change, sustainable food systems, mobility, tourism, societies and others. These themes are focused both on the European and national levels. In recent weeks, we have gained

many new followers and are enjoying interest from university students. So, you are welcome to join us on this online platform.

Greetings from Marina & Simona @bupslovakia: <https://www.instagram.com/bupslovakia/>

BUP courses and material being developed and released

Intern Evan Goss sat down with BUP director Madeleine Granvik where we discussed the ongoing commitment of BUP participants to develop courses, how students and colleagues can benefit from this.

"We at the BUP have always been working with the development of courses since the very beginning" says Madeleine Granvik, director of the BUP and based at the Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University. One of the key missions of the BUP has been the creation of courses from different academic disciplines with both theoretical and practical focuses.

However, as Madeleine discusses, for the last 10 years this has not been the case.

-We stopped, she notes. But at the last rectors conference in Åbo, it was shown an interest of having the course material updated and that there was still a strong relevance for BUP courses, with a focus on sustainability in a Baltic Sea region context.

This has paved the way for a focus on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). In response to a question about whether the pandemic helped or hindered the development of these MOOCs, Madeleine is clear that it was a catalyst that forced the BUP to really give priority to this project.

The BUP has always had a productive and unique method of developing courses and course and educational material and this is no different for these courses. The aim is always to try and work in teams of colleagues from different disciplines and Participating Universities. Madeleine notes:



Madeleine Granvik
Director, Associate Professor

- At best, we have a team consisting of researchers from at least some of the 12 countries, from different Participating Universities, and representing different disciplines. This helps colleagues to learn different academic cultures but also enriches the course material developed.

The BUP MOOCs are expected to enhance what students and universities have access to. Madeleine also notes that there is considerable potential stemming from these courses for common seminars and lectures. A strong interdisciplinary focus has always been a central tenet of the BUP's work and looks to be continuing with these courses.

To conclude, Evan asked Madeleine about her interest in sustainable food systems and the equivalent MOOC that it being developed.

-What we are about to develop is a BUP Course/Module Platform, where all courses/modules are designed and offered as massive open online courses (MOOCs). This means that they are offered independent in time and room, as full distance courses - the student/teacher is able to take the course whenever. The idea is that out from the material developed for each MOOC course, we are able to develop more advanced courses as well - to be able to give the student credits - by adding material, assignments, seminars etc. These initiatives must then be taken from each BUP Participating Universities. We will also promote virtual exchange when running such courses. So far there are 15 courses under development, soon ready for you to use! Some examples: 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, The Baltic Sea Environment – Challenges and Solutions, to mention some. More to come.

National meetings

During 2020, the Coordinating Secretariat in Cooperation with the National Centres has organised a National meeting in each of the BUP countries. These meetings had several goals to address, one of them was to learn about information and communication flow at the respective universities and within the network. We believe that for each university to get the most out of being a part of the BUP, it is crucial not only to receive information from us but also to spread it further to potentially interested recipients – students and academic staff. Therefore, communication is of great importance.

Another goal was to update the representatives from the Participating Universities about the work of the BUP. Since several years back the BUP went through changes in our structure and approaches to work. Also, from this year we have adopted a new strategy and an action plan. Many new initiatives and several projects are ahead.

Last but not least, it was a real pleasure to meet colleagues in the region. The pandemic has limited the possibility for conferences and workshops where people could meet and socialise, gain personal contacts, learn more about each other and therefore have better cooperation. Online meetings could not substitute face-to-face ones but still required to keep the network together.

During the National meetings, we were also able to discuss possible common projects and share ideas on cooperation.

New BUP Participating Universities

The Admiral Makarov State University of Maritime and Inland Shipping is located in St Petersburg, Russia. The university traces its origin back to the nautical classes of the St Petersburg yacht club first held in 1876. It was reorganised in 2012 into its current university form. The university also has branches across Russia including in Arkhangelsk, Petrozavodsk and Pechora. Specialist focus areas include shipbuilding, navigation, the development of ports and exploration of sea routes. A good amount of research is conducted on the training sailing ship Mir which the university owns. The ship is well respected and has won a number of competitions. International cooperation is valued highly at this university. Collaboration is currently being carried out with a number of organisations including the Sailing Training Association, Association of Maritime Universities and the Marine Lecturers Association.



New BUP Participating Universities, *continued*

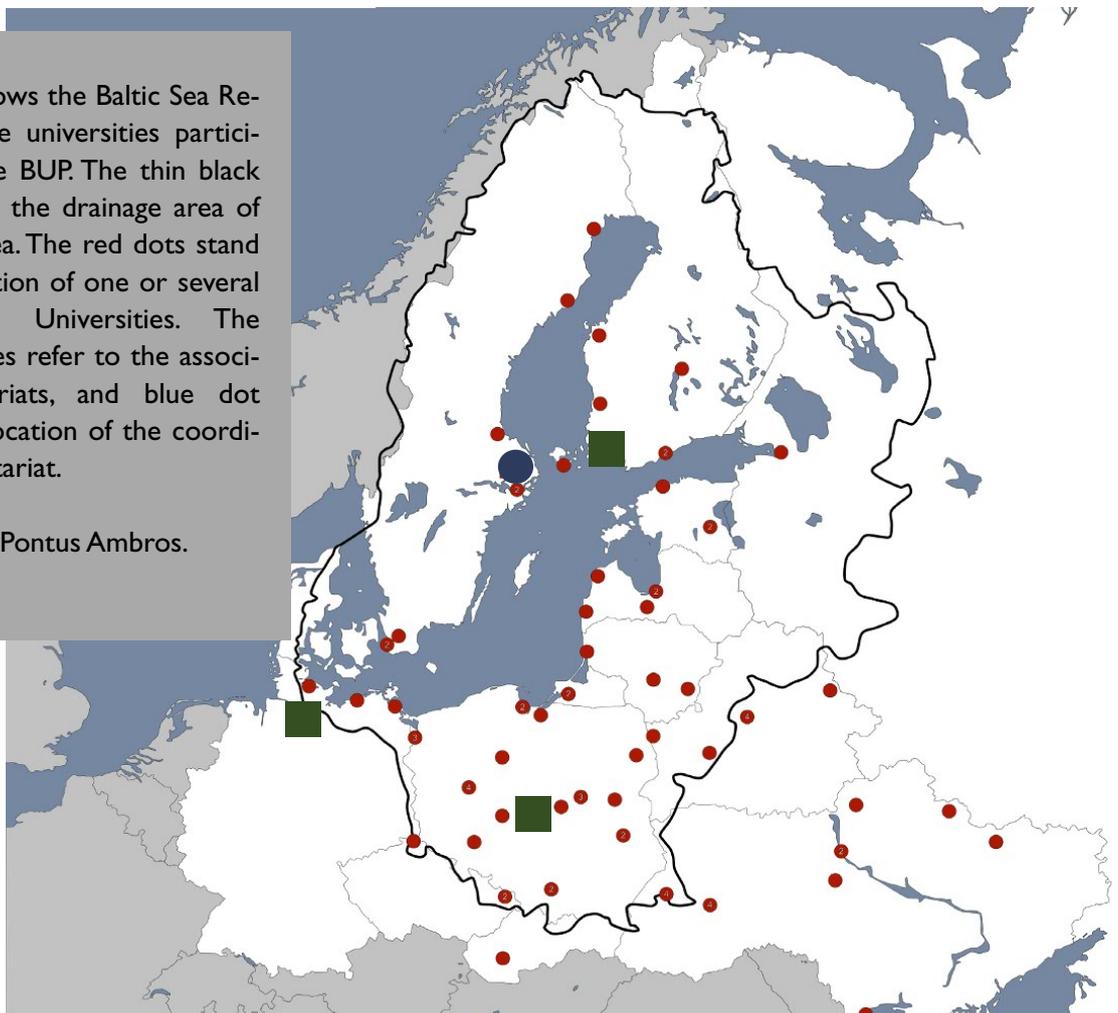
Blekinge Institute of Technology is located in both Karlskrona and Karlshamn with two spacious, coastal campus sites. It has just under 6,000 students. A distinctive focus is placed on both the digitalisation of society and sustainability. As part of its mission, the institute looks to contribute to a more sustainable development through higher education, research and innovation. Broad external engagement with society and public and private sectors are prioritised. Research is also a central tenet of the institute's activities. One third of all activities are research oriented and the institute has ambitions to increase this proportion further. Much of the research is interdisciplinary in nature and the closeness between staff, students and researchers further accentuates the research production. The institute's Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development (FSSD) has been widely praised by many evaluators.



The BUP map

The map shows the Baltic Sea Region and the universities participating in the BUP. The thin black line denotes the drainage area of the Baltic Sea. The red dots stand for the location of one or several Participating Universities. The green squares refer to the associate secretariats, and blue dot marks the location of the coordinating secretariat.

Graphics by Pontus Ambros.



Research profiles for a thriving BUP network

One of the main aims of The Baltic University Programme is to promote strong regional and interdisciplinary research communities in the fields of sustainable development. It is also about leading to more visibility and cooperation among researchers. We do so in several ways by:

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

One way to lead to more visibility and to make networking easier among researchers in the Baltic University Programme, is to present researchers on our web site. This is done by short presentations of individual researchers. As a fellow researcher you are welcome to join the network of BUP researchers. This is of course, free of charge! There is room for many more, so take this opportunity to join the BUP researcher network by filling out the Researcher Presentation Form. Besides information, a photo of yourself is required, preferably in the jpg-format. You can, of course, at any time ask us to unpublish your information.

Have something to share?

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

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

The BUP Mailing-list

The BUP mailing-list (balticuniversity@lists.uu.se) has about 2,500 subscribers. Through the list, we distribute The BUP Newsletter, The BUP Weekly, The Research Notes Letter and other BUP announcements. If you want to subscribe to the BUP mailing-list, simply send an email to sympa@lists.uu.se with an empty body. In the subject line please write: SIGNON balticuniversity.

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

The BUP Newsletter

The BUP Newsletter publishes materials on the BUP, its activities, and on sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. The newsletter is published three - four times per year and distributed by email through the Balticuniversity emailing-list. Comments, contributions, tips, and ideas are as always welcome, please contact Ulrika Klintberg at ulrika.klintberg@balticuniv.uu.se.

All previous issues of the BUP Newsletter are available online through our web page: <https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/publications/newsletter/>. Editor of this issue: Ulrika Jansson Klintberg, co-editor: Evan Goss