



# BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

### Minutes (draft)

Date: Friday, 19 October 2012 at 10.30-12.30

Place: University of Latvia, Riga (main building), room 114

#### Members

Kari Hyppönen President Chairman  
Janis Stonis Vice-President, Vice-Chairman  
Eliisa Särkilahti University of Turku  
Aleksas Pikturna Vilnius University  
Aniela Tejchman Gdansk University of Technology  
Elzbieta Fonberg-Stokluska Warsaw School of Economics  
Mart Susi University of Tartu  
Regina Karvelienė Šiauliai University  
Irina Ledchenkova Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno  
Stanislav Tkachenko St. Petersburg State University

~~Igor Zhoukovski Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University~~

#### Substitutes

~~Uldis Sukoovskis Riga Technical University~~  
~~Markku Sutinen University of Turku~~  
~~Arūnas Komka Vilnius Gediminas Technical University~~  
~~Szczepan Figiel University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn~~  
Anna Sadecka University of Warsaw  
Aira Lepik Tallinn University  
**Zinaida Baltrėnienė Vytautas Magnus University**  
Zoya Scheglova Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno  
Dmitry Vasilenko St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance  
~~Elvira Kaminskaya Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University~~

#### Secretariat

Alina Grzhibovska  
Ieva Grase

#### Invited:

Gundars Berzins University of Latvia

#### 1. Opening of the meeting

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

#### 2. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda circulated to SC on 11 October 2012 was adopted.

#### 3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

Draft minutes of the SC meeting held in Riga on 11 April 2012 and circulated on 15 June 2012 were approved – **Annex 1**

#### 4. Announcements

- Chairman's information (meetings and visits):

- Grodno, Belarus 18 April 2012 (BSRUN and BMU-MID joint seminar "University-Business Partnerships in Europe" at Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno)
- Berlin, Germany 23-25 April 2012 (X Baltic Sea NGO Forum Berlin)
- Gdansk, Poland 10-11 May 2012 (BSUA and Contacts meeting)

- Hamburg, Germany 30 May – 1 June 2012 (Baltic Sea Conference on Education “From Education to Employment: Optimising Transition Management”)
- Turku, Finland 7-8 June 2012 (5th National Baltic Forum)
- Helsinki, Finland 20 June 2012 (Belarusian embassy in Helsinki, discussions on university cooperation and EMA 2)
- St. Petersburg, Russia 26-28 August (21st BSPC)
- Stavanger, Norway 6-9 September 2012 EAIR Forum
- St. Petersburg, Russia 17-19 September 2012 ("University - Business Partnerships for Innovation and Development" at St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance (FINEC))
- Riga, Latvia 24 September (meeting with the Secretariat and Janis Stonis)
- Riga, Latvia 13-14 October (Riga Technical University 150 anniversary)
- Kaliningrad, Russia 19-20 October 2012 (Baltic Education Forum)

On August, 1 2012 by the decree of the Minister of Education and Science of the Russian Federation it was decided to establish the Saint-Petersburg State University of Economics by means of merger of two leading schools of Economics of Russia: the Saint-Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance (FINEC) and the Saint-Petersburg State University of Engineering and Economics (ENGECON). Professor Igor Maksimtsev has been appointed to be the Rector of the new University.

Dmitry Vasilenko informed about the merger process.

If the merger process will not be completed by January 2013, ENGECON will pay the membership for 2013.

Chairman informed about possible members:

Grodno State Agrarian University is willing to consider joining BSRUN and currently is having discussions with Rector Prof. Vitold Kazimirovitch Pestis.

## 5. Plenary Meeting 2013

### ➤ Organisational matters

SC prepares the proposals and drafts the documents for PM.

Report of activities should be drafted for the next SC meeting in January 2013.

PM Agenda should be drafted by January 2013 for the discussions at the SC meeting.

Reminder about the PM should be sent out to the Rectors in November 2012.

List of registered participants should be available in January 2013.

### ➤ Future of BSRUN

SC discussed and agreed on the following items:

- SC proposals are to be sent to members for comments and their possible amendments by 22 December 2012 (three months before the PM);
- institutions interested in coordinating BSRUN are to send their expressions of interest by 22 December 2012 (three months before the PM);
- proposals of the president are to be sent by 22 December 2012 (three months before the PM);
- SC agreed to meet on 16 January 2013 to discuss the proposals and to prepare the SC proposals to the PM
- Membership fee for 2013

SC agreed to ask members in advance to charge 1000,- EUR membership fee for 2013 and to start collecting the fees already in January 2013. The approval of the fee will be made formally by the PM on 22 March 2013.

- New terms of offices for the President, SC and Coordinating Institution/Secretariat:

1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 – 30 June 2016 (three year term)

1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 (three year term)

1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 (three and a half year term as an exception)

SC would propose the new term of office starting from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 for a three year term. The current term will continue till the end of the next year.

- How to enhance the role of Institutional contacts?

SC members expressed their ideas, made the following proposals and actively discussed the future of BSRUN:

- Eliisa Särkilahti:

- ✓ University of Turku is willing to continue the membership in the network and is willing to be the next coordinating institution if teaching and research activities are more emphasized;
- ✓ Rector as the President of the network (network is chaired by the Rector → more power to involve other Rectors to be active in the network);
- ✓ academic year for the new terms of offices;
- ✓ possible activities for the next three years as a proposal for the PM.

- Regina Karveliēne:

- ✓ Siauliai University is willing to continue the membership in the network;
- ✓ research on activities (in a questionnaire form);
- ✓ more active project work, possibilities for funding;
- ✓ the main target group of administrators should be explored.

- Dmitry Vasilenko:

- ✓ membership fee → make more disciplined; responsibility;
- ✓ proposals for the events and activities should be received from the region;
- ✓ to define more precisely the activities we are interested in and to find one main topic, e.g., Economics and Education/ Business and Innovation;
- ✓ internal network projects.

- Janis Stonis:

- ✓ University of Latvia is happy to hand over the network to the next coordinating institution;
- ✓ SC does not work well – attendance of meetings is not sufficient and SC members are not reading the information sent out and not responding to it;
- ✓ executive group should be composed of the persons of same level and power.

Dmitry Vasilenko: executive group should be composed of powerful personalities not depending on the level.

Kari Hypponen: SC meetings should be organized one per year and only for the budget approval, for planning the activities a subcommittee should be established.

Regina Karveliēne: PM should be organized as round table discussions.

- Proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations

## Current version/Proposed revision – **Annex 2**

Chairman and Secretariat will draft a letter to be sent to member institutions.

### 6. BSRUN budget

- BSRUN agreement para. 3.3.6. stipulates that SC decides annually on the use of the collected fees on the basis of the proposal and the report of expenditures by the coordinating institution (now the University of Latvia).

Changes to BSRUN budget for 2012 and budget plan for 2013 – **Annex 3**

SC approved the budget for 2012 and will get back to the budget for 2013 (first half of the year) in January meeting.

#### ➤ Membership situation

Universities that have not paid the membership fee for 2012 by 10 October:

Aleksandras Stulginskis University

National Mineral Resources University

St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts (also for 2011)

Pskov State University

All member institutions listed above have promised to pay.

BSRUN membership fee invoices for 2012 were sent out on 18 April with a payment deadline of 7 May. Three reminders were sent out on 18 June, 29 August and 27 September and two phone calls were made on 4 September and 4 October.

Secretariat will contact again the members that have not paid the membership fee for 2012.

Dmitry Vasilenko informed SC about the current situation with St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts:

St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts has managed to solve the payment problems and will pay the membership fee for 2011 and 2012.

### 7. BSRUN events

- BSRUN and BMU-MID joint seminar "University-Business Partnerships in Europe" at Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno on 18 April 2012

Chairman informed about the event.

Speakers and topics are available on <http://www.bsrn.org/activities/archive/>

Total number of participants - 101

- Baltic Seminar of University Administrators (BSUA) "Knowledge Triangle: Education, Research, Innovation" at Gdansk University of Technology on 10-11 May 2012

Final programme, presentations and list of participants are available on <http://www.bsrn.org/activities/archive/>

Chairman informed about the event.

Event was well organized but we faced the problems with recruitment of the participants from abroad.

- Contacts meeting at Gdansk University of Technology on 10 May 2012

Chairman informed about the event.

Contacts meeting attendance was very poor.

- "University - Business Partnerships for Innovation and Development" at St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance (FINEC) on 18 September 2012

Final programme, presentations and list of participants are available on <http://www.bsrn.org/activities/archive/>

Chairman informed about the event.

- "University - Business Partnerships for Innovation and Development" at Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University (IKBFU) on 9 November 2012

Chairman informed about the current state of planning.

Programme, registration form, visa invitations and list of hotels should be available in the nearest future on <http://www.bsrn.org/activities/>

- Human Resources Seminar: "Leadership during a Major Change – Mergers and the Changing Operational Environment" at the University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu Campus on 15-16 November 2012

Programme, registration form and list of hotels are available on <https://elomake.uef.fi/lomakkeet/4655/lomake.html>

Chairman informed about the current state of planning:

Registration deadline has been extended: 22 October 2012

- Plenary Meeting in Riga on 22 March 2013

Preliminary list of participants – **Annex 4**

Chairman informed about the current state of planning.

## 8. Initiatives for BSRUN future activities

Baltic Seminar of University Administrators (BSUA) (*Annual BSRUN Forum*) at the University of Warmia and Mazury Green Campus in Olsztyn on 30-31 May 2013.

The official letter from the rector Prof. Ryszard Górecki (elected for the term of office 2012-2016 beginning on 1 September 2012) and as well as the information letter should be sent out before the winter holiday season.

Chairman informed about the current state of planning.

## 9. BSRUN Scholarships

- BSRUN in cooperation with OECD programme for Institutional management for Higher Education has provided support for BSRUN members to participate in top level forum on Higher Education management issues „Attaining and Sustaining Mass Higher Education” on 17-19 September 2012 in Paris, France

BSRUN has financed five scholarships for covering the registration fee for IMHE General Conference 2012 in amount as for all IMHE members 350.- EURO (instead of 900 EURO for non-member)

Application deadline was 30 April 2012.

After the application deadline, BSRUN Secretariat has received three applications. Applications were evaluated and accepted by the appointed committee (Ms. Regina Karveliēne, Mr. Kari Hypponen and Mr. Janis Stonis).

- BSRUN has financed three scholarships for covering the registration fee (Forum Banquet is not included) for the 34th Annual EAIR Forum 2012.

Application deadline was 15 June 2012.

After the application deadline, BSRUN Secretariat has received three applications. Applications were evaluated and accepted by the appointed committee (Ms. Regina Karveliēne, Mr. Kari Hypponen and Mr. Janis Stonis).

Janis Stonis: we do not want to continue with the scholarships, member institutions were not very much interested for receiving the announced scholarships.

Eliisa Särkilahti: Information does not reach the relevant people; administrators do not read the emails and forward the information.

SC agreed not to continue with the scholarships for the time being.

#### 10. Date of the next meeting

At the previous SC meeting on 11 April 2012 in Riga it was decided that SC will meet, on an average, three times per year.

The next meeting will be organized in Riga on 16 January 2013.

#### 11. Any other business

SC composition - to get active persons in the SC. Current SC does not work so well and attendance of meetings is not sufficient.

#### 12. Closing of the meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 13 and thanked SC for their contribution.