

Baltic Sea Region University Network (BSRUN)

Plenary Meeting
Riga

22 March 2013

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President

IMHE	EUA	IAU	EURASHE	
UNICA	UTRECHT		SANTANDER	
COMPOSTELA		COIMBRA	LERU	
IRUN	BSRUN	BSUN	UNIMED	
UArctic	EEUN	CEEUN	EU2S2	
ECIU		GUNI	Universitas 21	
WUN	MNU	BUW	CBU	NDI

ESMU

ACA

IMUA

SRHE

HUMANE

AHUA

AUA

NUAS

EUPRIO

CHER

EARMA

EIRMA

ARMA

EAIR

EAIE

www.bsrn.org

- Established in 2000 with 16 universities in Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia
- Coordinators: the University of Turku 2000-10 and the University of Latvia 2010-2013
- Currently 30 universities in Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia

Locations of members

Kuopio/Joensuu, Turku, St. Petersburg,
Novgorod, Tallinn, Tartu, Pskov, Riga,
Jelgava, Siauliai, Klaipeda, Kaunas,
Vilnius, Grodno, Kaliningrad, Gdansk,
Olsztyn, Warsaw.

Background

- importance of co-operation in the region
- enhancement of university management
- new senior and middle management
- lack of international cooperation for administrators
- EU Tempus projects on Management
- IMHE/OECD CEEC project on Management of Change in 1994-98

Background

- evaluation in 2009
- current organisation
- three-year terms, earlier two years
- Plenary Meeting
- President (Vice-President)
- Steering Committee
- Coordinating Institution/Secretariat and contacts (rector and administrator)
- membership fee (1000 €/year)

Objectives

- strengthening collaboration in University Governance, Management and Administration;
- developing a platform for new ideas, projects and activities;
- facilitating and promoting contacts and exchanges of information and experience;
- enhancing cooperation with the networks and associations agreed upon separately.

Partners

- partners: NUAS, EAIR, ESMU, NDI, BUP and the University of the Arctic;
- Erasmus Mundus Action 2 partnerships, especially EU-Russia and EU-BUMAAG, and joint Tempus and other projects;
- annual Baltic Seminar of University Administrators (BSUA).

Partners

- observer at meetings of Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC);
- EU-Drivers and MODERN projects (ESMU);
- associate member of Triple I, Aurora, BMU-MID and MID (EMA2 projects);
- adheres to United Nations Academic Impact principles;

Discussion

- is university cross-border co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region important?
- do we need special mechanisms for it?
- are the existing mechanisms used to the full or have they become redundant?
- globalisation (europeanisation) of higher education (e.g. demise of CBUR);
- enthusiasm of the early 1990's vs. enlargement of the EU and NATO.

Discussion

- institutional mechanisms of joining an international network: theory and practice;
- internationalisation cannot be left in the hands of the international offices alone;
- example and encouragement of the leadership of the institution;
- dissemination of information always a challenge, if you need to reach a heterogenous target group.

Discussion

- an extra effort (encouragement and funding) is needed, not just forwarding info;
- organisational peculiarities of institutions and the position of institutional contacts;
- NUAS example and heritage in the Nordic countries (VU and LU also with EAIR)
- search for target group administrators (and those with no international contacts?)

Review of 2010-13

- Coordinating institution/Secretariat
 - must fit the policy of the university;
 - commitment to the needs of all the members;
 - a secretary is not a secretariat;
 - current level of membership fees cannot cover all the staff costs incurred.
 - additional funding mechanisms?

Review of 2010-13

- President
 - represents all the members, but not a country nor a member institution;
 - chairs the Steering Committee (other bodies can be established by SC);
 - is not supposed to be a figurehead only;
 - workload and tasks depend to a certain degree on the Secretariat services.

Review of 2010-13

- Post-Turku 2010 PM
 - secretariat to be created;
 - agreement to be drafted;
 - membership to be confirmed;
 - steering committee to be agreed;
 - contacts to be appointed;
 - membership fees to be collected.

Review of 2010-13

- membership stable after the initial drop following the introduction of a membership fee;
- increased interest in Russia;
- participation quite high and increasing (total 3625 since 2000; 300 in 2010, 338 in 2011 and 483 in 2012),
- concentration of organisation of events (in addition to Riga)

Review of 2010-13

- New themes of interest
 - university business-partnerships;
 - education, research and innovation;
 - reform of higher education;
 - legislation, governance and mergers;
 - financial management.
- (-translation and interpreting, nursing, food science/chemistry, doctoral programmes)

Review of 2010-13

- Steering Committee
 - only few of the current members active;
 - participation at meetings not satisfactory;
 - wishes of some members never heard of;
 - organisational position of SC members need to be upgraded to guarantee feedback to/from senior management;
 - smaller SC proposed: more effective?

Review of 2010-13

- scholarships to attend OECD IMHE General Conference in September 2012;
- scholarships to attend the EAIR Forum in Stavanger in September 2012;
- questionnaire to new target group administrators (HR and Finance);
- annual contacts' meeting;
- Annual BSRUN Forum (former BSUA).

Review of 2010-13

- increased interest in joint projects (Tempus, CBSS/EuroFaculty, Erasmus Mundus Action 2, NCM);
- BSRUN as a facilitator for EU-Russia/Belarus/Ukraine co-operation;
- BSRUN is not for EU cooperation only;
- enhanced interest in Belarus, Poland and Russia (growth potential? Ukraine?)
- Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania (EU2S2).

Review of 2010-13

- strategic partner of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS);
- EuroFaculties (Riga, Tartu, Vilnius; Kaliningrad; Pskov); Pskov: UTU, Pskov SU, FINEC, UT, LU (NovSU);
- SEBA, Baltic Law Institute (BLI);
- Summer University;
- CBSS project support facility.

Future priorities

- enhanced cooperation in teaching and research (vs. e.g. BUP);
- joint degree programmes including Doctorates (vs. existing arrangements)
- topics of future Annual BSRUN Forums;
- one big event annually?
- enhanced interest in joint projects funded by EU, NCM, CBSS;
- regional and cross-border projects.

Future priorities

- BSRUN is not a network for world class teaching and research only;
- members are encouraged to find partners to start projects/programmes/research;
- BSRUN needs strategic partnerships;
- guarantees of a future: ownership and commitment of the senior management of members.

Thank you for your kind attention!