



# BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

### Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 16 January 2013 at 12.00-15.00  
Place: University of Latvia, Riga (main building), Small Aula

#### 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  
Virve-Anneli Vihman University of Tartu  
Regina Karvelienė Šiauliai University  
Irina Ledchenkova Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno  
~~Stanislav Tkachenko St. Petersburg State University~~

#### Substitutes

~~Uldis Sukevskis Riga Technical University~~  
~~Markku Sutinen University of Turku~~  
~~Arūnas Komka Vilnius Gediminas Technical University~~  
Jerzy Jaroszewski University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn  
~~Alojzy Nowak University of Warsaw~~  
~~Aira Lepik Tallinn University~~  
Sigitas Stanys Kaunas University of Technology  
~~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~~

Igor Zhoukovski Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University

#### Secretariat

Alina Grzhibovska  
Ieva Grase

#### Invited:

~~Ms. Soili Makkonen (University of Eastern Finland)~~  
Ms. Katarzyna Kozdra (University of Warsaw)

#### 1. Opening of the meeting

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The SC members and substitutes introduced themselves.

#### 2. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda circulated to SC on 10 January 2013 was adopted.

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

Draft minutes of the SC meeting held in Riga on 19 October 2012 and circulated on 14 November 2012 were approved – **Annex 1**

#### 4. Announcements

- Composition of SC

Virve-Anneli Vihman was appointed to replace Mart Susi as of 2 November 2012.  
Jerzy Jaroszewski was appointed to replace Szczepan Figiel as of 26 November 2012.

Kaunas University of Technology representative Mr. Robertas Kupstas was invited for the meeting to replace Vytautas Magnus University since they are not BSRUN members any more.

On 9 January 2013 BSRUN Secretariat received an email from Dr. Daiva Dumčiuvienė (Head International Office) that Vice-rector for International relations and development Prof. Sigitas Stanys will attend the meeting on 16 January.

An email to the University of Warsaw Rector Prof. Marcin Palys was sent on 7 January 2013 with a request for a replacement for Anna Sadecka. On 10 January 2013 BSRUN President Mr. Kari Hypponen received an email that Prof. Alojzy Nowak will be representing University of Warsaw in BSRUN SC. His substitute will be Ms. Katarzyna Kozdra, who will be representing Prof. Alojzy Nowak on 16 January meeting.

University of Eastern Finland representative Ms. Soili Makkonen was invited for the meeting. With reference to the email on 7 January 2013 due to other commitments Ms. Soili Makkonen could not attend the meeting.

- Chairman's information (meetings and visits):

- Pskov, Russia 25-27 October 2012 (Pskov International conference "Adoption of the European Educational Standards in Cross-Border Areas", meetings with CBSS secretariat and leadership, BSRUN strategic partnership with CBSS)
- Tartu, Estonia 5-6 November 2012 (meeting with Rector Volli Kalm (University of Tartu) and Rector Mait Klaassen (Estonian University of Life Sciences) about regional cooperation)
- Kaliningrad, Russia 9 November 2012 (BSRUN seminar – cancelled, item 5)
- Olsztyn, Poland 9 November 2012 (discussions on Annual BSRUN Forum held on 30-31 May 2013)
- Joensuu, Finland 15-16 November 2012 (BSRUN HR seminar)
- Helsinki, Finland 23 and 29 November 2012 (MFA, discussions on BSRUN, CBSS, the EuroFaculty in Pskov and the Baltic Law Institute)
- Minsk, Belarus 6-7 December 2012 (meetings with university partners, discussions on a new Tempus Project, reception hosted by the Finnish ambassador)

- BSRUN strategic partnership status with CBSS (Council of the Baltic Sea States)

Mr. Kari Hypponen letter to the Chair, Mr. Sergey Petrovich – **Annex 2**

- Merger of FINEC and ENGECON into St. Petersburg State University of Economics

Dmitry Vasilenko informed about the merger.

St. Petersburg State University of Economics was established on 29 December 2012. Saint Petersburg State University of Service and Economics will be also included in the merger. Professor Igor Maksimtsev has been appointed to be the Rector of the new University.

## 5. BSRUN events

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

Due to unpredictable circumstances the university postponed the event and BSRUN consequently cancelled it. This experience stresses the importance of agreeing the responsibilities of the local organisers of BSRUN events.

- 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

List of participants and the final programme is available on <http://www.bsrn.org/activities/archive/>

## 6. Membership situation

- Rejoining of BSRUN by Grodno State Agrarian University

Grodno State Agrarian University has expressed the wish to rejoin, now the President and Secretariat are waiting for a formal letter and signed agreement by Rector Prof. Vitold Kazimirovitch Pestis. The Rector should also inform BSRUN President and Secretariat of the person who will be the administrator contact for BSRUN at Grodno State Agrarian University.

SC approved the process in advance. There is no need to ask for the approval from the current members since the university has gone through the process already once.

- National Mineral Resources University  
Letter from Mr. Vladimir T. Borzenkov (Head of International Relations Center) on 17 December 2012 – **Annex 3**  
Mr. Kari Hypponen email to the National Mineral Resources University – **Annex 4**  
Reminder was sent on 7 January 2013 asking for a reply by 15 January 2013.  
Email from Mr. Vladimir T. Borzenkov – **Annex 5**

Chairman informed about the current situation with the National Mineral Resources University.  
SC agreed to exclude the National Mineral Resources University from the network.

- St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts has promised to pay the membership fee for 2011 and 2012.  
Mr. Kari Hypponen email to St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts – **Annex 6**  
Reminder was sent on 7 January 2013 asking for a reply by 15 January 2013.

Chairman informed about the current situation with St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts.  
SC agreed to wait for the payment from St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts for 2011 and 2012 till end of January. If the payment is not made by 31 January 2013, SC will exclude St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts from the network.

## 7. 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).

Budget plan for 2013 (first half of the year) – **Annex 7**

SC approved the budget for 2013 (first half of the year)

- Membership fee for 2013

Since there are two major events during the spring term of 2013, the Secretariat needs to start collecting the membership fees early in the year to cover the costs incurred. Therefore as the SC proposed on 19 October 2012 members were asked in advance for their approval of a membership fee of 1000 € for 2013 so that the bills could be sent out already before PM.

Deadline of payments for 2013 is 28 February 2013  
Invoices will be sent out after the meeting.

## 8. Plenary Meeting 2013

### ➤ Changes to the Rules and Regulations – **Annex 8**

SC preliminary proposal was sent to members for comments and their possible amendments on 27 November 2012 with a deadline 22 December 2012 (three months before the PM) – **Annex 9**

Secretariat had received comments and possible amendments from three member institutions by the given deadline:

- University of Turku – **Annex 10**
- University of Eastern Finland – **Annex 11**
- St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance – **Annex 12**

BSRUN President had asked for clarifications concerning proposals:

- University of Turku – **Annex 13**
- St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance – **Annex 14**

Received replies by the given deadline 15 January 2013:

- University of Turku – **Annex 15**
- St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance – **Annex 16**

No comments were received by SC before paragraph 5.4.1

SC made the following changes to the Rules and Regulations (Annex 8):

- changes to paragraph 6.3.2:  
SC members are responsible for the planning of the activities in their countries and also for supporting the local organizers responsible for the implementation of activities. SC may establish an Executive Committee and/or Sub-Committee to assist SC in the planning and implementation of the activities.

SC agreed on the rest of paragraphs in the “Changes to the Rules and Regulations”.

SC proposed paragraph 3.2. (Legal status of BSRUN) for the discussion at PM

List of the items PM needs to decide:

- coordinating institution
- president
- membership fee for the relevant years including the formal decision of the SC proposal for 2013
- institution composition of the SC

List of items SC needs to propose:

- membership fee for the relevant years including the formal decision of the SC proposal for 2013

Since there are two major events during the spring term of 2013, the Secretariat needs to start collecting the membership fees early in the year to cover the costs incurred. Therefore as the SC proposed on 19 October 2012 members were asked in advance for their approval of a membership fee of 1000 € for 2013 so that the bills could be sent out already before PM.

SC proposal has been agreed by the members by silent procedure

- PM should approve the membership fee of 1000 € for 2013 although it has been agreed by the members by silent procedure
- SC discussed a proposal for the remaining years (2014-2016) and made a proposal to PM on the membership fee of 1000 € for 2014. PM should also discuss a membership fee for 2015-2016
- institution composition of the SC

SC proposal on 19 October 2012: only one member per country with his/her personal substitute on SC

Draft proposal– **Annex 17**

➤ SC made a proposal to PM: one member per country with his/her personal substitute on SC.

• new term of offices for the President, SC and Coordinating Institution/Secretariat:

1st July 2013 – 30 June 2016 (three year term)

1st January 2014 – 31st December 2016 (three year term)

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

SC proposal on 19 October 2012: the new term of offices would be three years from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2016 in order to move to a calendar year basis. This would then also mean the extension of the current terms till the end of 2013.

➤ SC made a proposal to PM to move to a calendar year basis as already agreed on 19 October 2012. The new term of offices will be three years from 1st January 2014 and the current terms will be extended till the end of 2013.

Organisational matters

BSRUN participation statistics – **Annex 18**

PM preliminary programme – **Annex 19**

Practical arrangements

BSRUN will cover one night (22.03.2013-23.03.2013) accommodation expenses for Rectors or nominated representatives (one person per institution).

The PM is scheduled to start at 12 with a dinner in the evening. An excursion will be offered on Saturday morning and a social event (opera or ballet) on Thursday evening.

SC agreed that registration form and the programme should be sent out in the first week of February.

The materials for the PM should be sent out one month before the meeting.

SC agreed that a separate document (agreement) might be necessary to facilitate the membership fee payment by some institutions.

9. BSRUN future activities

➤ Future Annual BSRUN Forums

- Annual BSRUN Forum "Green University" at the University of Warmia and Mazury Green Campus in Olsztyn on 30-31 May 2013  
Invitation letter – **Annex 20**

Chairman and Prof. Jerzy Jaroszewski informed about the current state of planning.

Annual BSRUN Forum is scheduled to start at 19 with a welcome dinner on 30 May 2013 and followed by five presentations (at the moment) on 31 May 2013. An excursion will be offered on Friday afternoon (31 May 2013).

The topic of the Forum is strictly dedicated to Green University – how to establish a university which is independent? Forum should attract international audience.

Annual BSRUN Forum fee: 130 € (including meetings, dinner and transportation).

Prof. Jerzy Jaroszewski promised to send more information in the nearest future.

➤ Joint projects

CBSS EuroFaculty, Baltic Law Institute and SEBA, Tempus, Erasmus Mundus Action 2 and cross-border projects.

Presentation of the project „Baltic.AirCargo.Net:Improvement of the air cargo transport sector by service oriented ICT-methods and processing logistic network” by Irina Ledchenkova.

After the presentation, Irina Ledchenkova promised to send the material to be circulated among SC members.

SC members are encouraged to get acquainted with the new EMA 2 call on the EACEA web page [www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus/funding/higher\\_education\\_institutions\\_en](http://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/funding/higher_education_institutions_en). Partnerships are now invited to involve EU and third country HEIs with limited or no experience of Action 2. Therefore, I would expect e.g. the University of Turku to take a careful look at the current long-standing partners in the Aurora and MID consortia, if the university applies again as coordinator. BSRUN members should again think of applying as coordinators and/or partners. Last spring we tried to encourage BSRUN applications in Technology and Life Sciences with no results. New applications for e.g. Russia should be encouraged.

➤ BSRUN thematic priorities for 2013 and beyond

Thematic priorities for future activities should also be discussed at the PM.

10. Date of the next meeting

At the previous SC meeting on 19 October 2012 in Riga it was decided that SC will meet, on an average, three times per year.

SC usually meets back to back with PM. The next SC meeting will be organized on 21 March 2013 at 18.00 with a dinner unless there is an urgent need to meet earlier.

11. Any other business

There was no other business.

12. Closing of the meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 15 and thanked SC for their contribution.