



BSRUN

BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Date: Thursday, 12 January 2017, from 10.00 till 13:30

Place: University of Warsaw, Faculty of Management, Szturmowa Street 1/3, room B 206

Members:

Kari Hyppönen, **President, Chairman**

~~Siargei Khodzin, **Belarusian State University**~~

Paavo Kaimre, **Estonian University of Life Sciences**

~~Riitta Pyykkö, **University of Turku**~~

Harald A. Gleissner, **Berlin School of Economics and Law**

Jans Slihte, **Riga Technical University**

~~**Klaipeda University**~~

Alojzy Z. Nowak, **University of Warsaw**

Dmitry Vasilenko, **Vice-President, St. Petersburg State University of Economics**

Substitutes:

Yury Bialykh, **Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno**

Kirsi Viskari, **Saimaa University of Applied Sciences**

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Janis Stonis, **University of Latvia**

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Piotr Dominiak, **Gdansk University of Technology**

~~Natalia Muzzinik, **The North-West Institute of Management of the Russian Federation Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public**~~

Secretariat:

Tomasz Rosiak, **University of Warsaw, Faculty of Management (UW)**

~~Alexey Yurin, **St. Petersburg State University of Economics (UNECON)**~~

Chairman invites also:

Andreas Zaby, President, **Berlin School of Economics and Law**

Igor Postula, representative of **University of Warsaw, Faculty of Management (UW)**

1. Opening of the meeting

Chairman opened the Steering Committee (SC) meeting and Prof. Alojzy Nowak, University of Warsaw gave a short introduction.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda circulated to SC on 9 January 2017 was approved. Chairman apologized for the late circulation of the agenda.

3. Introduction of the SC members (Annex 1)

As the SC was held for the first time each member had a chance to present his/her position and an academic background.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

As the minutes of the SC meeting held in Warsaw, Poland on 25 October 2016 were already approved by the previous composition of the SC they were presented to inform new members at this meeting.

5. Announcements

Chairman's information:

1. EUSBSR Strategy forum and Baltic Science Network partner meeting in Stockholm, 9-10 Nov 2016

2. Meeting with the Ambassador of Belarus to Finland about BSRUN and the Erasmus+ FOSTERC project in Helsinki, 21 Nov 2016
3. Meetings with authorities of Faculty of Management, University of Warsaw and with authorities of Riga Technical University and the University of Latvia in Riga, 7-9 Dec 2016
4. Meetings in St. Petersburg with representatives of UNECON, St. Petersburg State University and Peter the Great St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University on 15 Dec 2016
5. CBSS Conference Under the Icelandic Presidency "Baltic Sea Science Day: Implementing the CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda" 8 February 2017 in St. Petersburg
Vice-President gave brief report on the conference aims, participants and organizational details.
6. Call for Applications for Universities to run a CBSS Summer University in 2017 (see: <http://bsrun.org/news/2017-call-applications-universities-run-cbss-summer-university>)
BSRUN as strategic partner of the CBSS gave information support to three CBSS Summer Universities in 2016. It was expected that there will be funding in 2017. President expressed his hope that funding will be available through Project Support Facility scheme.
7. Agroforum Mare Balticum 2017 - Agriculture for Rural Development - will take place on 18-20 April 2017 at Estonian University of Life Sciences in Tartu (see: <http://agroforum.emu.ee/>)
Paavo Kaimre explained the history and aims of the Agroforum and invited members to join high class event. President also advised Alojzy Nowak to be one of the speakers at the conference

6. Introduction of the renewed Rules and Regulations (see Annex 4 point 5)

Chairman informed SC about changes in Rules and Regulations on the previous

meeting held on 25 October 2016 in Warsaw.

- PM added a slogan to the logo of BSRUN: BSRUN for Strategy and Practice.
- PM agreed that SC will appoint from amongst its members two Vice-Presidents to act as deputies to the President (6.2.2.)
- SC discussed the proposal concerning membership criteria (5.1.1.) at its meeting on 25 October and agreed to propose to PM a more exact formulation "other corresponding higher education institution".
- SC also discussed the possibility to establish an associate membership for national and international higher education organisations not eligible under 5.1.1.-5.1.3. to enhance cooperation and exchange of information with BSRUN. Associate members could be e.g. other networks, ministries, agencies.
- SC proposed that this be done by adding 5.1.4. as follows: 5.1.4. SC can extend an associate membership to national or international higher education organisations not eligible for membership under the criteria given above to enhance cooperation and exchange of information with BSRUN.
- SC proposed to add BUN (Borderland University Network) to the organisations with which cooperation will be explored (5.2.).

Current BSRUN rules and regulations were circulated on 9 January 2017 with the SC Agenda in Annex 5.

7. Introduction of PM decisions

Chairman informed SC about PM decisions taken on 25 October 2016 in Warsaw

- Plenary Meeting appointed Kari Hyppönen President for the next three years (2017-19).
- PM decided that there will be two secretariats for the next three years (2017-19): Faculty of Management of the University of Warsaw and Saint Petersburg State University of Economics;

- PM appointed the University of Warsaw as the legal representative of BSRUN for the next three years (2017-19).
- PM approved the new institutional composition of SC
- PM approved the membership application of Berlin School of Economics and Law (Germany) and Saimaa University of Applied Sciences (Lappeenranta, Finland).
- PM approved an annual membership fee of 1000 € for 2017-19.

There were no comments about latest PM decisions

8. Introduction of the two secretariats

In 2017-2019 BSRUN Secretariat will be coordinated jointly by:

- Faculty of Management, University of Warsaw,
Head of Secretariat: Tomasz Rosiak
 ul. Szturmowa 1/3
 02-678 Warszawa, Poland
 tel.: +48 (22) 55-34-138 fax: +48 (22) 55-34-001
 e-mail: bsrun[at]wz.uw.edu.pl
- Saint Petersburg State University of Economics
Head of Secretariat: Dmitry Vasilenko
 Sadovaya Street 21
 191023 Saint Petersburg, Russia
 tel.: +7 (812) 458 9730 ext. 2812
 e-mail: bsrun[at]unecon.ru

The secretariats informed SC about the staff of the secretariats and the division of labour between the secretariats including the maintenance of the web page and the BSRUN bulletin.

There were some propositions for establishment one single e-mail address which should be highlighted on BSRUN's. The UW and UNECON domain should be used for internal

purposes. Secretariat will investigate further this idea.

There were reported some doubts whether running two Secretariats won't divide BSRUN into two parts: English and Russian spoken one. Head of the Secretariats explained that two Secretariats were appointed to facilitate BSRUN activities and they do not run parallel but support each other in organizational issues.

9. Appointment of two vice-presidents

President of BSRUN, Kari Hyppönen proposed two candidates for vice-presidents to be respectively in charge of academic and administrative affairs of the network:

Alojzy Z. Nowak (University of Warsaw) and Dmitry Vasilenko (St. Petersburg State University of Economics).

After a short presentation of both candidates, Chairman asked whether there are other candidates for this positions. No other candidates were proposed or volunteered.

Alojzy Z. Nowak (University of Warsaw) and Dmitry Vasilenko (St. Petersburg State University of Economics) were unanimously appointed to be vice-presidents, respectively in charge of academic and administrative affairs of the network.

10. Membership situation and marketing initiatives

In 2016 BSRUN has attracted 5 new members:

Berlin School of Economics and Law (Germany)

Saimaa University of Applied Sciences Lappeenranta (Finland)

University of Białystok (Poland)

Belarus State Economic University (Minsk, Belarus)

Francisk Skorina Gomel State University (Belarus)

8 members left our Network (1 from Estonia, 1 from Latvia and 6 from Lithuania)

According to the strategy discussed at the SC meeting and PM in Warsaw on 25 October 2016 BSRUN has to attract new members from all around the Baltic Sea.

Chairman informed SC about the confidential discussions with the members who have decided to leave BSRUN. Some of the institutions may consider rejoining depending on the future priorities and actions of BSRUN.

UNECON, University of Warsaw and Berlin School of Economics informed about prospective members that BSRUN may aim in 2017.

11. Budget for 2017

Head of the Secretariat at UW, Tomasz Rosiak, has informed SC about the challenges of running budget in 2017. Total budget for 2017 will be reduced by 8 000 € comparing to 2016. Four of the institutions which decided to leave BSRUN in 2016 have not yet paid their membership fees for 2016 (a total of 4000€):

- Latvia University of Agriculture (Latvia)
- Aleksandras Stulginskis University (Lithuania)
- Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences (Lithuania)
- Vilnius University (Lithuania)

Chairman has informed that members who didn't pay membership fees they had not been neither forgiven nor forgotten. SC gave full support for future Chairman's actions in this field.

Chairman has also informed that BSRUN may apply for grants in the CBSS for running its ordinary activity.

Dmitry Vasilenko informed SC members on UNECON Secretariat budget including bad receivables from St. Petersburg State University. Vice-President proposed to apply for Jean Monnet Networks (https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities-for-organisations/jean-monnet/networks_en). The application should be filed by UW as legal representative.

There was reported one misstatement considering bad receivables in 2016 comparing to 2017. Secretariat has explained why it happened and commit oneself to make a proper correction and to circulate amended version with the SC Minutes from the SC meeting held on 12 January 2017.

12. Future priorities and action in 2017 and beyond

Chairman gave his comments about following events and actions:

1. BSU organised an event on University Rankings on 9 January 2017 in Minsk. This event was targeted for BSU and a Belarusian audience. BSRUN was not able to support such an event due to the lack of opportunities for the members to take part as experts or participants.

It was decided that BSRUN will arrange the **trainig session on University Rankings in Gdansk Technical University in June**. Dmitry Vasilenko and Piotr Dominiak will be working committee on this matter.

2. The **Erasmus+ FOSTERC project for Belarus will meet in Minsk at the end of March**. The meeting may be opened for BSRUN members for better dissemination of information. Further info should be available in the near future.
3. Since BSRUN has not organised anything on student affairs for quite some time, **University of Latvia** expressed its interest to organise an event on the **sport facilities development** in framework of theme of **university campus management and development** which BSRUN has already taken up at three events recently in St. Petersburg, Gdansk and Warsaw. The working committee (Dmitry Vasilenko, Janis Stonis, Kirsi Viskari) will investigate best practices in the region to decide upon the best possible dates. Chairman asked to involve St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University which expressed its interest in the topic and thus membership in 2017.
4. BSRUN has also had preliminary discussions about a **rector-level event on university cooperation in the region in the current political situation**. BSRUN organised a similar event in Turku under the Finnish Presidency of CBSS in

October 2013. CBSS would again be a most suitable partner in the arrangements of the event. This might also be a good topic for the annual Forum of 2017 of which the topic, host and location are still open. SC agreed that Chairman will continue discussions with CBSS and interested parties.

5. **University Marketing and Branding** is agreed to be very attractive topic which was just touched upon at BSRUN Forum 2016. It was decided to continue discussions on possibility to held special event on **Attraction of prospective students and recruitment**. Date and place are to be decided.
6. Vice-Dean Igor Postuła (UW) commented that SC should consider intensification of its activities in the scientific field. Draft proposition for actions will be ready to discuss for the next SC meeting.

13. Date of the next meeting

SC approved the proposal of Dmitry Vasilenko to organize next SC meetings by the occasion of the bigger event.

Date of the meeting is to be set.

14. Closing of the meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 13.30, thanked SC for their contribution.