



BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

draft MINUTES

Date: Friday, 16 May 2014 at 15.00

Place: Hotel Ambassador, 5-7 Rimskogo-Korsakova str., St. Petersburg

Members:

Kari Hyppönen, **President, Chairman**

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

~~Reesi Lepa, **University of Tartu**~~

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

Andris Kangro, **University of Latvia**

~~Raimonda Markeviciene, **Vilnius University**~~

Marcin Palys*, **University of Warsaw**

Dmitry Vasilenko, **St. Petersburg State University of Economics**

Substitutes:

~~Alexander Sviridov, **Grodno State Agrarian University**~~

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

~~Perttu Vartiainen, **University of Eastern Finland**~~

~~Uldis Sukovskis, **Riga Technical University**~~

Sigitas Stanys, **Kaunas University of Technology**

Jerzy Jaroszewski, **University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn**

Anna Zaychenko, **Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University**

* Rector of University of Warsaw prof. Marcin Palys is a substitute to SC member Alojzy Novak, vice-rector of University of Warsaw.

**Chairman has also invited:

Vadim Reznikau, a representative of Belarusian State University (BSU)

Secretariat

Tatiana Solobaeva, **St. Petersburg State University of Economics**

1. Opening of the meeting

Kari Hypponen, President of BSRUN and Chairman of the Steering Committee opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Introduction of the members of the Steering Committee (SC)

Present members of SC introduced themselves.

3. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda circulated to SC on 28 April 2014 was adopted

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the SC meeting held in Olsztyn on 28 January 2014 were approved.

5. Announcements

A. Chairman's information (meetings and visits)

1. Chairman informed about recent developments about rejoining of University of Gdansk. In spite of January promise to rejoin University of Gdansk will take pause to follow activities of the network.
2. BSRUN planning meeting of the project on the Future of EuroFaculties at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM) on 28 January 2014.
3. 9th Russian-Finnish Seminar on Higher Education at CIMO in Helsinki on 10-11 February 2014.
4. BSRUN Seminar on the Experiences of the EuroFaculties for the Future at Belarusian State University (BSU) in Minsk on 4 March 2014.
5. Meeting BSRUN members in St. Petersburg on 19 March 2014.
6. Baltic E&E Forum in St. Petersburg on 20 March 2014.
7. International seminar "Perspectives on Development of Russian-Finnish HEIs Cooperation" at St.-Petersburg State University of Economics on 7 April 2014.
8. Finland-Belarus Business Forum with a session on university cooperation for innovation and development within Erasmus Mundus BMU-MID project in Turku on 8 April 2014.
9. Contacts meeting at St.-Petersburg State University of Economics, 14 May 2014.
10. Annual BSRUN Forum 2014 at St.-Petersburg State University of Economics, 15 May 2014.

B. Printing of the new brochure

Jerzy Jaroszewski presented a pilot version of the BSRUN brochure. SC members expressed their opinion regarding the design. Chairman summed up the joint decision:

- the map on the cover page should be zoomed with focus on member-countries;
- to print it in 98 x 210 mm size (folded).

6. Tasks and organization of SC

Chairman informed SC about updates in BSRUN rules and regulations 6.2.2. and 6.3. Plenary Meeting (PM) in Riga on 22 March decided to establish a new Steering Committee for 2014-2016 with only one member per country with his/her personal substitute. The idea was to upgrade the SC representation to vice-rector level, if the institutions agree, so that information would reach better the senior management of the institution in order to get the necessary feedback for the future.

The list of SC members with updated contact details was circulated among the SC members. Chairman asked Russian Secretariat to check once again all the information and to add e-mail addresses, phones and mobile phones of all members.

SC was invited to discuss the organization of the work of SC. 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-committees to assist SC in the planning and implementation of activities.

7. Membership situation and payment of 2014 membership fees

Chairman informed that Secretariat received non-official information from Warsaw School of Economics about its withdrawal from BSRUN. According to current Rules and Regulations members can cancel their membership for the next year by written statement to Secretariat before 1 July of current year. Chairman informed that WSE will pay its fee for 2014 and then quit.

Jerzy Jaroszewski informed about current membership situation and payment of membership fees. All BSRUN members have paid except for St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg State University of Economics, Pskov State University, Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University, Herzen State Pedagogical University, North-West Institute of Management of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration and Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University.

SC discussed the procedure and possible action for the future. Due to technical difficulties with transfer of Euros, the Russian members prefer to pay the membership fee in Roubles. Dmitry Vasilenko proposed to arrange payment of remaining membership fees via St. Petersburg State University of Economics (UNECON).

It was decided that UNECON will work out the procedure and collect the membership fee from Pskov State University, Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University and Herzen State Pedagogical University.

The North-West Institute of Management has already launched the EUR payment procedure and signed a contract with UWM. Their membership fee will be transferred to UWM upon receipt of the contract signed by UWM.

8. BSRUN budget for 2014

Secretariat informed about administration of the budget for 2014. A document with the budget approved at the January SC meeting compared with costs incurred so far was distributed among the SC members.

SC discussed and figured out the reason why the budget was unbalanced. SC decided to have a balanced version prepared.

SC discussed the procedure of compensation payment for Chairman. The consultancy fee for Chairman from CBSS project “Future of EuroFaculties” will be transferred to UMW as input into network’s budget.

SC discussed the necessity of finding the outside funding and the ways to attract money to BSRUN:

- Corporate sponsorship;
- Joint projects;
- Ministerial support.

There are certain legal difficulties as BSRUN is not a legal body and UMW serves as legal representative for the network. All the money attracted not by UMW can hardly reflect in the network official budget (CBSS projects and Erasmus Mundus projects in University of Turku, Baltika Brewery sponsorship to Annual Forum 2014, etc.).

Yuri Vaitukevich and Dmitry Vasilenko agreed to develop internal BSRUN development project.

Chairman informed about plans of network members joint application for CBSS project on “EuroFaculty Model in Belarus”. UNECON will draft application and propose to partners to join.

Chairman also informed about interest from Ivan Franko National University of Lviv to join the network. Chairman will continue discussions.

9. BSRUN events

- Business Development Programme (BDPro). **Annex 5**

Chairman informed about the very positive outcome of the EuroFaculty project in Pskov. The future of EuroFaculties project will be reported at CSO/CBSS meeting in Turku on 1-2 June 2014. Chairman will distribute the results of the report among the member institutions.

- Cooperation with CBSS on the follow-up EuroFaculties including Belarus and possible other observer countries.

Chairman informed about recent developments regarding Baltic Sea Days, Baltic Development

Forum and the Baltic Sea Forum in Turku on 2-4 June.

Chairman informed about the role of BSRUN in the organization of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) in Olsztyn in August 2014, and about invitation by Chairman of 2014 BSPC to send a maximum of four representatives to the conference. UNECON proposed to send a representative.

Chairman proposed to discuss the possible venue of the next BSRUN Annual Forum. The offer to host the forum was made to Minsk State University, Belarus and University of Warsaw, Poland. Vadim Reznikov and Marcin Palys agreed to consider hosting the Forum. They were asked to inform SC members about their decision before the 1st of June 2014.

Jerzy Jaroszewski informed about the conference on History, culture and nature of the Baltic Sea Region at University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn on 23-24 October 2014 and asked SC members to disseminate this information in their universities. Application deadline – end of June.

Chairman recommended attending the Turku days at the end of June and VERA Event about crossborder studies (University of Eastern Finland).

10. BSRUN strategy for the future

Secretariat prepared a questionnaire in order to clarify BSRUN's mission and vision for the future and circulate it to all the members.

SC discussed drafting of BSRUN strategy for the future:

- Enhanced cooperation with current partners was examined:
 - SC discussed the possibility of publishing a scientific journal and decided that the Network is not ready for the journal for several reasons: a lot of effort with little result (Marcin Palys), difficult to find enough good articles (Jerzy Jaroszewski), quality is important (Dmitry Vasilenko).
 - SC discussed the topic for the next Forum and decided to organize an event dedicated to “Universities' Mergers”.

- The membership criteria and the geographical region:
 - there is potential interest among polytechnics/ universities of applied sciences to join BSRUN;

SC decided to act in accordance with BSRUN Rules and Regulations and admit to the Network only those HEIs who award PhD.

- there are some universities interested in the region or working with the region but situated outside the drainage area of the Baltic Sea (some exceptions have already been made e.g. BSU and the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy).

SC decided to make an individual decision on each HEI from outside the Baltic Sea drainage area.

11. Date of the next meeting

It was decided that SC will meet next time in Warsaw on 13 or 15 October 2014.

12. Closing of the meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 5 pm and thanked SC for their contribution