



The Baltic University Programme

Newsletter

Issue#60 December 2019

Content

This issue focuses entirely on the BUP Symposium 2020, titled Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Baltic Sea Region. The symposium is held on Campus Gotland, Uppsala University, Visby, between August 24 - 28, 2020.

A warm welcome

A warm welcome Dear Colleagues to this new issue of the BUP newsletter, the last one of 2019! This year has been full of success stories and a year of peak in total number of events and projects. In conclusion - a fantastic BUP Year, that several Member Universities and colleagues have contributed to. True team work! For 2020 the ambitions are to make BUP even more successful, to focus on the potentials that we have to increase the knowledge about each other as member universities and colleagues. Especially for 2020 we focus on supporting research and researchers. Since the start of arranging BUP Rectors conferences in 2006, the issue of how to strengthen research cooperations have been discussed. I'm happy to share with you that this issue is dedicated to the plans for next year's BUP Symposium 2020, entitled Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Baltic Sea Region.

The idea of organizing a Symposium was my main vision at the start of the Directorship 2017. I was convinced that this is what we need, to really use the potential of this unique Programme! I hope the Symposium will be the start of much new cooperation within research.

The Symposium will take place between the 24-28th of August 2020 at Uppsala University, Campus Gotland, which is situated in the UNESCO World Heritage and Hanseatic town of Visby. The location of Visby on the island of Gotland, in the middle of the Baltic Sea, makes it the perfect setting to discuss the future of sustainability in the region. The host of the BUP symposium is Olle Jansson, Adviser to the Vice-Chancellor for Campus Gotland. You will meet him in an interview in this newsletter. Campus Gotland has the same focus in their education and research as many of the nine BUP Themes for the Symposium, and they will start the new PhD school in August. There will be a lot of international students starting that week which will add to the dynamic environment!

As the Symposium is one of the outcomes from the Rectors' meeting in Åbo in 2018 where the Baltic University Programme was asked to expand our information and more activities targeted at researchers, we invite the Rectors to Visby as well for a rectors meeting.

The Symposium is certainly what the BUP is about: internationalization in practice. As one of several favorable outcomes of the symposium, we will establish networks of researchers within each BUP theme. The recently formed network within Sustainable Tourism is an example of just how easy this can be. Read more about this in the interview with Anette Oxenswärdh, coordinator of Theme 7: Sustainable Tourism.

We hope many of you will find the program and the symposium interesting and topical, and that you will be able to join us in Visby!

Let's make this first BUP Symposium ever into a success TOGETHER Dear BUP Colleagues!



Madeleine Granvik
Director, Associated Professor

Editor of this issue: Ulrika Jansson Klintberg

Contributions, suggestions and feedback is welcome! Please contact: ulrika.klintberg@balticuniv.uu.se

Welcome to the BUP Symposium 2020: Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Baltic Sea Region

The symposium consists of the following three parts:



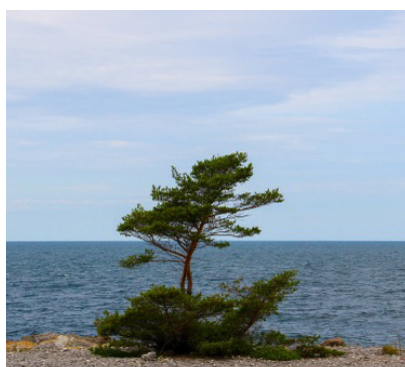
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BUP Parallel activities

Monday 24th of August

Some examples of what the parallel activities include: meeting with the PhD Supervisor Collegium; workshop on BUP Course Modules; ESD Learning Lab on Transformative Learning; presentation on the Sustainable Campus Initiative; presentations and excursion on Sustainable Tourism.

Free of charge for colleagues from
BUP Member Universities



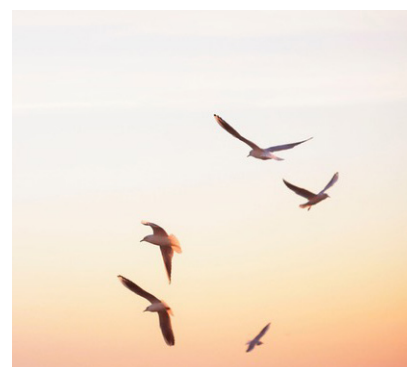
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BUP Research Forum: Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Baltic Sea Region

*Tuesday 25th of August
Wednesday 26th of August*

This conference stress the following different BUP themes: Climate Change and Renewable Energy, Sustainable Food Systems, Sustainable Water Resources, Urban-Rural Development, Sustainable Mobility, Circular Economy, Sustainable Tourism, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Sustainable Societies.

Free of charge for colleagues from
BUP Member Universities



3

5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities

*Thursday 27th of August
Friday 28th of August*

This part is entitled "Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals", and will contribute to the further development of this fast-growing field.

Special offer for colleagues from BUP
Member Universities



Submission of abstracts is open until 15th of January 2020
Registration is open between 9th of December 2019, until final deadline
6th of May 2020

www.bupsymposium2020.se



The Baltic University Programme

Photocred this page from left to right: Julia Ceasar, Jonathan Lindemann and Maria Maliy via Unsplash

About the BUP Symposium 2020

There are three parts of the BUP Symposium:

1. Parallel BUP events

Monday 24th of August

For further information, please see the program on pages 18-20, or follow this link for the latest version: <http://www.bupsymposium2020.se/program>

There are two different scientific conferences within the symposium:

2. BUP Research Forum - Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Baltic Sea Region

Tuesday 25th of August - Wednesday 26th of August

This conference will stress the following different themes that will have their own sessions at the conference: Climate Change and Renewable Energy, Sustainable Food Systems, Sustainable Water Resources, Urban-Rural Development, Sustainable Mobility, Circular Economy, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Sustainable Tourism and Sustainable Societies. You may submit an abstract for the theme sessions at the BUPSYPMSIUM2020 at this link: <http://www.bupsymposium2020.se/register-submit/submit-abstract>

3. 5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities (WSSD-U-2020)

Thursday 27th of August - Friday 28th of August

The symposium is entitled: "Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals", and will contribute to the further development of this fast-growing field. For further information, please follow this link for the latest version: <https://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-nk/events/wssd-u-2020.html>

Aim of the BUP Symposium 2020

Via inputs and discussions among colleagues, initiatives such as the BUP Symposium 2020 are realized. Our hope is that our Programme will lead to more visibility and cooperation among researchers, teachers and students. We also hope to foster a greater awareness on sustainable development issues as well as facilitate exchange and mobility. In turn, we believe that this will lead to more common projects and more success in funding and publications. Thus, the goals with BUPSYPMSIUM2020 are as follows:

- to provide an opportunity to meet colleagues
- to provide an opportunity to disseminate and take part of new knowledge
- to provide an arena where to discuss research
- to provide an opportunity to get published and spread research in the BUP network

We hope You are able to join and take part in the BUP symposium.!



Location

The Symposium will be held at Uppsala University, Campus Gotland, which is situated in the UNESCO World Heritage and Hanseatic town of Visby. The location of Visby on the island of Gotland, in the middle of the Baltic Sea, makes it the perfect setting to discuss the future of sustainability in the region. The Symposium will take place in the main building of Uppsala University Campus Gotland. Address: Cramérgratan 3, 621 57 Visby.

BUP Map

Cities with BUP universities as of January 2019. The line denotes the drainage area of the Baltic Sea Region where most BUP Member Universities are situated.

Red dots show the location of one or more Member Universities.

Blue dots show the location of the BUP National Centres.

Yellow dots show the location of Associated Secretariats.

The black dot show the location of the BUP Coordinating Secretariat.

Graphics by Christian Andersson through Google.



A short interview with

The symposium host Olle Jansson



Tell us about your first contact with The Baltic University Programme?

The first time I heard of it was 2011 while working in Högskolan på Gotland (later Campus Gotland as a part of Uppsala University). When I was asked to be the chairman of the board in 2014 I obviously got more involved.

Why do you think networks within universities in the Baltic Sea Region are important?

For different reasons. From a Swedish perspective we need to connect more with this region as it is enormously important, and not just to connect to the southern and western part of Europe. It is also important for the universities to connect to other universities in the BSR, to interact with them and to create new knowledge.

What role do you think The Baltic University Programme plays for collaboration between universities in the Baltic Sea Region?

I think it could have a lot of importance, in creating those connections between universities in the region. Of course because of the BUP history, but also because it is funded by the Swedish government and the Uppsala University and we have an assignment to coordinate this from Uppsala University. I think that the formal founding of the Programme is important for the stability of the Programme. Of course the Associated Secretariats are important and contribute enormously to the Programme.

What vision do you have for The Baltic University Programme?

When I started as a chairman I realised we needed to concentrate on two things: one is the regeneration of the BUP, the other is to aim efforts towards researchers and students at a higher level.

Why should someone come to Visby in August?

First of all, Visby is the most beautiful place in the whole of Europe at that time of year. The hottest part of the summer is over, but it's still warm and it's the perfect time to go for a swim in the ocean. You come to this medieval world heritage city which is really nice. Campus Gotland is focused on the same themes as the BUP, and we will start our new PhD school in August connected to these goals. Moreover we have a lot of international students starting that week. This setting and dynamic environment is the perfect foundation for the BUP Symposium 2020!

Key Note Speakers

Keri Facer

Zennström Professor in Climate Change Leadership Uppsala University
Professor of Educational Futures, University of Bristol, UK

Keri Facer is Professor of Educational and Social Futures at the University of Bristol, School of Education. She works on rethinking the relationship between formal educational institutions and wider society and is particularly concerned with the sorts of knowledge that may be needed to address contemporary environmental, economic, social, and technological changes.

Since 2013, Keri has been Leadership Fellow for the RCUK Connected Communities Programme. This research programme is creating new relationships between communities and universities, drawing on arts and humanities perspectives and methods to enable new forms of knowledge production to address urgent contemporary issues.

Keri's aim at Zennström Professor at Uppsala University is to work across the whole of Uppsala University to explore how universities can build partnerships with local, national, and international communities, how we can develop powerful knowledge, and how we can educate students to enable the massive transitions we need to live well with climate change.



Petra Schneider

Prof. Dr. rer. nat, University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg -
Stendal, Magdeburg, Germany

Dr. Petra Schneider is Full Professor for International Water Management and Study Course Director of the master program "Ecological Engineering" at the University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg - Stendal, Germany. She focuses her teaching and research on sustainable resource planning and management, and has developed an internationally renowned knowledge of water management.



Editors note: More keynote speakers will be presented at the website www.bupsymposium2020.se

Researchers in the Baltic Sea Region!

The Baltic University Programme currently support cooperation and researchers at the Member Universities in a number of ways. For the upcoming BUP symposium 2020, we are challenging researchers from different disciplines with an interest in the Baltic Sea Region as an empirical field. This is an opportunity to discuss Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region. We especially welcome presentations of research having an inter-/multi disciplinary approach. Our hope is that this will lead to more visibility and cooperation among researchers regarding exchange, mobility, common projects and successful publication.

We are excited to receive Your submission of abstract.

Published outcomes of the BUP symposium will be a Book of Abstracts, as well as a Special Issue in the scientific journal Sustainability. Read more about this at the website, www.bupsymposium2020.se

There will be a possibility to be published in the book.

We hope to see You in Visby!

Important dates

Abstracts

Call for abstracts is open until 31st January 2020.

Decisions about acceptance/rejection are sent to the applicants by 18th February 2020.

Registration

Registration for participation for Rectors and colleagues responsible for the Theme Sessions at the BUP Symposium 2020 is open from December 9th 2019. Registration for presenters and other colleagues will open from the end of February 2020. The final deadline for registration is 6th of May 2020.

Publications

Deadline for submission of abstracts by 31st of January 2020.

Book of Abstracts will be published in August 2020.

Find out more at the conference website, www.bupsymposium2020.se about the Special Issue in the scientific journal Sustainability and "Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals". It will be part of the award-winning "World Sustainability Series", published by Springer, one of the world's top five scientific publishers, edited by Professor Walter Leal from the Baltic Universities Research and Publications Programme (BUPRaP).

Others

BUP Parallell activities 24th August 2020.

BUP Research Forum 25th - 26th August 2020.



Theme 1: Climate Change and Renewable Energy

Coordinator

Joakim Widén. Professor; Uppsala University, Sweden.

Scientific Committee

Joakim Widén. Professor; Uppsala University, Sweden.
persons to be confirmed later

A short interview with Joakim Widén

1. How did your interest in Climate Change and Renewable Energy begin?

It began for real when I took courses at Cemus (Center for Environment and Development Studies) at Uppsala University in 2005. Then in early 2006 I was admitted to doctoral studies at the Department of Engineering Sciences on integration of solar power in the Swedish energy system, and since then I have continued working and doing research in this field.

2. How do you work with Climate Change and Renewable Energy today?

I am a Professor in Civil Engineering at Uppsala University and head of the Division of Civil Engineering and Built Environment. In 2019, we started brand new research and PhD programmes with the same name, focusing on research in the borderland between building sciences and energy systems engineering. My own research is focused on utilization of solar energy in the built environment, from basic to very applied science.

3. What goals do you have with your work?

The goal of my research is to find out how a transition to a renewable and sustainable society can take place, without sub-optimization of the energy systems in the built environment. For example, what role should renewable energy technologies play in buildings and in local infrastructures? What impacts do different new building technologies have on local energy demand and on-site supply, and on the operation of local distribution systems for heat and electricity?

4. What role do you think networks among universities in the Baltic Sea Region play in achieving these goals?

Achieving these goals requires that we understand the specific conditions and prerequisites in different countries and regions. Here I believe that a network of universities in countries that have many things in common, but also face different challenges, can play an important role. Also for dissemination of research findings to society a common communication channel is important.

5. What role do you see The Baltic University Programme has in collaboration between universities in the Baltic Sea Region?

Sharing knowledge, methods and resources is necessary in order to advance the research frontier and avoid unnecessary duplication and competition. Organizations such as The Baltic University Programme are very important in facilitating this.



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Theme 2: Sustainable Societies

Coordinator

Joakim Ekman, Prof., Södertörn University, Södertörn, Sweden

Scientific Committee

Joakim Ekman, Prof., Södertörn University, Södertörn, Sweden

Hele Kiimann, Dr., Uppsala University, Sweden

Ildikó Asztalos Morell, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Department of Urban and Rural Studies, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

A short interview with Joakim Ekman



1. How did your interest in Sustainable Societies begin?

My interest in what may be labelled Sustainable Societies covers matters relating to society and equality, or if you will, democracy and political and social inclusion. My interest in these issues dates back to the early 1990s. Because of the events in Poland and Germany in 1989, I had taken an interest in the general development of the societies in Central and Eastern Europe. There were so many interesting changes, relating not only to democracy and market economy, but also to issues about collective identities (Eastern and Western Germany), as well as state borders and ethnic conflicts (the former Soviet Union and the by then dissolving Yugoslavia). Also, in the Baltic states, you had problems relating to citizenship and social exclusion. I found the entire region fascinating, and after defending my doctoral dissertation (in 2001), I became involved in a number of projects that in different ways focused on democratic developments, and setbacks, in the post-communist region.

2. How do you work with Sustainable Societies today?

I still focus on democracy from a grassroots perspective, that is, the way ordinary citizens orient themselves to democracy and political institutions. In recent years, the region has been characterized by a general backlash against what is sometimes referred to as "European values". We have seen instances of populist challenges to European integration and what the European Union represents: tolerance, liberal democracy, respect for human rights and the protection of minority rights. Following the 2004 and 2007 eastern enlargements of the EU – sometimes described as a "return to Europe" following decades of communist rule – we have throughout the post-communist region witnessed what has been labelled "democratic backsliding", Euroscepticism, the rise of radical right populism, the spread of corruption, an authoritarian "backlash" and the rise of xenophobia and chauvinism. And, of course, the 2015 refugee crisis confirmed the inability of the EU to stick together. My present research relates directly to these developments.

3. What goals do you have with your work?

Most of my work is not really applied research, conducted in order to solve specific or practical problems. Rather, it has to do with specific, and not seldom, more confined academic debates. But of course, I welcome any interest from stakeholders, media or the general public. This fall (2019) we published a book on political orientations in the three Baltic states, looking specifically at attitudinal differences between the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian majority groups and the Russian-speaking minority groups in the three countries. We can document significant differences when it comes to levels of political dissatisfaction, support for non-democratic regime alternatives, and attitudes towards the European Union and Russia.

4. What role do you think networks among universities in the Baltic Sea Region play in achieving these goals?

As I see it, we all benefit from international collaboration. Is not a matter of "us" (say, the Scandinavian countries or Western Europe) providing "them" (say, the Baltic states, Russia or Eastern Europe at large) with knowledge about how to do good research. That idea is outdated. Rather, it is a matter of mutual learning. Using again my recent project on public opinion in the Baltic states as an example, we could not have done it without the help of researchers and public opinion specialists in the three countries we focused on.

5. What role do you see The Baltic University Programme has in collaboration between universities in the Baltic Sea Region?

The Baltic University Programme (BUP) is probably the most interesting international network from my point of view, BUP is an established and recognized network, and it includes a large number of universities in precisely the region that we focus on. My ambition is that Södertörn University could be instrumental in strengthening the BUP, for example by bringing in perspectives from the humanities and the social sciences into the activities of the network. Moreover, I find the BUP network interesting because it does not only support activities for researchers and PhD students, but also for teachers and Master students in the region.

Theme 3: Sustainable Water Resources

Coordinator

Artur Magnuszewski, Associate professor, University of Warsaw, Poland

Scientific Committee

Artur Magnuszewski, Associate professor, University of Warsaw, Poland

Aleksandra Ziemińska-Stolarska, Dr., Technical University of Lodz, Lodz, Poland

Walter Leal Filho, Dr. Prof., Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg, Germany

Hele Kiimann, Dr., Uppsala University, Sweden

A short interview with

Artur Magnuszewski

1. What is the foundation for your interest in Sustainable Water Resources?

Modern water management follows the EU Water Directive, which on the top of priorities see a good ecological status of the water bodies. To achieve a good ecological status only hydro-technical solutions are not enough. We need to understand ecology. The fundamental principles of ecology are related to closed loops of matter circulation including water cycle. To maintain good ecological status of water bodies it is wise to respect natural cycles, which is stressed in sustainable water resources management. So in other words to have a modern water management we need a sustainable methods of water use.

2. How do you work with Sustainable Water Resources today?

I am looking for environment friendly designs and also apply the nature based solutions. Observing natural processes is the best way to design proper technical structures, well-balanced water management.

3. What goals do you have with your work?

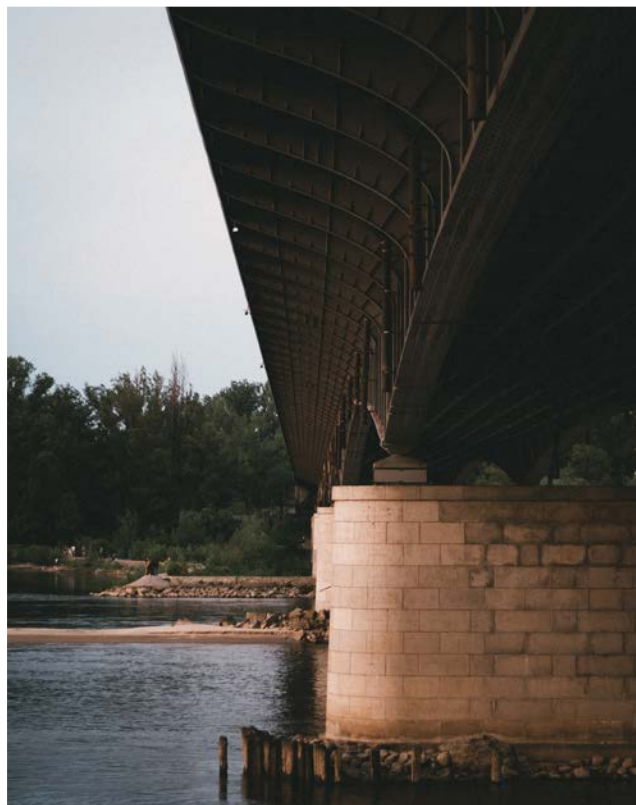
I am looking for nature based solutions for the city of Warsaw and it's adaptation to climate change. I am also interested in traditional adaptations to floods in the Vistula River.

4. What role do you think networks among universities in the Baltic Sea Region play in achieving these goals?

Network is the window to knowledge and examples of good practice in water management from other countries. Scandinavian countries are very well advanced in that matter. The region of Southern Baltic has different problems in water management than the Northern region due to the size of the catchment, population etc. Nevertheless the innovation diffusion is always easier in a network.

5. What role do you see The Baltic University Programme has in collaboration between universities in the Baltic Sea Region?

The Baltic University Programme is a brand by itself; it has a very good history and good reputation as an active network of education institutions. It is also a very good platform if you look for a partner in a research project or publication.



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Theme 4: Urban-Rural Development

Coordinator

Henner Busch, Postdoc., Lund University, Lund, Sweden

Scientific Committee

Henner Busch, Postdoc., Lund University, Lund, Sweden

Barbora Čakovská, PhD, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia

Madeleine Granvik, Assoc. Prof., Swedish Agricultural University, Uppsala, Sweden

Claudia Fonseca, Postdoc., Malmö University, Sweden

A short interview with Henner Busch

1. How did your interest in Urban-Rural Development begin?

I grew up in Berlin, a city with roughly 3.5 MIO inhabitants. However, my parent's house is just a 5 min walk from one of the big city forests. So I guess I somehow grew up between city and forest. In my master programme, we had a pretty intense 7-week course on System Thinking. It sharpened my view for urban-rural linkages. Since then my research has been oscillating between the two ends of the spectrum. I wrote my biggest course paper on solar panels in Berlin, then I wrote my master thesis on renewables in rural Brandenburg. For my PhD I went back to cities and looked at climate policies, for my postdoc I am looking at community energy projects which mostly take place in rural settings.

2. How do you work with Urban-Rural Development today?

I guess if you work on renewable energy, you can't really get around the topic of urban-rural linkages. I am particularly interested in if and how concepts for energy production that works well in rural settings can be transferred to urban areas. So I am often searching for the similarities between urban and rural communities. Another theme that I am very interested in is Energy Justice. It raises the question who benefits from energy systems and who bears the burden. A really big share of our energy that we use here in the South of Sweden comes from the mostly rural North. We urban citizens benefit and the rural population up North bears the burden because wind turbines and hydro plants put a heavy burden. For example, traditional reindeer herding becomes very difficult if the entire landscape becomes peppered with wind turbines. Energy Justice highlights the trade-offs and conflicts between urban and rural interest that otherwise might stay invisible.

3. What goals do you have with your work?

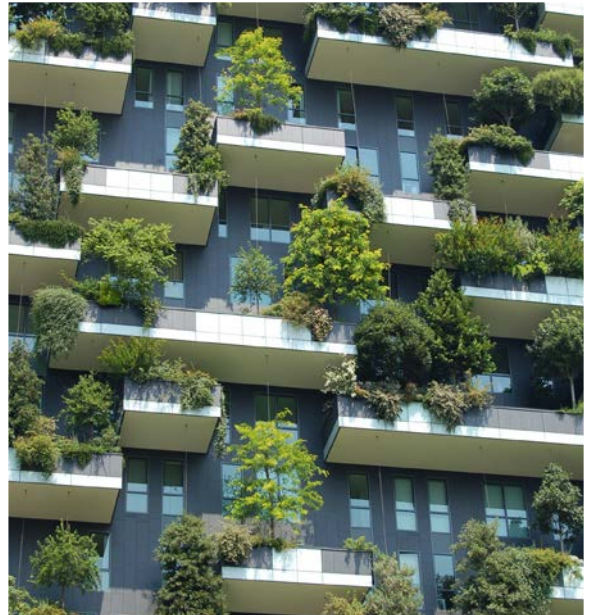
Well, as a researcher in sustainability science I deal a lot with questions of justice. How can we find societal arrangements that are fair, both between and within generations? If I can make a tiny contribution to how we can solve this puzzle, I guess I have succeeded.

4. What role do you think networks among universities in the Baltic Sea Region play in achieving these goals?

I am now working at the geography department here at Lund University. Geographers always look for the links between different places. Geography focuses on how resources, culture, politics, basically people influence each other. Networks can help us see these links while at the same time learn from the differences between us. But most of all networks like the BUP teaches us that we all sit in the same boat, especially when it comes to sustainability issues. What we do here in Sweden does not happen in a vacuum. Our actions here might influence people's lives in Belarus or Northern Finland. Understanding this can help making us more aware of the unintended consequences of our decisions and make us more responsible.

5. What role do you see The Baltic University Programme has in collaboration between universities in the Baltic Sea Region?

I think the BUP makes a very important contribution to overcoming barriers. Most of them mainly exist in our heads though and exchange can help us overcome them. I can use myself as an example. I got involved in the BUP not because I was very interested in the interaction between Baltic States or the like. I got on board because my good friend Pontus Ambros started a job at BUP and I am really bad at saying "no". But now I have to say that I am very happy that I got involved and got to learn so much about what links the different sides of the Baltic to each other.



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Theme 5: Sustainable Mobility

Coordinator

Linus Kliučininkas, Dr., Professor; Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Scientific Committee

Prof. Linas Kliučininkas, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Dr. Dorota Kamrowska-Zaluska, Gdansk University of Technology, Poland

Prof. Remigijus Čiegis, Vilnius University, Lithuania

A short interview with

Linus Kliučininkas

1. How did your interest in Sustainable Mobility begin?

At the moment Sustainable Mobility is one of my professional interests. When I have started the topic was known as 'Sustainable Transportation'. Over time the concept has expanded and developed into 'Sustainable Mobility'. I look at this topic from both sides: as a researcher and as an ordinary citizen, therefore every practical implementation of theoretical ideas makes me happy.

2. How do you work with Sustainable Mobility today?

The vast majority of our publications are related to the environmental dimension of Sustainable Mobility. However, this modern concept also covers economic, technological, social, cultural and even artistic aspects of Sustainable Mobility. I am always glad to discuss these issues with my students.

3. What goals do you have with your work?

As a scientist, I am interested to find the new and innovative ways to improve our lives. Sometimes research results are rather modest, but we know this is the small step forward.

4. What role do you think networks among universities in the Baltic Sea Region play in achieving these goals?

The networks play a role of catalysers, they speed up our professionalism and the development of our societies. The BUP is a unique one – I have been a part of the network from its beginning. Probably, this could be the answer to your question.

5. What role do you see The Baltic University Programme has in collaboration between universities in the Baltic Sea Region?

The academic traditions and cultures in different countries around the Baltic Sea are rather different. Thus, BUP provides an opportunity to understand how academic systems in different countries functioning. The most important - joint activities that make Baltic collaboration vital.



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Academia and the UN SDGs

The United Nations member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 as a new plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets with indicators to monitor progress on these goals. The Academia and research community constitute a very important group of stakeholders who can strongly support the achievement of the SDGs. Whether it is at the global, regional or local level, universities can contribute in multiple ways. This is through knowledge generation, innovations, data, technical analysis, and above all through training the next generation of students in building a sustainable future. The Baltic University Program-

me creates a unique learning environment having academic teachers-, researchers-, and students in focus where the regional perspective and interdisciplinary is highlighted. The Programme supports research cooperation and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in a Baltic Sea Region context.

Theme 6: Circular Economy

Coordinators

Visvaldas Varžinskas, Assoc. Prof. Dr., Kaunas University of Technology
Markus Will, Dipl.-Ing. (FH), Hochschule Zittau/Görlitz

Scientific Committee

Visvaldas Varžinskas, Assoc. Prof. Dr., Kaunas University of Technology
Markus Will, Dipl.-Ing. (FH), Hochschule Zittau/Görlitz
Tatjana Polajeva, Prof., EuroAcademy, Tallin, Estonia
Jakub Kronenberg, University of Lodz, Poland

A short interview with Visvaldas Varžinskas



1. How did your interest in Circular Economy begin?

My interest in Circular Economy started with my PhD studies. In 2003 I started to do research in the fields of sustainable industry development, integrated product policy (IPP), product Eco-design, Life cycle assessment (LCA). All these concepts were related with life-cycle thinking and based on supply-chain management of goods, materials and energy "from cradle to cradle". This concept of continuous improvement of environmental performance later transformed into what we call Circular Economy nowadays.

2. How do you work with Circular Economy today?

As Circular Economy (CE) becomes one of the main priorities in EU legislation, policy and financing, there is so much to do in this field. For the moment, I am personally involved in different projects and activities in different levels. In my pedagogical work I give lectures on topics of CE for KTU students, in my research - working on implementation of CE tools in industrial systems; helping industrial companies to analyse and identify possibilities to reduce material consumption. In city level since 2015, I am a member of Kaunas City Council and Chair of the Committee of Sustainable Development and Investments.

3. What goals do you have with your work?

A very challenging chapter of my career in CE started in 2016, when I was invited to become a partner of The EU Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy (a joint effort of European Commission, Member States and European Cities Networks). The Partnership has identified a Plan of 12 Actions of CE for EU Cities and recommendations to be put forward to the EU, Member States and cities. These actions and recommendations touch upon some of the most important barriers and provide advice for cities in their work towards a circular economy. The aim of the Action Plan is to provide either Better Regulation, Better Funding or Better Knowledge.

4. What role do you think networks among universities in the Baltic Sea Region play in achieving these goals?

The biggest attention at implementation of CE goes to better knowledge and awareness of society. Universities have a powerful impact on regional socio-economical behaviour and possibilities for networking, transfer of knowledge and sharing of experience can make it much stronger. Socio-economic challenges and demographic changes in the BSR influence our everyday behaviours and attitudes. They require new solutions to ensure sustainability and prosperity. These solutions are expected to generate significant change to several areas. The aim of the partnership among universities in the Baltic Sea Region is to consolidate, compile and guide the Baltic Sea Region cities to relevant information and resources freely available for those interested in developing a circular strategy.

5. What role do you see The Baltic University Programme has in collaboration between universities in the Baltic Sea Region?

The main idea, which unites member universities, is Sustainable Development. It drives toward a circular and sharing economy and has environmental benefits as it decouples the economic development from the consumption of limited resources. I truly believe, that leadership of BUP in this field will enable a shift towards a more circular economy and will be crucial for the region's possibility to meet the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Without active participation of universities, enterprises and citizens, a transition will not take place. Successful regional cooperation of universities (as BUP) is the key factor to achieve a sustainable, socially inclusive, innovative and economically powerful Baltic sea region and Europe.

Theme 7: Sustainable Tourism

Coordinator

Anette Oxenswärdh, PhD., Senior Lecturer, Uppsala University, Sweden

Scientific Committee

Anette Oxenswärdh, PhD., Senior Lecturer, Uppsala University, Sweden

Ulrika Persson-Fischier, Uppsala University, Sweden

Maria Fredriksson, Uppsala University, Sweden

A short interview with

Anette Oxenswärdh

1. Could you give a short presentation of yourself?

I have been working within education in one or another form almost 40 years. At the moment I am working as an assistant professor at Uppsala University, Department of Engineering Sciences, in section of Quality Sciences. My main research interest has been collective learning and processes of understanding assignment and responsibility, as well as processes of meaning- and sense making. I am a member of a research programme called Sustainable Visits. Sustainable Visits includes 26 researchers at Uppsala University, Campus Gotland who examines the tourism industry interdisciplinary. My subproject, so far, has been to investigate the learning processes in the tourism industry, especially within the accommodation business. Focus questions have been: How do we create awareness of sustainability? What kind of learning processes achieves a shared vision of sustainable visits? What lessons can be learned that can contribute to the development of sustainable visit?

2. Tell us about your first contact with The Baltic University Programme?

My first contact with The Baltic University Programme was a few years ago, within the conference in Lviv, Ukraine. I then got to know some researchers and felt the atmosphere among participants as very familiar and inspiring.

3. Could you tell us about the Network Sustainable Tourism?

Recently, I have initiated a network called Network for Sustainable Tourism (NST), which consists of no less than 40 researchers around the Baltic Sea. The network's mission is to facilitate virtual and face-to-face interaction among academic researchers on sustainable tourism from a broad range of fields, as well as engage the next generation of tourist research scholars. NST also welcomes participation of policy makers and workplace practitioners, as it seeks to promote knowledge and understanding of sustainability issues among researchers, communities and local stakeholders. The network is designed to be a platform for all members to be able to collaborate and share knowledge with each other. Furthermore, the NST is intended to make members of the network aware of recent research and academic publications (such as academic journals and books) or items of interest to the practitioners. As a multi-disciplinary endeavour, the network aims at exploring specifically devoted members to sustainability issues in the hospitality industry, i.e. destination development, tourist attractions, accommodations etc. In the end, working together for a more sustainable world can be seen as an overall aim.

4. What is the next step for the Network Sustainable Tourism?

The next step for the future collaboration is to have presentations of our research interests on an online meeting in February 2020. In August 2020, within the BUP symposium in Visby, Gotland, we have arranged a special section for Sustainable Tourism, where I hope to see many of the members from our network presenting their research and discussing sustainable solutions. This is also a good time to have a face-to-face meeting in the network. I have also planned an excursion to visit some tourist establishments with sustainable solutions.

We would like to highlight the fact that Anette initiated the NST-network, using the BUP e-mail list. Within only a few days she received answers to her e-mail and in this fashion gathered 40 colleagues from the region. This is one of the major advantages of the BUP - functioning as a network of colleagues that you can reach out to!

Theme 8: Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Coordinators

Cecilia Lundberg, PhD. Project Coordinator at Åbo Akademi University, Finland
Eva Friman, Director SWEDESD, Uppsala University, Sweden & Adjunct Professor, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia

Scientific Committee

Stefan Bengtsson, Dr., Project Coordinator, SWEDESD, Uppsala University, Sweden
Eva Friman, Director SWEDESD, Uppsala University, Sweden & Adjunct Professor, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia
Walter Leal, Prof. Dr. (mult.) Dr. h.c. (mult.), Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany
Cecilia Lundberg, PhD. Project Coordinator at Åbo Akademi University, Finland
Shepherd Urenje, Dr., Specialist, SWEDESD, Uppsala University, Sweden

A short interview with Cecilia Lundberg

1. How did your interest in Education for Sustainable Development begin?

I have my background in marine biology, especially the state of eutrophication on a Baltic perspective. Through my former role as a more or less traditional university teacher, I started to get interested in didactics in higher education and more student-center and learning-center methodologies. As I, at the same time, have a more and deeper interest in issues of sustainable development, ESD is the perfect combination for me.

2. How do you work with Education for Sustainable Development today?

The BUP associate secretariat at Åbo Akademi University has ESD for teachers in higher education as our focus area. For example via our BUP teachers course, ESD in Higher Education, I come in contact with fantastic teachers in the Baltic Sea Region, and we all learn so much from each other, and share experience. Through this course I also had the opportunity to collaborate with Shepherd Urenje at SWEDESD, he is an expert in this field.

3. What goals do you have with your work?

I wish to be involved in spreading the knowledge of ESD and SDGs within higher education. It has a double multidisciplinary dimension, both in the subjects of the SDGs, but also in the near connection with the 21st century skills. It is a topic of the highest interest, which more and more people understand today. Therefore, I am proud to be part of the BUP, which was one of the first actors in this field.

4. What role do you think networks among universities in the Baltic Sea Region play in achieving these goals?

Networks like BUP act on a cross-country, regional level. It has a great value in connecting people within higher education in the Baltic Sea Region: sharing experience, learning from each other, learning together and creating new BUP networks.

5. What role do you see The Baltic University Programme has in collaboration between universities in the Baltic Sea Region?

The BSR is not the same as when BUP was founded in 1991. Still, I think, the connection and relation to our common Baltic Sea is a good starting point for interdisciplinary issues, as the Agenda 2030. Sometimes the national level is too narrow, but the global level too big. Then the regional perspective, as the BUP represents, is the perfect springboard.



Theme 9: Sustainable Food Systems

Coordinator

Radovan Kasarda, Prof. Dr. Ing., Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia

Scientific Committee

Radovan Kasarda, Prof. Dr. Ing., Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia

Madeleine Granvik, Assoc. Prof., Swedish Agricultural University, Uppsala, Sweden

Kristina Candrakova, PhD. Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia

A short interview with Radovan Kasadra

1. How did your interest in Sustainable Food Systems begin?

My first touch with sustainability issues began during my PhD study period, when I started to deal with protection of animal genetic resources of farm animals. The topic of my thesis was the breeding systems of using sires in small endangered populations. In fact, in that time (2003) I started thinking and discovered issues of monitoring and preservation of genetic variability in populations on local and later on global level.

2. How do you work with Sustainable Food Systems today?

Today, I am still working with issues of proper management of animal genetic resources. Recent progress in methodologies based on molecular genetic markers allows us to undertake more precise action based on reliable information. Beside this, I am a full time teacher at the university and have in the courses implemented goals of sustainable development according to food resources, biodiversity protection and farming systems. I am applying progressive tools of education to increase students interest in and awareness of problems of sustainable development.

3. What goals do you have with your work?

SDG2 zero hunger; SDG4 quality education; SDG12: responsible consumption and production; SDG15: life on land; SDG17 partnership.

4. What role do you think networks among universities in the Baltic Sea Region play in achieving these goals?

Partnership of educational institutions, which BUP represents, provides a platform to exchange knowledge and experiences, not only in research and education. This point is important to better understand and more generally accept that it is essential to implement SDG's into everyday life of people on the planet, without exceptions.

5. What role do you see The Baltic University Programme has in collaboration between universities in the Baltic Sea Region?

BUP is the place where new partnerships between scientists could be established for future prospects in research, exchange information about curricula and teaching practice. For students BUP represents a place where they can have foreign experiences during study or internship period, conferences or workshops. Building such partnerships could be beneficial in creation of consortia, applying for research funds or strategic partnerships in education.



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Presentation of the BUP Themes

Theme 1: Climate Change and Renewable Energy

Climate change refers to the changes that occur in the world's climatic systems caused by anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. As stated by the Paris accord, the world's countries have agreed to limit the global temperature increase to no more than 2°C above the pre-industrial levels. At the same time, the countries have also pledged to aim for a global average increase of 1.5°C. Renewable energy plays a crucial role in the transition to a zero-emission society. Changing our energy production becomes essential in order to phase out the fossil fuels. It will require both technological and societal changes to accomplish such a transition. Science is already and will continually play a crucial role in the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as transforming our energy production to be renewable.

Theme 2: Sustainable Societies

Wellbeing has direct correlations to several factors influencing the everyday quality of life, such as health, human rights, economy, the environment and poor management of our scarce resources. A sustainable society focuses on the current and future well-being of its citizens and the environment. The three spheres of sustainability encompass many concepts which explain how decisions and actions can have an impact on the overall sustainability of our world. In this perspective the issues of legislation and planning are essential. How policy, planning, implementation and practice on local, regional and global levels are an important factor. Issues such as public involvement and participation, transparency, the access principle and freedom of speech are crucial in the development of sustainable societies. Failing to put emphasis on the social factors influenced by decisions or actions may result in the collapse of the spheres of sustainability, and society as well. Research is crucial for a sustainable outcome and mitigation of the many interests involved in decisions and actions influencing our society today.

Theme 3: Sustainable Water Resources

The field of sustainable water resources management has the challenge to adapt to the current and future issues facing the allocation of water. With the growing uncertainties of global climate change and the long term impacts of management actions, the decision-making will be even more difficult. It is likely that ongoing climate change will lead to situations that have not been encountered. As a result, alternative management strategies are sought for in order to avoid setbacks in the allocation of water resources. Ideally, water resource management planning has regard to all the competing demands for water and seeks to allocate water on an equitable basis to satisfy all uses and demands. As with other resource management, this is rarely possible in practice. One of the biggest concerns for our water-based resources in the future is the sustainability of the current and even future water resource allocation. As water becomes more scarce, the importance of how it is managed grows vastly. Finding a balance between what is needed by humans and what is needed in the environment is an important step in the sustainability of water resources.

Theme 4: Urban-Rural Development

The last decades of urbanisation globally have led to several trends related to spatial planning today, such as urban growth, densification, uncontrolled sprawl and an on-going discussion about urban-rural interaction. The current discourse on sustainable urban development in the Baltic Sea Region and Europe concerns to a great extent densification of urban populations. Additionally, the densification doctrine has also contributed to the focus given to cities and other highly agglomerated areas in the sustainable development discourse. Thus, the sustainable society is being studied mainly from an urban point of view - sustainable cities, eco-cities, sustainable urban development - a perspective which is often separated from discussions about development in rural areas, farmlands and forests. Planning for urban-rural interactions has not been in focus for half a century. Thus, cities are supported with food, natural resources and energy mainly from the global market rather than from the immediate surroundings. However, environmental crises, global change and resource crises claim a new era on how to organise and plan for urban and rural interactions. The development of regional- and local flows and systems, so called (re-) localisation processes concerning for instance energy and food, is a topical issue in planning of today, as well as the development of strong local communities and sustainable lifestyles. Though the number of urban districts with sustainability ambitions is growing worldwide, it is not clear to what extent such areas actually achieve environmental and resource efficiency. Indeed, academic literature is still inconclusive about how far technological and architectural measures can take us towards global sustainable development. Recently scholars have stressed the importance of human behavioral patterns in reaching sustainability. Investigating the relative importance of, and the relation between, urban lifestyles vis-a-vis the built environment therefore is crucial for planning for sustainability. The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stress these issues as well as the BALTIC 2030: An Action Plan for the Baltic Sea Region. Scholars at universities and practitioners in authorities and business have a great responsibility when it comes to realization and implementation of current global, regional and local policy.



Presentation of the BUP Themes, cont.

Theme 5: Sustainable Mobility

In all modern societies, for a number of reasons, people tend to increase their mobility. The functioning of a modern society puts heavy demand on the ability of individuals to be mobile. Economic, political and social factors affect both the total volume of transportation and its different modes.

The sustainable mobility aims at the reduction of adverse effects connected to mobility. This means, above all, promoting co-modality, i.e. optimally combining various modes of transport within the same transport chain, which looking forward, is the solution in the case of freight. Technical innovations and a shift towards the least polluting and most energy efficient modes of transport – especially in the case of long distance and urban travel – will also contribute to more sustainable mobility. A higher share of travel by collective transport, combined with minimum service obligations, will allow the density and frequency of service to be increased. Demand, management and land-use planning can lower traffic volumes. Facilitating walking and cycling should become an integral part of urban mobility and infrastructure design.

Theme 6: Circular Economy

Circular economy refers to an economic system built on circular materials flows, instead of the more conventional economic systems where a product is being produced, used and trashed. In a circular economic system, materials produced are used, later to be reused, repaired, repurposed or recycled. The underlying idea with circular economy is to build an economic system which favors a circular economic flow and de-couples the resource use and emissions from the growing economy. Thus, producing systems where the economy is flourishing, without the negative environmental impacts.

Circular economy has already been adapted in a small scale and in a number of sectors through out the region. But in order to truly change the resource extraction and emission patterns on a large scale, the system needs to be up-scaled.

Theme 7: Sustainable Tourism

Tourism is a dynamic global industry which has grown and changed dramatically over the past twenty years. It is one of the largest resource consuming industries in the world. The growth of travel has led to the concern shown for the environmental, economical as well as social sustainability. It is also the fastest growing and important industry in terms of the number of employees and its potential for the social, economic and environmental impacts. This theme aims at gathering researchers on sustainable tourism from a broad range of fields as well as engage the next generation of tourist research scholars around the Baltic Sea. As a multi-disciplinary endeavor, we explore specifically sustainability issues in hospitality industry such as destination development, tourist attractions, tourist accommodations etc.

Theme 8: Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a transdisciplinary research field, studying transformative learning within formal, non-formal and informal settings. ESD works with learning processes in relation to all SDGs in Agenda 2030. ESD is about combining wicked issues such as climate change, disaster risk and overconsumption with teaching and learning frameworks. ESD looks at participatory teaching methods and high-quality learning environments, for learners to co-create their education, their world, and their future. ESD promotes sustainability competencies like critical thinking, action competence and future scenarios skills.

Theme 9: Sustainable Food Systems

Key challenges of our time are to sustain the management of agricultural land and develop more resilient food systems to feed a growing world population. It is envisaged that agricultural production will be increasingly impaired due to climate change and the ongoing degradation of natural resources, and due to increasing environmental externalities. Environmental impacts concern land, soil, water, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. In the same time the food system is the leading cause of these negative effects.

Increased effort has to be given to establish clear link between producers, processing and consumers to either increase accessibility of food resources globally and not harming environment by excessive logistic and distribution of it. Present state of the knowledge allows us to develop almost waste free production chain, where each by-product could be further used or processed. Proper management of local plant and animal biodiversity is one of the essential points for establishment of such a chain and achievement of sustainable development.

Citizens lost connection to the agriculture and production of food resources. Education of people, implementation of science in everyday life and change of conventional patterns of management of resources are essential on the path towards sustainability in food systems.

The Program of the BUP Symposium 2020



Monday 24 August Part 1: Parallel Activities						
9.00		BUP Centre				
9.30		Directors				
10.00		Meeting				
11.00	Registration opens	(internal)				
12.00		Venue: To be announced				
12.00						
13.00						
13.00		Parallel Activities (see below):				
16.00						
13.00	PhD Supervisor Collegium Meeting BUP internal	Release: Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Curriculum	Campus Gotland ESD Learning Lab - Transformative Learning for Sustainable Development	Workshop: Sustainable Campus Project		Network meeting and excursion with Sustainable Tourism
14.00		A regional course module on climate change	Sanna Barrineau & Iann Lundegård Uppsala University	German network of Universities Bernd Delakowitz Hochschule Zittau/Görlitz		Anette Oxenswärth Uppsala University
		Pontus Amros Uppsala University	Venue: To be announced			9.30 - 17.00
		Venue: To be announced				
15.00				Riga Technical University Green Campus & sustainability	Juris Iljins Riga Technical University	
				Venue: To be announced		
15.30				How to make Your Campus Sustainable	GHOST Student Organization	
				Venue: To be announced		
16.00						
17.00	Formal opening of the BUP SYMPOSIUM 2020 Welcome speech, keynote, mingle and reception Venue: to be announced					

Continued on next page

The Program of the BUP Symposium 2020

Tuesday 25 August Part 2: BUP Research Forum: Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Baltic Sea Region										
9.00 - 11.00	Keynote Speeches Venue: To be announced									
11.00 - 11.15	Break									
11.15 - 12.30	Parallel Activities (see below):									
11.15 - 12.00	Lunch for Rectors	Climate Change and Renewable Energy	Sustainable Food Systems	Sustainable Water Resources	Urban-Rural Development	Sustainable Mobility	Circular Economy	Sustainable Tourism	Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	Sustainable Societies
12.00 - 12.30		Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced
12.30 - 13.00	Lunch									
13.00 - 14.00	Rector's Meeting	Climate Change and Renewable Energy	Sustainable Food Systems	Sustainable Water Resources	Urban-Rural Development	Sustainable Mobility	Circular Economy	Sustainable Tourism	Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	Sustainable Societies
14.00 - 15.00		Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced
15.00 - 16.00										
17.00 - 18.00	Break									
18.00 - 19.00	Conference Dinner Venue: To be announced									
19.00 -	Rector's Dinner	Venue: To be announced								

Continued on next page



The Program of the BUP Symposium 2020

Wednesday 26 August									
Part 2: BUP Research Forum: Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Baltic Sea Region									
Parallel Activities (see below)									
9.00 - 12.00	Climate Change and Renewable Energy	Sustainable Food Systems	Sustainable Water Resources	Urban-Rural Development	Sustainable Mobility	Circular Economy	Sustainable Tourism	Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	Sustainable Societies
	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Excursion Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch								
13.00 - 15.00	Climate Change and Renewable Energy	Sustainable Food Systems	Sustainable Water Resources	Urban-Rural Development	Sustainable Mobility	Circular Economy	Sustainable Tourism	Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	Sustainable Societies
	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced	Venue: To be announced
15.00 - 16.00	Rector's Panel Open for all participants Venue: To be announced								
END OF PART 1 AND PART 2 OF THE BUP SYMPOSIUM 2020									
Wednesday 26 August Start of Part 3 From 16 - 18 pm: Arrival and set-up of displays, key note speech and cocktail reception for the "5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities" (WSSD-U-2020)									
Thursday 27 - Friday 28 August 5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities (WSSD-U-2020) Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals									

For the full updated program, go to: <http://www.bupsymposium2020.se/program>





Who we are

Being innovative by its nature, the Baltic University Programme (BUP) strives since its foundation in 1991 to find novel ways of interaction and cooperation among universities by promoting openness, internationalization and mobility.

Our aim

The main aim is to support building strong regional educational and research communities. The Baltic University Programme is committed to gain and disseminate knowledge in the fields of sustainable development, environmental protection, nature resources, democracy and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). This is achieved by developing and offering university courses, conferences, support multi- and interdisciplinary research co-operations, and by participation in transdisciplinary projects.

Have something to share?

The BUP Newsletter

The BUP Newsletter publishes materials on the BUP, its activities, and on sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. The newsletter is published four times per year and distributed by e-mail through the mailing-list. Comments, contributions, tips, and ideas are always welcome, please contact Ulrika Klintberg at ulrika.klintberg@balticuniv.uu.se.

All previous issues of the BUP Newsletter are available online through our home page: <http://www2.balticuniv.uu.se/bup-3/index.php/public/newsletter>

The BUP Mailing-list

The BUP mailing-list (balticuniversity@lists.uu.se) has about 2,000 subscribers and is a moderated list, i.e. all contributions will be examined and approved by a moderator before being published. To distribute a message through the list, write an email to: balticuniversity@lists.uu.se.

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