



# BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK (BSRUN)

## PLENARY MEETING MINUTES

Online Thursday, 1st December 2022 at 10.00 (DE, PL)/11.00 (EE, FI, LV).

### 1. Welcoming speech

Kari Hyppönen, President, welcomed the participants.

List of participants (Attachment 1).

### 2. Election of Chairman

Traditionally, a representative of the host institution has chaired the PM. This was the case in Turku, too. Since this is exceptionally the first online PM of BSRUN, there is no local host in the traditional sense.

Based on the discussions at the SC meeting on 17 November, President proposed that Professor Andreas Zaby, President of the Berlin School of Economics and Law be elected Chairman.

Professor Zaby was unanimously elected Chairman.

Professor Zaby thanked for the honour and described the main issues of the meeting.

### 3. Welcoming speech by the Chairman

No special welcoming speech was necessary, since Chairman had already described above the task of the meeting.

### 4. Approval of the agenda

Agenda was approved.

### 5. Report of BSRUN in 2020-22

The report was presented already at the PM in Turku on 13 October 2022 by the President of BSRUN.

For further reference were then attached:

- BSRUN membership changes since 1st July 2010 (when fees were first introduced);
- BSRUN participation statistics in 2000-2022; and

- BSRUN rules and regulations.

The same information can be found at [www.bsrn.org](http://www.bsrn.org).

This item was on the agenda for the benefit of those who did not attend the PM in Turku.

The participants took note of the provided documentation.

## **6. Discussion about the future of BSRUN**

The memorandum of the PM in Turku with appendix 6 were attached for information (Appendix 2 and 3).

The PM in Turku invited the SC to meet online to prepare the options for further cooperation within the Network and beyond. Due to some unfortunate technical problems and absences, the SC was not able to provide the PM with more information on where we stand in addition to what you will have seen in the memorandum of the PM.

The need to discuss items 7-12 which follow the ordinary agenda of the PM depends on the decision about the future of BSRUN under item 5. If a decision is taken to suspend joint activities for a definite period of time, a skeleton organisation is needed, though e.g. a membership fee may not be collected.

Chairman summarised the viable decision-making options being those of suspension of joint activities of the network for one more year or closing down the network and/or its EU activities.

The Plenary Meeting of the remaining five Belarusian and Russian BSRUN members had on 12 October 2022 decided in St. Petersburg to support the suspension of joint activities for one more year till the end of 2023.

They had also approved coordination by UNECON, the collection of a membership fee of 500 € for 2023 and supported the appointment of Kari Hyppönen for President for one more year 2023.

In the preliminary discussion Chairman (Berlin School of Economics and Law), the University of Lodz and the Estonian University of Life Sciences supported suspension of joint activities for one more year till the end of 2023 and the three remaining members (Medical University of Gdansk, Gdansk University of Technology and the University of Warmia and Mazury), who had not yet informed BSRUN about their desire to leave the organisation, expressed their preference for leaving the organisation at the end of 2022. They were joined by the University of Latvia which had informed BSRUN already in March 2022 about its decision to leave the network.

The two remaining EU members, LAB University of Applied Sciences and the University of Turku, who will also be leaving at the end of 2022, had decided not to take part in this meeting about the future of the network, but had left it to those who were still considering the available options.

Chairman concluded that among the EU members present there was a majority of 4-3 for leaving the organisation, though counting also the votes given in St. Petersburg there was a majority of 8-4 for suspension of joint activities for one more year.

A proposal was made by the University of Warmia and Mazury to convene the participants excluding the University of Latvia in one year's time to evaluate the situation for possible resumption of joint activities.

This was agreed with the Berlin School of Economics and Law to be the convener. It was also agreed that the remaining BSRUN funds in the University of Latvia Secretariat would be transferred after end of 2022 to be at the convener's disposal. Chairman agreed to open an account for this purpose.

#### **7. Changes to the rules and regulations**

If no changes are approved, the current rules and regulations are automatically prolonged for three years.

No changes were approved.

#### **8. Approval of the membership fee in 2023-25**

No fee will be collected in 2023.

#### **9. Institutional composition of the SC in 2023-25**

No Steering Committee was established for 2023.

#### **10. Approval of the coordinating institution(s) in 2023-25**

Berlin School of Economics and Law was approved as the coordinating institution in 2023.

#### **11. Appointment of the President in 2023-25**

Kari Hyppönen was appointed President for 2023. He does not represent any country nor any member institution, but represents all the members.

#### **12. Plenary Meeting in 2025**

Not applicable.

#### **13. Discussion on further action on the basis of the decisions in principle taken under item 6 above**

Further action was already agreed under item 6 above.

#### **14. Any other business**

There was no other business.

#### **15. Closing of the meeting**

Chairman thanked the participants and closed the meeting at 11.05 (DE, PL)/12.05 (EE, LV, FI).