



BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Date: Thursday, 18 February 2021, 10.00-11.00 CET

Place: online / Zoom

Members

Kari Hyppönen, **President, Chairman**

~~Belarusian State University~~
Konstantin Kozadaev
~~Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs~~

Estonian University of Life Sciences
Mait Klaassen
Rector

University of Turku
Mika Hannula
Vice-Rector for Partnerships and
Strategic Engagement

Berlin School of Economics and Law
Andreas Zaby
President

University of Latvia
Jānis Stonis
Director of Institutional Research

~~University of Warsaw~~

**St. Petersburg State University of
Economics [UNECON]**
Dmitry Vasilenko
Vice-rector for International Relations

Substitutes

~~Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno~~
Aleh Ramanau
~~First Vice-Rector~~

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LAB University of Applied Sciences
Pasi Juvonen
RDI Director of Innovation

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~~Riga Technical University~~
Jānis Šlīte
~~Deputy Rector for Digital Transformation~~

Gdansk University of Technology
Dariusz Mikielwicz
Vice-Rector for Organisation and
Development

**The North-West Institute of Management of
the Russian Federation Presidential
Academy of National Economy and Public
Administration [RANEPA]**
Konstantin Korolev
Vice-Head of the Department of International
Cooperation

Secretariat:

Annija Apsite, **University of Latvia (UL)**

Alyona Zainullina, **St. Petersburg State University of Economics (UNECON)**

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Chairman, Kari Hyppönen.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda circulated to SC on 12 February 2021 was adopted.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Draft Minutes of the SC meeting held online in Zoom on 19 January 2021 were approved.

4. Chairman's Announcements

Chairman made several announcements:

- CBSS announced the project support facility which is open till the end of March;
- CBSS announced the Summer University offering assistance, the deadline is 3 March. More information – <https://cbss.org/>.

5. BSRUN budget of 2021

Vice-President Vasilenko reported that the bills were sent to RU and BY members accompanied by leaflets about forthcoming BSRUN online events on students' housing and SDGs at universities. Special letters were sent to BSEU, BSPU, GSAU and PskovSU in order to encourage them to pay for the 2020 year as well. SPbSU is still waiting for the permission of Rosimushchestvo to pay to LU. Herzen University is working on documents and hopes to pay the 2020 and 2021 fees in March – they will send an official letter confirming it.

Jānis Stonis suggested that LU planned budget, according to Latvian legislation, had to be corrected by reducing e.g. "travel expenses" from 4000 to 2750 euro and adding "employer tax" line with 1250 euro after the "president workload compensation" with its 6000 euro. SC adopted the new budget (Annex 1).

Jānis Stonis proposed to discuss the necessity of existence of two secretariats instead of one and the legal status of the network at the future meetings and PM.

6. BSRUN future events

Vice-President Vasilenko reported about preparation of BSRUN online seminars on “Re-inventing students’ housing” on 25 March (Annex 2) and “SDGs in universities” on 29 April (Annex 3). The events are planned for 2,5 hours with three keynote speeches and a panel discussion introducing cases of universities from different countries. Some of the speakers are already confirmed. The programmes of both events are being prepared.

Dariusz Mikielewicz proposed that he could give a speech on behalf of GUT at the panel discussion of the seminar on student housing. It was supported by the SC.

It was decided to hold a seminar on University Governance and University Boards, which was going to be held in Riga in 2020, online on 6 May. Jānis Stonis described the current situation with the legislation in Latvia. Three main changes are to be done: introduce councils, introduce a new typology of HEIs, dismiss higher education councils. There are two separate laws in Latvia for higher education and for research. It is planned to unite these laws into one – last summer The Rectors’ Council drafted a new common law on higher education and research. University Association also started to prepare a new University Act. The situation is being developed.

The BSRUN event in Turku on 2-3 June 2021 will be considered later.

7. BSRUN marketing strategy and information approach

In order to market both online seminars to a wide audience, it was decided to circulate both announcements along with Anniversary Bulletin to non-members including universities in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, AVRIR, etc.

Vice-President Vasilenko said that he got some written feedbacks on the marketing memo. One way to market BSRUN activities is bulletins like Anniversary with relevant information and quotations from members. The next bulletin will be dedicated to the dormitories including members’ stories and opinions on the topic. Website and Facebook are also an opportunity for marketing. Promotion through events is also a great opportunity to attract non-members to BSRUN activities.

8. Date of the next meeting

Thursday, 8 April 2021 at 13.00 CET was agreed as the date of the next meeting.

9. Any other business

There were no other topics for discussion.

10. Closing of the meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 11.00 CET.