



BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK

PLENARY MEETING

Draft Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 12 October 2022, 10:00 MSK

Place: UNECON (Griboedova canal emb., 30-32, hall 2125)

Participants:

- Kari Hyppönen – **President of BSRUN (online)**

Belarusian State University

- Konstantin Kozadaev – Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and Internationalization of Education

Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno

- Elena Opekun – Head of the Centre of Technologies Transfer

Saint Petersburg State University

- Valeria Malomuzh – Acting Vice-Rector for International Relations

The North-West Institute of Management of RANEPA

- Olga Nesterova – Head of the Department of International Cooperation
- Dmitry Novik – Director of the Centre of International Project Activities of the Department of International Cooperation

St. Petersburg State University of Economics

- Dmitry Vasilenko – Vice-Rector for International Relations
- Alyona Zainullina – BSRUN Secretariat at UNECON

1. Opening of the meeting

Dmitry Vasilenko, Vice-President of BSRUN, opened the meeting and welcomed participants. The participants introduced themselves.

2. Election of the Chairman

Dmitry Vasilenko was elected Chairman of the meeting.

3. Adoption of the Agenda of the meeting

The agenda circulated on 11 October was adopted.

4. Report of BSRUN in 2020-2022

Dmitry Vasilenko gave short overview of the Network history, its life cycle, project activities and developments.

Kari Hyppönen made a report about activities over the past three years. He mentioned that due to COVID-19 pandemic and then political situation in 2022 it was difficult to cooperate but nevertheless, six online events were held which united over 200 participants. In total, over 110 events were held during 22 years of BSRUN existence and about 5700 participants were involved. Kari Hyppönen underlined that BSRUN is the only general network in the Baltic Sea Region and this confirms its significance. The President asked participants to think about value of the Network for the future.

Participants received the following materials:

- Annex 1. BSRUN membership changes since 1 July 2010 (when membership fees were first introduced)
- Annex 2. BSRUN participation statistics in 2000-2022
- Annex 3. BSRUN Rules and Regulations
- Annex 4. BSRUN budget
- Annex 5. Map of partners in projects coordinated by BSRUN (from Bulletin issued in December 2021)
- Anniversary Bulletin.

5. Discussion about the future of BSRUN

Chairman presented an overview of options for the future in the current political situation based on the feedback from members and discussions among the Steering Committee (SC) members.

The following options were proposed:

- continuing business as usual;
- continuing business as usual, but with RU and BY members only;
- suspending joint activities (as now till the end of 2022) for a limited period of time (e.g. six or 12 months);
- closing down the Network at the end of 2022 with no provision for the future.

During the discussion participants shared opinions and all five institutions agreed unanimously for the suspension of joint activities for 12 months.

6. Changes and exceptions to the Rules and Regulations

No changes were proposed.

7. Approval of the membership fee in 2023-2025

In spite proposal of the Chairman to abolish the fee for 2023, it was agreed to reduce the fee to 500 EUR.

8. Institutional composition of the Steering Committee (SC) in 2023-2025

The participants agreed to keep the current representation of SC for Russia and Belarus for 2023.

9. Appointment of BSRUN Secretariatsfor 2023-2025

The participants agreed that UNECON might act as secretariat for RU/BY in 2023.

10. Appointment of the President in 2023-2025

The participants unanimously agreed that Kari Hyppönen should act as the President of BSRUN for 2023 (as long as possible).

11. Plenary Meeting in 2025

The item was not discussed.

12. Discussion on further action on the basis of the decision taken under item 5 above

Participants shared opinions and decided that they are interested in continuation of cooperation between RU and BY member institutions during the suspension period and would be happy to resume full activity with all BSRUN members in the future if possible. It was noted that RU/BY cooperation as such can be realized in frame of the other projects and networks though. It was suggested to organise minimum two events in 2023 in Grodno and St. Petersburg related to the BSRUN area of expertise.

13. Any other business

No other topics were discussed.

14. Closing of the meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 11:30 MSK.