



# BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

### Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, 8 April 2021, 13.00-14.00 CEST

**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~~

-

~~LAB University of Applied Sciences~~

~~Turo Kilpelainen~~

~~President~~

-

**Riga Technical University**

Jans Šlihte

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]**

Nataliya Muyzinik

Head of the Department of International  
Cooperation

**Secretariat:**

Gundars Bērziņš, Dean of the Faculty of Business, Management and Economics,  
**University of Latvia (UL)**

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

**Invited by the Chairman:**

Mārgers Počs, Director of the Department of Infrastructure, **University of Latvia (UL)**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by Chairman, Kari Hyppönen.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

Agenda circulated to SC on 2 April 2021 was adopted.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Draft Minutes of the SC meeting held online in Zoom on 18 February 2021 were approved.

**4. Chairman's announcements**

- CBSS is drafting a new declaration on the future of the organisation;
- BSRUN Executive Committee (Chairman, Vice-President Andreas Zaby and Vice-President Dmitry Vasilenko) meeting took place online on 15 March to discuss the planning of future events and actions in 2021-22 including the next three-year terms of offices in 2023-25. EC agreed that there is no urgent need to start the planning for the next term earlier than usual. It was noted that the attached letter by the president (Annex 1) applies only to the current three-year term and can be changed in the future. But it should, among other issues, be figured out what is expected from institutions applying to host the Secretariat and what their commitments to BSRUN can be.

**5. BSRUN budget of 2021**

Chairman proposed that the budget could be reallocated within UNECON planned budget in order to provide extra money for UNECON Secretariat expenses.

Vice-President Vasilenko reported about payment of membership fee by SPbSU. They got permission from Rosimuschestvo to pay the fee and decided to pay the fee to

UNECON and not to UL. The corresponding changes to the budget were approved by SC (Annex 2 and Annex 3).

## **6. BSRUN event on Re-inventing Students' Housing**

Mārgers Počs shared his opinion about the seminar. The topic was relevant and interesting for participants from a lot of universities. Student housing could be a topic for a series of seminars helping to see the progress and development of situation, e.g. in a year.

Furthermore, after the seminar, BONARD, one of keynotes of the seminar, held a seminar on financing private dorms. For universities the financial issue may be also interesting in the context of cooperation with private sector.

## **7. BSRUN online events on 29 April and 6 May 2021**

Vice-President Vasilenko reported about preparation of the seminar on 29 April. There are two confirmed and one invited keynotes and six panelists. The list of participation is expected to increase. A bulletin dedicated to the topic is being prepared.

Chairman introduced the programme of the May event (Annex 4). Registration is open.

Jānis Stonis informed SC that the changes concerning university governance reforms continue to appear. The third reading of the proposed law in Parliament Commission started. The composition of the councils is still being debated. The Parliament is expected to approve changes in current legislation by June.

## **8. Possible other BSRUN events in 2021**

Chairman proposed to move Turku event to 1-2 June 2022 because of pandemic situation which may not allow to organise the event on site this year. SC approved it.

Chairman proposed to hold an online one-hour discussion on enhanced cooperation in Business, Management and Economics (HWR Berlin, UNECON, UL, UTU) in late May in order to examine possible interest, areas of common research and topics for future discussions. The idea was supported by SC. The planning group will include Dmitry Vasilenko (convener), Andreas Zaby, Gundars Bērziņš and Annija Apsīte.

Chairman informed the SC that secretariats will think over regular online link with admin contacts to get feedback on taken actions like members' news and enhance discussion on problematic issues.

Chairman offered to have an online event on Institutional Research and ranking of institutions. Jānis Stonis proposed that representatives of University of Amsterdam, UK universities, the European Higher Education Society (EAIR) could be invited to the discussion. It was also noted that American Association for Institutional Research (AIR) started this topic and has the best experience in it. The event could be organised in autumn.

An event on Mergers, where there is expertise among BSRUN member institutions, could be also a topic for a BSRUN event as GUT has already proposed to be organised in Gdansk.

#### **9. Date of the next meeting**

Wednesday, 19 May 2021 at 09.00 CEST was agreed as the date of the next meeting.

#### **10. Any other business**

There were no other topics for discussion.

#### **11. Closing of the meeting**

Chairman closed the meeting at 14.00 CEST.