



# BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

### Minutes

**Date:** Friday, 17 December 2021, 08.30-09.30 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~~

~~Turo Kilpelainen~~

~~President~~

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#### ~~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, **University of Latvia**

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 15 December 2021 was adopted.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Draft Minutes of the SC meeting held online in Zoom on 15 October 2021 were approved.

**4. Chairman's announcements**

Chairman attended online two more events of the EUA webinar series "A New World? Universities in Changing International Relations" on 3 November (Transatlantic Relations) and on 9 December (Risk Assessment in International Partnerships).

Seven BSRUN members celebrated notable anniversaries in 2021: Grodno State Agrarian University 70 on 11 June, St. Petersburg Electrotechnical University 135 on 24 June, Pskov State University 10 on 14 October, Belarusian State University 100 on 30 October, Estonian University of Life Sciences 70 on 5 November, the University of Warsaw 205 on 19 November and the North-West Institute of Management of RANEPA 30 on 16 December.

Vice-Chairman Dmitry Vasilenko reported that the Season's Greetings postcards were sent to BSRUN members (rectors and admin contacts), SC members and Secretariat at the University of Latvia.

Vice-Chairman Dmitry Vasilenko reported that there will be one more issue of BSRUN Bulletin in 2021 dedicated to the cooperation and partnerships in the Baltic Sea Region. It will include President's article about the history of networks in the region as well as

information on cooperation between UTU and SPbSU, celebrating 55-th anniversary of official cooperation this year, and cases of regional cooperation by UNECON, HWR Berlin and the University of Latvia.

Vice-Chairman Dmitry Vasilenko reported about the seminar “How to enhance the cooperation of Business, Economics and Management (BEM) universities and faculties?” held online on 15 October. The future of faculties and universities of economics was discussed. The focus was on two issues: cooperation of faculties in teaching and enhanced cross border cooperation in research and joint project applications. Experts from LU, LAB UAS, HWR Berlin, UTU, UNECON, HSE St. Petersburg, ÅAU participated in the panel discussions. Dmitry Vasilenko proposed to establish a working group together with Milla Laisi-Wessman, Jānis Priede, Peter Zettinig and HWR Berlin. RANEPa should also join.

## **5. Composition of the Steering Committee**

The University of Warsaw paid its membership fee for 2021, but has not, despite several messages of encouragement by Chairman to rector Nowak, appointed a representative to SC. BSRUN also has other members in Poland who might be more interested in having their representative on SC. SC has the right to make changes to the composition of the SC between Plenary Meetings in member countries.

Chairman proposed that the composition of the SC concerning Poland as of 2022 be changed so that the ordinary member comes from Gdansk University of Technology and the substitute from another Polish member institution. The methodology for choosing the substitute to be discussed at the next SC meeting.

Dariusz Mikielwicz proposed that the rector of GUT could communicate with the rector of UW on this issue and get an answer. Dariusz Mikielwicz will inform the SC about it at the next SC meeting.

## **6. BSRUN budget of 2021**

The updates of the budget 2021 (Annex 1 and 2) were presented. Only two Belarusian universities didn't pay for 2021 and 2020 – BSEU and BSPU. BSEU is UNECON's

partner, and Vice-President Dmitry Vasilenko is going to visit BSEU in January to figure out what the situation is.

BSPU informed BSRUN that they are not going to pay, so the SC decided to exclude them from the network and send them an official letter that their membership has expired.

## **7. BSRUN budget of 2022**

The budget of 2022 (Annex 1) was presented and approved. Changes to the budget are possible depending on how the situation with membership, COVID-19, etc. will be developing.

## **8. BSRUN future events**

- Cooperation of Business, Economics and Management (BEM) universities and faculties. Gundars Bērziņš proposed for each involved university to prepare a list of specific potential cooperation ideas and organise exchange of ideas for project applications. Then it is needed to define who will lead the project and find partners, find funding opportunities and apply for a grant. Concerning teaching, study trips to other universities could be organised for the best students after the pandemic along with courses on specific subjects. The idea is that students also prepare a project within a course for future presentation. Gundars Bērziņš will prepare a written description of potential actions by the next SC meeting. Vice-President Andreas Zaby suggested to find also new bilateral points of interest and establish new bilateral cooperation. Small groups could be established for the work on potential project applications. There will be interested professors in HWR Berlin. It is also notable that HWR Berlin will be able now to grant PhD degrees according to the new law from 25 September. Gundars Bērziņš also added that LU has a vast experience of work with doctoral students from Austria, Germany and Switzerland and can share experience. Peter Zettinig could also make his contribution in this field. The planning will be continued in January.
- Campus management in cooperation with IKBFU – March 2022 preliminarily, as a part of IKBFU's anniversary celebration. Vice-President Dmitry Vasilenko

reported that IKBFU wants to be more active in the network. They have recently got state funding for building of a new campus and they are interested in learning best practices and experiences in the region and launching a discussion. GUT, LU and RTU experience would be useful.

- SDGs in universities and carbon literacy in cooperation with QS World Merit – February 2022 preliminarily. QS World Merit proposes to organise a training which will unite active participants who will be ready to think about their universities' model.
- Institutional Research and Rankings (Jānis Stonis) – not in the spring.
- Mergers/Federalisation/Integration (Dariusz Mikielewicz) – end of April-beginning of May preliminarily.

The event in Turku on 1-2 June 2022 is still on the agenda. Details to be planned and agreed. Possible areas of interest: recently established Faculty of Technology (with an exceptionally high number of donated professorships), reorganised central administration of the university, Nursing Science, Turku BioImaging and Turku PET Symposium (3-6 June).

The Plenary Meeting date and location to be agreed. Preliminary agreement at the PM of 2019 in St. Petersburg; in the autumn of 2022 at the University of Latvia. Plenary Meetings have recently been organised at universities where a secretariat is located with one exception: the PM of 2016 was organised at UW in Warsaw rather than at UWM in Olsztyn to guarantee better participation.

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

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on 27 January 2022 at 08.00 CET.

## **10. Any other business**

There were no other topics for discussion.

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

Chairman closed the meeting at 09.30 CET.