



## New Member of the Network!

The BSRUN is very glad to announce that Belarusian State Pedagogical University named after Maxim Tank (BSPU), the oldest of the existing HEIs in the country (founded 1914) joined the network. The BSPU is a flagship among Belarusian pedagogical universities as considerable part of the schoolteacher community of the Republic graduated from University.

BSPU is a public university with over 16500 students. Its main campus is conveniently situated in the downtown of Minsk, the capital of Belarus. The University offers BA, MA and doctoral degrees in more than 60 specialties at 12 faculties. More than five hundred foreign students from 15 countries are the part of our vibrant community and their number increases each year.

Besides being traditionally strong in training teaching staff for schools and other state educational institutions, BSPU is a major research center in the fields of special edu-

cation and psychology. The aim of the University is to modernize the pedagogical education in the Republic of Belarus, attain a new level in collaboration with state and private sector enterprises and adequately respond to the educational needs of the rapidly developing society.

BSPU is a member of a number of international organizations, such as the Eurasian Association of Universities, the Association of Rectors of Pedagogical Universities in Europe, the International Association of Russian Language and Literature Teachers and the promoter of the Association "Education for Sustainable Development".

The University has bilateral agreements for cooperation in research and education with 65 universities from 15 countries.

# New Cross-Baltic Project: The Baltic Science Network



*Klaus von Lepel,  
Ministry of Science,  
Research and Equalities  
Free and Hanseatic City  
of Hamburg*

The BSR is one of the most competitive, innovative science regions of the world, with an excellent structure of leading universities and research institutions. However, the BSR features different levels of research and innovation performance and existing facilities are not equally distributed and interconnected.

We are facing the same problems and challenges in our national higher education and research systems (globalization, economic crisis, demography, technological progress, etc.). At the same time society expects innovation policy and R&D activities to respond to the challenges facing our society at large, such as climate change, energy and resource efficiency, food supply, welfare, health and demographic change.

National or regional answers are not sufficient anymore for the large societal challenges, but a closer transnational cooperation and joint presentation of interests is needed. For the time being science policy in the BSR is organized and pursued mainly from a regional, national or European angle, a macroregional dimension is missing in this field. Despite the fact that various sectorial networks exist, there is currently a lack of a political coordination framework in the field of higher education, science and research policy covering the whole BSR.

Baltic Science Network (BSN) will establish a political coordination framework for joint BSR higher education (HE), science & research

policy with the overall aim to support the realization of the European Research Area (via intensified cooperation in BSR), increase the research and innovation performance of the BSR and to strengthen the political ownership of the EUSBSR in the field of science policy by the regions and member states.

#### **Main objectives of BSN are:**

- to provide science and research ministries of the BSR states with an overall coordination framework to develop and implement science policy in a macro-regional dimension and to ensure a better representation of macro-regional interests on EU level,
- to develop and implement transnational strategies, incentives and programs to support Higher Education, research and innovation infrastructures to become better transnationally interconnected and to develop R&I excellence

In February 2015, 28 high-profile delegates from all BSR countries (incl. Russia) from science ministries, wise (wo)men appointed by national governments, universities, CBSS, EUSBSR, NCM gathered in a BSN concept brainstorming seminar in Hamburg. Outcomes were priorities, topics of common interest and recommendations for BSR cooperation in science policies.

The next step for the project development was the submission of a proposal for the first call off applications of Interreg Vb BSR in July 15. The partnership consists of relevant national ministries/ governmental agencies responsible for defining and implementing science policy from all 8 EU member states in the BSR. The CBSS is involved as a communication plat-

form, as an umbrella for the formal foundation of the Baltic Science Network, and as valuable links to Russia.

Universities are involved via the two largest BSR university networks? BSRUN as associate and BUP (Baltic University Programme), represented by Abo Akademi. Besides that University of Turku (UTU), appointed by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, is one of the full partners and also brings in longstanding experience in transnational research collaboration and mobility. The St. Petersburg State University of Economics (UNECON), appointed by the Russian ministry as the BSR centre for innovation issues is among associate partners as well.

#### **Main outputs of the proposed project are:**

- Foundation of the Baltic Science Network
- Joint presentation of macro-regional interests on EU level and policy recommendations
- Joint transnational strategies for specific areas of scientific excellence
- Incentives/ funding schemes for fostering transnational research and innovation uptake in BSR
- Measures for better transnational utilization of existing/ planned R&I infrastructure
- Structured mobility tools and mobility funding instruments
- Concepts and recommendations for widening participation
- Do's and Don'ts for successful implementation of transnational science policy cooperation

Thus, the BSN will foster the realization of common higher education and research area in the BSR, and its research and innovation performance.



# Announcement

## EF-P Closing Seminar



**We cordially invite you to the EuroFaculty Pskov Closing Seminar on October 21-22, 2015, in Pskov, Russia. The theme of the international seminar is "EuroFaculty, Towards a Modern University".**

The seminar is targeted to EuroFaculty stakeholders, but also those interested in university development in the Baltic Sea Region. We are happy to announce the keynote speaker from professor Allan Gibb from the UK, who is one of the leading experts in the field of university development. In addition, various examples of a modern university will be presented.

The EuroFaculty Pskov (EF-P) is a project financed through the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), aiming at upgrading university education in the field of business administration and business economics. The project has been running since 2009 and is now in its final year.

The EF-P is a large-scale project by any indicator – it has been running some seven years, with extensive collaboration of eight international partners from six countries, linking widely also various policy actors within the Baltic Sea Region, organising numerous events and activities for upgrading the PskovSU, the main beneficiary of the project, but also benefitting greatly other project partner universities. The Closing

Seminar concludes and disseminates the comprehensive outcomes of the EF-P project and looks into further cooperation possibilities.

### **Among key speakers there will be:**

- Andrei Turchak, Gov. of Pskovskaya Oblast (TBC)
- Michał Czyż, Chair of the CSO, Ambassador, MFA
- Jan Lundin, Director General, CBSS Secretariat
- Vygaudas Ušackas, Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the EU, Moscow
- Allan Gibb, Prof., University of Durham
- Irina Arzhanova, Executive Director, National Training Foundation Moscow
- Kazimierz Musiał, Prof., University of Gdansk
- Anders Liljenberg Dr. & Johnny Lindström, Dr., SSE Russia
- Kalervo Väänänen, Prof., Rector, UTU (TBC)

### **Registration deadline:**

September 30th, 2015  
No registration fee

### **Contact information:**

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# Baltic Faces



**Sofia Rekord**  
**Dr. Econ. Sc.,**  
**Head of the Chair of World**  
**Economy and International**  
**Economic Relations**  
**Saint-Petersburg State University**  
**of Economics**

I represent Saint-Petersburg State University of Economics. It is the biggest University of the Russian North-West Federal District – a large region, which by its territory equals several European countries and makes Russia a part of the Baltic Sea macro-region. This predetermined deep involvement of the University into the projects and programs of the whole Baltic Sea Region and bi-lateral cooperation with its member countries.

My educational and expert activities in the BSR started in 2005. Some projects were more influential, some – less, but each time I was inspired by the main project message, met true enthusiasts of regional development, and this brought fresh ideas and new experience. One of the large-scale projects was «EstRuClusters: Cluster development

in cross-border regions of Russia and Estonia» in 2008-2009 during which my colleagues from Estonia and Netherlands and me as an expert from the Russian side tried to pick up promising sectors for trans-border clustering from the border regions of Russia and Estonia – Leningrad region and Ida-Virumaa, and work out common cluster vision with main regional producers, business facilitators and local authorities. It was not an easy period neither for business networking, nor for Russian-Estonian cooperation, but mutual collaboration and open discussions during B2B meetings gave an opportunity to hear the demands of those who produce value-added in the region and for the region, and made business atmosphere more appropriate for the dialogue and matching common grounds.

Quite a lot of projects, official meetings and scientific conferences, in which I participated as an expert, including Working Group for Economic Cooperation of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, were focused on the incorporating Russia through the North-West Federal District into the Baltic Sea Region. To my firm conviction, common identity of the BSR is unthinkable without participation of Russian actors in social, economic, environmental and cultural life of the Region. As water in the sea constantly mixes, and may be one day near the coasts of Finland, and the other day – say, near Lithuania, being a common value for all Baltic countries, so common initiatives, positive ideas born in the Region, will bring much more, if they will be revealed and openly discussed on the large regional forums, especially since companies and epistemic community of the Russian North-West is full of new ideas that

are still under-capitalized.

In the university sphere the idea of the inclusive BSR for all member countries is reflected in our educational projects with partner universities, for example, joint research project of master students from our university and Saimaa University of Applied Sciences in 2011 and 2013, revealing the opportunities of Russian-Finnish industrial networks in the variety of industries. Our activities in the Northern Dimension Institute and Turku process, launched for strengthening cooperation between Turku, Hamburg and Saint-Petersburg, also expand our opportunities.

Still, quite a lot of problems in the region should be formulated and solved. Will the BSR be resistant to the growing rivals – Asian and Latin American centres of production and consumption? How to combine regional sustainability and dynamic development? How economic, social and environmental «heaths» are interconnected in the integrated system of the Region? All these issues need interdisciplinary approach and future studies for the competitiveness and prosperity of our common Baltic Sea Region.

**Meet Dr. Sofia Rekord in**  
**Klaipeda, Lithuania on September,**  
**24, 2015.**



## Klaipėda University



Klaipėda University (KU) is an institution of higher education in the Western Lithuanian region. It is a wide-range, inter-disciplinary centre, integrated into international academic networks; the national and regional leader in marine sciences and studies, a conservator of cultural heritage and centre for lifelong learning.

Klaipėda University was established on January 1st, 1991. It started its activities with 3 faculties and 3,000 students. Today there are 6 faculties and about 5,000 students attend lectures at the University. It is also a workplace for nearly 600 lecturers. Over 30,600 students have already graduated KU.



Faculties of Marine Engineering and Natural Sciences, Humanities, Arts, Pedagogy, Social Sciences, Health Sciences and Continuing Studies Institute house 42 departments. The University also houses two research subdivisions – Institute of Baltic Sea Region History and Archaeology, Open Access Centre for Marine Research. Important role in its academic activities also belongs to other subdivisions: Library (0,5 million of printings), the Botanical Garden (9,5 ha), the University Press (over 120 research studies and 1,000 other printings), Career Centre, Distance Training Centre.

KU is implementing fundamental and applied research experimental work in physical, biomedical, technological, social and humanitarian sciences. The

University aims to be a leader in marine sciences and technologies.

University performs research in the areas that are not much developed in other universities of Lithuania, such as:

- environmental science,
- technologies and engineering of marine transport,
- hydrology and oceanography,
- marine economy,
- history of the Klaipėda region,
- Eastern Prussia and Lower Lithuania in the context of the Baltic Sea region,
- archaeology of the Baltic region and underwater archaeology,
- languages and cultures,
- landscape architecture,
- seaport technology management,
- port constructions,
- coastal cultural landscapes.