



The Baltic University Programme NEWSLETTER

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The Next Newsletter

The next issue of the BUP Newsletter will be published in March 2005.

! If you have any information, or a short article, that could be included in the next issue, please contact us by e-mail:

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BUP Director Lars Rydén at the Centres meeting.
Photo: I. Zbicinski

The BUP Centres meeting

Twice a year the national BUP Centres Directors meet with the BUP Secretariat to discuss and plan future activities. The latest Centres meeting took place in Nitra, Slovakia, during 19-22 January.

The accommodation of the participants and most of the meeting was held in the lovely location of the Castle Mojmirovce, situated a few km outside of Nitra. The second day of the meeting took place at the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. The national Centres as well as the BUP Secretariat reported from their activities that were held during the past 6 months, as well as the latest developments. To be able to draw conclusions for planning of future activities, reports from the different activities were given and discussed such as:

- the summer camp & cruise on the Masurian Lakes (Poland, 26/7-6/8),
- the summer field seminar on Restoration Ecology at Hel Marine Station (Poland, 12-21/8),
- the summer cruise on board the sailing ship Fryderyk Chopin (11-25/9),

as well as the three Teachers' Conferences that were held in November and December 2004:

- Baltic Sea Region Studies: Peoples of the Baltic - Regional development, 25-28/11, in Ciazen, Poland;
- Sustainable Water Management, 2-4/12 in Lodz, Poland;
- A Sustainable Baltic Region, 8-12/12 in Kazimierz Dolny, Poland.

The internal information flow was discussed

On the programme was a session on brainstorming on the centres function, with discussions about administration and organisation and the culture and technology of communication.

The focus of another session was to improve the information flow in the network, with a look at the Mentors meetings and mentors cooperation with centres, the Student's website, the BUP Homepage and the BUP Newsletter. It was also decided that presentations from BUP teachers' conferences and meetings will be available as far as possible on the homepage in the future. A presentation was given from a project, DOSAIB Development of Sustainable Agriculture and Industry in the Baltic Countries that the Vice Director had previously worked with.

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2005 Conference Calendar

January

19-22 Jan: **BUP Centres meeting**, Nitra, Slovakia

February

15-19 Feb: **Sustainable Chemistry and Biotechnology**, research conference, St Marienthal, Germany and Wroclaw, Poland, organized by Technical University of Zittau/Görlitz

21-22 Feb: **BUP Mentors' meeting**, Uppsala, Sweden

March

13-16 March: **BUP teachers' conference**, Education for Sustainable Development, Gdansk, Poland

April

5-9 April: **BUUF Conference** "Integrating Water-Energy-Waste management", Tartu, Estonia and Tukums, Latvia

14-15 April: **Research for and on Sustainable Development**, Västerås, Sweden

20-24 April: **Students' conference**, Borki, Poland

May

11-14 May: **Conference on Integrative approaches to Sustainability – sharing experiences**, Jurmala, Latvia. Organised by University of Latvia, Baltic University Programme and Hamburg-Harburg Technical University

20 May: **BUP Board meeting**, Uppsala, Sweden

The decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) will be of great importance for the BUP and therefore it was discussed in that context during one session on courses development and the future.

Reports from projects

The next session focused on Project development and cooperation, reporting from and discussing the following projects: Baltic University Urban Forum, BUUF project; Cooperation with the Ministry of Education for ESD; Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group, SOG; BTox; EMS. Also applications for funding as well as coming activities were mentioned.

The final session ended by agreeing on a list of decisions. Some of the decisions follow. It is important that all students register on the students' homepage and that all teachers request that their students should register. The next centres meeting will be in Kaliningrad in June. Everyone is also requested to help us to keep the BUP and ESD homepages updated, and to contribute to the BUP newsletter.

Great hospitality in Nitra

Throughout the whole meeting we were served delicious food in great amounts (not the best for my waistline!). We also managed to take a quick tour by foot of historical Nitra in the falling snow as well as taking a bath in the thermal pool in Polny Kesov ca 3 km from the castle. Nitra provided us with very picturesque and at the same time functional surroundings as well as great hospitality. Many thanks to the local arranger Centre Director **Pavol Elias** and colleagues. As we were flying to and from Vienna and then being transported by minibuss to and from Nitra, some of us managed to take a tour of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna (from 1572) just before flying back on Saturday evening. Personally, I found it extremely interesting.

*Christine Jakobsson
BUP Vice Director*

Invitation

BUP teachers conference in March 2005

The next BUP teachers' conference on **Education for Sustainable development** takes place in Gdansk-Sobieszewo, March 13-16, 2005. The conference will start on Sunday, 13 of March, at 17.00 and end on Wednesday, 16 of March, at 11.00. Teachers are kindly requested to stay the whole period.

The conference will be a common undertaking between the Gdansk University, Åbo Akademi University, and the Baltic University Programme Secretariat at Uppsala University. The Gdansk University/Dept of Chemistry will serve as the hosting institution with Dr **Irena Bojanowska** as the main organizer. Åbo Akademi University, **Paula Lindroos**, will be the main responsible person for the contents of the conference. The programme will be available on the BUP website in the beginning of February, and also distributed by the BUP national centres.

To this conference we invite teachers who teach any of the BUP courses. There are places for 80 teachers at this conference, which will be offered to participants from all countries. For more information and registration, please contact your BUP centre. For practical arrangements the organisers need to know the number of participants before February 21, 2005.

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Conference Calendar

(continued)

June

8-12 June: **BUUF Conference**
Integrating Traffic - Green
structures - Rebuilding and
remediation planning, Lodz,
Poland

16-19 (prel. dates) June **BUP**
Centres meeting, Kaliningrad,
Russia

August

Students summer course (da-
tes not decided)

1-4 Aug: **BUUF Conference**
The cities and citizens, Vieliky
Novgorod, Russia

1-12 Aug: **Students summer**
camp, Mazurian Lakes, Poland

September

1-4 Sept: **BUUF Conference**
Socio-economic development,
Hällefors/Norrköping, Sweden

19-22 Sept: **BUP teachers'**
conference, Sustainable Com-
munity Development Uppsala,
Sweden

Students sailing cruise, Baltic
Sea/Chopin (dates not deci-
ded)

October

BUUF Conference, Minsk,
Belarus

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The Sustainability courses in the Baltic University

Over many years the Sustainable Baltic region, SBR, course has been by far the most popular course in the Programme. Close to 4 000 students have been registered each year. The material – ten 50 page thematic booklets on many aspects of sustainable development – has been translated into Polish, Russian and Latvian and the English edition has been reprinted several times.

The material, however, starts to age. They were published in 1997. Since then the thinking on sustainable development and political and practical work has progressed enormously. We need to plan for a new edition of the whole package.

Teachers' conference in Kazimierz Dolny

The teachers' conference organised in charming Polish Kazimierz Dolny – by the Wisla River close to Lublin – in December last year was a first step on that road. Close to 80 teachers from all over the region met to listen to new ways to see sustainability, to sit in group work and discuss what we want as a new course, and have fun together:



Alan AtKisson in action at the conference, with the BUP ballet.

BUP conferences are often much work, but never boring. Especially the Lodz students' team staged an extraordinary Christmas dinner performance for all of us.

City development & the concept of de-coupling

Sustainable city de-
velopment is a crucial
aspect covered in Kazi-
mierz by **Alan AtKisson**
with experiences from

the US, Japan, and Europe, in pictures, songs and talking. Technical developments, especially using life cycle approaches, were discussed by the Lodz team.

The concept of de-coupling – making economic growth possible without increased resource consumption or environmental impact – is becoming central. So it is with resilience – the capacity to regain equilibrium after impact, e.g. environmental impact – is another key concept. All were covered at the conference.

Alan AtKisson reminded us that the world is not much better today than it was in 1972, when the Club of Rome published its famous book *Limits to Growth*. In fact Dennis Meadows, main author of the report, published a follow-up (*Limits to Growth – the 30-Year Update*, with Donella Meadows and Jorgen Randers), where it is clear that the world is still almost on the terrible path described as suicidal in 1972. There is still much to be done to secure a (sustainable) future.

Lars Rydén
BUP Director

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feedback
quotesfrom students attending the
course in Zittau:

"I enjoyed this course very much. The material covered was very well prepared and interestingly presented. There was great atmosphere of integration with international students. And, which I appreciate the most, great partner contact with all professors and lecturers." Rafal Cheda, Gdansk University of Technology, Poland.

"I found the course not only extremely interesting, but also well prepared. Prof. Filho provided us with useful knowledge lectured in an interesting and easy-to-follow way. What I found particularly good about the course, is that all the organizers made us feel more than welcome! Also, working in pairs of international students was a really good idea. The atmosphere throughout the course was more than great! I hope to see some of the participants on other BUP events." Aleksandra Drewko, Gdansk University of Technology, Poland.

"As for my impressions I am thankful for this mind-boggling opportunity of taking part in this conference in Zittau. The course was lead by Prof. Leal in a very evocative and interesting way. The atmosphere of the organised time in Zittau was brilliant." Agnieszka Wojcicka, Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan, Poland.

Environmental Quality Management &
Sustainable Development in Zittau

Principles and practices of environmental quality management and sustainable development were in focus at a BUP course hosted by the University of Applied Sciences Zittau/Görlitz (FH) in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Walter Leal Filho (director BUP centre, Germany). 20 students from the Baltic Sea Region joined the course from 3–6 November 2004 in Zittau (Germany).

Within four intensive days, students from the Baltic Sea Region gathered knowledge, experience and met new colleagues in Zittau. They were warmly welcomed by the organizers of the course Prof. **Walter Leal Filho**, Prof. Dr. **Bernd Delakowitz**, **Anke Hoffmann** and **Markus Will**.

"Making Waste Work"

The first event on the course agenda was the Environmental Day 2004 at the University of Applied Sciences Zittau/Görlitz. This event is organised annually in Zittau since 4 years. In focus of the Environmental Day 2004 was waste management. Prof. **Walter Leal Filho** presented the project **"Making Waste Work"** from TU Tech Hamburg Harburg and others which aims for a sustainable waste management of the North Sea. The course started with an introduction of participants and topics, like environmental management, environmental risks and impact assessment and principles and core definitions of Sustainable Development. Prof. **Walter Leal Filho** held an interesting and lively lecture which was followed by a socialising event in the evening. When Prof **Filho** gave another presentation stressing environmental problems in the Baltic, environmental management systems and some case studies from corporations, also student work was on the agenda. Within international working groups, students should take the gathered knowledge and put it into practise while solving a certain problem.

City tour of medieval Zittau

As the closing event the hosts organised a dinner in the pleasant restaurant "Jolesch" along with a famous and interesting guided city tour. This guided tour gave a little insight in the situation of the mystic Zittau in the Middle Age.

With breakfast the students began the last day of the course. This was followed by a presentation of the results of the student working groups and the coordination of the exercise that should be performed back home. After lunch it was time to say goodbye for all the participants. May some of them meet again on the long way of Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region!

Building of the
FH Zittau.

Markus Will
freelance engineer
dipl. ing. (FH) ecology +
environmental protection
authorised appointee
on environmental
management (TÜV)