



The Baltic University Programme

NEWSLETTER

N:o 2/2008

June

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Next Newsletter

The next issue of the BUP Newsletter will be published in September

We are always interested in articles or announcements, that can be included in the newsletter. Authors of accepted contributions will be rewarded a BUP t-shirt. Please send material to:

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Dear BUP Friends,

Midsummer is soon here and the weather has changed as usual, from sunny and warm to colder with rain showers "Typical Swedish Midsummer". Our spring has been very busy. Since the previous Newsletter we have held the BUP Students Conference in Rogow, Poland on 16-20 April with 80 students from our countries. The theme this time was Intercultural Communication and Sustainable Development. Many thanks to our interesting lecturers on intercultural commu-

nication, Elena Korshuk and Radoslaw Walentynowicz, and to the Technical University of Lodz for the interesting programme including a Visit to the Museum of Cinematography and the National Film, Television & Theatre School, that they arranged. During the following days, April 21-23, the 1st Scientific workshop of the Baltic University Water Management Network was hosted by the University of Warsaw with Artur Magnuszewski as the main organiser, in cooperation with Warsaw University of Life Sciences. You can find more information on this last in this Newsletter.

BUP and especially the Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Agriculture project was noticed in connection with the yearly United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development meeting that was held in New York, USA. More information on this event can also be found in an article.

The next main event was the yearly Teachers Training on Education for Sustainable Development ESD (note the change of name from the previous Conference to Training to mark that training is put in focus). This was held in Molo, Poland on May 12-15. The theme was Intercultural communication with the teachers Paul Westlake and Elena Korshuk as a good team. The second part of the programme was devoted to Didactics in Sustainable Development with Mervi Aineslahti and Lars Rydén in charge. Many of the teachers shared their experience and good example with each other, which you can find on our homepage.

On June 2nd the BUP Board Meeting was held in Uppsala with much discussion regarding the function of the BUP Centres and how to solve the problems. On the following day June 3rd, I was a speaker presenting BUP in connection with Baltic 21's 10 year Anniversary in Riga, Latvia. This anniversary was held in connection with the Prime Ministers Summit arranged by the Council of the Baltic Sea States CBSS. For the first time in my life after the presentations, I was also filmed by a film team for an informational movie on Baltic 21. It is a strange situation to be an actress when you least expect it! You might be able to see me among many other people talking about Baltic 21 in the soon future.

Next week we have another big event planned. The EHSA project is going to hold an Editors meeting for all three modules on June 24, to be followed by an Authors meeting on June 25-26. These meetings will be held in Vilnius. For the Module on Sustainable Agriculture I have distributed the almost 300 pages that have been written so far and they will be discussed in detail at the meetings. Hopefully we will have 3 books during 2009 on Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Agriculture.

Last but not least I want to wish you all an enjoyable summer with just the right mixture of leisure and work, so that you will come back in the autumn full of energy!

Christine



NEWSLETTER

2008

Events Calendar

2008

July

SAIL Student sailing seminar
29 June-16 July 2008
STS Fryderyk Chopin,
the Baltic Sea & North Sea

August

Mazury Lakes Sailing seminar
3-16 August
Mazury lakes, Poland

Water Environment And
Spatial Natural Complexes:
Study, Use And Protection
26-28 August
Petrozavodsk, Karelia, Russia

September

BUP Centres & mentors
meeting
10-13 September 2008
Curonian Spit, Lithuania

3rd Engineering Education
in Sustainable Development
conference (EESD 08)
22-24 September
Graz, Austria

BUP Summer Course on
Climate and Sustainable
Development
24-27 September
Hamburg, Germany



to the United Nations in the Big Apple

Christine Jakobsson

Every year since 1992 and the Rio Declaration on Sustainable Development, the United Nations holds a Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) Meeting to follow up on the global process. These meetings take place at the United Nations in New York, USA. CSD's work program is based on different themes in two year cycles. During the even years, review years, CSD will focus on progress and challenges and to see how the member countries are fulfilling their obligations from Rio and Johannesburg. Clarifying obstacles for realization, exchanging experience and spreading good examples are also on the agenda. The uneven years are called policy years, when CSD shall clarify the obligations and actions within areas that are identified as problematic. During the policy years, negotiations on policy recommendations to speed up the implementation of Agenda 21 Johannesburg take place. This was the CSD 16 Meeting and the subjects were agriculture, rural development, land use, drought, desertification and Africa for this review year.

In April 2008 the Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Agriculture project was accepted as a UN Partnership for Sustainable Development and information can be found on the homepage <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/>

Due to this we were invited to give a presentation at a Partnership Fair in connection with the CSD meeting this year and in coming years. On May 6th at noon we had almost one hour to our disposal. Christine Jakobsson gave a presentation of the project concept and goal, the partnership, project organisation and of the Baltic University Programme and Envirovet Baltic networks, as well as some examples from the educational package on Sustainable Agriculture. Examples from the educational package on Ecology and Animal Health were given by Leif Norrgren, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and Val Beasley and Thomas Gillespie, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The seminar was ended with a discussion.



The Baltic University Programme

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First Announcement

Training in ESD through an inter-regional perspective

Course for teachers from Greece and the Baltic Sea region

6 – 11 October 2008 at Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

For the first time ever we are able to offer the BUP teachers a possibility to learn more about ESD together with teachers from the Mediterranean region. A group of 15 teachers from Greece and 15 teachers from the Baltic Sea region will be offered the possibility to participate in a course on Education for Sustainable development.

This is possible due to cooperation with the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) in Athens, Greece

If you are interested in participating contact christine.jakobsson@balticuniv.uu.se



The Baltic University Programme in New York at the United Nations Partnership Fair. From left: Geneve Mulugeta, Tom Gillespie, Christine Jakobsson, Sam Okello, Ann-Cerise Nilsson, Leif Norrgren, Risto Veivo and Val Beasley. Photo: Guldbrand Skjönberg.

In the afternoon of May 6th, Christine Jakobsson as Head of the Baltic 21 delegation, gave an intervention for Baltic 21 in connection with the Session on Regional Development. This was reported in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin and also on the homepage: <http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd16/>

In the morning of May 7th we were invited to the Swedish Mission for preparatory discussions for the coming side event and a tasty brunch.

On May 7th Baltic 21 held a side event on cooperation between the Baltic Sea and Lake Victoria regions "Reaching a landmark - Ten years of sub-regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region and East Africa". During the panel discussion, the value of exchange of experience between regions with similar conditions such as a common sea became obvious. Problems differ and it is important to discuss cooperation models. From the Lake Victoria region it was stated a desire for continued close cooperation, especially regarding institutional strengthening, technology, spatial planning and capacity increasing measures. Anne-Cerise Nilsson from the Swedish Ministry of Environment, Chair of Baltic 21, participated in the panel. Christine Jakobsson gave in the EHSA project, an example of a Baltic 21 Lighthouse project. Guldbrand Skjönberg from the Union of the Baltic Cites (UBC) mentioned some experiences from their project in the Lake Victoria region. It was obvious from the discussions that the situation in the Baltic Sea region and parts of Africa is very different and that the conditions for civil society to participate in the public debate are very different between countries.

The days spent at the United Nations were interesting and gave a good opportunity to distribute material on the Baltic University Programme. Many delegates from different parts of the world were seen walking around with BUP's annual report or some of our pamphlets in their arms. We also presented two banners, one on BUP and one on the EHSA project. CSD is a meeting with many parallel activities ongoing simultaneously and people coming and going from all over the world the whole time. It is always possible to find something worthwhile listening to in some meeting room. It gives a tremendous possibility of spreading information.



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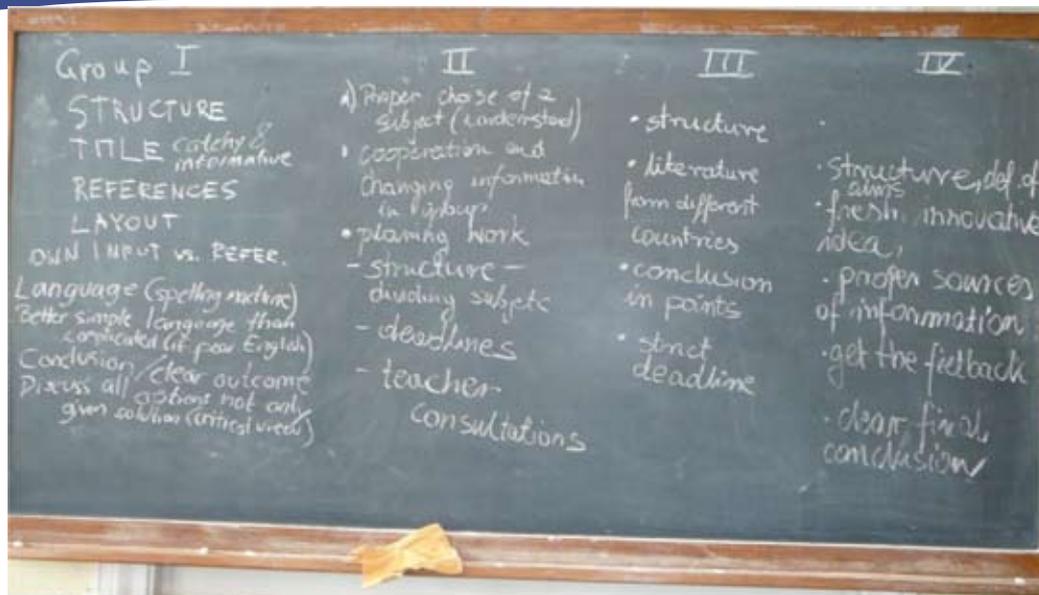


Photo: Alexey Tolstikov

Teacher-training and Water Management

For the first time in Baltic University history a combined research and teacher training event has been organized. The meeting took place in Warsaw on 21-23 of April and was hosted by the University of Warsaw and Warsaw University of Life Sciences. The idea with the research session was to share research experiences and to discuss more about research topics. About 20 teachers from Poland, Russia, Belarus, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Sweden attended the meeting.

The first day was reserved for scientific discussions and 10 presentations were held. The next two days were filled with lots of discussions in small groups on pedagogical topics and also a meeting with students of the Baltic Sea Environment course at the University of Warsaw. The course material and future prospects of the Sustainable Water Management course were also discussed, especially the need for an update of the third book in the SWM course packet, River Basin Management. It was stressed however, that the development of the SWM course is a joint responsibility of all teachers in the network, and not only of the course mentors. The international aspect course was also emphasized and more cooperation between course groups from different countries would be very valuable.

A Report from Hanna Zandin will soon be available for download at the BUP website (www.balticuniv.uu.se)

New Student Representative

A new Student Representative was elected at the Student Conference in Borki-Molo, Poland in April. His name is Anatol Kalach and he comes from Belarusian Technical University in Minsk, Belarus. He is elected for one year. Together with Jakob Grandin from Uppsala University he will represent the students in the Baltic University network.
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BREAKING NEWS



CONGRATIULATIONS KRZYSZTOF!!!

The Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award 2008

is awarded Professor Krzysztof Skóra,
Gdansk University.

Professor Skóra is awarded the prize for his extensive research on invasive species and their effect on the sensitive ecosystems of the polish coastal zones.

Professor Skóra is also director of Hel Marine Station which is worldfamous for its educational work aimed at students but also the general public to increase conciousness about the environmental situation of the Baltic Sea (Read more about Hel at <http://hel.univ.gda.pl/info/helmarinestation.htm>).

The prize was inagurated in 1999 to acknowledge contributions to improve the environmental condition of the Baltic Sea. The award ceremony will take place in Stockholm on August 22 during the World Water Week.

Professor Skóra is also of course a long-time contributor and member of the Baltic University Programme regional network.

New book from Baltic University Press

LEARNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

LEARNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS
FROM THE BALTIC SEA REGION



Editors:

Liisa Rohweder
Anne Virtanen



The book which has been edited by Anna Virtanen and Liisa Rohweder displays examples of sustainable management practices, examples of teaching and learning processes, as well as research and development work for sustainability.

We believe that it is a unique first step towards fruitful discussions and developments about WHAT sustainable development in higher education could be in reality. The examples display an ambition to include interdisciplinary issues, use true participatory methods of learning, and contribute to an understanding of Nature/Ecosystems giving frames or limits to man's activities.

The book will be printed in a limited edition of 500 copies but a digital pdf-copy will also be available for download at the Baltic University web-site.

Pages: 206

ISBN: 978-91-976494-3-8