



The Baltic University Programme

NEWSLETTER

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Issue # 26

A New Beginning

This spring, following a decision at the CSD Uppsala to reorganize the work at the BUP secretariat there has been a change in the leadership. Christine Jakobsson has been director in-charge of the BUP since 2007, and she will now continue in her position as BUP vice director. On its meeting on May 6 the BUP board expressed its gratitude for the fine work Christine Jakobsson has done as programme director in serving the BUP, let's all join in these warm words.



Paula Lindroos

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Moments of change can give the incentives for other changes, and for BUP it is now well motivated to rethink the organization which has been in place for 20 years. The situation in the region has changed dramatically during this time and we should analyze how we can fulfill our visions and missions in a changing surrounding. These discussions will continue on June 20-22, at a BUP Centres meeting which will be held in Minsk, Belarus, and we will consider issues such as distribution of tasks and responsibilities between Centres and the introduction of a fee.

Baltic University Programme is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year with several events in the participating countries and universities in the Baltic Sea Region. One such event was the research seminar held in Hamburg 25-26 May. Many researchers representing different scientific fields met in order to find common areas of interest. This work will continue, and hopefully it will end up in several successful new project themes and applications. The main event during this year will be the 3rd Rectors' Conference in October in Uppsala, where we hope that many university leaders will meet again and give their advice for the future directions of the BUP.

Summer is approaching, with warm weather, water and holidays. We will combine work and pleasure with some courses during the summer. One of the more remarkable is the SAIL-course, this year running for the 13th time. It means that more than 520 students and more than 60 teachers have so far been able to participate in this outstanding course, where you learn about the region, it's nature and cultures in an international setting - at the same time as you are a member of the crew with all it's tasks and responsibilities. This is truly an example of collaborative learning, learning by doing - and education for sustainable development!

We will also begin a series of updating of the BUP courses. The first workshop will be on the course Sustainable Baltic Region in August. The next one will be in the beginning of September where the theme will be updating of the courses Peoples of the Baltic and Regional Development.

Editors of this issue:

[Christian Andersson](#)

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Contributions are welcome! Please contact the editors.

Looking forward to seeing you in the region,
Paula Lindroos
Programme Director



NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events 2011

June

20–22 BUP Centre Directors Meeting, Minsk, Belarus

July

3–23 Challenges of Sustainable Development, Lodz, Poland

August

31–14 Environmental Awareness Communication, Vidzeme University, Latvia

11–28 SAIL, Baltic Sea; Halmstad, Rønne, Karlskrona, Tallinn, Turku

16–18 SBR update meeting, Hel, Poland

26–28 Scientific Conference for Young Scientists, Petrozavodsk, Russia

September

2–6 Teachers' conference: Peoples of the Baltic, Regional Development, and the Baltic Sea Region, Gniezno, Poland,

20–25 Students Summer Course, Hamburg, Germany

20–25 Teachers ESD Conference, Hamburg, Germany

October

12–13 [BUP Rectors Conference](#), Uppsala, Sweden

November

15–18 Ecoregion Final conference, Gdynia, Poland

25 Board Meeting, Uppsala, Sweden

New Swedish National BUP Centre



The new Swedish National BUP Centre is located at Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona/Karlskrona. The Centre is run by Prof. [Lars Emmelin](#), Centre Director and Ms [Agata Kosno](#), BUP Contact Point.

The centre is responsible for supporting the Swedish member universities in issues related to the Baltic University Programme.

During the first two years the Swedish National Centre will work on strengthening the Swedish university network and establishing a close cooperation between member universities on issues of joint interest.

For more information see the Centre's [web site](#).



NEWSLETTER

Reflections on the Student Conference

By: [Hannes Kjörnsberg](#), Uppsala University, Sweden

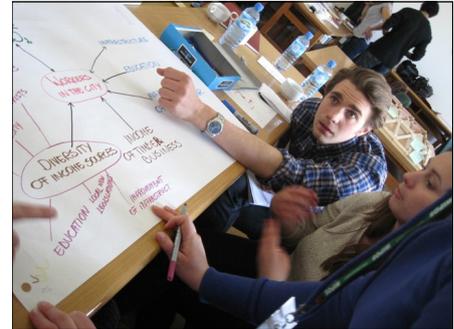
The conference was one of the student conferences held by the Baltic University Programme. The conference gathered around 80 students from all over the Baltic Sea region.

My role in the conference was not only to participate as a student, but I also had the opportunity to be a part of the Student Planning Team, responsible for planning and running the conference. This was a pilot try out in which we as students were given a much more influential role. And I can tell you it was not all that easy. Our Student Planning Team consisted of several people from different nationalities, spread throughout the Baltic Sea region. Taking both the geographical distances and cultural differences into account it was a long process. However, in the end the conference was a success!

The topic we chose for the 2011 conference was "Energy futures – Changes in Lifestyle, Policy, Security, Technology", and we really managed to create a program packed with relevant lectures, innovative workshops and fun social activities. The role-play game *The Energy Game*, and the Alan Atkinson's *ISIS pyramid workshop*, to the *Baltic Debate* and the project workshop *Redesign the World* with Oleg Izyumenko were all very different activities but with interaction as the common denominator. These interaction activities was something we had worked hard for. We did not want the conference to be just a series of lectures, like in school, but we wanted the students to make use of the unique opportunity they had: lots of people from different backgrounds, with different knowledge, perspectives, and ideas. If you are bringing lots of people from different countries together, why not make the most of it?

Our ambition was to make an impact with this conference. We wanted the students to take all of their new knowledge, tools, and inspiration further and actually make some change about the way we live. And I think we did it. The outcome of the workshop was six new student driven projects. Much better than we had hoped for!

All in all, the BUP conferences are quite unique I believe. At this international meeting place you meet people you would probably never meet otherwise. It made me understand how important it is for this region to come together in order to overcome the many challenges and obstacles that are ahead of us. The conferences are of course also creating an environment where lot's of fun happens, and they are good soil to grow and cultivate friendships in, which I believe is one of the best ways to work for peace in the future.





NEWSLETTER

New Student Representatives

I am **Magda Barecka** a student of environmental engineering at the Technical University of Lodz, situated in the heart of Poland. I have been lucky to get in touch with BUP since the very beginning of my studies. This contact has made me discover other, inspiring aspects of studying and has created amazing international friendships with people who share my interest for ecology, who look for a better way of living. I would like more students to have this possibility, to help them have the best of their studies- this important, mind-creating period of life. I believe in the strong potential of BUP and its role in creating a sustainable society, so I would like to contribute to a better promotion of the programme, to boost its cooperation with universities and engage more students in the creational process of BUP events. In the BUP region, we share a lot of environmental problems, some countries have developed very efficient ways of dealing with them whereas others don't have that experience - that's why I would like also to encourage the exchange of ideas, solutions to create not only sustainable countries, but also a sustainable Baltic region. Personally, I'm very interested in life cycle analysis topic, I believe that this kind of research can help us a lot in dealing with many everyday "environmental" choices, and it could be helpful for all societies in our region. Talking about our region, I have to admit that I love the Baltic Sea, probably as all our students! Hope to see you soon at some BUP event!



My name is **Pontus Ambros** and I have studied Sustainable Development at CEMUS (Uppsala University) during the last year and I am currently taking language courses at Stockholm University. I consider myself as an idealist, who believes that you cannot change anything, unless you start with changing yourself and your own ways of living!

Beside my studies, I work with the students network BrightClimateFuture (BCF), which is connected to BUP. As from the Gniezno conference in November 2009, BrightClimateFuture is working with the aim to create a platform for BUP students, so that they can easier implement their ideas and projects for a sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region.



My goal as a student's representative is to help in creating a bridge between the students and the institutional structures of the BUP. And to help other students to succeed in making their ideas heard and implemented in the work of BUP and BCF! This work has already started in close co-work with a group of 10 other students. We are currently taking part in planning and organizing the next student's conference.

Do you have any questions or ideas that you would like to share with me about how we can make our Baltic Sea Region more sustainable? Then contact me! Let's join forces and change the prospects of our future! It's our responsibility, our skill and our pleasure!

Who wants to live on a dying planet?



NEWSLETTER

Short News

Teachers' conference

Peoples of the Baltic, Regional Development, and the Baltic Sea Region

2 - 6 September 2011

Gniezno, Poland

The development in the societies around the Baltic Sea has been intensive in the past years. At this conference we aim to discuss this development and find ways for updating and renewal of our courses and course materials.

Last application date: 1st August, 2011, for details see [BUP web site](#).

3rd BUP Rectors Conference

Information on the upcoming Rectors' Conference, the programme, registration for the conference and more is now collected in a [conference web site](#).

SAIL

The Sail course has this year received no less than 44 applicants for the three places designated for students from Sweden.

Register a Course

Under the heading Courses & Education on the [BUP web site](#) you will find the sub-heading [Current Courses](#) and a list of, that's it, current BUP courses. If you know of some other BUP course please take the time to fill out the [Submit a Course](#) form thus adding the course to the list.

BUP Competence Centre

Another new possibility on the BUP web site is the BUP Competence Centre. Here you may fill out a [Registration form](#) with your teaching, research or project experience. Your entry will then be searchable through the [Search](#) form. So help us help you by filling out the [Registration Form](#).

New Director's Assistant in Kaliningrad

Yana Balakhnina is the new centre director Helena Kropinova's assistant at the Baltic University Programme Centre in Kaliningrad, Russia.

She graduated from Immanuel Kant State University of Russia, the faculty of Geography and Geoecology in 2010. She has specialized as an environmentalist of Geosciences or Geoecologist and will continue with postgraduate studies. She will study the principles of sustainable development as a tool for the implementation of sustainable tourism in the Baltic Sea region.



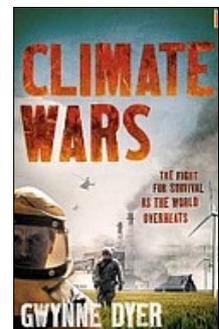
Reading hints

Summer is already here and vacations are imminent. In case there will be a rainy day or two or if you just prefer to stay in the shade here are a couple of reading hints.

The Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership, has made a list of the most noteworthy and influential sustainability books of the last fifty years, a list published as [The Top 50 Sustainability Books](#). For 2011 the staff and Senior Associates of the programme were invited to identify the most significant books of the past 12 months. This list has been published as [The 2010 Top 40 Sustainability Books](#). One of the books in the latter list is **Innovative Corporate Social Responsibility** by: Céline Louche, Samuel O. Idowu & Walter Leal Filho.

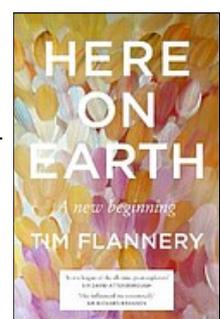


Gwynne Dyer in his book **Climate Wars** that just has been published in paperback put forward some ideas on our nearest future that will send chills down your spine even on the hottest summer's day. The essential point of his analysis is that the continuing change in our global climate will force ruling powers into posturing and combat for the world's resources as oil, water and food – something we are already seeing hints of today. Taken from candid interviews and exhaustive research, the scenarios presented seem shockingly true, outlining political unrest and economic collapse as some of the consequences of climate change.



See also the just published report: [Mapping hotspots of climate change and food insecurity in the global tropics](#) (pdf-file). By P. Ericksen, P. Thornton, A. Notenbaert, L. Cramer, P. Jones and Mario Herrero at the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security. In the report they analyse the effect of global warming on the food production in the tropics and the result is not nice.

Here on Earth: A new beginning is a book by the Australian zoologist/ecologist Tim Flannery. In this book he takes a much wider perspective while looking at life on Earth from the very beginning, to our time and into the future. The book is interdisciplinary and brings together planetary history, evolutionary biology, his own practical experience and some sinister as well as encouraging thoughts for the future.



The section [New Books](#) at the [Finnish BUP web site](#) has more information on these and many other books on sustainability and sustainable development.

Enjoy your summer (with or without reading).