

PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITY AGREEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE BALTIC UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME *No. SUT-20K-49*

1. The Parties

Uppsala University, org nr 202100-2932, Box 256, SE-751 05 Uppsala, Sweden

and

Klaipėda University, org nr 211951150, Herkaus Manto g. 84, 92294 Klaipėda, Lithuania

2. Preamble

The Baltic University Programme (BUP) is established as an interuniversity collaboration programme in the Baltic Sea region, hosted and administered by Uppsala University, with the aim to develop regional cooperation between universities and higher education institutions of higher learning in the Baltic Sea Region.

The main aim of BUP is to support building strong regional educational and research communities. The Programme is committed to gain and disseminate knowledge in the fields of sustainable development, environmental protection, nature resources, democracy and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). This is achieved by developing and offering university courses, conferences, support multi- and interdisciplinary research co-operations, and by participation in transdisciplinary projects.

The purpose of BUP is thus to promote and support universities and higher education institutions in the development of the Baltic Sea region by:

- supporting sustainable development in its full sense, including economic, social and ecological, aspects;
- supporting the development of democracy and democratic cultures;
- promoting peaceful cooperation, and the international understanding and communication.

3. Organisation

3.1 Organisational bodies within BUP

- The Programme is governed by an *International Programme Board* appointed by the Vice-Chancellor at Uppsala University.
- A *Coordinating Secretariat* for BUP is administrated by Uppsala University.
- Three Associated Secretariats are established; at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Technical University of Lodz and Åbo Akademi University. Their role is, together with the Coordinating Secretariat in Uppsala, to initiate, operate, manage and communicate activities within the Programme.
- A *National Centre* for the Programme is established in each Baltic University Programme country.
- A *local office* and contact person for BUP is appointed at each participating university.

3.2 . The Baltic University Programme Board

3.2.1 The Programme is governed by a board appointed by the Vice-Chancellor of Uppsala University for a period of three years. It consists of the following members:

- Rector or his/her representative
- three other members from Uppsala University
- one member from another Swedish university
- two members from the Swedish society at large
- three members, one representative from each of the Baltic University Programmes three Associated Secretariats
- one member from another country in Central and Eastern Europe to be nominated by the group of Baltic University Programme Centres directors
- two student members to be nominated by a student Parliament organised among the students studying the Programme

3.2.2 The Vice-Chancellor of Uppsala University gives the instructions to the board. At present they are as follows:

- develop the content and long-term policy of the Programme as well as to follow and support its implementation at the participating universities and institutes of higher education
- working for the financing of the Programme and decide on its plan of activities;

3.2.3 The board is to be convened no less than once per semester. The board appoints within itself a vice chair. The board is competent to make decisions if the chair or vice chair and at least half of the other members are present.

3.2.4. The board appoints a working group of five board members and the director of the Programme that oversees the Programme continuously and acts as needed for its proper operation as well as reports to the board about matters of principle and issues of comprehensive nature.

3.3 Coordinating Secretariat

3.3.1. The Baltic University Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University, led by a Programme Director and with personnel as required. For its activities it operates under instructions by Uppsala University.

3.3.2. The Coordinating Secretariat has at present the following tasks:

- Coordinating activities in the Programme
- Managing projects within the Programme
- Proposing and developing projects within the Programme
- Coordinating the developing of educational and other material within the Programme

3.3.3 The Coordinating Secretariat may when performing its tasks recruit the member universities, researchers and teachers in the Programme as agreed.

3.3.4. The Coordinating Secretariat will by itself or in cooperation with others apply for external funding.

3.3.5 The Coordinating Secretariat is responsible for dissemination of information in the Programme by newsletters, Internet sites and other means suitable.

3.4 National Centres

3.4.1. Within each of the Baltic University Programme countries there is a National Centre, at a participating university, that acts as a hosting University led by a Director and with personnel as required. It is operating under an agreement with Coordinating Secretariat.

3.4.2. The National Centre shall coordinate Baltic University Programme activities within an area agreed on with the Coordinating Secretariat, most often its country of location.

3.4.3. The Centre Director's main responsibility is to run the BUP National Centre which includes the following tasks:

- keep records on the contact persons at the BUP member and participating universities in the country (mailing lists etc)
- keep regular contacts with participants in the country and arrange annually National coordinating meetings
- distribute information about BUP activities to the member and participating universities in the country
- distribute information to the whole network about ongoing activities at the member or participating universities in the country
- take part in BUP Centres Directors' meetings (two meetings per year)
- develop the Baltic University Programme in the country in cooperation with other teachers and researchers coming from the BUP member and participating universities
- represent and promote the Baltic University Programme
- actively participate in the application process and selection of the participants for the BUP activities
- coordinate the country's presidency during a six-month period according to a rotation schedule among the 12 BUP countries.

4. Collaborations within BUP

4.1 Development of education

The participating universities may develop educational content and materials at undergraduate, graduate and PhD levels, as well as continuing education for academic teachers as agreed upon between the universities concerned. The collaboration between universities in the Programme, may include the production of curricula, teachers' guides, course materials, web pages or distance components of courses offered at each participating university as found suitable. Participating universities take part in this development of educational components according to their own expertise and capacities.

4.2 Right to use educational material

Each participating university may give other participating universities within the programme the right to use the educational material it has developed solely or in collaboration with other participating universities. The educational material may be transferred to the Secretariat who may distribute the material to other participating universities.

4.3 Trainings, conferences and exchange of teachers and students

In order to maintain and develop course contents/modules and educational skills, the Programme organises trainings and conferences for undergraduate, graduate and PhD levels, as well as education for academic teachers. The participating universities may send teachers and students to

the conferences and courses as agreed with the particular university that organizes the activity. In addition, other kinds of conferences, such as planning and coordinating conferences, may be organised as needed by partners within BUP. The participating universities agree to host and support common courses, trainings and conferences in the programme according to their own capacities.

4.4 Research

One of the main goals of BUP is to build capacity among researchers at member universities, to spread their research and outcomes with the idea to find partnerships and cooperation for future research projects and development of education material. The Programme supports this in a number of ways depending on current resources *e.g.*:

1. organizes scientific conferences;
2. publish Research Notes Letter to inform on research findings at Participating universities
3. mobility grant for young scholars
4. PhD thesis award within Sustainability science in a Baltic Sea Region context
5. support PhD candidates and supervisors
6. service function through the Baltic University Programme Research and Publications Office (BUP-RaP) at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. BUP-RaP takes initiative to coordinate research applications, publishing scientific papers and Special Issues
7. Encourage the development of research projects in the Programme within its areas of interest. Participating universities suggest and take part in such projects according to their interests and capacities.

4.5 Projects

The Programme develops projects within its area of interest in cooperation with other actors in society, such as municipalities, industries and authorities. Participating universities suggest and take part in projects according to their interest and capacities.

4.6 Further cooperation

Further cooperation between the participating universities in the Programme, *e.g.* on joint master programmes, may be developed. The participating universities suggest and take part in such cooperation according to their interests and capacities.

5. Commitments of the Parties

5.1 Financial commitments

Uppsala University agrees to contribute to the Programme the financial resources needed to support and operate the Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University.

The participating university agrees to give an annual contribution to the Programme. A requisition with a recommended amount will be sent to the participating university by Uppsala University on a yearly basis.

5.2 Access and contributions to BUP Activities

5.2.1 The BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University agrees to organize trainings and conferences for university teachers and researches in the Programme. The participating university has right to send university teachers and researches to these activities, as agreed with the organizer, with no participant fee.

5.2.2 The BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University agrees together with participating universities to organize conferences and training activities for students and PhD students in the

Programme. The participating university has the right to send students and PhD students to these activities, as agreed with the organizer, with no participant fee.

- 5.2.3 The BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University coordinates and manages the development of course modules that participating university are a part of and will be able to use in their courses. The participating university are also free to use existing BUP educational materials that have been developed in the programme previously.
- 5.2.4 Other kinds of BUP activities (planning and coordination meetings, participation in international and regional events, etc) will be organized as needed by the BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University or other participating universities in the Programme. The participating university has the right to send participants to these activities, as agreed with the organizer, some events with no participant fee, some with a fee, depending on current resources.
- 5.2.5 The BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University and the participating university agree to support developing research cooperation and projects within the area of cooperation according to own expertise and possibilities.
- 5.2.6 The BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University and the participating university agree to support developing of applied projects, according to own expertise and possibilities.
- 5.2.7 Further cooperation between Uppsala University and participating universities, e.g. on joint master programmes, may be developed. Such an extended cooperation may involve co-funding from all partners, and should be specified in separate agreements.
- 5.2.8 The participating university takes part in the development and organization of all above mentioned BUP activities according to its own expertise and possibilities.

6. Term of the Agreement

This Agreement shall continue for a period of three (3) years from the day of its signing by the Parties unless earlier terminated

a/ by a Party upon six (6) months notice or

b/ by a Party upon failure of the other Party to perform any of its obligations, if such failure is not remedied within thirty (30) days of receiving written notice thereof.

If the Agreement is not terminated by either Party, it will continue for further periods of three (3) years.

7. Force majeure

Neither party to this agreement shall be liable to the other nor held to be in breach of this agreement to the extent that it is prevented, hindered or delayed in performance or observance of its obligations hereunder by reason of industrial action, strikes, lock-outs, inability to obtain supplies, accidents or any other cause or contingency whatsoever beyond its control.

8. Governing Law and Dispute Resolution

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of Sweden.

Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in connection with this contract, or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof, shall in the first place be settled by negotiations between the Parties and secondly by public court in Uppsala, Sweden.

This Agreement has been executed in two copies of which the Parties have taken one each.

For Uppsala University

Place date 2020-10-26



Rector Eva Åkesson
University stamp

For Klaipėda University

Place date Klaipėda

07 SEP 2020

Rector Artūras Razbadauskas
University stamp

