



CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day 2018: Workshops' Conclusions

Workshop 1 “University Guidelines for Sustainable Transition and Sustainability Code for Higher Education”

Co-chairs: **Alan AtKisson**, Senior Sustainability Advisor and CEO of the AtKisson Group, and **Prof. Linas Kliučininkas**, Kaunas University of Technology.

The workshop spurred a dynamic discussion with a wealth of recommendations presented for Baltic University Programme's (BUP) further actions. First and foremost, social sustainability is under-represented in the BUP framing & activities dedicated to the sustainable development. BUP should address this within the context of its existing programs (e.g. teachers' or PhD conferences) in the following ways:

- In order to respond to the Agenda 2030 or the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDG) “era”, BUP should use the existing examples of its actions to illustrate its commitments to the strategic declarations or recommendations.
- BUP should link any new initiative to the BUP's “core business” in order to ensure engagement and ownership within the network.
- BUP should thoroughly evaluate such initiatives as the SDG Accord before considering how or whether to respond to it.

While not neglecting its internal role and ties to the universities, BUP should also explore potential external engagement, for example, its role in educating public in sustainability matters. Furthermore, BUP could explore its options of internal differentiation, incentivizing technical universities to focus on ties with the industry and universities with other profiles – towards broader social engagement.

In order to further evaluate the feasibility of these suggestions, BUP should pay attention towards the potential external funding sources.

As one of the good practices, the German “Sustainability Code” was mentioned as a national model which could be seen as a possible template for creating a regional code, or for the adaptation blueprint for other national contexts.

BUP should review the [Baltic 2030 Action Plan](#) in detail to find its place in the agenda proposed by the [Council of the Baltic Sea States](#) (CBSS) in terms of cooperation on the SDGs.

Implementation of sustainable development in campuses is still of relevance and should be continuously promoted.



Workshop 2 “International cooperation – a major factor for success – Research, Innovation and Mobility”

Co-chairs: **Daria Akhutina**, Senior Advisor at the CBSS Secretariat, and **Klaus von Lepel**, Baltic Science Network Director.

The overall workshop discussions revolved around the following three key questions:

- Which are the barriers in researcher mobility in the BSR?
- How can we change the brain drain into brain circulation in the BSR?
- How can the region become more competitive? Is there and an appropriate model for research exchange and mobility? If – so, what kind of support is needed?

Discussion was facilitated by a brief insight in the results of the BUP survey provided by **Paula Lindroos**, Director of the BUP Centre for Finland, and Swedish Institute´s offered funding for talent mobility highlighted by **Monika Wirkkala**, Head of Talent Mobility Unit at the Swedish Institute.

Among more than 40 workshop participants, there were many who supported the suggestion to slim down the administrative procedures when applying for mobility. BUP was supported as the channel for administrating and facilitating more active researcher mobility in the macro-region. An overall readiness to explore new ties between universities, cities and companies was expressed. Likewise, the need to bridge the gap between EU and non-EU countries was voiced, since for an EU-based researcher it remains challenging to find research partners located in the non-EU countries.

The competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region in the context of its capacity to attract students from other parts of the world. The workshop was concluded by an overall appreciation of the value of researchers´ mobility.



Workshop 3 “Open Science. Connection to Business? Possibilities to Fund Raising?”

Workshop commenced with an introduction by the co-chair **Prof. Witold Pawłowski**, Vice-Rector of the Lodz University of Technology, to the current intellectual property issues. He stressed that the relation between open access and public financing of the research should be based to some extent on the reciprocal relation between donors (taxpayers) and beneficiaries (researchers, patent-bearers, etc.). In the wake of the [European Open Science Cloud](#) (EOSC) many aspects remain to be clarified regarding the intellectual property systems and other intellectual property such as the author’s rights and business secrets. EOSC has gathered [70 supporters](#). However, it should be noted that the Baltic Sea Region is not widely represented among this pool of actors.

The accessibility to the PhD thesis and research results of youth scientists might be considered as items to be made available in the open access repositories in order to promote wider awareness about this body of literature and data sets.

The workshop continued with an outline presented by the co-chair **Tomasz Jałukowicz**, Coordinator of the EUSBSR Policy Area (PA) Innovation, National Representative of Poland to the Baltic TRAM High Level Group, Chief Expert at the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Workshop attendants were informed about the EUSBSR PA Innovation test cases of aligning the funding from a variety of resources available for transnational cooperation projects. Among the explored financial support programmes were [Horizon 2020](#), [Interreg Vb Baltic Sea Region Programme](#), [Bonus-185](#) financing system; MA-Network and the art. 70 CPR, so-called 'transnational component', has been used as an example, including piloting in the clean tech domain.

Presentation on [Baltic TRAM](#) provided by **Zane Šime**, Communication & Research Coordinator at the CBSS Secretariat, allowed the workshop attendants to familiarize with science-business cooperation model developed by a transnational network of Industrial Research Centres. First two Baltic TRAM reports ([National innovation and smart specialisation governance in the Baltic Sea Region](#) and [Multi-Level Governance of Innovation and Smart Specialisation](#)) are good examples, how Baltic TRAM promotes open access to its findings already during the project implementation phase. The [Baltic TRAM open call](#) results and their showcased smart specialisation dynamics will be prepared this year. [Baltic TRAM, being supportive of the EOSC](#), is also seeking ways how to make its open data practices and findings accessible to the relevant European stakeholders.



Workshop 4 “Strategies in Education – How to Attract Students of the 21st Century?”

The fourth parallel workshop gathered 16 representatives from nine universities to discuss potential options for further promotion of closer inter-university cooperation. Likewise, the participants reflected on the potential measures which might ensure greater visibility of sustainable development component in the teachers’ training.

As one of the solutions for closer cooperation the workshop’s co-chair **Prof. Friedrich Albrecht** proposed the BUP Joint Degree Programmes. Whereas the workshop’s co-chair **Prof. Nadezhda Goncharova** suggested exploring in more detail digital learning options which would serve as an alternative to the BUP’s practice of book production (hard copies).

The workshop attendants recognised the importance of ensuring more student mobility through such means as summer schools, language courses and cultural seminars. As potential incentives for students to take part in the future BUP initiatives were proposed diplomas, transferable European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) points, as well as guest lectures of business sector representatives.