

Baltic University Programme

The Baltic University is a regional university network with about 225 universities in the 14 countries in the Baltic Sea region. The Baltic University Programme is established as a unit at Uppsala Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD Uppsala) at Uppsala University, under the governance of an international board. The Programme plans, produces and coordinates undergraduate and master level courses using modern educational technologies in combination with traditional university educational settings, and runs joint research projects. The chosen subjects are of common concern for the entire region, and the international cooperation is of key importance. The activities concentrate on different aspects of sustainable development in the region. At present almost 10,000 students participate each year.

Main funding organizations of the Programme are the Swedish Government and Uppsala University, the Swedish Institute and the Baltic Sea Unit of SIDA. Also funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers and some EU programmes, as well as Finnish funds have been decisive. In addition the participating universities contribute importantly to the programme.

The participating universities include classical universities, as well as universities of technology, agriculture, culture, economics, pedagogics etc. All countries within or partly within the Baltic Sea drainage basin are represented: Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden and more marginally Czech Republic, Norway, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

A large network of researchers and teachers at the universities has developed. The number of individuals who have contributed at some stage in the Programme are more than 1,500. Most of these are active within environmental science, but contributions from humanities and social sciences are also important.

BUP courses at MCSU and the Faculty of Chemistry

The Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS) in Lublin has participated in the Baltic University Programme since the time it was established at the Uppsala University in 1991.

The first few years a course entitled "The Baltic Sea Environment" was run by the staff of the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences.

In 1997 Dr. Jerzy Niećko at the Faculty of Chemistry started the course "A Sustainable Baltic Region" and was the main teacher for this course until his retirement in 2007.

The SBR course has become an academic subject for students of Environmental Protection in Environmental Chemistry. The students who pass the final written exam get diplomas. The total number of students who have passed the SBR exam at the Faculty of Chemistry during 1997 – 2012 is now almost 700.

Events In December 1997 and in December 2004, UMCS hosted two international conferences organized for the Lecturers from the Baltic Sea region involved in teaching the SBR course. The conferences were held in Kazimierz Dolny. About 80 lecturers from the region participated at both conferences. The conferences were mainly financed by the Baltic University Secretariat.

For two years, the staff (2 people) of the Faculty of Chemistry were involved in the preparation and running the International Summer Camps for the Baltic University students coming from the Baltic Sea Region. In 1997 the camp was held at Hel and in 1998 the place for the camp was Stegna, both at the Baltic seaside in Poland. However, it is necessary to admit that the majority of work to organize the summer camps was done by the Polish Center of the Baltic University Programme at Gdansk, and also by the staff and students of the Gdansk University.

Students UMCS students studying the "A Sustainable Baltic Region" course have taken part at the International Summer Camps, Workshops and annual student conferences organized by BUP in Rogów (Poland).

Teachers Dr. Jerzy Niećko during the conference in Uppsala in June 2001 was awarded the extraordinary teacher's prize 2001 and also the diploma for a pioneering contribution in creating and maintaining the Baltic University Programme through its first ten years (1991-2001). Since 2001 Dr.

Bozena Czech has been involved in the SBR course, once as the student (graduated in 2001), and then as teacher since 2008.

A Sustainable Baltic Region

The course A Sustainable Baltic Region deals with sustainable use and management of natural resources, the long-term protection of our environment and the sustainable organizations of human societies from the level of households to those of municipalities, cities and countries. The course has been organized as ten "packages". There is an introductory part explaining the fundamental notions of sustainability and its historical background. Then follow four themes of more technical and natural science character. The second part consists of four themes of social science character and the course is finished by a topic of implementation and Agenda 21. Important issues are energy, material flows, economy and ethics, as well as industry, agriculture, transport, community development and Agenda 21 practices.

The course material consists of, ten 50 pages booklets, the TV series Mission Possible with over 80 individual reports and a database useful for student work. A computer conferencing system, First Class, is used for direct interaction between the students in different countries and locations throughout the region. The TV series of ten 45 min programs called Mission Possible was produced by a consortium of 17 public TV companies in ten countries in the region. The TV-production consists mostly of reports on cases of good practice. It shows how new models for sustainable management is developed in cities, at farms, in factories etc. in the countries in the region.

The TV series was broadcast to the universities over satellite during spring 1997. Whole or part of the productions have also been broadcast to the general public in e.g. Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland as well as a number of cable TV networks.

www: <http://www.balticuniv.uu.se/>