A Word From the Director

At the end of 2014, Paula Lindroos stepped down as the Director of the Baltic University Programme Secretariat. For the past 3 years, she has worked hard to steer the network through turbulent times for our region, and for higher education. Paula has returned to Åbo, where we are glad that she will continue to be an active participant in the Network through her work for the Finnish BUP National Centre.

Last autumn, in anticipation of Paula’s departure, the process was begun to recruit a successor to her as Director. Despite strong interest from candidates from across the region, this process was in the end unsuccessful.

As a temporary measure, I have agreed to step in as Acting Director of the BUP Secretariat for a limited period. I have a long-standing stake in BUP, having taught the course “Peoples of the Baltic” at Uppsala University for almost a decade, and serving on the BUP International Board since 2010. Nevertheless, I also represent the second generation of participants in the network, who are increasingly taking over the baton from the generation of funders, like Paula, who built up the network in the 1990s.

Like other organisations experiencing such a generational shift, BUP is in a sensitive phase of its quarter-century existence. We cannot afford to rest upon the many laurels of the past. As the eminent Latvian poet, Rainis, wrote in 1909: “That which develops, survives” (Pastāvēs, kas pārmainīsies); so, too, must BUP continue to develop, if it is to remain vibrant and relevant for our members and societies in the decades to come. During my tenure as acting director, I aim to set in motion a number of initiatives to prepare the Secretariat and the Network for the demands of the future. These will include suggestions for reinvigorating the reciprocal relationship with the National Centres, and strengthening the Network as a promoter of pedagogical and research excellence throughout the region.

Matthew Kott
Acting Programme Director
BUP Secretariat
Upcoming Events

**March**
24  Workshop to present the CBSS project report, Stockholm
29 – 31  BUP Centres Meeting, Lodz
  Planning meeting: *Energy Efficiency course*, Zittau

**April**
15 – 19  BUP Students’ Spring Conference: *Feeding the World without Destroying the World: Can Food Production Be(come) Sustainable?* Rogow,
29  CBSS Expert Group Round Table: *Assessment of Sustainable Development in the BSR*, Tallinn

**May**
8 — 10  SAIL for Students: Teachers Planning Meeting, Uppsala
10 — 13  Teachers Competence Development Training in ESD: *Steps to a Sustainable Future* Uppsala
25 — 26  Seminar: *Sustainable Agriculture and Land Use*, Slovak University of Agriculture, Nitra
  BUP Board Meeting, Uppsala

**June**
1 — 3  Workshop: *ESD and learning materials*, Estonia
15— 16  EUSBSR Annual Forum, Jurmala, Latvia
25 — 2 July  *SAIL for Teachers*, from Stavanger to Belfast
  BUP Centres meeting, Riga (prel.)

**August**
4 — 18  *SAIL for Students*, onboard STS Fryderyk Chopin

**September**
8 — 11  BUP Summer Course: *Energy Efficiency*, Hamburg
9 — 11  The 4th European Fair on Education for Sustainable Development, Hamburg

Note: The dates for the events may change.
For further and latest information on the upcoming events please see the [BUP Calendar](#) and [List of Events](#).
Programmes, presentations and other materials from earlier BUP events are possible to
There is a need to strengthen the agenda for sustainable transport in the Baltic Sea region to address environmental problems (Baltic Sea, climate change etc.) and to improve the road safety performance of the transport sector.

Q3-Forum for Sustainable Transports is a non-commercial organization in Sweden that works to make it easier to buy and sell sustainable road transport services. Q3 has developed a digital questionnaire which helps transport buyers to compare road carriers from a sustainability perspective. In Q3’s definition sustainable road transports should be characterized by:

- A high degree of road safety
- Environmentally sound transports
- Good working conditions for the drivers

During the past six months Q3 – Forum for Sustainable Transports has established contact with transport buyers and sellers, business associations, and governmental agencies in five countries in the Baltic Sea Region: Poland, Lithuania, Finland, Estonia and Germany. There has been a substantial interest for Q3’s approach and tools to promote sustainable road transports. We hope that the meetings have laid the foundation for the formation of a network for sustainable transports and a new platform for joint projects.

Several organizations and companies in the countries that we visited expressed an interest to become members of Q3 and to participate in Q3 workshops.

In Sweden, Q3 provides a meeting place for transport buyers and sellers where they can have a dialogue about road safety, environment and other sustainability issues. The transport sector's sustainability successes in Sweden has been facilitated by an effective interaction between policymakers, transport buyers and sellers. There is a need for the establishment of new meeting places and new forms of interactions in the countries in the Baltic Region. In Poland the collaboration between government agencies, businesses and organizations is considered to be underdeveloped. In Germany Q3 discussed the possibility of implementing Q3 projects at state level (regional level). We learned that DSLV, a German freight forwarding and logistics association, has developed guidelines for calculating greenhouse gas emissions for logistics companies.

A general conclusion from our meetings is that larger companies seem to have the greatest potential to promote sustainable transports. Although some of the smaller companies currently may lack sufficient financial muscles to attach priority to sustainable transports they are still welcome to co-operate with Q3.
In the past year, the road haulage industry in the Baltic countries and Poland has suffered substantial losses of revenue due to reduced trade volumes with Russia. This is a hard blow for the road haulage industry which already experiences financial problems related to strong competition. Both transport selling companies and transport buyers may now be tempted to attach less priority to sustainability issues. However, Q3’s position is that transport buyers and sellers should avoid competition that focuses only on price; quality/sustainability should be treated as equally important to price. Continued co-operation effort, both in the Baltic Sea Region and within the wider European context, are needed to promote the development of sustainable transports.

**EU’s agenda for sustainable transports in the Baltic Sea Region**

Efforts to promote sustainable transport solutions in the Baltic Sea region are in line with current priorities formulated in the several EU strategy documents. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) contains 17 programme areas of which transport is one. The strategy highlights three priority areas:

- Protection of the Baltic Sea ("Save the Sea")
- Transport issues ("Connect the Region")
- Labour markets and welfare ("Increase prosperity")

Europe 2020 is EU’s political strategy for economic growth between 2010 and 2020. The aim is to promote sustainable economic growth and increased co-ordination between member states. A central element of the strategy is to ensure that the energy and climate goals, referred to as “20/20/20”, will be reached.

The Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020, set up within the framework of InterReg, aims at strengthening the integrated territorial development and co-operation for a more innovative, better accessible and sustainable Baltic Sea Region. There are four priority areas:

- Capacity for innovation
- Efficient management of natural resources
- Sustainable transport
- Institutional capacity for macro-regional co-operation

**Read more:**

[Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020](#) (InterReg Programme)

[Europa 2020](#)

[Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region](#)
Short BUP News

BUP Students’ Spring Conference 2015

The Baltic University Students Spring Conference has this year the theme: **Feeding the World without Destroying the World: Can Food Production Be(come) Sustainable?** The conference will take place the 15–19 April in Rogów, Poland.

For further information and an Application Form please see the [BUP web site](http://www.balticuniv.uu.se).

The BUP centres will compile a list according to the students activity within the Programme and deliver it to the BUP secretariat for a final selection of student candidates for the conference no later than 16th of March, 2015!

New SAIL web site

A new BUP web site dedicated to the SAIL courses has opened. Here you will find all relevant information on the courses.

Please see the web site: [SAIL—Sustainability Applied in International Learning](http://www.balticuniv.uu.se).

SAIL for Teachers 2015

The Teacher's SAIL course will start 25th June in Stavanger, Norway and ends 2nd July in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Applications should be sent to the BUP secretariat/Maria Hejna no later than April 20, 2015.

SAIL for Students 2015

The SAIL for Students course is organised as a summer course at Uppsala University. **The application time ends 16 March.**

A planning meeting for the teachers of the SAIL for students course will be organised during two full days in Uppsala to prepare the course. It is recommended that the teachers of the SAIL for Students course also participate in the SAIL for Teachers course.

List of Participating Universities

The [List of Participating Universities](http://www.balticuniv.uu.se) in the BUP network is being updated. Feel free to check out if your university is on the list and if you find some mistakes please send a report to Magnus Lehman.
Teachers Competence Development

The Teachers Competence Development Training in ESD: Steps to a Sustainable Future will take place in Uppsala 10—13 May in Uppsala, Sweden.

In addition to expert teachers from Uppsala University and the BUP network Prof. Dennis Meadows will be one of the main contributors. We are happy to have the opportunity to introduce him to our teachers and have him with us during the whole day on Monday, 11 May.

The first day of the meeting will be workshop with prof. Meadows. The title of the workshop is "Experiential Education for Sustainable Development". There will be three sessions:

1. Theory and Practice of Games for Sustainable Development
2. A Game About Sustainable Use of Renewable Resources
3. Games for Teaching about Climate Change

Applications are to be sent to the BUP National Centre in your country no later than 23 March 2015

For further information and an application form please see the BUP web site.
New Book:
Regional Development and the Baltic Sea Region

Editors: Tomasz Branka and Arnold Bernaciak

As part of the ongoing efforts to update teaching materials for BUP courses, at the end of 2014 a new publication was finally launched. The interdisciplinary collection Regional Development in the Baltic Sea Region, edited by Tomasz Branka and Arnold Bernaciak, is the outcome of a BUP meeting held in Gniezno in 2011. This book is a complement to the standard textbook The Baltic Sea Region: Cultures, Politics, Societies (ed. Witold Maciejewski), which is increasingly showing its age. Due to an unfortunate editorial oversight, one of the articles needed to be revised after the book had already been printed. When this error was discovered, the first print run was immediately withdrawn, and a corrected edition has now been published. Regional Development in the Baltic Sea Region is available for download from the BUP website. We sincerely hope our teachers and students will find it a useful addition to our range of learning resources.

"This publication from the Baltic University Programme gives a momentary glimpse of the region. In September 2011, the authors gathered and the articles should be seen as a reflection of that time. The eleven articles span over three different landscapes in the Baltic Sea region; the educational, the political and the social and natural landscapes. They cover aspects from the local level to the international level.

From the Preface by Paula Lindroos

New Book:
Environment, Pollution, Development: The Case of Uzbekistan

by Māris Kļaviņš, Azamat Azizov and Jānis Zajoksnis

The concept of sustainable development is relevant in respect to development of each specific country and related to a great challenge - the decision in which direction to develop. These challenges are actual also for Uzbekistan and rising of public awareness in respect to urgent environmental issues and sustainable development is of a key importance. The current book aims to contribute to these tasks.

Another major task is to summarize the available knowledge about the environment and environmental problems in Uzbekistan, to provide a comprehensive overview for the readers both in Uzbekistan and other countries. The book contains basic information on global environmental problems, pollution impacts and solutions and thus can be used as an introductory material for students of all specialties. Special attention is paid to water resources in Uzbekistan, water pollution and water sustainable use technologies.

The book is prepared with the support of Project "Master Program in Environmental Science and Sustainable Development with Focus on Water Management for Uzbekistan Higher Education – UZWATER" and with the support of University of Latvia.

You may download your own copy of the book here and for further information on the Uzwater project please see the projects web site.
Other Short News

Water in the City

The Sendzimir Foundation, has just published a new guidebook 'Water in the City' no. 5 in the Sustainable Development Applications Series. The guidebook highlights the importance of urban water ecosystems and green infrastructure for sustainable development of a city (quality of life, health, biodiversity and ecosystem services, public space, flood control, water and air quality). In the guidebook, you can also find a selection of best practices showing how to successfully integrate urban greenery management with water management.

3rd World Sustainable Development Teach-In Day

The 3rd World Sustainable Development Teach-In Day will unite the global sustainability community, and thousands of people can take part on it. As a truly global event, the Teach-In Day will cater for all time zones.

Participation is open to anyone interested, and is free of any charges. However, in order to allow us to monitor the level of participation and impact of the event, we do require interested persons to register.

The 25th March 2015 will be a very special day. A day devoted to sustainability. We look forward to your participation.

Baltic Rim Economies Review

A new issue of the journal BRE (Baltic Rim Economies) Review has been published by University of Turku. In this issue a large number of experts as usual discuss the Baltic Sea region from different perspectives.

Among the authors and articles you will find:
Karmenu Vella: Now is the time to deliver sustainable Blue Growth in the Baltic.
Sirpa Paatero: The Finnish icebreakers in the Arctic region.

EURENSSA 2015

Students of environmental sciences/management and sustainable development are invited to the: 9th EUROpean ENvironmental Science Student Association (EURENSSA) meeting This year the meeting will be held in Germany in the beautiful region "Saxon Switzerland".

EURENSSA 2015 is a one-week summer camp conference, for students from Europe and its vicinity, who are interested in the environment. The camp will take place 1th - 8th August 2015.

For further information and application, please visit our website www.eurenssa2015.de
The BUP Newsletter publishes materials on the BUP, BUP activities and on sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. The newsletter is published four times per year and distributed by e-mail through the BUP mailing-list.

How to subscribe or unsubscribe to the BUP Newsletter

If you want to unsubscribe from the BUP mailing-list you may send an e-mail to: sympa@lists.uu.se.
In the subject line you write: **SIGNOFF balticuniversity**

To subscribe you instead write **SIGNON balticuniversity** in the subject line.

Or, better, if you want to subscribe or unsubscribe to the mailing-list send an e-mail to Magnus Lehman at the BUP secretariat and he will help you.

After Words

The next issue of this newsletter is planned for end of May. Contributions, hints, tips and ideas are as always most welcome, please contact the editor.

Last but not least do not forget to visit our web sites every now and then for the latest updates:

[Baltic University Programme Secretariat](#)
[SAIL—Sustainability Applied in International Learning](#)
[BUP in Finland](#)
[BUP on facebook](#)