



## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

### Introduction

The BALTECH Consortium, initiated in 1997 and established in 1998 was set up with the aim to be the solid base for wider partnership and closer cooperation between universities in the Baltic Sea Region within the area of natural sciences, technology and industrial management. In the long term perspective the goal has been to create a virtual "Baltic Sea University of Science and Technology" based on a number of universities around the Baltic Sea as a strategic resource for long-term development of education and research in accordance with the needs of the region.

The Consortium is governed by a Board consisting of representatives of the Partner Universities and a Secretariat appointed by the Board.

#### ***The statutes of BALTECH stipulate among others to:***

- *stimulate the integration into European education and research systems,*
- *take an active part in developing the policies of higher education and science in the Baltic Sea region,*
- *provide scientific expertise and to give expert conclusions on principal questions of technology development in the Baltic region countries,*
- *encourage novel study programs and courses in different fields of science and technology,*
- *support the integration of higher engineering education with research and technology development as well as to promote efficient methods for training engineers,*
- *promote innovation in engineering and technology education,*
- *participate in international assessments of study programs and research projects,*
- *support communication between academic and administrative staff members and students including mobility in the framework of different European Union programs,*
- *support the organization of international conferences in order to disseminate new achievements in research and development,*
- *promote joint research and educational projects, especially in interdisciplinary fields,*
- *strengthen the development of relations between universities and industry and to consider the industry's requirements for engineering and technological education,*
- *encourage new approaches in the management of engineering and technology education,*

- promote continuing and distance education for engineers,
- encourage the awarding of joint degrees,
- create a BALTECH information network.

## **1. BALTECH - focus and highlights in 2010**

### ***1.1 BALTECH activities were focused around:***

- The enhancement of communication between academic and administrative/support staff
- The enhancement of communication between students
- Support of mobility among students
- Conferences and seminars on topics of common interest, with an aim to disseminate new achievements
- Initiation of joint educational and research projects
- Development of BALTECH information network
- Network building with non-academic networks and organizations

### ***1.2 Highlights 2010***

- BALTECH Rectors' meeting, Kaunas, April 15
- BALTECH Student Union meeting, Kaunas, April 14-15
- BALTECH Spring Conference, Kaunas, April 16. *Educational Environments of the Future and Quality of Teaching*
- Meeting of librarians, May 26-27, Tallinn
- Nordtek Annual Conference, Aalborg, June 11 - 14
- Participation at *The First Annual Forum of the Baltic Sea Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region*, Tallinn, October 14 – 15, 2010
- Board Meeting, Stockholm, October 28
- Student Union meeting, Stockholm, October 28

- Preparation of Erasmus project
- Launch of totally new web-site

BALTECH Student Body Exchange, 22 exchanges during the year.

## **2. Collaboration in Education and Research**

Cooperation in education and research has traditionally been the corner-stones of BALTECH.

### **2.1 Erasmus**

At the 2010 rectors' conference in Kaunas, it was decided to hand in an Erasmus application, this being easier to administer than previous Erasmus Mundus applications that had been rejected. The topic chosen was *the use of e-learning and multimedia within education with a link to real-life experience from industry*, which was singled out after visits and agreements with RTU, KTU and KTH.

The final name of the project is *Sharing Engineering Knowhow of Enterprises in the Baltic Sea Region for Improving Quality of Education in Local Universities of Technology (SEKBU)*, with KTH, KTU, RTU and TUT participating in cooperation with four industrial partners, one from each country. (*Enclosure 1, BALTECH Erasmus Project Application Summary 201* )

### **2.2 Doctoral Schools**

First steps were taken for an overview of the structure of doctoral schools at the BALTECH universities. The work has not been finalized. (*Enclosure 2, BALTECH Graduate/Doctoral School Interim Report*)

## **3. Cooperation between administrative units**

In line with the cooperation between administrative staff, a meeting on *e-resources and e-services in practice* for librarians took place on May 26-27, in Tallinn.

The librarians introduced and discussed their experience within:

- e-resources
- institutional repositories
- open access

- search and administration tools
  - information literacy training
  - different e-services.

A follow-up meeting was arranged in Riga on February 7 – 9, 2011 on *Academic Publishing and Bibliometrics* with lectures given by LiU and attendants from KTU, RTU, TUT and VGTU.

#### **4. BALTECH conferences**

One conferences was arranged in 2010, *Quality Assessment and Indicators of Higher Education* in Kaunas, April 14-15. The aim was to find topics of joint interest among the BALTECH universities with a focus on European, national and university levels.

The conference attracted approximately 50 participants, including students, but was partly hampered because of the ash cloud from Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland.

#### **5 External contacts**

##### ***5.1 Nordtek***

BALTECH was invited to take part of the Nordtek annual meeting in Aalborg, Denmark, June 13 – 15. Toomas Käbin gave a presentation of BALTECH in one of the working groups.

The topic of the Nordtek 2010 conference was *Universities of Tomorrow – From Humboldt to Corporate Companies*.

There is a regular exchange of information, and if necessary meetings, between the Nordtek and BALTECH Secretariats.

The BALTECH Secretariat has begun preparations for the Nordtek 2012 annual conference in Tallinn, which will be jointly hosted by the technical universities in Tallinn, Riga, Kaunas and Vilnius.

##### ***5.2 Vinnova***

The BALTECH Secretariat has an on-going dialogue with Vinnova (The Swedish Government Agency for Innovations System) on the implementation

of the 2009 EU Baltic Sea Strategy and possible contribution and participation from the BALTECH universities.

The First Annual Forum of the Baltic Sea Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was held in Tallinn on October 14 – 15, 2010 with participation from the BALTECH Secretariat.

## 6. Student activities

The BALTECH Student Union has actively organized the *BALTECH Student Exchange* project to develop cooperation and mobility between BALTECH universities.

In this two-way exchange two student groups of 4 to 8 students from different BALTECH universities, but from the same study fields visit each other and create a program related to the studies that must correspond to the requirements of the project guidelines (can be found on BALTECH webpage).

In 2010, a total of 22 groups from different faculties of BALTECH universities participated in the project and organized 11 two-sided student exchanges. The exchange partners have been from following universities:

I round – exchanges in spring semester 2010		II round – exchanges in autumn semester 2010	
KTU	4 student groups	KTU	4 student groups
RTU	6 student groups	RTU	2 student groups
TUT	2 student groups	TUT	2 student groups
		Aalto	2 student groups

In addition to this, students have taken an active part in the BALTECH conferences:

12-14 April 2010 – meeting and BALTECH conference at Kaunas University of Technology.

26-28 November 2010 – meeting and BALTECH Student Union Conference at Tallinn University of Technology.

## **7. Scholarships**

### ***7.1 BALTECH Mobility Scholarship***

The BALTECH Mobility Scholarship was announced four times during 2010 (February 15, May 15, September 15, December 15).

Mobility scholarships amounting to 16.681 euro were awarded to 23 students, 9 were rejected and 6 handled by AF. One scholarship was not made use of. The scholarships were open for short term assignments and covered travel costs and weekly allowances for a period of twelve weeks.

The scholarships are open for bachelor, master and PhD students irrespective of study field at any one of the BALTECH universities for studies or visits to any one of the BALTECH universities. (*Enclosure 3, BALTECH 2010 Mobility Scholarship Chart*)

### ***7.2 ÅF Grant***

The ÅF Grant is administered by BALTECH but payments are effectuated directly between ÅF and the scholars.

In 2010 three scholarships were awarded out of six applications. ÅF is most pleased with the students. The ÅF Grant will also be available in 2011.

## **8. Rectors' meeting**

The 2010 rectors' meeting took place in Kaunas on April 15. Rectors were mainly represented by members of the BALTECH board. Three of the most notable decisions were to:

- include two student representatives into the board
- initiate a joint Erasmus multilateral project
- make an overview of the statutes and if necessary make amendments in order to reflect presentday needs.

## **9. Board meetings**

A board meeting was arranged in Stockholm on October 28, 2010.

## **10. Management**

The BALTECH Secretariat usually holds short weekly meetings during the spring and fall terms. The following persons participate: The Chairman of the Board (prof Jakob Kübarsepp), the Secretary (Toomas Käbin), the web-administrator and legal-advisor (Kaire Reisspass), the IRO (Maret Hein) and. Others are invited when needed, such as student representatives.

The Secretariat is responsible for the management of BALTECH.

Information on all BALTECH activities is provided through news- letters on a regular basis to rectors, board members, the International Relations Offices, Student Unions and to Nordtek.

## **11. Finances**

BALTECH is primarily financed by the member universities. The annual membership in 2010 was 5.000 Euro.

ÅF paid BALTECH 20.000 SEK, (2.289 euro) to cover administrative costs in connection with the ÅF-Grant, which is handled by the BALTECH Secretariat.

Total revenues amounted to 71.763 euro (budget 71.362), which includes the 2009 surplus 29.4747 euro.

Costs amounted to 57.461 euro (budget 57.100).

The surplus, to be forwarded to the 2011 budget was 17.465 euro (budget 14.262).

Overspending was noted among student activities and scholarships because of a strong demand. On the other hand conference and administrative costs were smaller than budgeted. (*Enclosure 4, BALTECH 2010 Financial Outcome, 2011 Budget Proposal*)

## **12. Auditing**

The BALTECH accounts form an integral part of the Tallinn University of Technology accounts under a separate dossier. The accounting at Tallinn University of Technology is based on accrual basis and is subordinate to the laws

and regulations of the Republic of Estonia an. Auditing is done by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

### **13. Web-page**

The website [www.baltech.info](http://www.baltech.info) has been totally renewed, which leaves room for interactivity, not the least among students. The new page can easily be managed, it is user friendly and has a new design and the number of visits can be followed.

Tallinn, April 15, 2011

Jakob Kübarsepp

Chairman of Board

Toomas Käbin

Secretary

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