



## 2011 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 technical universities in the Baltic Sea Region within the area of natural sciences, technology and industrial management. BALTECH has seven members in Sweden, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. BALTECH acts as a strategic resource for long term development within education and research.

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 2011**

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

- Support of mobility among students in the Baltic-Nordic region;
- Enhancement of communication and mobility between academic and administrative/support staff;
- Conferences and seminars on topics of common interest, with an aim to disseminate new achievements;
- Initiation of multilateral projects;
- Development of the *BALTECH* information network;
- Network building with non-academic networks and organizations;
- Preparation of the *BALTECH-NORDTEK* joint conference 2012.

### ***1.2 Highlights 2011***

- Meeting of Multimedia Departments, January 18-19, Tallinn;
- Submission of the *SEKBU* Erasmus application, March 31;
- *BALTECH* Spring Conference, Linköping, April 14-15. *Career Paths and Staff Development*;
- *BALTECH* Rectors' meeting, Linköping, April 15;
- *BALTECH* Student Union meeting, Linköping, April 15;
- *BALTECH-NORDTEK* 2012 conference preparatory meeting, Tallinn, May 17;
- Participation at the Nordtek Annual Conference, Turku, June 17-19;
- *BALTECH* Board Meeting, Riga, October 20;

- BALTECH Student Union meeting, Riga, October 20;
- BALTECH-NORDTEK 2012 conference preparatory meeting, Stockholm, October 21;
- Participation at *The Baltic Development Forum and The Baltic Sea Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region*, Gdansk, October 25-26, 2011;

BALTECH Student Body Exchange, 30 exchanges during the year.

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

*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*

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 apply for Erasmus funding within e-learning and multimedia in education with a link to industry. The 2010 application *Sharing Engineering Knowhow of Enterprises in the Baltic Sea Region for Improving Quality of Education in Local Universities of Technology* (SEKBU), involving KTH, KTU, RTU and TUT in cooperation with industrial partners was submitted in March 2011. As it was rejected in June 2011 the board decided to revise the application, however due to lack of interest from industry this could not be done.

### **2.2 Doctoral Schools**

*- stimulate the integration into European education and research systems, encourage new approaches in the management of engineering and technology education;*

*- create a BALTECH information network.*

Doctoral education is in focus in all European countries. In line with this, first steps were taken for an overview of the structure of doctoral schools at the

BALTECH universities. The board decided that the general developments within the field will be monitored.

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

*-support communication between academic and administrative staff members and students including mobility in the frame work of different European Union programs.*

A meeting for Multimedia staff was arranged on January 18-19 in Tallinn.

Meetings for various administrative staff categories take place on a regular basis and have proven popular.

### **4. BALTECH conferences**

*- support the organisation of international congresses, conferences, meetings in order to disseminate new achievements in research and development.*

The topic for the 2011 conference was *Career Paths and Staff Development* and held in Linköping, April 14. The conference attracted approximately 50 participants, including students and was followed by a visit to the Linköping Air Force Museum.

The aim of the BALTECH conferences is to find topics of joint interest among the BALTECH universities with a focus on European, national and university levels.

### **5 External contacts**

- strengthen the development of relations between universities and industry;*
- consider the industry's requirements for engineering and technological education;*
- create a BALTECH information network.*

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

Contacts were intense with the NORDTEK Secretariat primarily in preparing the upcoming *BALTECH-NORDTEK Join Conference 2012*.

A meeting with representatives of KTU, RTU, TTU and VGTU was arranged in Tallinn on May 17 to lay down strategies for the BALTECH-NORDTEK conference and to engage all four Baltic BALTECH universities. A separate meeting was held in Stockholm on October 21.

A working group for the conference was set up at TUT in early 2011.

There is a regular exchange of information between the NORDTEK and BALTECH Secretariats.

## 6. Student activities

*- The BALTECH Student Union is a platform for cooperation between the member universities.*

The BALTECH Student Union, created in 2007, 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 2011, a total of 30 groups from different faculties of BALTECH universities participated in the project and organized 15 two-sided student exchanges. Another ten groups applied for the project, but could not be supported because of budget constraints.

I round –spring 2011		II round - autumn 2011	
KTU	4 student groups	KTU	4 student groups
RTU	6 student groups	RTU	4 student groups
TUT	6 student groups	TUT	2 student groups
		Aalto	2 student groups
		VGTU	2 studentgroups

In addition to this, students have taken an active part in the BALTECH conferences and board meetings.

## **7. Scholarships**

*- Support the integration of higher engineering education with research and technology development as well as to promote efficient methods for training engineers.*

### **7.1 BALTECH Mobility Scholarship**

The BALTECH Mobility Scholarship was announced three times during 2011 (February 15, May 15, October 15). As from the fall 2011 scholarship announcement dates have been harmonized with those of Nordtek (March 15 and October 15).

37 applications were received, 29 were approved of and 8 were rejected. 21 payments were made to in the amount of 7.448, 7 were spillovers from 2010, 14 were applicable to 2011 scholars and 15 have the possibility to claim scholarship money 12 until June 30, 2012.

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 for up to eight weeks . (*Attachment BALTECH 2011 Mobility Scholarship Chart*).

### **7.2 ÅF Grant**

In 2011 two scholarships were awarded to students, both from VGTU. ÅF is most pleased with the students. The ÅF Grant will also be available in 2012.

The ÅForsk Grant is open for bachelor (minimum second year), master and PhD students, within the energy and environment at Kaunas University of Technology, Riga Technical University, Tallinn University of Technology and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.

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

## **8. Rectors' meeting**

*- take an active part in developing the policies of higher education and science in the Baltic Sea region.*

The 2011 rectors' meeting took place in Linköping on April 17. Rectors were mainly represented by members of the BALTECH board.

## **9. Board meetings**

A board meeting was arranged in Riga on October 20, 2011.

## **10. Management**

The BALTECH Secretariat usually holds short weekly meetings during the spring and fall terms with The Chairman of the Board (professor Jakob Kübarsepp), the Secretary (Toomas Käbin), the web-administrator and legal-advisor (Kaire Reisspass), and IRO (Maret Hein). Others are invited when there is a need.

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, International Relations Offices, Student Unions and to NORDTEK.

## **11. Finances**

BALTECH is primarily financed by the member universities. The annual membership fee in 2011 was 5.000 Euro/university.

ÅF paid BALTECH 20.000 SEK, (1.921 euro) to cover administrative costs in connection with the ÅF-Grant, administered by the BALTECH Secretariat.

Total revenues amounted to 59.738 (budget 59.365), which includes the 2010 surplus 17.465 euro.

Costs amounted to 41.266 euro (budget 59.000).

The surplus, to be forwarded to the 2011 budget was 18.472 (budget 365).

The under-spending is explained by the fact that no money was used for projects within research and education, which enabled over-spending of student activities. Other costs are more or less in line with the budget. (*Enclosure, BALTECH 2011 Financial Outcome, 2012 Budget Proposal*)

## **12. Auditing**

The BALTECH accounts form an integral part of the Tallinn University of Technology accounts under a separate dossier (ÜPBALT). The accounting at Tallinn University of Technology is based on accrual basis and is regulated by the laws and regulations of the Republic of Estonia. Auditing is done by PricewaterhouseCoopers. All documents are available upon request.

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

The website [www.baltech.info](http://www.baltech.info) was last renewed in 2010 and leaves room for interactivity, not the least among students.

Tallinn, April 15, 2012

Jakob Kübarsepp

Chairman of Board

Toomas Käbin

Secretary

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