



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

1. BALTECH - focus and highlights in 2013

Overview

In recent years the need and interest for BALTECH among the partner universities has vanished. This can be explained by changes in university environments, priorities, needs and requirements. Extensive contacts between Swedish and Baltic universities have been established and are functioning nicely. This was one of the main aims when BALTECH was established and has now been achieved.

In order to be attractive, BALTECH has to offer value added to all members. The Secretariat initiated a project in the fall of 2013 to look into the needs of the member universities, to define priorities and the formal structure related to BALTECH membership. The results will be presented at the 2014 Rectors' meeting and can be found in the attachment.

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;
- The NORDTEK conference 2013;
- Implementation of the BALTECH - NORDTEK 2012 Joint Statement;
- Initiation of a NORDPLUS project;
- Development of the BALTECH information network;
- Development of future BALTECH strategies.

2. Collaboration in Education and Research

Statutes:

- *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;*

Initiation of multilateral projects;

- *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.*

Baltech-Nordtek Joint Statement:

- *development of attractive and relevant study programmes*
- *establish education cooperation that provides competence needed by regional clusters*
- *development of joint courses, particularly PhD courses*
- *joint marketing BSR higher education*

2.1 Study program moduls

A meeting for BALTECH master program officers within **Industrial Engineering and Management** and **Environmental Management and Cleaner Production** took place at KTH in January 2013. It was initiated by the BALTECH rectors (June 18, 2012) and was based on a need to compare present day programs with those that were initiated by KTH in 1999 and 2002 respectively.

The Industrial Engineering and Management program was presented by Mr Kristo Karjust/Tallinn and the Environmental Management and Cleaner Production by prof Dagnija Blumberga/Riga.

The meeting showed that the programs are more or less similar at all universities. It was agreed that the programs do not necessarily have to be similar, but they should rather create a joint study outcome and joint understandings.

Reflections and suggestions:

- Different curricula at the universities is good, but new paradigms are necessary to find recognition of courses. The program directors are in charge of this;

- Measures need to be taken to encourage outgoing students. KTH has taken some initiatives to bring in compulsory electives.
- Could courses be harmonized better between the universities in order not to lose time for students because of course differences?
- There is a need for exchange of supervisors for the evaluation of master theses between the universities.
- Look into teacher exchange for one month periods instead of ad hoc lectures.
- What, if anything, is missing in the present programs.
- How are the courses accepted by students?
- The programs should be jointly marketed on third markets, this requires harmonization of study programs.
- Could e-learning be used between the universities?
- Could the two courses be combined?
- Should there be more engineering in the courses?
- What about the proficiency in English?
- Look into the Baltic Sea program/EU.
- Cooperation with industry should be extended.
- Competence of the programs, students have to be trained in developing their competences.

Human Factors, Laboratory as a Service and E-health were singled out as a potential area for an additional master program among the universities.

2.2 Initiation of Multilateral projects

The Baltech Secretariat informed member universities about financial support from Nordplus for joint projects and provided money to set up initial meetings for consortiums. This call resulted in a first interest from researchers within the following fields

- Design&Engineering
- Information Technology& Electronics

- Biomedical Engineering
- Social Sciences/Industrial Psychology.

Later one application within Biomedical Engineering was handed in and later approved of.

3. BALTECH conference

Statutes:

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

Baltech Nordtek joint statement:

- *partnership, exchange of information and ideas will be fostered by tighter connections between boards and secretariats of NORDTEK and BALTECH , and initiation of joint conferences, seminars.*

- BALTECH took part of the Nordtek 2013 annual conference *Universities and large research facilities* in Lund June 14-17. Representatives of almost all Baltech universities participated. and the BALTECH Secretary General attended the contact person meeting.

4. Contacts with Nordtek

Statutes:

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

There was a continuous exchange of information with the Nordtek Secretariat based on the joint BALTECH-NORDTEK declaration from 2012.

5. Student activities

Statutes:

The BALTECH Student Union (BSU) is a platform for cooperation between the member universities.

BSU was represented at the SUNTU student meeting in connection with the Nordtek 2013 annual conference in Lund. Apart from that there were no activities. The main reasons for this were a change of strategy from at the TUT Student Union which hosts the Secretariat of the BSU and lack of new initiatives to replace the *Faculty-to-Faculty* project which has been discontinued.

6. Scholarships

Statutes:

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

6.1 BALTECH Mobility Scholarship

- The BALTECH Mobility Scholarship was announced twice during 2013 (March 15, October 15) and was harmonized with Nordtek application deadlines.

- Three applications were received, all three were approved of. Five students were compensated in the amount of 3.598.09 euro. Two were spillovers from 2012, Two scholars have the possibility to claim money in 2014. One student did not claim money.

- 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.

6.2 ÅF Grant

- In 2013 one scholarship was awarded to a student from VGTU. ÅF was most pleased with the student. ÅF accepted to prolong the grant into 2014, where-after it will be closed.

- The ÅF Grant is open for bachelor (minimum second year), master and PhD students, within energy and environment for students at KTU, RTU, TUT and VGTU.

- The ÅF Grant is administered by BALTECH but payments are effectuated from ÅF to the scholars.

7. Rectors' meeting

Statutes:

- *The Rector's conference of the Consortium is the highest decision making body of BALTECH. The rectors of all BALTECH member universities constitute the Rector's*

Conference. The Rector's Conference of BALTECH is headed and represented by the Chairman from the university presiding over BALTECH.

- The 2013 rectors' meeting took place in Lund on June 17 in connection with the BALTECH-NORDTEK Annual Conference. One rector (Prof Ribickis, RTU) attended, other universities/rectors were represented by board members.

8. Board meetings

Statutes:

- *The everyday work of BALTECH is organized by the Board appointed by the Rector's in the Rector's Conference*

Baltech Nordtek joint statement:

- *partnership, exchange of information and ideas will be fostered by tighter connections between boards and secretariats of NORDTEK and BALTECH , and initiation of joint conferences, seminars.*
- Since the 2013 Rectors' meeting was attended primarily by board members it was agreed that there was no need for additional board meetings.

Statutes:

- *The everyday work of BALTECH is organized by the Board appointed by the Rector's in the Rector's Conference.*
- The BALTECH Secretariat held short meetings, more or less on a weekly basis 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 Kaljuvee), and IRO representative (Maret Hein). The student representative has an open invitation.
- Information on all BALTECH activities was provided through news-letters on a regular basis to rectors, board members, International Relations Offices, Student Unions and NORDTEK.

9. Finances

Statutes:

- *The Board approves the budget of BALTECH.*
- BALTECH is primarily financed by the member universities. The annual membership fee in 2013 was 5.000 Euro/university, totally 35.000 euro.

- ÅF paid BALTECH 20.000 SEK, (2.220.50 euro) to cover administrative costs in connection with the ÅF-Grant, administered by the BALTECH Secretariat.
- The 2012 surplus was 31.725.22.
- Costs in 2013 amounted to 28.356 (budget 55.000).
- The 2013 surplus 40.589 (budget 1.591) was forwarded to the 2014 balance.
- The under-spending is explained by no projects within research and education, fewer scholarships and no student activities

10. 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.

11. Web-page

The website www.baltech.info is constantly renewed and leaves room for interactivity.

On BALTECH

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.

Tallinn, June 16, 2014

Jakob Kübarsepp

Chairman of Board

Toomas Käbin

Secretary
