



BALTECH Annual report 2015/2016

1. Focus of BALTECH activities:

1.1. Support of mobility among students in the Baltic-Nordic region; Totally 28 scholarship applications for BALTECH scholarship in academic year 2015/2016 2.semester was received. Where 4 were accepted and total amount which was approved was 1400 EUR.

1.2. Enhancement of communication and mobility between academic and administrative/support staff; In academic year 2015/2016 for BALTECH scholarship 6 staff members applied from whom 2 were accepted.

2. Highlights 2015./2016. Academic year

2.1. Rotation of the BALTECH Secretariat, From September 1 2015, Riga Technical University become the Baltic sea technical Universities consortium "BALTECH " managing University, thereby taking the lead in promoting closer cooperation between innovation and technology transfer between technical University in the region.

One of the consortium's main tasks is to strengthen the Nordic and Baltic countries cooperation between legislative initiatives and implementation in order to promote joint study programs. The Executive Director of consortium was appointed Mr. Juris Iljins.

2.2. "Model of financing in National Higher Education system and internal finance allocation in the university. Case studies and experiences". BALTECH administrative staff meeting "Model of financing in National Higher Education system and internal finance allocation in the university. Case studies and experiences." took place on September 24 in Riga Technical University. Participants involved and presentations took place from Riga Technical University representative, senior officer at Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia, Kaunas University of Technology, Tallinn University of Technology and Vilnius Gediminas Technology University. Main objective of event was to exchange experience in the

field of financial management and the existing financial situation analysis of the partner universities, sharing of best practice.

2.3. New BALTECH website, October 1. BALTECH consortium has refreshed and improved BALTECH website where it is possible to get acquainted with the latest news. Link of webpage: <http://www.baltech.info/>

2.4. BALTECH student Union meeting, October 30. For 2 days BALTECH, in cooperation with Riga Technical University Students parliament, held a meeting between all student unions of technical universities in Baltic States- Tallinn University of Technology, Riga Technical University, Kaunas University of Technology and Vilnius Gediminas Technology University Student Unions.

Representatives met for two main purposes. Firstly, students compared the situation in terms of rising numbers of international students and issues regarding this-lack of English knowledge, translation of infrastructure, integration problems and many more. Secondly, the future of BALTECH was discussed. Students of RTU, VGTU, KTU and TTU expressed their opinions on what should be done within BALTECH regarding student activity. Main points included increased mobility between technical universities of Baltic States, project funds, scholarships, engineering competitions and, of course, funds for student meeting every year.

Overall, the meeting gave the opportunity for student representatives to meet and share their experiences, compare the systems they are working in, discuss a serious topic of international students and situations they are working with, as well as creating stronger sense of students of Baltic States as a united student body. BALTECH student meeting was discussed which will take place in Kaunas University of Technology in Autumn 2016.

2.5. BALTECH double and joint degree study program opportunity meeting, January 15 in Riga Technical University was held Baltic technical university consortium “BALTECH”, which was attended by Riga Technical University Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and Director of the Study Department, Kaunas University of Technology Vice-Rector for International relations and development and Director of Studies Department, Tallinn University of Technology Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and Vilnius Gediminas University of Technology Vice-Rector for International Relations.

“BALTECH” main objective was universities, exchange of experience in the field of double and joint degree study program and discuss potential study program fields of cooperation opportunities.

2.6. Nordic Baltic Business Forum, On November 10, year 2015 BALTECH participated in Nordic Baltic Business Forum. The main topic at forum was innovation driven competitiveness and growth. The forum was organised by the Chambers of Commerce of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark with the support of the Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish and Danish Embassies in Latvia, Nordic Council of Minister’s Office, DNB Bank, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga and HD FestForest.

3. BALTECH further upcoming activities in 2016

3.1. NORDTEK - BALTECH Conference, June 9-11 hosted by Faculty of Engineering, University of Southern Denmark, Odense. The topic for the 2016 conference is: “University and Industry collaboration”. Focus is on the production in high wage economies. The technical universities in Northern Europe have strong traditions for collaborating with industry and main goal of the conference is to explore the effects of this collaboration. BALTECH board meeting will be held during the conference in Odense on 9th June.

3.2. PhD summer school, On August 23-26, in Kaunas University of Technology at seaside resort Palanga jointly with BALTECH will organise PhD Summer School. This summer school will aim to equip participants with essential skills in writing proposals, scientific articles and doctoral thesis. To provide participants with good networking opportunities, a friendly social environment, and an exciting time at the seaside resort Palanga.