



## **BALTECH Annual report 2016/2017**

### **BALTECH Scholarships**

Since June 2016 until March 2017, BALTECH Secretariat has received a total number of 46 applications, both from students and staff, with total requested amount of scholarships being almost 22 000 EUR. Most applications came from Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) and Riga Technical University (RTU). **BALTECH Board approved 21 applications (approval rate 46%).** Scholarships are used for short-term mobilities for research, practical trainings, experience exchange or participation in conferences and other events. Mobilities last from 1 to 14 days.

Scholarship application form has been reviewed, giving the opportunity for applicants to apply online, add invitation letters from hosting institutions etc.

### **BALTECH administrative staff meeting – “Alumni associations and their development within universities”**



On 10th November 2016 in Kaunas University of Technology was held the BALTECH Administrative Staff meeting on the topic “Alumni associations and their development within universities”. In the meeting, leaders of alumni organizations of BALTECH universities had the chance to gather information

about other organizations, learn about best examples in attraction of members and share the experience.

Within the meeting, there were two workshops. First workshop was a short overview on each Alumni association where each delegate gave a presentation on their organization, including parts such as the structure, events, alumni engagement techniques, their segmentation and development of the organization over the years. Presentations were then followed by a Skype presentation from Daniel Cohen. He introduced a platform [graduway.com](http://graduway.com) which is widely used by other universities and alumni associations in the world. Second workshop was on making a valuable proposal for Alumni, led by Prof. Robertas Jucevičius from KTU School of Economics and Business. The perspective of workshop was to look at the usual Alumni engagement and attraction events and processes from a business perspective, looking into benefits and gains of university and Alumni. Participants were then divided into teams to discuss this matter.

### **PhD summer school 2016 at KTU**

Kaunas University of Technology with support of BALTECH organized the 1st International PhD Summer School, dedicated to development of transferable skills **August 23-26, 2016** at seaside resort **Palanga**.



**43 doctoral students from 14 countries** participate in a three-day intensive course were delivered by the speakers from Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Latvia and Switzerland.

The **aim** of this PhD Summer School was to develop essential skills needed for writing scientific articles, doctoral theses and project proposals, to provide participants with good networking opportunities.

As **Leonas Balaševičius**, the Head of KTU's Department of Research Affairs, concluded after the end of summer school: "**Our first international summer school for PhD students surpassed all the expectations.** The participants were excited to learn from the professional speakers, and we received a **very good feedback** from everyone. Many people were surprised to find out that this was our first event of the kind".

### **BALTECH Student Union meeting in Kaunas**

This year **student representatives were discussing student feedback systems and compared the existing examples in their institutions.** In workshops students had the chance to come up with their own projects and ideas on perfect student feedback schemes.



Other main topic for student meeting was **BALTECH Student body and its Statutes.** The desire for Student Statutes came from Nordtek meeting in Odense, Denmark this year, where student representatives were also working on their legislative documents. An idea that appeared during the discussions in

Kaunas was for each Student union to possibly **have a BALTECH Ambassador in each Student union** that would be responsible for disseminating the information about scholarships, new projects and possibilities for students of technical universities in Baltic States. This would make the network would be more visible and understandable to students. Statutes are currently under consideration and drafted and soon will be again upon discussion amongst BALTECH student unions.

Participants were glad to have this opportunity to meet face-to-face, **expressing the hope that they will be able to meet more than once a year.** This would apply not only to the central student bodies, but also to student unions of faculties which could meet specifically for engineering projects between different states. The next meeting will be held in Tallinn University of Technology in 2017, after that- in Vilnius Gediminas Technical University in 2018.

#### **NORDTEK student pre-meeting in Riga Technical University**

Since the NORDTEK-BALTECH joint Conference is going to take place in Riga in 2018, student pre-meeting for conference in Aalto University was held in Riga Technical University for better student experience exchange and information transfer.



Students from Aalto University and University of Southern Denmark, including NORDTEK student president Per Breum were visiting Riga in the

middle of April. Discussed topics were student knowledge exchange and possible platforms to do that, publicity of NORDTEK network amongst students and topics that have to be discussed in student meeting in Finland. Representatives from Erasmus Student Network Latvia were also invited for sharing their experience with working with student representatives internationally.

Furthermore, Mr. Peter Göranson, Secretary General of NORDTEK joined for the main meeting day to give an update on NORDTEK activities and possible student involvement.