



The Baltic University Programme NEWSLETTER

N:o 4/2005

October

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Next Newsletter

The next issue of the BUP Newsletter will be published in November 2005.

Contributions welcome

! If you have any information, or a short article, that could be included in the next issue, please contact us by e-mail:

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Participants at the Planning Seminar for a new course package.

Sustainable Agriculture and Ecosystem Health

Planning has started for a new BUP master's course package on "Sustainable Agriculture and Ecosystem Health". During September 12-14th 2005 a planning meeting was held at the Lithuanian Veterinary Academy in Kaunas, arranged by The Baltic University Programme.

This meeting was financed by the Swedish Institute. Two different networks cooperate on this project, the BUP and the Envirovet Baltic, as well as different experts. The Envirovet Baltic is a network of environmental health scientist/educators from USA and the nine countries bordering the Baltic Sea. It was founded in 2001 on an initiative of the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois and the Centre for Reproductive Biology in Uppsala, SLU with scientists from universities in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). Participants at the meeting were from both networks and from the following countries: Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg in Russia, Sweden and the USA. Several other countries e.g. Slovakia, Denmark, Ukraine, Germany are also interested in this project and will participate in the future work. We have also recognized interest from other regional networks such as the UniAdrion from the Adriatic-Ionian Basin and from the North American Great Lakes District (GLD).

Even though the meeting meant lots of hard work for its participants, the results of the meeting were very positive. Agreement was reached regarding the future course contents. Following the planning conference in September, 2005, the Envirovet Baltic and BUP will jointly develop a comprehensive course in Sustainable Agriculture and Ecosystem Health to be offered to higher learning institutions in the network. The overall management and coordination of the course development and production of course materials will be provided by the BUP secretariat. Scientists from both regions, the BSR and the GLD will be involved in the production of instructional materials.

This cooperation is in many ways unique, as it represents cooperation between agronomists, veterinaries, nature geographers, biologists, chemists, socio-economists etc. It also represents a new concept on sustainable agriculture and its part in the rural

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2005
Conference Calendar

October

BUUF Meeting

11-15 October,
Integration of Management
Kosakowo, Poland and Kalinin-
grad, Russia

Baltic 21

Research Symposium
27-29 October,
Kaliningrad, Russia

November

Baltic 21 SOG 23

3-4 November,
Copenhagen, Denmark

BUUF Meeting

10-13 November,
Minsk, Belarus

BUP Board meeting

18 November, Uppsala

Ukraine National BUP Seminar

28-29 November Lviv, Ukraine

December

Swedish National BUP Seminar

7 December, Uppsala

ecosystem. In this course package not only will sustainable agriculture from the different aspects represented by the above mentioned professions be covered, there will also be substantial knowledge on such subjects as land use and rural development, ecosystem health and the interactions between the wild population and the domestic. If we are successful in financing this project, you will hear more about it in the future!

Christine Jakobsson

Vice Director/The Baltic University Programme

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Mazury 2005

More than 20 students. More than 30 people. 6 nationalities. 6 languages plus universal English to communicate. 5 boats. Little living space. A million ideas. A million thoughts. Something interesting must come out...



This was the second "Mazury lakes" project, so the boat captains knew what to expect this time. The project is a joint initiative of the Baltic University in Uppsala and the Yacht Club of the Technical University of Łódź. Although the students were supposed to learn about lakes (with Mazury Lakes as a "living" example) this didn't mean that we (students and teachers) weren't supposed to have fun.

Each crew collected water samples and performed simple measurements of water quality (pH, EC, temperature, O₂, PO₄, NO₃). After analyzing our results, we could compare them with official data of water purity classification in lakes. In addition, students from other countries were able to familiarize us with water quality indicators and admissible values of different purity classes in their countries. Several presentations also touched the fields of environmental, social and political issues in the Baltic countries, which sparked hot discussions about how people from different countries view the political situation of their neighbors. Additionally, we could learn about trends in Belarus and Ukraine, and hear people defending their respective governments. It

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Markus Hed.

Staff

We welcome a new addition to our staff. Markus Hed started at the Baltic University Secretariat in Uppsala in August. He will work as an economic assistant until the end of this year and replace Kerstin Carlfors during her leave.

Eija Lietoff Schüssler leaves Baltic University for a new career at Juridikakademien – a new law consultant firm based in Uppsala. Eija was working with graphic design and among many other duties she did the layout for this Newsletter. We wish her luck at her new position but hope to utilize her talent now and then also in the future.



Eija (left) and Christine Jakobson (right).

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shows that young people are really interested in politics and in the situation in their country. However, these discussions didn't spoil relations among people, but helped to clarify the political situation for the participants and maybe even changed their prejudices and opinions.

We also visited several land attractions, starting with Sztynort (with Sztynort palace and surrounding park with incredibly tall, old trees), Wehrmacht's bunker headquarters in Mamerki, Boyen Fortress in Giżycko, and the station of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Popielno. In the evenings we had free time. In case of bad weather, there were entertainment events for the whole group. The most persistent participants finished the day with integration, beer and laughter, in spite of the cold and rain.

We experienced a broad spectrum of weather conditions, from the days with no wind and great sun to the days with real big storms and leadcoloured sky, heavy wind (6 or 7 in the Beaufort scale) and pouring rain. This bad weather allowed us to experience really thrilling situations, and despite the situations when we had no wind, and too much wind, we still sailed through the Great Mazury Lakes and learned something about sailing ("right jibsheet loose, left jibsheet pull").

And here we are, after the cruise, comparing our insights and memories. This truly was an amazing experience, and we're sure all participants would like to do it again sometime. We've sailed through the lakes, visited many beautiful places, learned some things, made new friends, and most importantly, we had fun. Even though there were five crews on five boats, in the evenings we were one big group, laughing and talking together. We've realized that feelings and emotions are the same even if Estonian bees sound "summ summ" and Polish ones "bzzz bzzz".

Kristel Lopsik, Estonia

Marlena Kropidłowska, Jan Strzelecki, Agnieszka Trzupke, Poland

Revamped Site

The BUP web site has undergone substantial changes lately. The new design was done by Nicky Tucker from the Secretariat. The redesign has been done to facilitate navigation and to improve the looks. Among the new features an RSS-feed has been added. If you know how it works you may now be notified any time the site is updated without the hassle to check in every now and then. More information on how an RSS-feed works can be found at the homepage.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding this site, send me an e-mail or why not tell all of us in the Discussion Forum.

Christian Andersson
Web editor



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NEW PUBLICATION

A draft of a Russian translation of the four SUPERBS reports has been produced by our centre in Kaliningrad, Russia. The draft is produced within the BUUF project and the title is *Sovremennye podchody k ystoitjivomy gorodskomy ravitjio*. Number of pages is 316. More information can be obtained from our centre director in Kaliningrad, Dr Helena Kropinova. kropinova@mail.ru



Energy forest (salix) is growing on the outskirts of Enköping to be used for distance heating. Photo taken from the roof of the power station. Photo: Christine Jakobsson.

Enköping – the green city

On august 25th the staff of the Baltic University Secretariat made a one-day excursion to Enköping which is a small town with 22 000 inhabitants situated by lake Mälaren only about 40-50 kilometers from Stockholm and Uppsala. Our guide to the city was Wendelin Müller-Wille who is 1st vice chairman of the municipal council and also a member of the board for environment.

The tour was started with a walk through some of the beautiful parks of the city. A distinctive feature is the great number of perennials and also the interesting concept of pocket parks. From almost any location within the city centre there is only a few minutes walk to have a rest in one of these small green lungs. The soothing experience of letting your eyes rest on beautiful flowers, while listening to the peaceful sound of trickling water adds an extra dimension to the hustle and bustle of the modern city. After lunch we visited the district heating power station. Eddie Johansson, the manager, was our guide at the facility. AB Enköpings Värmeverk is among the most environmentally friendly in Sweden. The powerstation is fired exclusively with biofuels, and heats the majority of the buildings and industries in the city. The total energy consumption of Enköping is about 220 GWh annually. Most of the biofuel is composed of wood chips and pellets but some is also energy forest, *Salix*. On a large area in the vicinity of the city salix is grown, and here an interesting cycle of resources have developed. Water is mixed with sludge, rich in nutrients from the local sewage treatment plant, and is then spread on the salix fields. At the power plant we were also able to try an electric bicycle.

Magnus Lehman



View from one of the parks of the power station. Photo: Christine Jakobsson.



Christine Jakobsson on the electro-bike. Photo: Wendelin Müller-Wille.