



The Baltic University Programme NEWSLETTER

N:o 2

October 26th, 2004

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Next Newsletter

Number 3 of the BUP Newsletter will be published in December.

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

christine.jakobsson@balticuniv.uu.se
eija.lietoff@balticuniv.uu.se

www.balticuniv.uu.se



STORMWARNING!

55 meters long and more than 8 meters wide. 40 people. Above your head – 1200 sq meters of sail. As far as the eye can reach – immense sea. It's midnight. And then a loud voice is breaking the night: All watches! Prepare for bracing! A new day has just started for the crew of S/Y Fryderyk Chopin.

Photo: Ireneusz Zbicinski

The Summer Cruise of 2004

This year for the sixth time in the history of the programme, we had the pleasure to take part in the Summer Cruise on the Baltic Sea. This time we sailed on board s/y Fryderyk Chopin – a Polish sailing ship. On the cruise we were 31 students and 8 teachers from 11 countries.

– Nothing is for sure when you are on the sea, said Captain Ziemowit Baranski at the very beginning of our trip. How right he was, we could realize during the 2-week sea adventure. We planned to visit 4 ports but the sea “allowed” us to touch the land only twice: in Kalmar (Sweden) and Liepaja (Latvia). Out of 40 participants only few have ever sailed before, and if so, on much, much smaller sailing boats. So we were curious about what “storm” means, what it is like when Neptune is in a nasty mood. Indeed, we were able to satisfy our desire for knowledge – for more than 51 hours the wind was stronger than 8 on the Beaufort scale.

Hard work on board

We were divided into 3 watches and obliged to share all duties such as: sailing and navigating the ship or cleaning and cooking. We were honestly warned that we will be responsible for all work on board during the 4-hour watch, day and night. Although sometimes it was really hard work, there were no grumbling people; maybe because we didn't have time to complain...

We started our trip on September 12 at 9.30 AM from Swinoujscie (Poland). A merciless storm attacked us even before the night started. There are not appropriate words to describe the feeling of sea-sickness. Every, even the tiniest movement is mission impossible – to get up from your bed, to dress, to bend down and lace your shoes. You cannot think about eating, every smell makes you feel dizzy. It is hardly possible to wash yourself, not to mention other important activities such as lectures.

And your only salvation is the deck – the fresh, cold wind and the invigorating drops of salt water.

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Conferences & Events

BUUF Seminar

BUUF 10th Best Practice Seminar on Waste Management will take place on 28-30 October in Turku, Finland.

Teachers' Conference

Baltic Area Studies (Peoples of the Baltic) 25-28 November Ciazen, Poland.

Sustainable Baltic Region 8-12 December, Kazimierz Dolny, in the vicinity of Lublin, Poland.

BUP Board Meeting

19 November, Uppsala, Sweden.

PHOTO ALBUM

Pictures from this years student events, including the summer cruise, are available on our website. To find the photo album, follow this link: <http://www.balticuniv.uu.se/meetings/StudentEvents04/index.htm>

All photos by Agnieszka Trzupek.

Finally time for lectures

After changing the course to Kalmar the sea had calmed down and we could participate in the academic part – students presentations and lectures. Thanks to Maria's nose for the weather we used every available moment to catch up with the schedule. In Kalmar we had the pleasure to welcome on board the Director of BUP, Prof. Lars Ryden for the duration of his trip to Latvia which was our next stop. We were hosted by Kalmar University, where we had an opportunity to participate in lectures about the Baltic Sea and its environmental problems. We were also welcomed very warmly by Kalmar Municipality.

Our hopes were that Neptune had had enough offerings and decided to grant us with beautiful weather and good winds. It was like this for the whole two days when we were sailing to Latvia.



Photos: Agnieszka Trzupek

Visit to Liepaja

We entered Liepaja port on the late afternoon of September 19th, and spent some time waiting for the customs officers to grant us entrance to the Latvian soil. But this time was not wasted – we climbed the masts and cleaned the deck in order to make the ship look pretty. In Liepaja we visited the city itself, had another portion of lectures – this time at the Liepaja Academy of Pedagogy. After that we were guests of the Mayor in the City Hall. We had a wonderful time in Liepaja – academic activities during the day, and many leisure events in the evenings, but nobody expected that... Neptune was already waiting for us!!

Back into the storm

We had storms and strong wind right in the face, so we had a lot of problems with the ship. It gave us a feeling of how small we are in comparison to the sea and how fragile our ship was. We made friends in those hard moments when we had to work the sails on the bow that was covered by gigantic waves every few seconds (unlucky those who didn't have any rubber clothes), because nothing binds two people as strongly together as common adventures. The sight of waves taller than the deck of our ship will stay for a long time in our memories and we will always stay bonded by the troubles we had to go through together. Somehow, during these two weeks, we understood the people who fell in love with sailing – although the sea is a dangerous and difficult partner. The Captain, the officers, the boatswain, all seemed to know much more than we, landlubbers, did. They had some kind of pride and humility at the same time. And cheerfulness. Definitely, the sea is a good teacher.

The problems we had made us realize what the Baltic Sea is and why it is worth protecting. No other experience could give us this knowledge so clearly.

Tomasz Branka (Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan), & Marcin Stolarek & Agnieszka Trzupek (Technical University of Lodz)

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Sustainable Water Management

"Sustainable Water Management" will be given as an internet based course at Uppsala University. This is an opportunity for students to study Sustainable Water Management over the Internet, as a regular student of Uppsala University while staying at home or abroad.

The course is formally the same course as has been given within the Baltic University Network since 1999, now upgraded to a distance learning mode, using the Internet and available for all English speaking students with a background of at least one year of environmental science studies.



You will study the specially designed text books with the aid of the e-learning platform

Ping Pong, giving you introductions to each chapter, links for further studies, and tasks to solve in small groups of students, using the Ping Pong discussion forum.

Further information:

<http://www.balticuniv.uu.se/education/swm/index.htm>
or contact the course teacher Lars-Christer Lundin by e-mail: lars-christer.lundin@hyd.uu.se



HEL MARINE STATION:

Restoration is the next step in environmental protection

This year's summer course at Hel Marine Station on the Polish Baltic Sea coast took place on August, 12-22. The theme was restoration of water environments, restoration ecology. Sixteen students from the region spent a week together and got to know each other and the very special spirit of Hel Marine Station.

The teachers were mostly Polish but by audio conferencing and illustrations over the Internet several Swedish specialists contributed from a distance.

Students made friends with the seals at the station, visited Slowinski National Park, discussed beavers or not beavers in the rivers and, of course, listened to lectures, read literature, and participated in group tasks. The main responsible person, Prof. Ryszard Kornijow from Lublin University of Agriculture with much support from younger colleagues, Dr Krzysztof Skora and Iwona Kuklic from the station, and myself, worked hard and enjoyed ourselves, as did the students.

Restoration of waters (and soil) is becoming a main concern in Europe. We will try to establish the course as a permanent part of the Baltic University Programme.



Iwona Kuklic and Ryszard Kornijow were teachers on the course. Photo: Lars Rydén.

Lars Rydén, Director of the Baltic University Programme

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The Catalogue

The Catalogue is now also available on our webpage as a pdf-document.

In the catalogue you can find names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers as well as e-mail addresses to all the people at Universities and other Institutes of higher learning that are actively involved in BUP in the 14 different countries as well as to cities, local authorities and other partners.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL ACTIVE WITHIN THE BUP NETWORK!

Are you or your institute listed in the catalogue? Make sure to check that all contact information is correct.

Any changes/corrections should be sent to the Editor of the catalogue:
nicky.tucker@balticuniv.uu.se

www.balticuniv.uu.se

Look at your feet, others do!

When I was an ecology student, one day we had a lecture on studies of the number of individuals of organisms that dwell in forest soil. They showed that the number of individuals of worms, insects, spiders, mites, nematodes, bacteria and others is truly enormous. Only of Collembola, a group of insects, it is estimated that there are about 40,000 individuals per m², and the number of nematodes may vary between 2-10 million individuals per m². To illustrate these numbers, they had made a poster with an outline of a sole of a shoe, size 44, and calculated how many of these little critters a person would tramp on in each step when having a walk in the forest.

Much later, the concept Sustainable Development showed up. This is a complicated concept and not always easy to grasp. A way to make Sustainability measurable and thus easier to comprehend is to use a tool called the Ecological Footprint. According to the definition the Ecological Footprint is: "a measure of the 'load' imposed by a given population on nature. It represents the land area necessary to sustain current levels of resource consumption and waste discharge by that population".

Ecological footprint

An ecological footprint is thus a measure of the so-called ecological services that a piece of land supplies us with. Of course this is due to the biological life there – the food we eat, the wood we use and all microscopic creatures that take care of the waste, nitrogen, carbon etc. So even if there are quite many individuals under the foot, they are already overused. On an average, the inhabitants of the planet use about twice as much ecological services as there are available in the long run. Therefore it is no surprise that we have a polluted, eutrophied, acidified, and over exploited environment.

More information on Sustainable Development you can find in our pages on Education for Sustainable Development, www.balticuniv.uu.se/esd/index.htm There you will also find many links to other internet resources on Sustainable Development and Ecological Footprints. There are even calculators on the internet so you may calculate your own Ecological Footprint www.myfootprint.org And if you think your footprint is too big, there are also ways to change it.

Christian Andersson



New Students Representative

My name is Andréas Karlsson and I'm one of the two student representatives at the board of the Baltic University Programme. It means that it is my job to look after the interests of students when it comes to lectures, forming of new courses, exchange studies etc.

A short description of myself...

I'm from Stockholm, but I moved to Uppsala to become a chemical engineer. After a while I noticed that chemistry wasn't my passion. So after a bit of thinking and reevaluating my studies I'm now studying cultural anthropology and various studies at CEMUS (Centre for Environmental and Development Studies). As of writing I'm working at the Uppsala student union as a project leader for ESMeralda. If you have any questions about your studies at Baltic University Programme you are very welcome to contact me at ambassador@us.uu.se