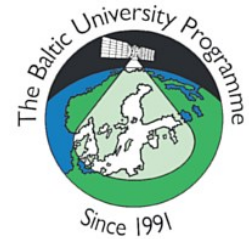


# Baltic University Programme Finland



## Activities 2024

### The BUP Finland team

PhD Cecilia Lundberg, Centre director

MSc Sinikka Suomalainen (-31.3.)

PhD Ylva Gustafsson (1.4.-31.12.)

MSSc Annina Kainu

MSSc Mia Henriksson

MSc Karin Madsén (fee paid by the hour)

### ÅAU member of the BUP International Board

Prof Tapio Salmi

### BUP participating universities in Finland

Åbo Akademi University, Arcada University of Applied Sciences, Novia University of Applied Sciences, Turku University of Applied Sciences, University of Jyväskylä, University of Turku, Satakunta University of Applied Sciences, and Åland University of Applied Sciences.

## Introduction

The Baltic University Programme (BUP) is expanding. During this year, the number of member universities has increased from 101 to 118. The members are found in ten countries within the Baltic Sea drainage area. A positive trend but causing also some challenges. There is a need for more activities for all target groups – students, teachers, and researchers – with the aim that there will be participation from all member universities in at least one BUP event per year.

BUP Finland has offered several courses and events throughout the year, for the whole BUP network and for members from Finnish participating universities. We are happy to see that the number of applications to our BUP Teachers' Course further increased this year. We received 115 applications for the 30 places we can offer. In the selection of participants, we try to be as just and diverse by nationality, university, subject studied, and gender, as possible. As there usually are applicants from all ten member countries, there are only a few places per country. The same applies to the students elected to the BUP conference, summer school etc.

Our colleague Sinikka Suomalainen, active as a teacher and administrator within BUP almost from the start, retired at the end of March. Instead, we recruited Ylva Gustafsson who started halftime as a planning officer from April to the end of the year. Karin Madsén built up the study material on ESD (Education for Sustainable Development), published on the BUP Course Platform, and used in the course Introduction to ESD. Tapio Salmi was re-elected as ÅAU's representative in the BUP International Board for the new mandate period of 1.7.2024-30.6.2027.

For 2025 we are planning to pilot a new course concept for BUP teachers: BUP Walks – Walking Activities for Learning and Knowledge in Sustainability. We will also explore the possibility of offering micro credentials for the courses we offer in the future.

For more information on the activities in the entire BUP, visit: <https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/> and for BUP Finland: <https://bup.fi/>. The BUP Action Plan for 2024 and the BUP Strategy 2021-2025 are presented here: <https://www.uu.se/en/collaboration-innovation/the-baltic-university-programme/about-us/organisational-information>. The BUP Annual Report 2023 can be found here: <https://www.uu.se/en/collaboration-innovation/the-baltic-university-programme/about-us/publications/annual-reports>.

BUP has been appointed a flagship project in the policy area of education as part of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR).

### Activities arranged by BUP Finland:

#### Courses and course materials

- **BUP Teachers' Course – ESD in Higher Education** (corresponds to 5 ECTS), September 2023 – April 2024. E-learning in Moodle, workshop I at Riga Technical University, Latvia, 27.–29.9.2023, preparation of an individual change project, workshop II at SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland, 18.–19.3.2024. 28 participants from eight countries (four from Finland, of which two from ÅAU). Good feedback from both workshops: overall grade 4.5/5 (CL, SS)  
BUP Event Report: <https://www.uu.se/en/collaboration-innovation/the-baltic-university-programme/events-and-announcements/event-reports/bup-teachers-course-2023-2024>
- **BUP Teachers' Day**, online, 16.4.2024. How to bring the science of compassion into higher education. The participants first got insights into best practices for engaging students and colleagues and were introduced to SEE Learning (Social, Emotional and Ethical Learning). The coach was Ed.D. Ryder Delaloye, Associate Director for the SEE Learning Program at Emory University in Atlanta. 40 participants. Positive feedback, overall grade 4.7/5 (CL)  
BUP Event Report: <https://www.uu.se/en/collaboration-innovation/the-baltic-university-programme/events-and-announcements/event-reports/bup-teachers-day-2024>
- BUP Finland was involved in the planning and running of a new course, **Pilgrim for Peace**, at the Mid Sweden University in Sweden, thanks to contacts of the BUP participating university, Novia University of Applied Sciences. This course used walking in nature as a method. It was made possible by Erasmus financing and was a benchmarking experience for BUP Finland. The course lasted for 6 days, 10.-16.6.2024, and during this time the participants travelled mostly by foot from Östersund in Sweden to Trondheim in Norway. The course was not a BUP event, but Annina Kainu was one of the teachers at the course, which had 18 student participants (14 from Finland, two from Sweden and two from Norway).

- Online course, **Introduction to ESD – Education for Sustainable Development** (5 ECTS), in cooperation with the Open University, ÅAU, 17.9.–8.12.2024. Course material and assignments in Moodle. This course had 48 participants from 10 different countries. 32 of the students attended through cooperation within BUP (from BUP universities other than ÅAU) and eight students were from the Charm-EU alliance. The BUP members attended free of charge. Feedback is not available yet (AK, CL).  
<https://bup.fi/online-course-in-education-for-sustainable-development-2/>  
<https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/en/course/SU00CI47/22166?period=2024-2027>
- Online course, **The Baltic Sea Environment – Challenges and Solutions** (5 ECTS), in cooperation with the Open University, ÅAU, 30.9.–8.12.2024. Course material and assignments in Moodle. 24 participants from the Open University, ÅAU, BUP (4), and Charm-EU (2). Free of charge for the BUP members. Feedback not available yet. (KM)  
<https://bup.fi/online-course-the-baltic-sea-environment-challenges-and-solutions-2/>  
<https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/en/course/SU00CP90/28491?period=2024-2027>
- BUP Teachers' Course – **ESD in Higher Education** (corresponds to 5 ECTS), September 2024 – April 2025. E-learning in Moodle, workshop I at ÅAU, Turku, 8.–10.10.2024, preparation of an individual change project, workshop II to be arranged at Maria-Curie Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland 13.–14.3.2025. 31 participants from 10 countries and 30 BUP member universities (3 from Finland, of which 1 from ÅAU).  
Good feedback from workshop I: overall grade 4/5 (CL, YG)  
<https://bup.fi/application-is-open-to-the-bup-teachers-course-2024-2025/>  
<https://www.abo.fi/centret-for-livslangt-larande/bup-finland-utvecklar-nya-koncept-for-att-hoja-hallbarhetskunnandet-kring-ostersjon/>
- **Introduction to ESD – Education for Sustainable Development** (corresponds to 2 ECTS), course material free to use (cc-licensed) for an undergraduate level course or for self-studies. Recorded lectures, films, literature, quizzes, assignments. Published on the BUP course platform, autumn 2024 (KM):  
<https://catalog.studium.uu.se/browse/bup/courses/introduction-to-education-for-sustainable-development-esd>

#### **Presentations, workshops etc.**

- The seminar BUP **RaP Roadshow**, 4.3 2024. The BUP Research and Publications Office and Professor Walter Leal from Hamburg University of Applied Sciences visited ÅAU with the presentation Fostering scientific cooperation via European and non-European founded projects on sustainable development. During the same seminar afternoon, a research project on data-driven sustainability management was presented by professor Jerker Björkqvist from ÅAU and the development project Lights in the Dark by Maria Engberg and James Simpson from Novia University of Applied Sciences. The arrangement was a cooperation between BUP Finland, ÅAU and Novia. There were 30 participants altogether, some on-site and some online.
- Annina Kainu participated in the symposium **The Role of Universities and Research for Sustainable Regional Development** at the Bialystok University of Technology, Poland,

April 21-23, 2024. The event was a part of the Polish BUP Presidency and focused on BUP colleagues.

- Cecilia Lundberg gave an online presentation, **The Importance of Sustainable Development**, in the online course Engaging Citizens for Sustainable Development at Sumy State University, Ukraine, on 3.5.2024 (40 participants).
- Kickoff for the new academic year for BUP Finland with the **Trading encounters then and now – An exploratory walk through Turku**. This was an afternoon event about sustainability for the Finnish BUP member universities and was arranged as part of the European Heritage Days 2024. The aim was to invite participants to reflect upon themselves as consumers, and to offer tools to observe and encounter the complex historical layers of the city as a trading place. The walk was led by PhD Anna Sundelin and PhD Johanna Wassholm from the department of history, ÅAU, on 12.9.2024 with 18 participants. Good feedback from the participants: overall grade 4.4/5 (AK, CL, MH, YG): <https://www.uu.se/en/collaboration-innovation/the-baltic-university-programme/events-and-announcements/event-reports/trading-encounters-then-and-now---an-exploratory-walk-through-turku>

### Projects proposals

- **ClimaResponse** – Responsive Local Action for Adaptation to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. Project coordinator: CBSS, Council of the Baltic Sea States. Total budget: 3 686 660 euro, BUP Finland/ÅAU's part: 75 635 euro. Project period: 1.1.2025–31.12.2027. Call: Interreg Baltic Sea Region. Deadline of proposal: 20.6.2024, positive response: November 2024.
- A proposal for funding for the piloting of a new course for BUP teachers, **BUP WALKS** – Walking Activities for Learning and Knowledge in Sustainability: Climate Anxiety and Inner Sustainability. A new concept with walking in nature as a method, this time through the archipelago of Turku and Åland, from Turku to Mariehamn. The main financial proposal sent to the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland, 30.11.2024. Response in March 2025.

### Cooperation

- Cecilia Lundberg made a benchmarking / job shadowing visit to the University of Malta, 20.-24.4.2024, financed by Erasmus+. One of the objectives of the journey was to visit the Centre for Environmental Education and Research and to meet Professor Mark Mifsud there to discuss their ESD work.
- BUP Finland was invited to a reception at the schooner Brabander hosted by the Klaipeda University during the Tall Ships' Races in Turku, 19.7.2024 (AK, CL, MH).
- ÅAU is part of the network [European School of Sustainability Science and Research \(ESSSR\)](#). ESSSR is an inter-university consortium that aims to coordinate sustainability

science teaching and research at European universities. Contact person at ÅAU: Catharina Groop, CLL. Cecilia Lundberg participated in the ESSSR online meeting on 10.12.2024.

- Participation at the annual sustainability webinar for the universities in Turku (31.10.2024, CL), and the UNIFI (Rectors' Council of Finnish Universities) Sustainability and Responsibility seminar in Oulu / online (4.-5.11.2024, AK). The BUP-team from ÅAU has also been involved in internal ÅAU sustainability work.

ÅAU Working group Sustainability in Education (Hållbarhet i undervisningen), 1.1.-31.12.2024 (AK)

### **Communication and social media**

- BUP Finland maintains a website with specific BUP Finland activities, also including information about other BUP events and several links to the coordinating secretariat's website.
- BUP Finland has social media accounts of its own (in addition to the accounts administered by the coordinating secretariat in Uppsala) in both Facebook and Instagram (234 resp. 156 followers) (<https://www.facebook.com/bupfinland/>, <https://www.instagram.com/bupfinland/?hl=sv>)

### **BUP meetings**

- Center Directors' meeting 23.-24.4. at Lodz University of Technology, Poland (CL), and 3.-5.12. at Uppsala University (AK, CL, YG).
- BUP International Board meetings in January, June, and December (TS).

BUP Finland at ÅAU has had regular internal meetings (CL, SS, AK, MH, YG). We have regular contact with the coordinating secretariat in Uppsala and the contact persons from the Finnish BUP members.

### **Other**

- The renewing of the BUP agreement as the Associated Secretariat and National Centre of BUP Finland between Uppsala University and ÅAU work in progress during autumn 2024.

### **Participation from Finland in BUP events**

- BUP Teachers' Course 2023-2024: 4 participants from Finland (2 ÅAU)
- BUP Teachers' Day: 7 participants from Finland (6 ÅAU)
- Introduction to ESD 2024: 11 participants from Finland (8 ÅAU students)

- The Baltic Sea Environment 2024: 24 participants from Finland (20 ÅAU students)
- BUP Teachers' Course 2024-2025: 3 participants from Finland (1 ÅAU)
- BUP meeting of International Relations Officers (IROs) at the University of Ostrava, Czechia, 7.-8.10.: 2 participants from Finland (Åland University of Applied Sciences, Novia University of Applied Sciences)
- Master Thesis Training at Uppsala University, Sweden, 24.-27.3.: 1 participant from Finland (University of Jyväskylä)
- Student conference at Poznan University of Technology, 15.-18.4.: 2 participants from Finland (Arcada University of Applied Sciences, Satakunta University of Applied Sciences; whole Finnish quota used)
- Students' course Science and Sail at Klaipeda University, Lithuania 4.-11.8.: 6 participants from Finland (2 ÅAU + University of Turku, and the University of Jyväskylä; whole Finnish quota used)

## Plans for 2025

- **Partner in the project ClimaResponse**, Responsive Local Action for Adaptation to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. Focus area: The Baltic Sea Region, Project duration: 1.1.2025–31.12.2027. Lead partner CBSS (Council of the Baltic Sea States). Financial partner: EU/Interreg Baltic Sea Region. We are waiting for the project signing and more information from the lead partner.
- Arranging a hybrid **seminar on research projects** with a clear connection to sustainability. Presentations by researchers from the Finnish BUP participating universities. An open-door event with the additional purpose of spreading information about the BUP in order to recruit new participating universities. The event will take place at Åbo Akademi University in Turku, with the possibility to attend online. The event's date is scheduled for February–March and will be set in December 2024.
- **BUP Teachers' Course 2024–2025** will continue with workshop II at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland 13.–14.3.2025. The course has 31 participants from 10 countries and 30 BUP universities.
- Online **BUP Teachers' Day** with one or two keynotes, a workshop part, a common discussion and the sharing of best practices. Theme this time: AI and sustainability. An afternoon online in April 2025, exact date not set yet.
- An **online meeting** for the BUP participating universities in Finland together with the BUP secretariat at Uppsala University for information and discussion on actualities within the network. May 2025, exact date not set yet.
- The pilot course for BUP teachers, **BUP WALKS** – Walking Activities for Learning and Knowledge in Sustainability: Climate Anxiety and Inner Sustainability. Testing a new concept with a walking course, this time through the archipelagos of Turku and Åland,

from Turku to Mariehamn. A walking part included each day, besides presentations, workshops, tasks, and discussions linked to the course theme. Due to practical reasons, the course also needs to use local transports (bus, ferry). Preliminary dates: 22.–27.8 2025. Possible cooperation with BUP participating universities Turku University of Applied Sciences and Åland University of Applied Sciences.

- Kick off for the academic year 2025–2026 with a workshop based on ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) for BUP participating universities in Finland. Date and program will be decided during spring.
- **BUP Teachers' Course** 2025–2026 starting in autumn 2025 with material and assignments online and workshop I in September/October 2025. Individual and groupwise work before the final workshop II in March 2026. The time and place for the first workshop is still open, announcement and registration will open in April/May 2025.
- The online course **Introduction to ESD** in cooperation with the Open University at ÅAU in autumn 2025.
- The online course **Baltic Sea Environment** in cooperation with the Open University at ÅAU in autumn 2025.
- Increased cooperation with the Student Union at ÅAU and their Environment group.
- Increased cooperation between teachers, researchers, and staff at the international affairs office at ÅAU and those at other participating universities in Finland. Additionally, meetings with the faculty leaders of ÅAU are planned for Spring 2025.
- Cooperation with the BUP Coordinating Secretariat at Uppsala University, according to the valid BUP agreement between ÅAU and UU.