

# Baltic University Programme Finland

## Activities 2022

### The BUP Finland team

Cecilia Lundberg, Centre director

Sinikka Suomalainen

Annina Kainu

Mia Henriksson

Karin Madsén (fee paid by the hour)

### ÅAU member of the BUP Board

Tapio Salmi, prof



### BUP members in Finland

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

Turku University of Applied Sciences cancelled its membership in spring 2022 but seems to make a comeback in 2023. University of Oulu is also interested to join.

### Introduction

The year 2022 has been turbulent for the whole BUP cooperation, due to Russia's offensive war in Ukraine. The situation has a direct and concrete impact on BUP with 17 member universities in Ukraine. The BUP coordinating secretariate reacted immediately and according to the directives from Uppsala University. The result was that the cooperation within BUP can continue, but the member countries diminished from twelve to ten (no member universities from Russia and Belarus). The total number of member universities was 97 in February, and in the end of the year 88 (some newcomers included). Different kind of support actions for Ukraine and especially Ukrainian researchers, has been taken, for example the initiative Baltic Science Bridge lead by the associated BUP secretariat in Hamburg.

Two years after the original plans, the BUP Rectors' Conference, and the same time the celebration of BUP 30 years, took place at Uppsala University in late September.

BUP Finland is happy to again be able to arrange courses face to face after the Covid break. Together with Riga Technical University and SWEDESD (Research and learning for sustainable development and global health) at Uppsala University, Åbo Akademi University arranged the first BUP Science Lab, a workshop for promoting teachers in higher education to write manuscripts for publication on their teaching and learning experience. After a break of two years, the BUP Teachers' Course was able to start a new round.

Development of a new course platform (cc-licensed) suitable for courses on undergraduate level or self-studies are under development within BUP (<https://slu-se.eu-west.catalog.canvaslms.com/browse/balticuniv>). ÅAU is responsible for two courses/material packages. The material for *The Baltic Sea Environment – Challenges and Solutions* has been developed during 2022 by MSc Karin Madsén.

BUP Finland also holds the presidency within BUP for the autumn 2022. Due to the Rectors' conference and the other regular activities, the only occasion due to the presidency was the online seminar on sustainable foot- and handprints at Finnish universities (*i.e.* BUP members).

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

For more information on the activities at BUP, visit <https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/> and <https://bup.fi/>. The BUP Action Plan for 2023 and the BUP Strategy are presented here: <https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/publications/organisational-information/>

## Activities arranged by BUP Finland:

### Courses

- Webinar series **ESD and Digitalisation - Implications of Digital Technology for Education Policy and Practice**, 4 webinars from November 2021–February 2022. Keynote #1: Yash Chawla, Wroclaw University of Technology, Poland (16.11.2021, participants 19). Keynote #2: Shepherd Urenje, Uppsala University (14.12.2021, participants 20). Keynote #3: Jukka Manner, Aalto University (18.1.2022, participants 35). Keynote #4: Charlotta Hilli, ÅAU (15.2.2022, participants 29).  
Recorded: <https://bup.fi/the-webinar-series-esd-digitalisation-is-now-available-on-youtube/>  
Good feedback, average grade for all four seminars: 4.5/5 (CL)
- **BUP Teachers' Day**, online, 27.4. The idea was to share experiences and best practices with the BUP colleagues and on the same time inspire for future work and communication (15 participants from 5 countries)  
[Recording: https://bup.fi/the-bup-teachers-day-programme-is-now-available-online/](https://bup.fi/the-bup-teachers-day-programme-is-now-available-online/)  
(CL)
- Distance courses, **Introduction to ESD – Education for Sustainable Development** (5 ECTS), in cooperation with the Open University, ÅAU, 2.11.2021–30.1.2022 and 20.9.-8.12.2022. Course material and assignments on Moodle (23 participants from 4 countries in the first round, 12 participants all from Finland in the second).  
<https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/en/course/SU00CI47/22166?period=2020-2022>  
Good feedback, average grade for the first course: 3.8/5 (second not analysed yet; AK, CL)
- **BUP Science Lab for Teachers**. An initiative financed by BUP coordinating secretariat and arranged in cooperation between Riga Technical University, SWEDESD at Uppsala University and BUP Finland/ÅAU. The course consisted of a series of educational and research coaching events aimed particularly for BUP teachers in higher education that have previously participated in the BUP Teachers' Course. Kick off meeting online 21–22.6 and a workshop at RTU in Riga 25–26.8. (21 participants from 7 countries, very positive feedback; CL)
- **BUP Teachers' Course – ESD in Higher Education** (5 ECTS), September 2022–March 2023. E-learning on Moodle, workshop I at Tallinn University, Estonia, 11–13.10.2022, preparation of individual change project, workshop II at Kaunas Technical University, Lithuania, 1–3.3.2023. 25 participants from 6 countries. <https://bup.fi/the-bup-teachers-course-starts-in-september-2022/>  
Good feedback from workshop I: overall grade 4.4/5 (CL, SS)

- **The Baltic Sea Environment – Challenges and Solutions** (5 ECTS), course material free to use (cc-licensed) for an undergraduate level course or for self-studies. Recorded lectures, films, literature, quizzes, assignments. Will be ready for publication on the BUP course platform (<https://slu-se.eu-west.catalog.canvaslms.com/browse/balticuniv>) in January/February 2023 (KM).
- **Exploring Sustainability – Theories, Definitions and Perspectives** (5 ECTS), course material free to use (cc-licensed) at <https://slu-se.eu-west.catalog.canvaslms.com/browse/balticuniv>. Under construction, BUP Finland/ÅAU part of the preparation work (AK).

### Presentations, workshops etc

- **Sustainable foot- and handprints at Finnish Universities**, online seminar hosted by BUP Finland/ÅAU, 17.11 (23 participants). Program and recordings: <https://bup.fi/online-seminar-sustainable-foot-and-handprints-at-the-finnish-bup-universities/> (AK, SS).
- Presentation of the BUP teacher activities at the **BUP Rectors' Conference** in Uppsala, 28.9 (CL).
- Panel discussion on Quality Assurance of Higher Education at the **BUP Rectors' Conference** in Uppsala, 29.9 (vice rector Gunilla Widén).
- Presentation of the BUP Teachers' Course on ESD in Higher Education, at the WG Pedagogical Solutions, **UNIFI & Arene Seminar for Sustainability and Responsibility** 3–4.11.2022, Tampere (SS + AK)
- The **BUP 2022 Symposium**, online 8.11. CL was a scientific reviewer for Education for Sustainable Development <https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/activities/past-events/bup-symposium-2022/>
- Presentation of BUP for the Turku University of Applied Science, 21.11 (CL)
- Presentation of BUP teacher activities at the panel Transformation of higher education institutions towards sustainable development, at the conference **Science and Education for Sustainable Development**, 24–25.11.2022, University of Gdansk, Poland (SS, AK).

### Projects proposals

- **Cascade II – Practical evaluation and implementation of CASCADE toolboxes in local environment**  
Coordinator: CBSS (Council of the Baltic Sea States), BUP/ÅAU one of six partners  
Interreg Baltic Sea Region, not approved.
- **InCIR** - Inclusive Partnerships for a Circular Sustainable Baltic Sea Region  
Coordinator: Association of Pomeranian Cities and Communities (Poland).  
Climate-neutral societies, 3.1 Circular economy.  
First project phase 2022 not approved, new proposal 2023 in cooperation with University of Gdansk.

### Cooperation

- ÅAU is part of the network [European School of Sustainability Science and Research \(ESSSR\)](#). ESSSR is an inter-university consortium with the aim to coordinate the sustainability science

teaching and research at European universities. Contact person at ÅAU: Catharina Groop.

- Material from the course packages Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region (<https://slu-se.eu-west.catalog.canvaslms.com/browse/balticuniv/courses/bup-climate-change>) was used in a shorter version in the course with the same name at the Open University of ÅAU in spring 2022.
- BUP information at the HELSUS and Aalto Sustainability Days 18–19.5, Helsinki (SS, AK).

### **Social media**

- BUP Finland has own accounts (besides the accounts administered by the coordinating secretariat in Uppsala) on both facebook and Instagram (166 resp. 131 followers) (<https://www.facebook.com/bupfinland/>, <https://www.instagram.com/bupfinland/?hl=sv>)

### **BUP meetings**

- Prerectors meeting (online) 20.4 (CL, SS, AK), the Rectors' Conference 28–29.9 at Uppsala University (CL, SS, AK, Tapio Salmi, Gunilla Widén, Paula Lindroos)
- Center Directors meeting online 30.5 (online), 30.9 (in Uppsala), 28.11 (online) (CL)
- BUP Board meeting March (online), June (Uppsala) and December (online) (TS)

BUP Finland at ÅAU have had regular internal meetings every month (CL, SS, AK, MH). At the last meeting for the year, we also had the present Finnish BUP Student Ambassador, Teresa Spang from SAMK, with us on Zoom.

We have regular contact with the coordinating secretariat in Uppsala and the contact persons from the Finnish BUP members.

### **Other**

- Due to the BUP 30 anniversary, a book of memories, Celebration of three decades, was released at the celebration dinner during the Rectors' Conference.

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

- Webinar on ESD 2021–2022: 20 participants from Finland (10 from ÅAU)
- BUP Teachers' Day: 3 participants from Finland (2 ÅAU)
- Introduction to ESD 2021-2022: 16 participants from Finland (13 ÅAU students)
- Introduction to ESD 2022: 12 participants from Finland (7 ÅAU Students)
- Student conference: 10 participants from Finland (2 ÅAU)
- BUP Teachers' Course: 6 participants from Finland (1 ÅAU)
- Online seminar on sustainability hand- and footprints: 12 participants from Finland (3 ÅAU)

## Plans for 2023

- Kick off for the course material **The Baltic Sea Environment – Challenges and Solutions**, February-March (KM, CL).
- **BUP Teachers' Course 2022-2023** will continue with workshop II at Kaunas Technical University, Lithuania, 1–3.3.2023. (CL, SS).
- Development and revision of the material for **Introduction to ESD** also suitable on the BUP **course platform** (KM, AK, CL).
- Online **BUP Teachers Day** with keynote, workshop and discussion and best practice sharing. One afternoon online in March/April 2022 (CL, SS, AK).
- Planning a **student hackathon** on circular economy, arranged in cooperation with Novia University of Applied Science or Turku University of Applied Science also open for a smaller number of students from BUP.
- A follow up **online seminar** on sustainable foot- and handprints (AK, SS).
- **BUP Teachers' Course** with a start in autumn 2023. The time and place for the first workshop still open (CL, SS).
- The online course **Intro to ESD** in cooperation with the Open university at ÅAU in autumn 2023 (AK, CL).
- BUP Finland/ÅAU is an associated partner in the BUP Coordinating Secretariat's new project **RESCUU (Resilience of Education: Sustainability and Cooperation for Ukrainian Universities)**, financed by the Swedish Institute). For our part, we will offer extra places for Ukrainian teachers in the BUP Teachers' Course, as well as Introduction to ESD.
- Refreshing the **web place** BUP Finland (MH, CL).
- Continue the cooperation with the Finnish BUP Student Ambassadors and the Student Union at ÅAU and their Environment group. (MH)
- Tighter cooperation with the teachers and researchers at ÅAU and the member universities in Finland
- Planning for a BUP workshop for teachers in higher education on sustainability board games and other innovating teaching activities. In cooperation with the other BUP member universities in Finland. The realization might need extra funding.
- BUP Finland/ÅAU also needs to recruit a new colleague as Sinikka Suomalainen will be retired in early 2024.

2022/12/13/CL