

Promoting multidisciplinary and international cooperation

On March 27–30, the Baltic University Programme (BUP) organized the BUP Master Thesis Training 2023. 22 master students from the BUP participating universities attended the event, which took place at the Geocentrum at Uppsala University. The idea was to give the students the opportunity to meet and discuss scientific problems related to their ongoing master theses, focusing on sustainability in an interdisciplinary, international, multicultural, and regional context.

The Director of the Baltic University Programme, Madeleine Granvik (Uppsala University) explains: “We started the master thesis training in 2022, as an extension of similar arrangements that BUP has organized for years for PhD students. The students come from BUP member universities in the Baltic Sea region, and from different disciplines.” Students from Ukraine were also invited to participate in the event online.

EACH STUDENT was given individual feedback on their master thesis from a supervisor from a participating university. A total of 8 supervisors were invited. In addition to the individual counseling, the event included student-to-student discussions. The theses covered a wide range of topics, including climate change, energy issues, sustainable societies, urban-rural



PHOTO: EMMA STOCKVALL CARLSSON

Some of the participants at the Master Thesis Training 2022 gathered outside Linneanum, an orangery from 1787, in the botanical gardens in Uppsala.

development and sustainable food systems.

Another idea behind the event was to provide the students with the opportunity to become acquainted with universities in other countries and their scientific traditions. As in all BUP activities, the training program was based on an interdisciplinary approach. Evan Goss at the BUP Coordinating Secretariat, responsible for organizing the event, says: “This is a worthwhile opportunity for students from all over the region to meet, learn from each other, build connections with other students, and become better acquainted with other academic perspectives, all in a friendly environment.”

THE PROGRAM also included social events, to facilitate network building among the participants.

Madeleine Granvik says: “This illustrates what the BUP can do: promoting academic cooperation in the Baltic Sea region by enriching the students’ perspectives on sustainability with experiences and perspectives from other disciplines and other countries. The training will thus serve as a platform for a common understanding of regional challenges and possibilities and open avenues for future cooperation on these issues.”

This is indeed needed in the region today. ❌

Joakim Ekman

THE BALTIC UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

The Baltic University Programme (BUP) is one of the largest university cooperations in the world, with about 92 participating universities in the Baltic Sea region (including the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia,

Sweden and Ukraine). The Baltic University Programme strives to find novel ways of interaction among universities and between universities and society. The main aim is to enhance strong regional educational and research communities, but also to foster a

greater awareness on the network’s focus areas: sustainable development, environmental protection, and democracy in the Baltic Sea region. The BUP is coordinated from Uppsala University.

More info: www.balticuniv.uu.se/about-us/.