



The Baltic University Programme
SAIL, Sustainability Applied in International Learning

The Baltic University Programme (BUP) is a network of universities in the Baltic Sea region, the area in which water flows towards the Baltic Sea, the so-called drainage basin. The aim of the network is to enhance regional cooperation with a focus on education for sustainable development. In addition to the coastal states, Belarus, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Norway participate. BUP started in 1991 and today about 200 universities take part and 78 are presently members of the network.

BUP is coordinated by the Secretariat at Uppsala University, Sweden, with the support of three Associated Secretariats in Åbo/Turku, Finland, Lodz, Poland, and Hamburg, Germany, as well as 13 national centres.

BUP's aim is to support and promote regional cooperation for sustainable development as well as to develop and maintain contacts among the universities and corresponding institutions of higher learning within or partly within the Baltic Sea region. The BUP network supports the implementation of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) within the Baltic Sea Region both for "Baltic 21 – An Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region" and for United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030 on ESD as well as being a strategic partner to the Council of the Baltic Sea States regarding higher education. BUP is the Lead Partner of a flagship project within EU's Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region focusing on enhancing cooperation between universities in the Baltic Sea Region on sustainable development and Education for Sustainable Development. BUP provides interdisciplinary student courses, teachers' education and training, workshops and conferences for students and university teachers, PhD students training, summer courses.

BUP concentrates on issues of sustainable development, environmental protection, democracy, and on developing creative ways to inform students and teachers about these topics.



Sustainability Applied in International Learning - SAIL

One of the creative ways to teach and inform has been sailing with students and teachers, activity BUP has been running every year since 1996.

Every year close to 40 members of our network, both students and teachers, representing 14 countries, gather on board a tall ship and get a unique possibility to teach and learn, broaden their views, get rid of prejudice, socialize, strengthen their personalities, test their own limits and prove their abilities - sail together in storms and sunny days and nights, train their body and mind, share friendship for life, work together as a team beyond nationalities, age differences, positions and titles, share duties during watches, educate and experience ***Sustainability Applied in International Learning - SAIL***.

Participating students are selected by the BUP National Centres and among BUP's member- and participating universities. The students, however, are not receiving any official credits, but are instead offered a diploma for participation stating that the course equals 7,5 ECTS credit.

An interdisciplinary international teachers' team is selected every year among those who apply and volunteer to create and then run the course on-board. Every year we attempt to find a broad competence to cover the topic of the course. They prepare and plan the course together beforehand, run it on-board, supervise projects' work, and examine essays/reports after the course. The process of the SAIL course creation is an adventure itself and a very appreciated experience for teachers, a true learning process. The unique combination of great adventure, academic studies, and a high competence and creativity of contributing teachers, gives the course a very good reputation and every year number of students that applied for the course is much larger than the number of places available.

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