



Dear readers, partners and friends of the Baltic Science Network,

I am happy to announce that we have revived our BSN Newsletter. The COVID-19 crisis has greatly challenged international, regional and macro-regional cooperation in many spheres. It obviously also affected the work of the Baltic Science Network. With international mobility coming almost to a standstill and the cancellation of conferences, workshops and seminars we – as everyone else – had to rethink and adapt our concepts. On the other hand, the recent months have shown the great importance of science and research cooperation. International collaboration in research has greatly intensified in the span of just a few months.

On behalf of the entire BSN network I would like to welcome you to the first edition of the BSN_Powerhouse newsletter.

Enjoy reading!

Klaus von Lepel
Project Director BSN_Powerhouse

[Read Klaus' full greeting](#)

LaunchPad

The Baltic Science
Network action tool
for research
infrastructures and
their users

Update from the LaunchPad WP Manager

Hella Lood
BSN_Powerhouse Project Manager
LaunchPad WP leader

What is the LaunchPad?

The LaunchPad is intended to test an approach supporting collaboration between the researchers, research facilities and businesses for scientific experiments and measurements in the field of photon and neutron science.

The main approach works in three steps:

- 1.** Researchers, research facilities and businesses in Photon and Neutron Science come together to discuss their ideas and challenges in the field and work on potential collaboration projects.
- 2.** Draft projects will be evaluated by experts in the field that will provide feedback. Project drafts with a greater potential will be selected by the experts for further support.
- 3.** Funds will be available to support further development of the selected projects and continue project team collaboration.



How did you adapt your original plans to the current circumstances?

We have just passed a key-milestone in LaunchPad and in the BSN Powerhouse project. The international online Symposium "Photon and Neutron Science in the Baltic Sea Region" (pictured above) took place on October 26-29, 2020. Due to COVID-19 we had transformed the Symposium into an online format and therefore, were excited to see how it works. The Symposium was held in two parts: it began with a **conference** and continued with a **hackathon**, an innovative approach to encouraging research collaboration and developing project ideas.

It has been an exciting and, at times, a crazy journey from the start until the here-and-now when thinking about the original plans and adaptations made. The adapted approach is, in the end, even more innovative, open and flexible compared to the original one. Instead of face-to-face events we have events on virtual platforms; instead of using more traditional formats (e.g. discussion groups) the hackathon has taken place with innovative methods and guided goal-driven process. We now have a more flexible bottom-up approach for supporting collaboration based on the specific needs of the project teams.

Using virtual formats is an innovative way to carry out events, but it will never fully replace the positive effect of face-to-face communication, coffee-table-conversations and dinner-with-a-glass-of-wine-discussions. It is early to tell the end results of the LaunchPad but based on current experience we can confirm - **it IS possible!**

Update from the BARI WP Manager

Mari Leino

BSN_Powerhouse Project Manager
BARI WP leader



What is BARI?

The BSN_Powerhouse project wants researchers in the Baltic Sea Region to be better connected to each other. There are lots of great scientists in the region, and they could reach even greater results if they worked together. Also, there is lots of big, important and expensive research equipment, and it would be good if more researchers would get the chance to use them.

Our task is to do a test-run of the mobility programme Baltic Science Network Mobility Programme for Research Internships (BARI). The idea of the programme is that students travel to another country in the Baltic Sea Region to work as an intern in a PhD candidate's research project for a short time (2 weeks to 3 months). We hope that both learn a lot and have fun during the internship period!

Our main goal is to get students and young researchers in the Baltic Sea Region to know each other. During the internship period they learn new skills

related to working life, research and working with foreign colleagues. All these skills are very important for any researcher. We hope that gaining new networks in the Baltic Sea Region will make the students and young researchers interested to continue cooperation in the region.



How did you adapt your original plans to the current circumstances?

The COVID-19 pandemic hit us in the middle of recruiting students to apply for the programme. Many people still applied, which shows the huge interest in the programme!

As a first reaction we extended application deadlines and informed everyone that the mobilities can take place later than originally planned. Then we developed a completely new method of monthly application periods, where every month the PhD candidates can announce internship positions and the students can apply for them. When there's a match of a student and a PhD candidate, they agree on when the internship takes place between themselves. Both also follow the national travel restrictions and other COVID-19 precautions, and make sure they follow their institution's guidelines.

So far, a few internships have already taken place! We hope that the situation gets better, and that we can still help in making many new connections in the BSR. We have learned to overcome challenges, and our success story is that some internships have taken place even in these difficult times!

Recent events

ONLINE

**OUR REGION
OUR FUTURE**

Towards a Decade of Innovation and Sustainability

11th Annual Forum of the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
20 October 2020

www.annualforum2020.eu

Logos: EUSBSR, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Interreg Baltic Sea Region, European Union, European Regional Development Fund

EUSBSR Annual Forum 2020

On the 30th of September 2020, within the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2020 framework, the Baltic Science Network organised the online workshop **"Towards a sustainable BSR: the role of science and research: Macro-regional research cooperation - a crucial factor for implementing the Green Deal in the Baltic Sea Region"**. The workshop gathered speakers and panelists from Academia, the Scientists for Future movement, EU programmes (HALOS; BONUS) and Youth (EDU-ARCTIC) sharing their views on science-policy-society interface and how and to whom science is communicated. The video and presentations can be accessed [here](#). For a summary of workshop results please click [here](#).



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