



**BARENTS CROSS-BORDER UNIVERSITY (BCBU)
JOINT MEETING OF THE VICE-RECTORS AND WORKING GROUPS OF THE
BCBU MASTER'S PROGRAMMES
PETROZAVODSK / NOVEMBER 3, 2009**

MINUTES

1. Agenda of the meeting

Agenda of the meeting was approved ([app. 1](#)).

2. Selection of the Chair and the Secretary

Mr. Alexander Fedorov, Vice-Rector for Research, KSPA was elected as the chair of the meeting and Mr. Denis Pyzhikov, International Office, KSPA as the secretary of the meeting.

3. Short reports of the BCBU Master's programmes by the Finnish coordinators or responsible leaders

The representatives of each master's programme gave a short update of the current status of the BCBU master's programmes. The presentations are appended.

3.1. The presentation of the Barents Master's Program on Environmental Engineering (BEE) by Eva Pongracz, University of Oulu ([app. 2](#); size over 2 MB).

3.2. The presentation of the Master's Degree Programme in Health and Wellbeing in the Circumpolar Area (MCH) by Jaana Orava, University of Oulu ([app. 3](#)).

3.3. The presentation of the Master's Degree Programme in Comparative Social Work (CSW) by Tarja Orjasniemi, University of Lapland ([app. 4](#)).

3.4. The presentation of the Master's degree programme in Software, Systems and Services Development in the Global Environment (GS3D) by Kari Pankkonen, University of Oulu ([app. 5](#)).

3.5. The report on the results of the meeting of the Working Group on the BCBU Master's Programme in Law was presented by Leena Lehtinen, Research Director for the Russian Law, University of Lapland. She informed that this has been a first working meeting attended by the BCBU consortia members, including the Pomor State University and the Petrozavodsk State University, and also by the special guests representing the universities from the Komi Republic

(Russia). At the meeting an exchange of opinions was held on the key issues and principles related to the development of the joint master programme on constitutional and municipal law. The final communiqué of the working group is enclosed ([app. 6](#)).

It was also outlined that the group has received a request from the Komi Academy of Civil Service and Syktyvkar State University which are willing to join the BCBU Master's Programme in Law. Ms. Lehtinen came with a proposal to invite the Rectors of BCBU to consider including the pointed higher education institutions from the Komi Republic into the BCBU consortia.

4. Short addresses of the Vice-Rectors of each partner university about the perspectives of the future BCBU co-operation

4.1. Vice-Rector Galina Komarova, Archangelsk State Technical University (ASTU) ([app. 7](#), size over 1 MB), informed that an executive order to establish the Northern Federal University on the basis of the ASTU was recently made by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. It is hoped that these new developments would give new opportunities to move forward also with the BCBU joint master programmes.

Referring to the new state standards for higher education to be adapted in Russia by 2011, she claimed that new standards would require new efforts for licensing of the new master programmes. It was also informed that three master programmes (codes 17m, 127m, 141m), developed by ASTU in line with the BCBU master programmes, are now awaiting for approval in the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation.

4.2. Vice-Rector Alexey Kalinin, Pomor State University (PomorSU), thanked the hosts of the meeting for the hospitality and the excellent organisation. He emphasised that PomorSU highly values the existing international academic networks, in particular, the BCBU network as a tool helping the Russian universities to promote the convergence with EU developments in the field of higher education deriving from the Bologna process.

With a reference to the initiative of the Syktyvkar State University to become a member of the BCBU consortia, Vice-Rector Kalinin supported the idea and added that this could make a new impulse to the joint work to develop the master programmes.

4.3. Vice-Rector Riitta Keiski, University of Oulu ([app. 8](#), size 100 kb), informed about the new university law that will be applied in Finland as from 2010. The universities will become more independent, the amount of funding coming from the central government will change.

The University of Oulu has nowadays 12 master programmes, out of which 3 are based on the BCBU consortia. Vice-Rector Keiski welcomed the growing number of exchange students and teachers incoming and outgoing to/from University of Oulu for bachelor and master studies. She also hoped that in the years to come a joint PhD programmes will be developed and introduced.

4.4. Sergei Zavalko, Chair of Ecology and Environmental Protection, Murmansk State Technical University (MSTU) welcomed the recent developments in the BCBU. He again emphasised the need to intensify the efforts focused on training of the skilled professionals able to cope with the needs of the Barents region.

4.5. Vice-Rector Vladimir Syunev, Petrozavodsk State University (PetrSU), informed that the representatives of PetrSU are participating in development of three BCBU Master's programmes, namely, the Master's programmes in CSW, GS3D and in Law. Potentially, PetrSU is prepared to participate (by its Department of Ecology and Biology) in the BEE and also by its Medical school in the MCH.

Recalling his recent trip and consultations in Syktyvkar, he also supported the initiative undertaken by some higher education institutions of the Komi Republic to get membership in the BCBU consortia.

4.6. Vice-Rector Alexander Fedorov, Karelian State Pedagogical Academy (KSPA), informed that KSPA has been given its new name and status after the procedure of the state evaluation in 2008. He also confirmed that KSPA would support and follow up all the initiatives taken by its predecessor earlier.

He also extended his greetings to the Administration of the Archangelsk State Technical University for having been selected as a leading institution for creation of the Northern Federal University in Russia.

Taking into account new opportunities and challenges the BCBU faces, Vice-Rector Fedorov also underlined the importance of the work to revise the current BCBU General Agreement making it ready for signing by the Rectors, if possible, already in March 2010.

Denis A. Pyzhikov, International office, KSPA, shortly reported on the results of the second application round organised within the Tempus IV Programme (EAC/01/2009). He informed that the project application titled "Strengthening the higher education area in the Barents Region through joint master's programmes" (SHEABA) and based upon the BCBU consortia and its master programmes has been compiled and submitted to the Tempus IV Programme / European Commission by its deadline in April 2009. The application process has been formally led by Development Manager Kari Pankkonen, University of Oulu.

Referring to the results of the second application round announced by the European Commission / EACEA on its web-site at October 30, 2009, Mr. Pyzhikov informed that, unfortunately, the SHEABA application has not been listed among those projects recommended to receive Tempus IV funding. As soon as the feedback from the European Commission on the project application is received, it would be made available for all interested stakeholders.

5. Final remarks

Rector Grippa, KSPA, thanked the participants for their good co-operation both during the meeting and before. He concluded that the meeting has been successful, although it raised new questions and new challenges.

Rector Grippa invited all the consortia members to engage themselves actively in the preparations to the Rectors meeting to be held in Rovaniemi in March 2010. On behalf of the organizers he closed the meeting at 18.50 pm.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. [Agenda](#) of the joint meeting
2. [Presentation](#) of the Barents Master's Program on Environmental Engineering (BEE);
3. [Presentation](#) of the Master's Degree Programme in Health and Wellbeing in the Circumpolar Area (MCH);
4. [Presentation](#) of the Master's Degree Programme in Comparative Social Work (CSW);
5. [Presentation](#) of the Master's degree Programme in Software, Systems and Services Development in the Global Environment (GS3D)
6. [Final](#) communiqué of the working group of the Master's Programme in Law
7. [Presentation](#) of the ASTU (Vice-Rector Komarova)
8. [Presentation](#) of the University of Oulu (Vice-Rector Keiski)