



## **BARENTS CROSS BORDER UNIVERSITY (BCBU) RECTOR'S MEETING IN OULU, FEBRUARY 20, 2009**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Opening addresses**

Rector Lauri Lajunen, University of Oulu (UO) and Rector Mauri Ylä-Kotola University of Lapland (UL) welcomed all participants on behalf of the organizing universities. It was agreed that the rectors of the organizing universities will share the chairmanship during the meeting day.

Rector Lajunen gave a short presentation of the overall programme and themes of the meeting. Rector Ylä-Kotola as the chairman of the first half of the day introduced the agenda and highlighted especially the role of the quality work and assurance in the master's programmes when moving from the planning stage to the implementation stage. The BCBU master's programmes should have a quality assurance policy and strategy which would be considered at all levels of the programmes.

#### **2. Short situation report on the BCBU Master's Programmes**

Representatives of each partner universities gave a short update of the current situation and challenges of the BCBU master's programmes. Presentation handouts attached if available.

**2.1. Pomor State University (PSU),** Rector Irina Lugovskaya (appendix 1)

**2.2. Arkhangelsk State Technical University (ASTU),** Head of International Department Natalia Podrazhanskaya (appendix 2)

**2.3. Karelian State Pedagogical University (KSPU)**, Dean of the Faculty of Social Work and Social Pedagogy Lyudmila Vlasova

Participant in the master's programme on Comparative Social Work (CSW). Main responsibility of the university in the programme is organizing practical training (appr. 10 ECTS). KSPU has agreements on training of social workers with all relevant institutes of the Karelian Republic and Petrozavodsk including, for example, crisis centres, pedagogical centres and social services. All these organizations are ready to take students for practice. All establishments and organizations in the field of social work are utilizing the experience gained in cooperation with Finns. In addition, KSPU has almost solved the housing issues for students.

**2.4. Murmansk State Pedagogical University (MSPU)**, Deputy Rector on Science and Strategic Planning Andrey Sergeev (appendix 3)

**2.5. Petrozavodsk State University (PetrSU)**, Vice-Rector for Education Vladimir Siounev.

Participant in the master's programmes in the field of CSW and Information Technologies (IT). In the master's programme on CSW specialists of the university are working in close connection with the representatives of the PSU and the UL. The role of the PSU will be concentrated in organizing the practical matters since it does not have the master's license for this field of education. In the field of IT the university has not played very active role, but in the future it hopes to contribute more to the development of this programme also. The PSU wishes to take part in the new master's programme on Law and has prepared a letter concerning this issue from the Rector Voronin and Professor Tshernov.

**2.6. Northern State Medical University (NSMU)**, Vice-Director of the Institute of Psychology and Psychiatry Andrey Soloviev (appendix 4)

**2.7. Murmansk Humanities Institute (MHI)**, Vice-Rector on Science Elena Zubritskaya

Participant in the master's programme on CSW. Has not yet license. The university has Bachelor's programme in social psychology and has participated in the planning of separate courses for the programme of CSW. The difference between curricula' of the Bachelor's programme of the MHI and the BCBU master's programme on CSW makes it difficult for the students of the MHI to apply for the programme although they should have adequate competence for the programme. The MHI is hoping to develop their involvement in the BCBU through the planned Master's programme in Law. The MHI has license in this field of education.

**2.8. University of Lapland (UL)**, Professor emeritus Kyösti Urponen (appendix 5)

**2.9. University of Oulu (UO)**, Rector Lauri Lajunen (appendix 6)

On behalf of the UO Rector Lajunen expressed strong commitment and contentment in the BCBU cooperation thanks to which there are ready or almost ready programmes which stand out of the overall supply with their uniqueness (MCH) and/or special emphasis (BEE). This is necessary in order to succeed in current international competition.

After the presentations of the BCBU partner universities Vice-President of the University of Arctic (UArctic) Outi Snellman gave a short presentation about the UArctic. She emphasized

importance of co-operation at all levels between the different structures and organizations dealing with the Northern/Arctic issues. UArctic embraces the BCBU concept which addresses the same topics and supports the same development in the North as the UArctic. There is a clear synergy between these two structures. In fact, one of the BCBU master's programmes (MCH) has been developed in the context of one of the Thematic Networks of the UArctic.

### **3. Possible new master's programmes**

#### **3.1. Master's programme on Law**

The UL has made a proposal for including in to the BCBU project a new master's programme in the field of law. Research Director for Russian Law Leena Lehtinen (Faculty of Law, UL) has gathered background information and preliminary discussed this idea with the representatives of the BCBU partner universities with Faculty of Law (appendix 7).

The representative of the PSU, ASTU, PetrSU and MHI were supporting the proposal and expressed their interest in participating in this programme.

It was agreed that Research Director Leena Lehtinen can continue with the planning of the programme. It was stated that currently the UL is discussing with the UArctic possible new thematic network in the field of Arctic Governance. The new BCBU master's programme on Law should not overlap this.

The master's programme on Law will be coordinated by the UL. In addition, it was suggested that the PetrSU would coordinate the programme from the Russian side. Research Director Lehtinen will send to Vice-Rector Siunev an email in order to agree on this.

#### **3.2. Other possible programmes**

It was agreed on that for the present the BCBU partner universities will concentrate in planning and management of the already agreed master's programmes and will not make plans for any other new programmes. Quality comes before quantity.

### **4. Marketing**

Project coordinator Katja Kurasto from the Oulu University of Applied Sciences (UAS) gave a short presentation on the Study in Oulu –project (appendix 8), which main aim is to promote higher education institutes of Oulu and their international degree education supply internationally including the BCBU master's programmes. The project proposes to pay a visit to interested universities in the North-West Russia for telling more about the programmes and study possibilities in Oulu region.

## **5. The role/status of partner universities in the BCBU and in implementation of the Master's programmes**

The participants of the meeting updated the membership status of the BCBU partner universities in each master's programmes on the grounds of the table in the Agreement on joint master's programs leading to joint/double degrees signed on 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2007 (updated table appendix 9).

## **6. Financial issues**

EU Coordinator Hanna Honkamäkilä (UO) gave a presentation about the European and international financing instruments which could possibly be utilized by the BCBU partners (appendix 10). At the moment the most interesting instruments are Tempus -programme and ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument).

Last year the BCBU partner universities made an application to the Tempus IV –programme which was not accepted. However, on the grounds of the evaluation feedback it has been decided that a new application will be prepared and all BCBU partners will soon be invited to join the application by the UO, Development Manager Kari Pankkonen, who will coordinate the application process as last year.

It is expected that call for ENPI will be opened during this year although it has been delayed due to on-going negotiations between the EU and Russia. The process will be followed closely by the BCBU coordinators. It was emphasized that the support of the Russian local authorities for the success of an ENPI application is of great importance.

The participants of the meeting supported the idea of preparing of joint applications for funding of the BCBU concept and master's programmes.

## **7. Agreements: possible up-date of the general framework agreement (see Research Director for Russian Law Leena Lehtinen's presentation in Arkhangelsk in Oct 2008 [http://bcbu oulu.fi/BCBU\\_Agreements.pdf](http://bcbu oulu.fi/BCBU_Agreements.pdf))**

Project Coordinator Jaana Orava presented shortly the current situation with the agreement. This question was illustrated more detailed by the Research Director Leena Lehtinen (UL) in the BCBU meeting held in Arkhangelsk in October 2008.

It was agreed that every master's programme must have individual agreements which follow the general guidelines of the general agreement. The working groups of each master's programme will be responsible for preparing the individual agreements as well as for proposing the updates of the general agreement for the next meeting of rectors.

## **8. Development plans of BCBU**

### **8.1. Progress of the Bologna process**

In Finland the Bologna process has been already adopted. Also Russia has signed Bologna declaration in 2003. Only some universities have received funding for the work which is needed for realizing the Bologna process and there are also strong views against the process. However, the change is inevitable.

### **8.2. Double/joint degree arrangements (update)**

At the moment the BCBU master's programmes are not in a position to grant a double/joint degree, but are at the stage of joint programmes. Only the students graduating from the CSW have a possibility for a double degree if they have some extra studies in Finland and in Russia (+40 ECTS).

### **8.3. Education policy of the Barents Region**

Professor emeritus Kyösti Urponen described shortly the situation from the CBU concept's / project's point of view (Southern Cross Border University – SCBU - project and Barents Cross Border University – BCBU - project). The status of the whole project is not very clear, because it use to have its basis in the earlier neighborhood programme and in the special focuses of that particular programme. The question is now, what is the status of the project in the Finnish and EU higher education policy.

In order to clarify the situation the Finnish BCBU partners have already met and contacted with the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland – two main financiers of the CBU concept – and also agreed on two days seminar with the representatives of the SCBU. The ministries are interested in hearing about the results of the seminar and proposals for the future of the CBU concept.

It was stated that in order to keep track of everything what is going on in the region concerning the higher education, it is important to take part in the seminars discussing these issues and stay in touch with the corresponding structures of the region (UARctic, Barents Council chairmanship in Oulu...).

### **8.4. Expanding BCBU beyond founding members – possible new members**

Vice-President of the Hokkaido University Mr. Takeo Hondo gave a short presentation about the university (appendix 11). The university has already cooperation with Russian and China, but is interested in broadening the contacts in the field of education and science. The university sees the BCBU project as a good example of one form of the cooperation. The university is especially interested in the master's programmes in the field of environmental engineering and information technologies.

The participants of the meeting discussed the possibility of enlargement of the BCBU. It was agreed that there is no need to expand the actual BCBU rector forum with current ten partner universities due to historical, financial and practical causes. However, the individual master's programmes are welcomed to invite new members for planning and implementation of the programmes. This issue will be considered also when updating the general agreement between the partner universities.

## 9. Other issues introduced by the Rectors

There were no other issues to be discussed.

## 10. Closing

It was agreed that the next BCBU meeting (vice-rectors and working groups) will meet in autumn in Petrozavodsk. The exact time will be agreed with the local partner universities.

The next meeting of the rectors will be organized in the beginning of 2010 in Rovaniemi. The meeting will be organized in two parts: the first part will be dedicated to a joint seminar with all collaboration partners, policymakers etc. and the other part for the meeting of the rectors of the BCBU partner universities. The BCBU rector forum will invite rectors of all partner universities of the individual master's programmes to participate in the first part of the programme.

On behalf of the organizers of the meeting Rector Lajunen thanked all participants for the productive day and closed the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

## LIST OF APPENDICES

1. [Presentation of the Pomor State University](#) (50 kb; Irina Lugovskaya)
2. [Presentation of the Arkhangelsk State Technical University](#) (240 kb; Natalia Podrazhanskaya)
3. [Presentation of the Murmansk State Pedagogical University](#) (190 kb; Andrey Sergeev)
4. [Presentation of the Northern State Medical University](#) (760 kb; Andrey Soloviev)
5. [Presentation of the University of Lapland](#) (3,4 Mb; Kyösti Urponen)
6. [Presentation of the University of Oulu](#) (170 kb; Lauri Lajunen)
7. [Master's programme on Law](#) (20 kb)
8. [Study in Oulu –project](#) (170 kb; Katja Kurasto)
9. [Update of the status of the BCBU partner universities](#) (40 kb)
10. [Possible financial instruments for financing co-operation](#) (510 kb; Hanna Honkamäkilä)
11. [Presentation of the University of Hokkaido](#) (1,2 Mb; Takeo Hondo)