



## **BALTECH Annual report 2020/2021**

### **BALTECH Mobility grants**

In 2020 and 2021 BALTECH mobility programme has been postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic and travel restrictions in Europe. In 2021 BALTECH Board has renewed BALTECH Mobility grant statutes. BALTECH home page section of BALTECH Mobility grants has been renewed and relaunched. In December 2021 has been relaunched mobility programme, first call's deadline is 15 March 2022.

### **BALTECH Rectors meeting**

BALTECH Rectors meeting was planned in March 2020 in Kaunas, Lithuania. Due to Covid-19 pandemic and travel restrictions it was postponed and took place online in December 2020. In the Rectors meeting strategies and future development plans, including Covid-19 mitigation plans of each BALTECH universities were discussed. Rectors decided on new priorities, BALTECH Board members, BALTECH budget, collaboration strategy, representative of BALTECH in NORDTEK network and the organization of collaboration group meetings.

Executive Director of BALTECH Consortium Juris Iljins presented proposal of Baltic leading Technology university collaboration strategy via BALTECH network.

### **Elected BALTECH Board members and held Board meeting**

In the beginning of 2021 new Board members were elected. Now the Board consists of Adas Meškėnas (Vilnius Tech), Juris Iljins (RTU), Hendrik Voll (TalTech) and Giedrė Šadeikaitė (KTU).

In March 2021 the Board meeting was held. The Board discussed on Mobility grant programme and approved Activity plan 2021 which includes activities in five areas:

- Joint collaboration & benchmarks,

- Organization of rectors and focus field meetings,
- Communication and decision making regarding NORDTEK,
- Individual express mobility,
- Support of student activities.

### **Administrative collaboration group meetings**

According to BALTECH Activity plan 2021 it was decided to organize administrative collaboration group meetings in various focus fields:

- Project development, application;
- Internationalization, student recruitment;
- Digital transformation;
- Strategy of universities;
- Human resources management.

The aim of the administrative collaboration group meetings is to develop better connection and collaboration between employees in common areas of BALTECH member universities. These meetings may include experience sharing of experience, joint activities, creation of new projects. Meetings will be held starting from year 2022.

### **Conference “Role of universities in sustainable development in Baltic Sea Region”**



With a BALTECH support conference “Role of universities in sustainable development in Baltic Sea Region” took place online on 15 October 2021. The

conference aimed to share good practice with other universities in the region and discuss experiences in sustainable university development. Universities in the region could demonstrate potential of reducing the ecological footprint, as well as contribute to climate neutrality. The key note speaker was Per Lundqvist, professor and Vice President for Sustainability of KTH Royal Institute of Technology. One of the main speakers was also TalTech, BALTECH member university, professor and Vice-Rector for Green Transformation Helen Sooväli-Sepping.

### **BALTECH universities participate in NORDTEK 49<sup>th</sup> Conference**



In 2020 NORDTEK 48<sup>th</sup> Conference was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic. Representatives of BALTECH participated in 49<sup>th</sup> NORDTEK Conference and Rectors meeting hosted by University of Agder online on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The NORDTEK conference brought together leaders, staff and students from the technical universities and faculties in the Nordic and Baltic countries, their collaboration partners in industry and other stakeholders to discuss topics of mutual interest. The conference theme was “Artificial Intelligence – A Catalyst for Co-Creation, Innovation and Disruption”.

### **Elected new NORDTEK Board member from Baltic States**



BALTECH network universities actively participating in NORDTEK network. The board member in NORDTEK board from Baltic States till June 2021 was RTU Rector Prof. Leonīds Ribickis. On BALTECH Rectors meeting the new NORDTEK Board member was elected - since June 2021 Baltic states are represented by KTU Rector Prof. Eugenijus Valatka.

BALTECH universities help to implement NORDTEK strategy which is focused on three main areas:

- Engineering education – content and pedagogy;
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation;
- Mobility.

BALTECH network universities also participate in various NORDTEK activities, such as:

- NORDTEK - Mobility program;
- EntrNORDTEK - Building Entrepreneurial Capacity;
- NORDTEK PhD-school Network;
- Nordic Engineering Hub (NordEnHub);
- Student network;
- Participation in Association of Nordic Engineers, ANE;
- And other.