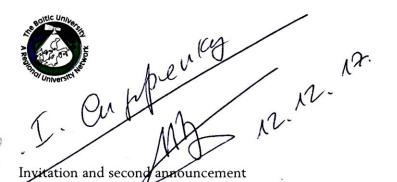
Uppsala 2017-11-27



It is an honour to invite Rectors, or their representatives, from all interested universities in the Baltic Sea Region to the Fifth Baltic University Programme Rectors' Conference. This time it will be organized by <u>Uppsala University</u> together with Åbo Akademi University in Turku, Finland, 24-26 January 2018. This conference will also be the first event this year to celebrate the 100-year Anniversary of Åbo Akademi University.

The Baltic University Program, coordinated by Uppsala University, has been working as an international and interuniversity network in the Baltic Sea Region since 1991. With more than 200 member and participating universities, we have grown to be one of the largest university networks worldwide, and much has been achieved in education, research, and applied projects. Under the auspices of the Baltic University Programme, a number of university courses, especially on the topic of environmental science, regional studies, sustainability, and environmental management have been produced. Thousands of teachers, researchers and students have during 25 years met during conferences, teachers' training programs, summer courses, and other activities.

The forthcoming Rectors' Conference was discussed and prepared by a Pre-conference Meeting 9-10th Oct. 2017 at Uppsala University. Constructive planning of the BUP network activities took place among the 50 participants from 38 universities in the region. One of the main outcomes of the Preparatory meeting, as well as of previous Rectors' Conferences, has been the strong support for increased internationalization, mobility, and research.

The highlighted topics for the upcoming Fifth Baltic University Programme Rectors' Conference are Innovation-Mobility-Research, which will be discussed through presentations, workshops, and panels. We will have the possibility to also discuss long-term goals and strategies for the Baltic University Programme and find more ways to contribute to deepen cooperation within BUP Universities.

We hope that the Rectors' Conference will be a unique opportunity to continue, and to stimulate, internationalization in practice in the Baltic Sea Region.

Please find the registration, and updated program, for the Rectors' Conference on the Baltic University Programme website in Finland: http://www.bup.fi/rectors-meeting/. The registration is open until December 15, 2017.

Looking forward to meet and discuss with you in Åbo!

Madeleine Granvik